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Six labourers gunned down; two injured by unknown armed men in Turbat

Balochistan Chief Minister takes notice of incident, suspended SP

Independent Report

QUETTA: Six labourers were brutally gunned down while two others injured in a shootout took place in an under construction house located in area of Turbat city in wee hours of Saturday.

According to the local police, the incident of brutal killing of labourers occurred in a house located in Satellite Town area of Turbat city where two armed men reportedly barged into an under construction house.

The armed assailants opened indiscriminate fire targeting eight labourers present in the house while

they were asleep.

Reports also suggested that the unknown armed men rouse the labourers from sleep and then opened fire on them.

As a result six of them were killed on the spot. However, two of them injured in the shootout.

The armed men fled from the scene after leaving the bodies of labourers in pool of blood.

It was also learnt that a teenager who was present in the house was left by the armed men.

The area police rushed to the spot and shifted the bodies of slain labourers and injured persons to the Turbat hospital.

The injured persons were admitted in the hospital where their condition is stated to be precarious.

The police has started investigations into the incident and search of the killers.

Meanwhile, the reports suggested that the ill-fated labourers were included two real brothers, their cousin and an uncle.

Five of the deceased belonged to Multan and one of them hailed from Narowal area of Punjab.

The deceased were identified as Muhammad Rizwan, Shahbaz, Waseem, Shafiq, Naeem and Sikandar while injured were Ghulam

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ISLAMABAD: Special Assistant to Prime Minister on Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development, Jawad Sohrab Malik in a meeting with Nawaf bin Said Al-Malki, the Ambassador of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to partake in the emerging manpower opportunities for the Saudi Vision 2030.

SAPM urges KSA for intake of over 1 mln Pakistanis annually for Saudi Vision 2030

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Special Assistant to the Prime Minister (SAPM) on Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development (OP&HRD) Jawad Sohrab Malik held a meeting with His Excellency, Nawaf bin Said Al-Malki, the Ambassador of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA) here to partake in the emerging manpower opportunities for the Saudi Vision 2030.

Malik requested the KSA to employ a significant number of workforce from Pakistan for the completion of the Saudi Vision 2030, said a press release here Saturday.

"Currently, about 5 million Pakistanis proceed to Saudi Arabia annually. There is a real prospect of this figure rising to over 1 million," he continued. According to him, this mix of skilled, semi-skilled, and unskilled

manpower from Pakistan has enabled Saudi Arabia to meet its diverse workforce needs effectively.

SAPM underlined Pakistan's capacity to provide over 1 million persons having varied skills to be employed under the job opportunities created by Saudi Vision 2030, according to which the Saudi economy is diversifying and embracing further areas.

He apprised the Saudis of how our government is building a skilled Labour Force Pool in order to tap the huge potential of our bulging youth in areas of digitization, services, and tourism.

The Saudi Ambassador expressed support for the proposal forwarded by Jawad Sohrab Malik on enhancing the share of Pakistan's manpower resources.



KARACHI: Chief Executive Officer Vash TV Awais Iqbal meeting with Caretaker Information Minister of Balochistan Jan Achakzai

India's involvement in state-sponsored terrorism in other countries stands exposed

ISLAMABAD (INP): The recent assassination of Sikh leader Hardeep Singh Nijjar in Canada by Indian notorious intelligence agency Research and Analysis Wing (RAW) has exposed India's involvement in state-sponsored terrorism at global level.

A report released by Kashmir Media Service, today, said India raised 'Establishment 22', a Special Frontier Force, in November 1962 mainly consisting of the Tibetan refugees settled in India. It was trained for covert operations behind Chinese lines in case of another China India war. Presently there are reports of their deploy-

ment in eastern Ladakh, in the areas bordering China.

The report said that India had a history of violating the territorial integrity of other countries by carrying out overt and covert operations there. On 9 June 2015, Indian Army crossed over the border into Myanmar and attacked the bases of the Naga freedom fighters in retaliation against an ambush in Manipur. In 2009, India had also carried out operations in Nepal, Bhutan, and Bangladesh to capture wanted Indian militants.

The report said similar operations have been conducted by Raw in different countries to eliminate the

leaders of Kashmir and Khalistan freedom movements. Some prominent Kashmiri leaders like Riaz Kashmiri, Bashir Ahmed and Syed Khalid Raza were assassinated this year in Pakistan by the agents of RAW. The report said, the recent killing of Hardeep Singh Nijjar in Surrey city in the British Columbia province of Canada is the latest example of Indian state-sponsored terrorism in other countries. The Canadian Prime Minister, Justin Trudeau, confirmed to the Parliament that the Canadian government has credible evidence of the Indian government's involvement in the murder of Nijjar.



A Palestinian woman looks up as she prays in the yard of a school, in the Rafah refugee camp, in the south of Gaza Strip

Kakar, Bugti condemn terrorist attack on labourers in Turbat

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Saturday while condemning the heinous terrorist attack on labourers in Turbat, expressed his deep grief over the loss of lives.

He also conveyed his heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families.

The prime minister posted on X, "Deeply saddened to hear about the terrorist attack on innocent labourers in Turbat. My heartfelt condolences to the victims' families. We condemn this heinous act and stand united against terrorism."

Meanwhile Interior Minister Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti on Saturday strongly condemned the tragic killing of six labourers in Turbat, Balochistan.

He, expressing condolence and sympathy to the bereaved families, said neither Baloch, nor Punjabi, but terrorists had martyred Pakistanis.

Praying for martyrs, the minister said the state stood with the oppressed and those who shed unjust blood would never be forgiven.

He further said the state would take action against the terrorists with full force.

Governor grieved over Turbat firing incident, loss of labourers lives

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Governor Balochistan, Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar has strongly condemned the incident of firing in Turbat and expressed deep grief and sorrow over loss of lives of innocent labourers in it.

In a condemnation statement issued here on Saturday, the Governor

emphasized upon the law enforcement agencies to immediately arrest the elements involved in the terrorism incident and bring them to justice.

He expressed sympathy and condolence with the bereaved families of the labourers and prayed for the departed souls.

He also prayed for early recovery of those injured in the incident.



LAHORE: Caretaker Federal Information Minister Murtaza Solangi meeting with Caretaker Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi

Information Minister Solangi calls on CM Punjab

LAHORE (APP): Caretaker Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Murtaza Solangi met Caretaker Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi here on Saturday.

Matters pertaining to mutual interest, resolution of media industry problems and steps being taken for the well-being of journalists were discussed during the meeting, said a handout issued here on Saturday.

CM Naqvi said that an endowment fund to the tune of Rs 1 billion had been established for welfare of journalists community for the first time. "We are also endeavouring to solve other problems being faced by

the journalists community," he added.

Caretaker Federal Minister for Information Murtaza Solangi lauded the steps being taken for the completion of public welfare projects under the able leadership of CM Mohsin Naqvi. Murtaza Solangi remarked that CM Mohsin Naqvi is spending day and night in order to provide maximum relief to the people. "Mohsin Speed" is proving to be beneficial in the completion of public welfare projects.

Provincial Information Minister Amir Mir and Secretary Information Ali Nawaz Malik were also present on the occasion.

PM to attend Belt and Road Forum in China on Oct 17-18

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar will visit China to participate in the 'Third Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation', being held in Beijing from October 17-18.

"The prime minister will attend the opening ceremony of the BRF and address the high-level forum entitled 'Connectivity in an Open Global Economy,' the Prime Minister's office said in a post on X Saturday.

PM Kakar will hold a bilateral meeting with Chinese President Xi Jinping on the occasion. Senior Chinese officials, business leaders and investors as well as a number of leaders will also attend the Forum.

Soldier martyred, six terrorists killed in NW IBO

RAWALPINDI (INP): A Pakistan Army soldier embraced martyrdom while six terrorists were killed during an intelligence-based operation in North Waziristan district's Mir Ali general area, the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) said Saturday.

In a statement, the military's media affairs wing said the security forces conducted the IBO on the reported presence of terrorists. During the exchange of fire, eight terrorists also sustained injuries, the ISPR added.

Weapons and ammunition were also recovered from killed terrorists, the ISPR said, adding that they remained actively involved in terrorist activities against security forces and target killing of innocent civilians.

However, during the intense exchange of fire, Sepoy Abdul Hakeem, 33, having fought gallantly, embraced martyrdom, read the statement.

Congo virus patient admitted at Quetta hospital

QUETTA (INP): Another patient diagnosed with Congo Virus and admitted at the Fatima Jinnah Hospital here on Saturday.

A resident of Kuchlak was admitted to the hospital after found Congo Virus positive in medical test, health officials said.

"The tally of Congo viral fever patients has reached to 41 in Balochistan with another patient found positive of the disease," officials shared.



TURBAT: Additional Inspector General Police Jawad Ahmed Dogar, DIG Mekran Masoor Alam Kolachi and other officers enquiring about health of an injured labourer

At UN

Pakistan calls Israel's fierce actions against Palestinians in Gaza 'war crimes'

UNITED NATIONS (APP): Pakistan has called "unacceptable" the collective punishment of Gaza's entire Palestinian population by Israeli Occupation forces, saying it amounts to "war crimes and crimes against humanity."

"Major crimes against humanity are being committed even as we speak, in Palestine, in Occupied Jammu and Kashmir and in other situations of oppression, occupation and violence," Pakistani delegate Rabia Ijaz told the General Assembly's Sixth (Legal) Committee.

Ms. Ijaz, a second secretary at the Pakistan Mission to the UN, was speaking in a debate on Crimes against Humanity in which speakers spotlighted the need for a universal instrument on preventing and punishing those crimes in the midst of geopolitical confrontations, including the recent Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Pakistan, she said, was deeply concerned by the rapidly deteriorating and dire humanitarian situation in Gaza due to the indiscriminate aerial bombardment, including of civilian and even protected UN targets.

In addition to those actions, the Pakistani delegate said that the "inhumane blockade of food, fuel and medicines, as collective punishment of the entire Palestinian population of Gaza by Israeli Occupation forces, were unacceptable."

"The current cycle of aggression and violence is a sad reminder and a direct consequence of over seven decades of illegal Israeli occupation, aggression, and disrespect for international law, including UNSC (UN Security Council) resolutions that recognize the inalienable right to self-determination of the Palestinian people," Ms. Ijaz said.



ISLAMABAD: Special Assistant to the Prime Minister for Human Rights and Women Empowerment Ms Mushaal Hussein Mullick calls on Ambassador of Palestine, Ahmed Rabei.

Mushaal Mullick calls on Palestinian Ambassador

ISLAMABAD (APP): Special Assistant to the Prime Minister for Human Rights and Women Empowerment, Mushaal Hussein Mullick called on Ambassador of Palestine Ahmed Rabei here on Saturday.

According to a press release, the meeting discussed the humanitarian tragedy prevailing in Palestine as a result of Israel's siege of Gaza.

She said Israel must respect International Laws and Geneva Conventions that ensure the protection of civilians especially in conflict zones.

She also called upon the international community to acknowledge the critical human rights violations in Gaza and advocate for the establishment of an immediate Humanitarian Corridor to ensure the supply of essential medical and food supplies in Gaza.

She appealed to the international community to force Israel to immediately stop indiscriminate bombings and inhumane siege of Gaza.

She also called upon the international community to acknowledge the critical human rights violations in Gaza and advocate for the establishment of an immediate Humanitarian Corridor to ensure the supply of essential medical and food supplies in Gaza.

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REPATRIATION OF ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS

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India maintain perfect ODI World Cup record over Pakistan with massive win

Men in Blue chase down 192-run target with 7 wickets and 117 balls to spare

Sports Desk

AHMEDABAD: India maintained its unbeaten streak as they defeated Pakistan by 7 wickets in the blockbuster World Cup 2023 fixture in Ahmedabad on Saturday.

The hosts hunted down the meagre 192-run target in 30.3 overs to go 8-0 up against the arch-rivals in the World Cups, and boosted their run rate massively.

Chasing a small total, India were off to a flying start as Shubman Gill and

Rohit Sharma scored five boundaries in the first two overs.

However, Shaheen Shah Afridi bounced back and removed Gill for his individual score of 16, providing Pakistan with an early breakthrough.

Despite losing his partner, Rohit continued to play aggressively, smashing Pakistani bowlers all over the park.

He built a quick 66-run partnership with Virat Kohli, who was bounced out by Hasan Ali for 18-ball 15 when India were 79/

2 in 10 overs.

Rohit stitched another 77-run stand with newcomer Shreyas Iyer for the third wicket. The skipper got out for 86 runs, falling just 14 runs short of a well-deserved hundred.

With the skipper gone, Iyer and KL Rahul played sensibly and completed the run chase in the 31st over without losing any more wickets.

For Pakistan, Shaheen Afridi took two wickets, while Hasan bagged the prize wicket of Virat Kohli.



QUETTA: Secretary Colleges Zafar Ali Buledi presenting a shield to Joint Director BACT Abdul Khaliq Baghlani on eve of concluding ceremony of training program of colleges' teachers

NHMP launches CE category driving license for public, paving way for employment opportunities abroad

ISLAMABAD (APP): The National Highway Motorway Police (NHMP) has issued a (CE) category driving license for the general public, enabling drivers to operate trailers.

This is a significant development, as it will open up new employment opportunities for Pakistanis in the Middle East, Canada, and Europe, where there is a high demand for CE category drivers, a public relations officer said on Saturday.

The launch of the CE category license was inaugurated by Federal Minister for Communications and Information Technology Shahid Ashraf Tarar, who emphasized the importance of providing maximum employment opportunities to the youth in the shortest possible time. He also highlighted the potential of this license to increase foreign exchange reserves in Pakistan.

IG Motorway Police Sultan Ali Khawaja expressed his gratitude to the Federal Minister for his support and assured that the Motorway Police is committed to issuing 3,000 to 5,000 CE category driving licenses by next year.

He also emphasized the importance of a transparent and strict examination process to ensure that only qualified drivers are issued with this license.

The launch of the CE category driving license is a commendable step by the Motorway Police, and it is hoped that it will help to reduce traffic accidents and make the roads safer. It is also a positive development for the Pakistani economy, as it will open up new employment opportunities for Pakistanis abroad and contribute to increased foreign exchange reserves.

The CE category driving license is currently being issued from the HTV Test Center Sangjani, Islamabad.

The fee for the license is Rs 5,000, and to be eligible for the CE category driving license, applicants must have a valid LTV driving license for at least one year.

The aspiring applicants must also pass a theoretical and practical test conducted by the Motorway Police.

The launch of the CE category driving license is a welcome step that will benefit both Pakistani drivers and the economy as a whole.

Posters showing solidarity with Palestinians once again appear in HIOJK

SRINAGAR (INP): Posters have again appeared in Srinagar and other areas of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir in support of the people of Palestine.

According to Kashmir Media Service, the posters read, "We stand with Palestine", "Attack on land of the Qibla - attack on entire Muslim Ummah", "Palestinians are engaged in just struggle", "Israel is an aggressor and occupying state", "India-Israel combine threat to entire world", "India is imitating Israeli model of repression in HIOJK" and global peace linked to resolu-

tion of Kashmir and Palestine disputes.

The posters also read, "Both the Palestinian and Kashmiris have right to fight against settler colonialism", "Palestinians have reacted against extreme repression", "Now it is the time for Kashmiris to react to Hindutva initiated settler colonialism."

The posters appealed to the international community to resolve the Kashmir and Palestine disputes as Indian and Israeli illegal occupations of these regions posed a big threat to peace and stability of the entire world.

Six labourers gunned down...

Continued from page 1

Mustafa and Tauheed. Meanwhile Balochistan Caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki on Saturday has taken notice of the Turbat incident and suspended the Superintendent of Police (SP) of the concerned area.

The dead bodies of the laborers who were martyred in the incident would be transferred to Quetta by a special helicopter of the Chief Minister of Balochistan.

In an official statement issued here, it has stated that Ali Mardan Domki has taken strict notice of the incident and contacted the divisional and district administration.

On the instructions of the chief minister, the helicopter of the Balochistan government has reached Turbat to transfer the dead, their families and the injured to Quetta and will be sent to Multan by tomorrow morning.

In that regard, the government of Balochistan is in contact with the Commissioner, Multan Division, District Administration, District Administration of Multan and the government of Punjab. The Balochistan government has made all arrangements to ensure better treatment facilities to the injured workers.

The Chief Minister has also ordered a high-level inquiry into this tragic incident. All transfer matters are being taken seriously and the matters are being scrutinized with full attention at the administrative level. The Balochistan government is with the affected families in this hour of sorrow. It is said that a conspiracy has been made to create hatred between the brother nations living in the country, which will not succeed in any way, the elements involved in the incident will be dealt with iron hands and the involved elements will be brought to justice.

Interior ministry's vehicle meets accident en route to airport

ISLAMABAD (APP): A vehicle belonging to the Ministry of Interior on Saturday met an accident while en route to the airport.

According to an official statement, the accident resulted in injuries to Principal Staff Officer Syed Amin and the driver of the vehicle.

The injured were immediately rushed to the Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences (PIMS) for medical treatment. Both individuals are now out of danger, and their condition is stable.

It is important to note that the vehicle involved in the accident was not part of the Interior Minister's official convoy, and Interior Minister Sarfraz Bugti was not present at the time of the incident. He is in good health.



MARRAKECH: The Federal Minister for Finance, Revenue, and Economic Affairs, Dr. Shamshad Akhtar, in a meeting with the Director General Kuwait Fund for Development (KFD), Mr. Waleed Al Bahaar, on the sidelines of annual meetings of WB/IMF. The discussions focused on strengthening economic cooperation and fostering financial partnerships between Pakistan & Kuwait, in order to bolster economic prosperity and development.

"Revolutionary Transformations on the Horizon" Pakistan's Karakoram Highway poised for a world-class makeover

ISLAMABAD (APP): In a historic collaboration to reshape the landscape of international trade and connectivity, Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar is all set to visit China and this momentous occasion is teeming with promise for the future of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and, in particular, the dramatic acceleration of the Thakot-Raikot section of Karakoram Highway.

As Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar prepares for his significant visit to China, the Karakoram Highway looms as a prominent highlight of this historic partnership. It signifies more than just a road; it's a symbol of friendship, cooperation, and a shared vision for a brighter, more interconnected future.

The Karakoram Highway is indeed poised to become a world-class marvel, ensuring top-notch travel throughout the Karakoram Highway and the broader CPEC network.

1,300 kilometers, with 806 kilometers traversing Pakistan's majestic landscapes, it was a remarkable feat of engineering that took 16 years to construct, from 1962 to 1978.

Fast forward to 2005, Pakistan and China embarked on an ambitious journey to upgrade this iconic highway. The completion of Phase-1 of the Karakoram Highway upgrade, from Raikot to Khunjerab, a staggering 335 kilometers in length, in November 2013 marked a significant milestone in its transformation.

The launch of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) in 2013 breathed new life into the vision for the Karakoram Highway. It ceased to be just a road; it was poised for a comprehensive makeover into a world-class thoroughfare, characterized by heightened safety standards, improved road geometry, and a myriad of modern features. This revitalized KKH introduced significant improvements, including tunnels, high-level bridges,

stable slopes, and by-passes around congested towns. These enhancements aligned it with international road standards, providing travelers with a safe and extraordinary journey through the heart of the mountains, extending from Mansehra to Thakot.

The second phase of CPEC witnessed the transformation of the E-35 section from Havelian to Thakot, covering roughly 120 kilometers. This redevelopment introduced a motorway section that links Havelian to Mansehra, streamlining travel and serving as an emblem of both nations' commitment to efficient transportation infrastructure. The continuous development of the Karakoram Highway symbolizes the enduring bond between Pakistan and China, epitomizing their shared commitment to cooperation, development, and prosperity. This iconic road, a testament to the unwavering friendship between the two

nations, opens up new horizons for travelers, cargo transporters, and economic development.

However, the most exhilarating chapter in this saga is the imminent transformation of the Thakot-Raikot section. The existing road, notorious for its sharp bends and limitations, is poised for a revolutionary overhaul. The state-of-the-art tunnels, aimed at reducing travel time and enhancing safety, are on the horizon. The road classification will advance from Class 4 to Class 2, signaling an upgrade in its quality and an increase in the permitted speed limit, promising swifter and more efficient travel. This development extends far beyond mere travel enhancements. It holds the potential to revolutionize cargo transport, making it more efficient and cost-effective. The improved road network will support heavier cargo loads, streamlining the transportation of goods with greater ease and efficiency.

Reforms could enhance taxes share in Pakistan's economy: WB

ISLAMABAD (INP): The World Bank said on Saturday said tax reforms could enhance taxes share in Pakistan's economy by two percent.

Imposition of tax on the agriculture income could increase taxes share in the economy by one percent, according to a WB report.

In Pakistan 114 million people are employed, while only 8 mln are registered as income taxpayers, the bank stated.

"Direct taxes have only 33 percent share in the country's tax revenues as indirect taxes have major share in taxation revenues," World Bank report said.

The bank's report pointed out that the real estate sector enjoys more investment owing to lesser rate of taxation in the sector. There is lesser value of investment in production sector owing to investment in real estate, according to the lender.

Taxation rate on land has been less in Pakistan, "Ninety percent cultivators are not liable to pay tax," bank report stated.

"Agriculture land could also be utilized for other objectives for revenue generation," World Bank suggested.

"Pakistan has a complicated taxation system. Jurisdictions of the federation and provinces are unclear in taxation matters and an overlapping among the centre and provinces also affects the tax collection revenues," report added.

"The people in two major areas in the provincial jurisdiction — real estate and agriculture — had most of the untaxed wealth, which should be taxed by the provincial governments to be able to improve services and reduce the financial burden on the centre," a media report earlier quoted the WB officials as saying.

Imran Khan responsible for inflation: Marriyum

ISLAMABAD (Online): PML-N leader Marriyum Aurangzeb has said Imran Khan is responsible for inflation in the country and during his stint in power inflation was at its peak in Pakistan.

"The 16 months inflation was result of ineptness of four years", she said in a statement issued here Saturday.

During Imran Khan regime, cases were registered against us in the Anti Terrorism Courts (ATCs) and they are still running. We still are appearing in the courts in connection with

false case. We have obtained bail on merit.

She claimed Shahbaz Sharif saved country from becoming Sri Lanka in 16 months.

Nawaz Sharif does not need to become prime minister for fourth time but he wants to make future of Pakistan.

She reiterated Nawaz Sharif will return to Pakistan and eliminate inflation. Nawaz Sharif will give his vision on October 21.

In favor of whom people of Pakistan cast their votes will become prime minister, she added.



KARACHI: Cricket fans watching ICC ODI World Cup 2023 match between Pakistan and India in Ahmedabad on big screen at Arts Council.

Ali Zafar releases World Cup anthem 'Mazha Aya'

KARACHI (INP): Pakistani singer Ali Zafar has released a special anthem for the Cricket World Cup 2023 titled "Mazha Aya". The song was released on social media website X (formerly Twitter) just before the India-Pakistan match.

Zafar, who is also the director, composer, and producer of the song, has described it as a "gift to cricket fans all over the world." The song has been well-received by fans, with many praising Zafar's vocals and the catchy melody.

The release of "Mazha Aya" comes after the official World Cup anthem, "Dil Jashn Bole", was met with mixed reviews. Some fans felt that the official anthem was too generic and did not capture the spirit of the tournament.

Zafar's anthem, on the other hand, has been praised for its upbeat tempo and positive message. The song's lyrics celebrate the passion and excitement of cricket fans, and encourage them to come together and support their teams. The release of "Mazha Aya" ahead of the India-Pakistan match has added to the excitement of the tournament. The two teams are fierce rivals, and their matches are always highly anticipated. Zafar's anthem is sure to get the fans pumped up for the match and for the rest of the World Cup.

Allama Iqbal has prominent place among world's noted thinkers: experts

LAHORE (APP): Experts said that Allama Iqbal was a dominant figure in the twentieth century and influenced millions of people around the world.

In an introductory talk on books held at the PU library, they said that Allama Iqbal had a prominent position among the most towering thinkers of the world. The talk was organized on two books including "Baqiyat-e-Iqbal" compiled by Dr. Syed Taqi Aabdi and "Political Philosophy of Kautilya: The Arthashastra and after" by Rajvir Sharma.

Chief Librarian Dr Muhammad Haroon Usmani, Director Institute of Urdu Language and Literature Dr Muhammad Kamran, Centre for South Asian Studies Assistant Professor Dr Mariam Kamal, Dr Taqi Aabdi, faculty members and a large number of students were present.

The Urdu book was a collection of literary residue of Allama Muhammad Iqbal and the talk on the book was presented by Dr Muhammad Kamran. He shared the biographical sketch of the renowned poet, his style and the themes of his poetry. Dr Taqi Aabdi shed light on the work of Allama Muhammad Iqbal. He recited some poems from the book which show that the literary residue of Allama Muhammad Iqbal is equally beautiful and mesmerizing.

Dr Mariam Kamal presented the talk on the political thought of "Kautilya".

She explained the change of political ideologies in the subcontinent before the colonial era as narrated by the author of the book. At the conclusion, Dr Haroon Usmani thanked the speakers for their magnificent talks and the audience for their lively participation.

Dr Kamran told APP that no philosophical and literary history would be complete without attention to the major role played by Muhammad Iqbal in the well-being of people. "During his lifetime he demonstrated unprecedented consciousness for the safe future of mankind," he maintained.

Dr Usmani said that most of major thinkers have acknowledged Iqbal's contribution and influence.

He added that Iqbal's Urdu and Persian poetry are a source of inspiration for millions. Thousands of books and articles in many languages are written about him, he said, adding that it was not an exaggeration to say that he had acquired a prominent position among noted thinkers around the world.



BAHAWALPUR: Athletes participating in the sailing competition during the First Bahawalpur South Punjab Rowing Boating Championship 2023.

President calls for measures to empower virtually impaired individuals

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Dr Arif Alvi has called upon the government departments, non-governmental organizations, civil society, media and all concerned parties to intensify their efforts in addressing the issues faced by visually impaired individuals and to take every possible measure to empower them to lead happy and independent lives.

In a message on the occasion of International White Cane Safety Day being observed on October 15, the president said that the observance of the Day served as a reminder of their collective responsibility towards those individuals who face visual disabilities.

It was also an opportunity to raise awareness about the challenges and needs of visually impaired individuals and to intensify efforts to address

these challenges, he added. "It is a day to redouble our efforts in establishing the necessary legislative, administrative, and infrastructural mechanisms required to help and facilitate the visually impaired persons," he said, adding the white cane should never be seen as a symbol of disability or impairment; instead, it stood as a beacon of courage and bravery. It represented the strong human spirit that confronts challenges and hardships head-on.

The president called upon everyone to show greater consideration for visually impaired individuals and to take steps to ensure their full integration into society.

"We must also benchmark the level of care we provide to visually impaired individuals against that available in other civilized countries

and take immediate and practical steps to achieve similar standards in their care. Let us contribute both individually and collectively to establish the necessary mechanisms and facilities that cater to the needs of the visually impaired," a press release quoted him as saying.

President Alvi also commended all individuals and organizations involved in the vital task of rehabilitating the persons with disabilities.

He said that they all needed to intensify their efforts in addressing the challenges faced by visually impaired individuals.

"I also wish to reassure our brothers and sisters with visual disabilities that the government will continue to take all possible measures to protect their rights and enable them to lead successful lives," he added.



ISLAMABAD: Famous Poet of Pakistan Anwar Masood is presenting his poems during "Mehfil-e-Sukhan" at local hotel on 13 October in Federal Capital.

Hurriyat parties urge world HR organizations to take notice over prevailing grim situation in IIOJK

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Hurriyat parties have urged the world human rights (HR) organizations to take notice of the Indian state terrorism and gross human rights violations in Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK).

According to Kashmir Media Service, the Jammu and Kashmir Democratic Freedom Party (DFP) leader Advocate Arshad Iqbal in a statement in Srinagar said the killing of Kashmiri youth in fake encounters had become a routine matter for the Indian forces' personnel.

Terming it a sheer frustration on the part of the Indian government, he said that the Narendra Modi-led communal regime, which has miserably failed to suppress the freedom sentiments and resistance of the people, is now resorting to brutality and barbarism to

inflict misery on the people through rampant killings of innocent youth.

The Jammu and Kashmir National Front leader Sahfiq-ul-Haq said the youth of Kashmir who have been at the forefront of the resistance movement are rendering matchless sacrifices in the ongoing struggle for achieving freedom from Indian illegal occupation. Referring to the grim situation prevailing in the occupied territory, he said continued bloodshed, killings, and arbitrary arrests of common people by Indian troops and police have exposed the Bharatiya Janata Party government's normalcy narrative in IIOJK.

Terming the house raids a naked aggression and violation of the international covenants, he said that the BJP Hindutva regime has utterly failed to suppress the freedom sentiments and resistance of

the people, despite using all means of oppression and suppression. Tehreek-e-Wahdat-e-Islami Chairman Fayaz Hussain Jafari and Pairwan-e-Wilayat patron Syed Sibte Shabir Qummir in a joint statement issued in Srinagar said that Indian state terrorism, its war crimes and human rights violations had made life a hell for the oppressed Kashmiris.

They maintained that the Modi regime, instead of implementing the UNSC resolutions, was trying to stifle the voice of Kashmiri people through the use of brute force and employing settler colonialism in the territory. The leaders said that Modi must remember that popular movements can't be defeated by gagging their voices of dissent through military oppression and that the Kashmiris are determined to carry their struggle till success.



ISLAMABAD: Gypsy people are busy in searching valuable things for recycling, from garbage dump outside Fruit and Vegetables Market to sell and earn daily wages for the livelihood of their families.

Delaying sleep by just 90 mins each night may cause heart disease: Study

ISLAMABAD (APP): Delaying bedtime by just 90 minutes each night damages cells that line the blood vessels, supporting the hypothesis that poor sleep is linked to heart health, a study among women participants has revealed.

Surveys of thousands of people have found that those who report mild but chronic sleep deficits have more heart disease later in life than people who get adequate sleep.

A new Columbia University study of women, published in the journal Scientific Reports, now shows what's happening in the body during chronic mild sleep deprivation, Medical Daily reported.

After just six weeks of shortened sleep, the study found, that the cells that line our blood vessels are flooded by damaging oxidants. And unlike well-

rested cells, sleep-restricted cells fail to activate antioxidant responses to clear the destructive molecules.

The result: cells that are inflamed and dysfunctional, an early step in the development of cardiovascular disease.

"This is some of the first direct evidence to show that mild chronic sleep deficits cause heart disease," says study leader Sanja Jelic, director of the Center for Sleep Medicine at Columbia. The researchers screened nearly 1,000 women for the study, enrolling 35 healthy women who normally sleep seven to eight hours each night who could complete the 12-week study.

For six weeks the women slept according to their usual routine; for the other six weeks, they went to bed 1.5 hours later than usual.



ISLAMABAD: Chief Minister GB, Haji Gubar Khan talking to media personnel after meeting regarding GB Commission on Status of Women at Gilgit Baltistan House.

Pakistan-China Highway Research & Training Centre to be formally propelled during PM's visit

ISLAMABAD (APP): As Prime Minister Anwar-ul-Haq Kakar's visit to China approaches, the Highway Research and Training Centre (HRTC) is considered one of the pivotal projects, prominently taking center stage as the primary highlight of this significant visit.

The HRTC is a subsidiary of the National Highway Authority (NHA) for carrying out indigenous research in various faculties of highway engineering, including but not limited to pavements, bridges, tunneling, environmental engineering, hydraulics, and geotech. It will also impart technical training

to NHA engineers. Under the ambit of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), a promising joint research program is envisioned with the Government of China from 2023 to 2027.

This program aimed to foster collaboration and innovation in various domains of highway engineering. A formal memorandum of joint research extension will be finalized and entered into during the PM's visit to China next week.

This extension is poised to be a cornerstone of joint cooperation in road infrastructure, with the National Highway Authority

being a vanguard of such mutual cooperation.

It is agreed that the following activities will be completed: Construction of the HRTC Research Institute on 530 acres of land already acquired by NHA for PKR 520 million. This will be constructed by a Chinese contractor or consultant under a Chinese grant of 52 million USD or 374 million RMB (15 billion PKR). It includes infrastructure, a test track, and indoor and outdoor lab equipment. After completion and required training, it will be handed over to NHA for operation.

CDA starts installation of new led lights, repair of old street lights

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Capital Development Authority (CDA) has started installation of new led lights, repair and maintenance of old street lights along the Streets, Service Roads and Main Avenues of the federal capital.

"The civic body has already allocated funds in this regard which will help to ensure proper lighting arrangement on these roads and streets," a CDA official told APP.

He said the shortage of street lights in different sectors of the federal capital caused a recent increase in street crimes, prompting residents to raise the issue

with the relevant authorities. He said the CDA was also taking concrete steps for ensuring the provision of urban facilities to the city dwellers and maintenance of infrastructure including the installation of street lights, road carpeting and resolving water-related issues, neglected in the past.

"Special attention is being given to the completion of the remaining development works in the sectors I, G, H and D series, provision of civic facilities, and facilitating the home builders in these sectors in pursuance of the directives of Chairman CDA Capt @Anwar ul Haq," he said.



ISLAMABAD: A worker is covering the plants at Nursery in Sector H-9 to protect from rainy water in Federal Capital.

Pakistan Railways announces revised timings for winter

ISLAMABAD (INP): Pakistan Railways has announced its updated winter timetable, which will come into effect from Sunday, October 15, 2023, across the entire country.

In this latest timetable release, several adjustments have been made. One significant change is the introduction of a new stop for the Pakistan Express (45 Up) at Khairpur Railway Station, providing improved accessibility to

commuters in the region. Additionally, various temporary stops for various train services have been made permanent.

The Allama Iqbal Express (9 Up/10 Dn) will now make a stop at Lodhran Railway Station, while the Quetta Express will halt at Toba Tek Singh Railway Station.

To further accommodate passengers, the duration of stops for specific trains has been extended.

Cricket match organized at Police Lines Headquarters; to foster healthy activities

ISLAMABAD: Following the special directives of Islamabad Capital City Police Officer (ICCPO) Dr Akbar Nasir Khan, to encourage the police officials towards healthy activities a friendly cricket match was played between Islamabad Capital Police and Rawalpindi Police at Police Lines Headquarters Islamabad cricket



ground, a public relations officer said. He said that, Capital Police Headquarters participated as chief guests, and a large number of Islamabad Capital Police and Rawalpindi Police officials were also present on the occasion. Islamabad Capital Police won the toss and elected to bat first and scored 171 runs in 12 overs. The Rawalpindi Police team played well and scored 172 runs and won the match.

Establishment of Women Commission a historic milestone for women of Gilgit Baltistan

ISLAMABAD (APP): "The GB Commission on the Status of Women will play a key role to protect them from violence, and will help to get economically empowered" Said Chairperson NCSW, Nilofar Bakhtiar.

Today, a signing ceremony of establishment of Gilgit Baltistan Commission on the Status of Women held at GB House Islamabad and Chief Minister Gilgit Baltistan, Haji Gulbar Khan signed the launching of the Gilgit Baltistan Commission on the Status of Women.

On this occasion Ms. Nilofar Bakhtiar, Chairperson NCSW said "We proudly succeeded in framing the law for GB Commission followed by the Bill approved by GB Assembly last year." She further added that NCSW and its national and UN Partners jointly achieved this milestone and now every province and region of Pakistan have Commissions on the Status of Women.

Our target and mission is to strengthen these commissions to ensure the safeguarding women rights. Bakhtiar further added that we believe that by working together, we can make significant progress in securing

a safer and more equitable environment for all. NCSW particularly wants to acknowledge the continuous and unconditional support of Ms. Dilshad Bano, Minister for Women Development GB. During the ceremony, Chief Minister GB assured his commitment to provide every possible support for the promotion and protection of the rights of women and girls of Gilgit Baltistan. He marked this day as a great success for those struggling for decades to create an enabling environment for all the weak and vulnerable segments of our population.

Chairperson NCSW expressed her great appreciation and thanks to the government of Gilgit Baltistan for their hard work and support for making this dream come true. She congratulated all NCSW partners and the NCSW team for this great success for which they have been struggling for long.

She particularly thanked the unprecedented support extended by UNFPA in this whole process. Country Representative UNFPA, Dr Luay Shabany congratulated the establishment of GB commission on the status of Women.



ISLAMABAD: Workers of local administration are busy in installing over head pedestrian bridge with the help of heavy machinery at Srinagar Highway as the main busy highway will be closed for two days in Federal Capital.

Windstorm/rain thunderstorm with snow over mountains expected: PMD

ISLAMABAD (Online): Windstorm/rain-thunderstorm with snow over high mountains is expected in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Islamabad, upper Punjab, Gilgit-Baltistan and Kashmir during the next twelve hours.

However, isolated hailstorm is likely in plain areas. Heavy falls are also expected in Kashmir, Gilgit Baltistan, Upper Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Potohar region during the period. Dry weather is expected in other parts of the country.

Temperature of some major cities recorded this morning: Islamabad and Lahore twenty-one degree centigrade, Karachi twenty-

seven, Peshawar twenty, Quetta fifteen, Gilgit sixteen, Murree eleven and Muzafarabad seventeen degree centigrade.

According to weather forecast for Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir, partly cloudy rain with chances of rain and thunderstorm weather is expected in Srinagar, Leh, Pulwama, Anantnag and Baramulla.

Temperature recorded this morning: Srinagar and Shopian fourteen degree centigrade, Jammu twenty-two, Leh two and Pulwama, Anantnag and Baramulla thirteen degree centigrade.

Halwa Puri breakfast, a weekend tradition loved by all ages in twin cities

ISLAMABAD (APP): The delectable combination of Halwa Puri, Channay and Achar has emerged as the ultimate breakfast indulgence for people of all ages, even those who are conscious of their diets.

Every weekend, a

Puri breakfast.

In an exclusive talk with APP, Franchise and Marketing Director of Chaaya Khana, a famous chain of foods spanning across the country and abroad, Mujtaba Ali said Halwa Puri breakfast with



ISLAMABAD: Vendors are busy in preparing traditional breakfast "Halwa Puri" at Karachi Company area as people like such foods especially cloudy and rainy weather in Federal Capital.

number of families in the twin cities of Islamabad and Rawalpindi flock to their favorite restaurants to savor this mouthwatering meal.

The tradition of enjoying Halwa Puri breakfast with Channay and Achar has deep roots in the culinary culture of Pakistan. It is a meal that embodies the essence of indulgence and comfort, making it the perfect choice for a leisurely weekend morning.

The twin cities boast several renowned restaurants and eateries that specialize in serving this iconic breakfast. Places like 'Chaaya Khana' in Islamabad and Rawalpindi have gained a reputation for their exceptional Halwa

Channay and Achar has become an integral part of the weekend routine for residents of Islamabad and Rawalpindi.

He said it is a celebration of flavor, tradition and togetherness that transcends age and dietary preferences.

As the weekend approaches, anticipation builds, ensuring that this beloved breakfast will continue to be a cherished tradition in the hearts and taste buds of the people in these twin cities, he maintained. Mujtaba Ali said on any given weekend morning, the restaurants witness a bustling atmosphere as families from all walks of life gather to enjoy this beloved meal together.

Looming massacre

A fresh holocaust against the Palestinians is in the making as Israel has ordered over a million residents of northern Gaza to evacuate as a ground invasion of the besieged territory by Tel Aviv is imminent. But the grim truth is that Gaza's bloodied and brutalised population has nowhere to go, as Israel has sealed the strip, while Egypt has also closed its borders.

As the UN has noted, the Israeli evacuation order is "impossible" to carry out, while the UN relief body has said Gaza is "on the brink of collapse". Perhaps Israel seeks to recreate here the Sabra and Shatila massacre of 1982 that it oversaw, only on a much bigger scale.

While civilian casualties on both sides are condemnable — more than 2,700 people have died after Hamas launched its surprise operation on Oct 7 — Tel Aviv now seeks to do what it has always done without compunction: massacre men, women and children to 'punish' Palestinian armed factions. This is a war crime by any definition, yet Israel's Western friends choose to call it 'self-defence'.

One positive development emerging from this nightmare scenario is that erstwhile foes within the Muslim world have set aside their differences to raise a voice for the Palestinians.

Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi and Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman discussed the crisis over the phone. Mr Raisi stressed "the need to end war crimes against Palestine", while the crown prince expressed "deep concern" for Gaza's people.

The prince and Turkish President Recep Erdogan also discussed the hostilities, highlighting the need to get help to civilians. Meanwhile, the OIC and Arab League, as usual, have limited themselves to issuing statements expressing outrage and sympathy. But when the people of Gaza are facing extermination by the Israeli war machine, more than statements of sympathy are required.

Muslim states first need to put up a united front and ensure humanitarian aid reaches the besieged Palestinian population. Furthermore, those Muslim states that are close to the US and Europe, as well as Arab countries that have established ties with Israel, must unequivocally tell their counterparts that this brutal campaign against Palestinian civilians has to end immediately.

There is also a very real threat of the conflict transforming into a regional war. Israel's Western partners have indicated that they stand by it come what may, and some have sent symbolic military help as Tel Aviv hammers the Palestinians.

On the other hand, Iran, which backs Hamas, as well as Tehran's other regional allies have said they are prepared to hit back at Tel Aviv and its backers if certain 'red lines' are crossed. A perfect storm is brewing. To prevent an even bigger conflagration, Israel's war machine must be reined in, or else the consequences, globally, will be devastating.



Tahir Mehdi

The Pakistan Bureau of Statistics has proudly branded the 2023 population census the country's first-ever digital census. It employed cutting-edge technology to conduct this massive exercise that literally required an army of field enumerators to leave no stone unturned across the country. PBS geotagged all housing units through tablets that the enumerators used to collect and transmit data to the centres in real time. It collaborated with Nadra and synergised its data with the authority's extensive citizens' database.

A more pleasantly surprising aspect of the exercise was its transparency. PBS published a detailed field operation plan making all SOPs public. It offered a self-enumeration facility

to the public for the first time and provided the provincial authorities online dashboards making data accessible to them as it was being collected. Its complaint centre was open 24/7 and its social media handles regularly made public provisional results and other details. It also frequently consulted stakeholders and experts to minimise the possibility of controversies after publication of the final results. The Council of Common Interests unanimously approved the final results in August, which required their immediate notification.

But sadly, that's where our digital fairy-tale meets an abrupt end.

In the last two months, all that PBS has made public is a simple list of districts of each province along with their total population without giving any details. The data does not even include gender and urban-rural break-ups which have always been an essential part of the basic data set. PBS provided the ECP detailed census block-wise population data before Aug 30 to facilitate the process of delimitation of electoral constituencies. This shows

that PBS has the detailed data ready in usable format. But for some unknown reason that has so far been only for the ECP's eyes. This is contrary to the 2018 practice when the block-wise results were provided to the ECP and published on the PBS website at the same time.

Using the data, the ECP published the preliminary delimitations and has invited representations (pleas for changes) from voters. But how can anyone suggest a change without having access to data used by the ECP to redraw the constituencies?

Contrary to popular expectations, the current delimitations have made widespread changes to the boundaries of constituencies, especially in the case of the provincial assemblies. Here is an overview of some changes.

In KP, the number of provincial seats allocated to Peshawar district has decreased from 14 to 13. Hangu has lost one seat too. The wonder constituency comprising frontier regions of six disjointed districts has dissipated because of the Fata merger. The loss of these three

seats has resulted in the gain of one seat each by Shargha, Chitral and Bajaur.

Sialkot, Lodhran and Multan districts have lost one seat each in Punjab Assembly. Muzaffargarh had 12 seats in 2018 but then the new district of Kot Addu was carved out of it. The combined share of the two new districts stands at 11. Similarly, Rawalpindi had 15 seats in 2018 but it gave birth to Murree district in 2022 and now Rawalpindi and Murree have been allocated 13 seats and one seat respectively. On the other hand, Bhakkar, Khushab, Gujrat, Kasur and Rajanpur districts have gained one seat each.

Similarly, one Sindh Assembly seat each in Sanghar, Khairpur and Thatta districts has migrated to Karachi Central, Karachi East and Malir.

Dividing a district into one less or one more constituencies means that existing boundaries of all the constituencies in that district have to be redrawn. The changes described have resulted in completely redrawing 23 of 115 seats of the KP Assembly, 84 of

297 of the Punjab Assembly and 37 of the Sindh Assembly's 130 constituencies. And these constitute just one type of change that has been made in the current delimitations.

A district losing a seat means that one political family will lose its home ground and will have to play second fiddle to other players. A district gaining a seat can translate into a jackpot for an underdog or an opportunity for some heavyweights to multiply their power. This makes delimitations the most crucial and contested pre-poll electoral process for candidates and they have to have a say in this. However, to be able to oppose or suggest a change, they must first fully comprehend not only the new maps but also the population of units that together form the constituency. That's not possible without having full access to the detailed block-wise census data. The census being entirely digital, this data could have easily been one click away from the public, but it is not.

Many lawyers preparing these representa-

tions have secured the required data through unofficial means but they are struggling to work out ways to quote these numbers in legal documents.

Another layer of complications has been added by the districts created after the 2023 census was initiated. This means that the statistics of these new districts are not present separately in the original PBS data and thus have to be collated by separating census blocks falling into the new districts. In KP, South Waziristan was split into upper and lower districts after the census, while the new districts of Murree, Talagang, Wazirabad, Kot Addu and Taunsa in Punjab and Hub and Usta Muhammad in Balochistan were also created afterwards.

Even if the ECP simultaneously hears cases related to four different constituencies and works without a day off, it will on average have one hour per constituency! It can complete the task on time without exhausting itself only if it receives fewer representations from fewer constituencies. -- Courtesy Dawn

What happens in Gaza won't stay in Gaza



Sherry Rehman

Terrorism is condemnable in any shape or manifestation. For this position to be credible, the bombing of civilians by either Hamas or Israel is not acceptable. A crucial difference in form and substance is that the latter is a state, which places different obligations on it. Another obvious difference is that the state of Israel is not only a legacy bomber of civilians, it is also continuing its policy of forced evictions by ordering a million innocent Palestinians out from the northern side of the Gaza strip in a further attempt to balkanize the tattered territory, using reprisals as an excuse to further occupy the area. As food, fuel and water runs out under the Israeli siege of Gaza, UN spokespersons in the area are citing "severe humanitarian consequences" of

this forced evacuation as Israel prepares for a brutal ground invasion.

Oppression is not a new experience for Palestinians. More than half a century of unspeakable, dehumanizing repression in what is widely described as the "world's largest open air prison" has led to many "nakbas", and forced expulsions of Palestinians from this moth-eaten territory over decades of state-sponsored violence. This expulsion looks like Israel is planning several weeks of slaughter and evacuations, as a "final solution" for the Palestinians, denied statehood and basic rights, with the UN SG saying that the area is now a veritable "hell on earth". The Israelis' David has now become Goliath.

Impunity for Israel is not new. While limits to unbridled power have never quite found guardrails strong enough to protect equality, rule of law as defined by global order is based on moral purpose. What is dangerous in this current conflagration in the Middle East is that the foundations of international law are being normalized as fundamentally "nasty and brutish". The counterpoint

to this is neither complicated nor new. When rights are not applied as universal, they lose their legitimacy. In this context, what is quoted as *casus belli*, or a cause for war, is not seen as cause for another. This is a recipe for profound global disorder, where law becomes hostage to the unchecked rules of power. The cases of both Kashmir and Palestine, two of the oldest disputes on the UN docket, are meant to be exceptions, embarrassments to the capacity and will of international order to apply universal norms. Yet when the exceptions risk becoming routine business of how states and systems are re-ordered in the 21st century, then fresh peril is round the corner.

As the crisis intensifies, far more than the region's strategic stability is at stake. Despite many global players expending both military capital and power to ensure containment, it is already changing both the diplomatic and military heatmap of the world. And with media on smartphones, while military containment of a conflict is possible, containing the story is not. Thanks to knuckle-whitening bravado by Al Jazeera's

reporters positioned at the heart of the carnage, the narrative is not entirely one-sided or ahistorical, with outrage now channelled at more than Hamas for its attack on Israel. With the Israeli military's brutal oppression rarely seeing condemnation by Western media, the vibe on the Muslim street almost globally is the opposite. While Gaza's population is not an army, Hamas' armed assault on Israel is largely being seen by the Muslim world as a response to Israel's decades of growing and violent occupation of the land where Palestinians once welcomed Jewish settlers fleeing from Nazi atrocities in Europe.

History, in one form, is a longer view of context. Much of the Palestinian question, as it was known, is rooted in the forced "solution" of arbitrary maps drawn in the sand by the Allied powers after World War I. The collapse and truncation of the powerful Ottoman empire culminated in this war with the creation of new successor states, including Ataturk's modern Turkey, now Türkiye. A League of Nations mandate included provisions for a Jewish national homeland in Palestine

which ignored the views of the Palestinians. The indigenous Arab people who called this area between the Mediterranean Sea and the Jordan River their home, never accepted the arbitrary "partition" in 1948, and the Arab-Israeli war, which involved five Arab states — Jordan, Iraq, Syria, Egypt and Lebanon — ended in 1949 in even more widespread truncations and Palestinian discontent.

In short, over the years, Israel became a state backed by powerful countries, and Palestine was left to be invaded, occupied and reduced in size over decades of violent occupation by a planned expansion of Jewish "settlements" in what was once the home of millions of indigenous Palestinians. The Six-Day war in 1967, in which Egypt, Syria and Jordan ended up fighting Israeli forces, ended with major land gains for Israel in the Gaza strip, the West Bank and the Sinai Peninsula. The Jews who claimed ancient descent as well to this land where three of the world's greatest monotheisms originate, no longer wanted to share the land with fellow Arabs, but celebrated their right to re-

turn there from Europe while denying today any Palestinian's right to return.

Meanwhile, the arming of combatants is not going to help. Quite the contrary. A ceasefire is the first order of business, and many old rivals are now working the phones to make that happen, a case in point being Iran and the KSA. While Türkiye and Qatar are also reportedly looking to assist in brokering an end to violence, the Gaza sky is darkening with bombs, blood and sulphur. Unless the Israelis and Palestinians are directly involved, nothing will foster sustainable peace in the Middle East. People without states, without voices shaping their futures, often have the longest memories of dispossession, death and deprivation. Their responses too then become generational acts of desperation that are inimical to regional stability or global safety. This must change for the world to turn its focus on urgent, existential challenges of the 21st century. Ultimately, a just, inclusive peace is the only way forward. -- Courtesy TheNews

Combating disinformation



Asad Baig

Veles, a small town in Macedonia, came into the global spotlight in the context of the 2016 US presidential elections, albeit for all the wrong reasons. This small factory town appeared to be an epicentre of political disinformation targeting the American population ahead of the polls.

At times, the hoax news stories emanating from Veles even trumped those from credible journalism outlets. From "Pope Francis Endorses Trump" to "ISIS Calls for Muslim Voters to Vote for Hillary", the imaginative Macedonian 'content writers' apparently gave the 19 leading American journalism outlets a run for their money.

Studies suggest in the months leading up to the elections, 20 top-performing hoax election stories generated more engagement on Facebook than the 20 top-performing credible stories from the top news outlets combined, including the New York Times and Washington Post. Many came from Veles.

Political disinformation isn't merely for political gains. Hoax stories from Veles were created to garner traffic by triggering emotions and generate click-based-revenue. The revenue was in the millions.

Mirko Ceselkoski, the 'mentor' of the youth behind this operation, proudly claimed that more than 1,200 of his 'students' were earning upwards of \$10m a month. One can only imagine the profits

that social media companies had made from the traffic generated by these hoax stories.

The influx of organised disinformation in the 2016 election amply demonstrates the potential impact of MDM (misinformation, disinformation, mal-information) on elections in general. MDM can be massively profitable for most parties involved. Similar trends have been noted in Pakistan.

The revelations of the former 'troll-in-chief' and investigations published by various journalists and researchers unpacking hate campaigns and identifying the political actors behind them, indicate a heavy potential influx of organised political MDM in the run-up to the elections in 2024, especially considering the factors that make Pakistan's population susceptible to hateful MDM.

The Reuters Institute for the Study of Journalism found that "influencers" are overtaking credible journalists as news sources, and fewer people trust traditional media, whereas more people are turning to TikTok for news.

Recent studies by Media Matters for Democracy have made similar findings — 64 per cent of surveyed news consumers indicated they use 'social media platforms' as their go-to 'trusted medium' for news. This shift towards influencer-based content could substantially contribute to creating a conducive environment for political MDM.

Firstly, in the context of journalism, a vast majority of influencer-based content in Pakistan is, at best, political commentary. However, this distinction between commentary/opinion-making and journalism is often conveniently blurred, making it

harder for consumers to identify MDM, especially if it comes from their trusted 'influencer'.

Secondly, the practice of engaging social media influencers and engaging troll networks for social media campaigns, unlike political ads, has zero transparency.

The concept can be used to inoculate the population against a certain kind of MDM — such as gendered disinformation — by pre-exposing them to 'weakened doses' of misinformation and techniques that go into its production and distribution. Researchers have also been experimenting with a 'broad-spectrum' vaccine for MDM through gamification of this process, putting users in the shoes of misinformation producers and encouraging a critical reflection on the tactics used, such as impersonation and the use of fake imagery to trigger emotions.

The inoculation approach has had a high success rate. Well-designed, targeted media and information literacy campaigns in all major local languages, and the translation and distribution of existing gamified tools — such as "Fake It To Make It" or "Bad News" — and their mass distribution through popular platforms, including TikTok, could make a substantial difference.

However, an intervention on this scale would require substantial resources that perhaps only governments can pull together. CSOs, while they can help in the effective design and distribution of such content, can only play a supporting role. This might sound clichéd, but the responsibility for inoculating masses for electoral disinformation ahead of election 2024 lies on the ECP and the caretaker governments. Are they doing enough? -- Courtesy Dawn

A bogus law



Asad Rahim Khan

On March 1, 2023, the Supreme Court of Pakistan upheld the single most crucial time-limit provided for in the Constitution: provincial polls in 90 days. To any reasonable person — forget any person born in a land that's seen four dictatorships and two emergencies — the only response would be to hold elections.

Instead, the public saw the opposite: terrified of any outcome in which a citizen exercised his right to vote, the unity regime rushed to declare the court, as well as the same suo motu power that had ordered elections in the first place. The result was the Supreme Court (Practice and Procedure) Act — passed that same month on March 29, and upheld by the court this past week. (Another, cruder result was Maulana Fazl's boys storming the Red Zone when the 90-day review was being heard.)

That's the first thing to remember about this law: it wasn't passed after the billion-dollar disasters of Iftikhar Chaudhry (see Reko Diq), nor the excesses of Saqib Nisar, nor the court's sighs over traffic jams. It was passed because the judges had ordered elections in half the provinces. We know this because the ruling party said so.

Moments after the bill was tabled, prime minister Shehbaz Sharif endorsed a resolution: "This House believes the unnecessary intrusion of the judiciary in politics is the main cause of political instability. This House supports the deci-

sion and opinion of four judges [sic] in the suo motu [on elections...]"

We'll leave aside the magical realism for now, skip as it does over a 3-2 verdict for a 4-3 fantasy scorned by all serious lawyers (to say nothing of the fact that not one of those four dissenters said elections weren't mandated in 90 days).

Nor is there much point in mentioning how a bill meant to stress collective wisdom was passed via none: it was put up by a panicked cabinet in the dead of night, bounced through the standing committee that morning, and then approved by a minority government that spent its precious minutes bashing the court instead of debating the bill.

Nor, even, that a law meant to regulate the court's procedure was passed in a mockery of parliament's own: Rule 123 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the National Assembly requires "two clear days" to mull over a bill after it reaches the members' hands. In sum, a law that was hailed as a win for parliament was passed by a rump Assembly fearful of the popular will.

But push on we must: first, it's a basic legal principle that bad intentions can't be attributed to the legislature — what motivates our lawmakers is beside the point.

Second, Pakistan is a parliamentary system, rooted in the will of the people. It's why we vote: so that elected reps get to say what the law is — including on court procedure. And it doesn't help, as razor-witted legal eagle Moiz Jaferi has said, that the court refused to regulate itself, allowing outsiders to breach the fort.

But per their own process, amending the Constitution requires a two-thirds majority. And the new law is, in every

way, an amendment: it's for a reason that the Constitution lends the Supreme Court three clear and distinct jurisdictions — original, appellate, and advisory.

What this bill does is forklift an entirely new floor of appeal on top of original — in a land of already never-ending litigation — without changing a word of the text.

Plus, as Justice Ayesha Malik pointed out, there's the obvious absurdity that no "larger bench" can possibly hear an appeal from an original full bench. (Of note in the short order, the consistently independent-minded justice Yahya Afridi has dissented against providing an appeal, and — in a bare-bones 8-7 split — against gifting it to past cases.)

Not least, the law also neutered the suo motu power by diffusing it across a random committee of three judges. It's unexplained why this isn't five or seven or nine, all of which still displaces the rest of their lordships.

Finally, for all of the unity regime's sermons, this bill does not do a thing to hinder martial law. Consider: every single judgement that embraced dictatorship — "Dusso", "Nusrat Bhutto", and "Zafar Ali Shah", the latter two under Article 184(3) — was decided by a full bench, and each one by unanimous glee. By the logic of this bogus law, the same judges would have heard those same cases again, and barring some chemical imbalance, likely decide the same way again. If this Supreme Court really does want to affirm democracy, it would be best to just affirm democracy: elections in 90 days — rather than uphold laws born to sidestep them. -- Courtesy Dawn

Visits Saidu Medical College Governor urges doctors to serve humanity with love, dedication, compassion

PESHAWAR (APP): Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Haji Ghulam Ali, urged doctors to work with professionalism, dedication, and compassion to serve humanity, abiding by norms of politeness and love.

He was addressing the 4th Convention of Saidu Medical College (SMC) Swat. The ceremony was also attended by Vice Chancellor SMC, Dr. Zia-ul-Haq; Vice Chancellor University of Swat, Dr. Hassan Sher; Principal SMC, Israr-ul-Haq; Deputy Commissioner, Dr. Qasim Ali; and District Police Officer Swat, Shafiqullah Gandapur. The governor said

that young people should choose emerging fields of modern technology and explore new opportunities. He said that the federal and provincial governments are spending a hefty amount on education, and it is the responsibility of students to venture into research and innovations for the development of the country. He said that our resources are incompatible with the growing needs of medical education, but the situation can be addressed through research, and he added that medical institutions should introduce research-based studies for capacity building of students and to make advancements in the medical field.

Haji Ghulam Ali said

that doctors should serve people with love in their practical lives and work for the maximum facilitation of ailing humanity. He said that the young generation must adopt a positive approach for the development and prosperity of the country. Later, he distributed degrees among students and 40 gold medals to outstanding students. He also went to the historic government of Dar-ul-Uloom Islamia Swat and met with its administration and teachers. During a meeting with the administrator of the institution, Mufti Muhammad Wahab, he assured cooperation to install a solar energy system in Dar-ul-Uloom.



SWAT: Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Haji Ghulam Ali, Vice Chancellor KMU Dr. Ziaul Haq, Principal Prof. Israrul Haq addressing 4th Convocation of Saidu Medical College.

Interim CM directs Police high-ups to inspect police stations every 15 days

KARACHI (APP): Caretaker Chief Minister Sindh Justice (Retd) Maqbool Baqar has directed the Inspector General of Police (IGP) Sindh for the inspection system of the police stations.

He said that every Deputy Superintendents of Police (DSPs) had to inspect their police stations every 15 days. He said that Superintendents of Police (SPs) must make it mandatory to inspect their police stations every month.

Baqar said that Senior Superintendents of Police (SSP) to ensure inspection of police stations every three months and Deputy Inspector Generals of Police (DIGPs) should

inspect police stations every three months. Additional IGPs must inspect police stations every six months, he said adding that IGP should inspect police stations twice a year. The concerned Assistant Commissioners, Deputy Commissioners and Commissioners should also inspect the police stations, he directed.

He further said that the records of the police stations must be checked during inspection.

The Chief Minister said that directed the action against the authorities concerned with identifying wrongdoings.

He also directed to sent inspection report to the Chief Minister so that appropriate action could be taken.

Caretaker CM visits project site 91pc work on Shahdara flyover project completed

Naqvi directs to start work on new Ravi bridge

LAHORE: Caretaker Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi visited Shahdara flyovers project early morning on Saturday. Provincial Ministers Amir Mir and Azfar Ali Nasir also accompanied him. 91 per cent work of Shahdara flyovers mega project has been completed owing to continuous visits and personal monitoring of Mohsin Naqvi.

He reviewed development works on the project and inspected construction activities from the bridge up to Shahdara Chowk.

CM Mohsin Naqvi directed that asphalt work on the flyovers should be

completed early adding that electricity poles fixed with the adjoining road of the project should be relocated to a substitute place at the earliest. He directed to start work on the new Ravi Bridge soon adding that Shahdara flyovers will be opened for traffic during the current month. Traffic problem on the Shahdara Chowk will be resolved on a permanent basis with the completion of the project. Mohsin Naqvi was informed during the briefing that asphalt work on the surrounding roads of Shahdara flyovers is ongoing and asphalt work on the bridges will start soon while work on the last wall of the flyovers is

ongoing. Commissioner Lahore/DG LDA Muhammad Ali Randhawa, Chief Engineer LDA Israr Saeed and the contractor gave a briefing about progress being made on the project. Secretary Housing, CCPO, Deputy Commissioner, CTO and concerned officials were also present on the occasion.

Meanwhile Punjab Caretaker Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi has said the role of rural women in building and progress of a society is greatly recognizable.

In his message on the International Day of Rural Women.



BAHAWALPUR: Governor Punjab Engineer Muhammad Balighur Rehman addressing the ceremony of the First Bahawalpur South Punjab Rowing Boating Champion ship 2023.

KP Caretaker CM takes notice of MTIs' financial issues

PESHAWAR (INP): Caretaker Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Muhammad Azam Khan has taken notice of financial issues being faced by the Medical Teaching Institutions (MTIs) of the province in a meeting with his advisor on health Dr. Riaz Anwar and Chief Secretary Nadeem Aslam Chaudhry who called on him to discuss the matters related to the financial issues of MTIs here at Chief Minister's House on Friday.

CM directed his advisor on health and the Chief Secretary to take immediate appropriate steps to arrange the required funds for these hospitals on a priority basis. He said that all kinds of emergency services at

MTIs should not be affected in any way, adding that required funds should be arranged on priority so that uninterrupted emergency services must be ensured in these hospitals.

The Chief Minister said that it was the top priority of the caretaker provincial government to keep uninterrupted healthcare facilities continued for the public, and added that despite financial crunches, the provincial government would make no compromise on the provision of treatment facilities to the masses. He stated that the health sector would be given top priority in the allocation of available financial resources.

INOR Abbottabad hosts awareness event regarding free cancer screenings

ABBOTTABAD (APP): To raise awareness about breast cancer, an awareness walk and ceremony was held at The Institute of Nuclear Medicine, Oncology and Radiotherapy (INOR) Abbottabad. The event was organized to educate the public about the importance of early detection and timely treatment of breast cancer.

All tests for diagnosing this disease were offered free of charge, marking a significant step in healthcare outreach.

Following the nationwide tradition of celebrating October as Breast Cancer Awareness Month, doctors, students, and Pink Ribbon, a prominent breast cancer awareness organization, collaborated to organize the

event. The activities kicked off with an awareness walk, culminating in a formal ceremony held at INOR.

During the ceremony, guest speakers, including renowned cancer expert Dr. Nasim Begum and Director of INOR, Dr. Masood Riaz, expressed their views about early intervention and the role of timely diagnosis in preventing breast cancer. The overarching goal of this breast cancer awareness campaign is to advocate for regular screenings, ultimately lowering the mortality rate among women affected by this modern disease.

Breast cancer, which is responsible for approximately 40,000 annual deaths and nearly 100,000 new cases,

Baqar condemns terrorism incident in Turbat

KARACHI (APP): Caretaker Chief Minister Sindh Justice (Retd) Maqbool Baqar has strongly condemned an incident of terrorism in Turbat.

He said that those, who shed the blood of innocent workers had no religion.

The Chief Minister said that such people did not even deserve to be called Muslims.

He also consoled the bereaved families and prayed for the deceased.

DC imposes Section 144 in Khyber district

PESHAWAR (APP): Deputy Commissioner Khyber Abdul Nasir Khan has imposed Section 144 in Khyber district to prevent the illegal issuance of mobile phone SIM cards.

In the Khyber district, the sale of SIM cards by unauthorized persons without the permission of the relevant companies has been banned.

All unauthorized SIM cards and devices used in registration have been taken into official custody and instructions have been issued regarding legal action.

This step has been taken to prevent unauthorized persons from misusing the fingerprints of innocent people.

Section 144 will come into effect immediately, which will remain in force for 02 months. The District Police will take legal action under Section 188 of the Pakistan Penal Code for violation, said the release issued here Saturday. A letter has been issued to the District Police Officer (DPO) and all administrative officers for necessary action.

DC, DPO visit Chinese Camp in Tarbela, reviewed security arrangements

SWABI (APP): Deputy Commissioner Swat Gohar Ali and DPO Swabi Haroon Rasheed Khan Saturday visited the Chinese Camp in Tarbela and reviewed the security arrangements and other issues related to ensure foolproof security in the area.

Mumtaz Khattak, SHO Topi Subhanullah Jadoon, CPEC Security In-charge DSP Arif Khan, Tarbela Security In-charge and other officers were also present. DC and DPO Swabi checked the security checkpoint CCTV cameras during the visit.

They reviewed the internal and external

security arrangements of the Chinese camp in detail wherein on the spot DC issued instructions to the relevant officers to check the Chinese security camp and issued orders to the soldiers on duty to be alert, and it was said that any unrelated person entry inside the camp should not be allowed at all.

DPO Swabi said that the police officers responsible for the security of the Chinese should perform their duty with responsibility. Any kind of negligence on security will not be tolerated. DPO told the force on duty.



LAHORE: Caretaker Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi inspecting construction of Shahdara Flyover project.

Prophet (SAWW)'s teachings are beacons for Islamic world

KARACHI (APP): Caretaker Chief Minister Sindh Justice (Retd) Maqbool Baqar organized the Eid Milad-un-Nabi (SAWW) programme at the Chief Minister House.

A large number of diplomats, scholars, provincial secretaries, IG police and other personalities participated in the programme.

Famous naat-khawan Siddique Ismail, Hameed Rana, Majeed Soltani and others recited naats. Mufti

Fazal Subhani, Dr. Jameel Rathore and Allama Syed Radi Jafar Naqvi shed light on the blessed life of the Holy Prophet (SAWW).

The Chief Minister thanked all the participants for attending the programme. Baqar said, "We can progress only in the light of the teachings of the Holy Prophet (SAWW)." The teachings and guidance of the Holy Prophet (SAWW) are beacons for all the Islamic world.

11 women among 14 abducted from Faisalabad

FAISALABAD (APP): Fourteen people including 11 women were abducted from different parts of Faisalabad during the past 12 hours. Police spokesman said here on Saturday that unknown abductors abducted Nadia Bibi along with her one-year-old son from Chak No. 204-RB, while Bismillah Bibi (22) and her brother Ishtiaq (25) from Rajana Road Samundri.

Similarly, 18-year-old Nimra Asif was abducted from Nazimabad whereas 19-year-old Iqra Bibi was kidnapped from Mehar Chowk Madina Town, Kainat Shafi from Tandlianwala.



SARGODHA: Turkish NGO (iHH) Insani Yardim Vakfi delegation visiting class room and interact with orphan girls during their visit to Khubaiba Girls School and college Sargodha celebrating Orphans Solidarity Day at Khubaiba Girls School and College.

Mercy Pak Educational Complex organizes annual prize distribution for orphans

PESHAWAR: The annual prize distribution ceremony was organized at the Mercy Pak Educational Complex for orphans and destitute children here on Saturday.

Professor Dr. Hafeez ur Rahman, the Dean of Peshawar Medical College, graced the occasion as the chief guest. Prof. Dr. Najibul Haq, Advisor to the Prime Minister on Education and Health, Director of MEC, Dr. Faqir Muhammad Anwar, philanthropists, academicians, staff, and students were also in attendance.

During the ceremony, students demonstrated their talents through

providing education and training. He also paid tribute to the selfless individuals who contributed to the institution's management and maintenance.

The chief guest emphasized the significance of sponsoring orphans, citing a hadith that associates such sponsorship with companionship with the Prophet and the promise of attaining Paradise.

He underscored the concept of ongoing charity and stressed the importance of participating in the education and training of destitute children, referencing another hadith that promises rewards in the



tableaus, speeches, the recitation of Iqbal's poetry, and Nasheed's performances, earning praise and applause from the audience.

Chief guest, Prof. Dr. Hafeez ur Rahman, commended the institution's services and its commitment to

hereafter. The chief guest praised the institution for its dedication to education, training, and character development.

He acknowledged the ongoing efforts of administrators and philanthropists to improve the institution.

President Bahawalpur Press Club meets Caretaker PM

BAHAWALPUR (APP): Member, Standing Committee of Council of Pakistan Newspapers Editors (CPNE) and President, Bahawalpur Press Club, Muhammad Akmal Chohan visited the Prime Minister House and met with Caretaker Prime Minister, Anwar-Ul-Haq Kakar.

According to a press release issued by the Bahawalpur Press Club (Registered) here, President, Bahawalpur Press Club, Muhammad Akmal Chohan was part of

the delegation of CPNE which visited Prime Minister House and held a meeting with Caretaker Prime Minister, Anwar-Ul-Haq Kakar. Mr. Chohan presented an application to the Caretaker Prime Minister, requesting him to play his role for provision of funds to the club. He told the Caretaker Premier that then prime minister, Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani approved a cheque worth five million rupees on head of the official financial assistance to Bahawalpur Press Club.



HYDERABAD: Palestinian students and their fellows hold a protest rally against Israeli bombardment on Hospitals and residential areas of Palestine, in City.

Over 2,081 new cases of pink eye reported

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Primary and Secondary Health Department said on Saturday that over 2,081 new cases of conjunctivitis, commonly known as pink eye, were reported across the province during the last 24 hours. According to a report, released by the department, a total of 126,769 cases of eye infections were reported across 36 districts of Punjab during the last 30 days. Lahore, the provincial capital, alone

accounted for 10,961 cases of eye infections this month, with an additional 142 new conjunctivitis cases emerging in the last 24 hours. Bahawalpur experienced the highest concentration of conjunctivitis cases in 30 days, with a staggering 21,536 cases recorded. Within the most recent 24-hour period, Bahawalpur reported 355 new eye infection cases. Faisalabad reported 14,852 cases of conjunctivitis during one month.

214 new dengue fever cases reported in Punjab

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Health Department said on Saturday at least 214 new dengue fever cases were reported during the last 24 hours.

This year, a total of 6,431 confirmed dengue cases have been reported across 36 districts of Punjab. Lahore leads the unfortunate tally with a staggering 2,553 cases, closely followed by Rawalpindi with 1,805 cases, Multan with 706, Gujranwala with 355 and Faisalabad with 279 cases.

An additional 106 new dengue cases were reported in Lahore, 51 in Rawalpindi, 13 in Multan, 19 in Gujranwala and four in Faisalabad. During the last 24 hours, Kasur, Sargodha, Attock, Muzaffargarh and Hafizabad each recorded two new cases of dengue fever. Sheikhupura, Sialkot, Chakwal, Bahawalnagar, Jhang, Vehari, Chinot, Mianwali, Jehlum and Bhakkar each confirmed one new dengue case during the same time period.

Currently, 153 dengue patients are receiving treatment in various hospitals across Punjab.

Pakistan, BMGF sign MoU on Pakistan Digital Stack

ISLAMABAD (INP): A meeting was held between Caretaker Finance Minister Dr. Shamsah Akhtar and CEO of Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation Mark Suzman in Morocco on the sidelines of annual meeting of the WB and IMF.

The meeting centered on Pakistan Digital Stack i.e. next generation of Raast supported Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) which Pakistan can introduce with BMG Foundation's help.

The meeting was followed by signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Ministry of Finance, Government of Pakistan with BMGF on the Pakistan Digital Stack.

This MoU solidifies the Foundation's continued support for this digital infrastructure project, following the success of the Raast - Pakistan Instant Payment System.

The National Financial Inclusion

Council, chaired by the Finance Minister, will oversee the implementation of the Digital Pakistan Stack, marking a significant step toward fostering inclusive economic growth and development in Pakistan.

Meanwhile, Pakistan and Morocco have expressed commitment to further strengthen the existing partnership and to identify potential areas of collaboration in various sectors.

The resolve was expressed during a meeting between Caretaker Finance Minister Dr. Shamsah Akhtar and Moroccan Minister for Trade and Industry Ryad Mezzour in Morocco.

APP adds: The Chief Executive Officer of Global Growth & Opportunity Division, Bill & Melinda Gates (BMG) Foundation, Mr. Mark Suzman, met the Caretaker Minister for Finance, Revenue and Economic Affairs, Dr.

Shamsah Akhtar.

The meeting was held on the sidelines of annual meeting of the World Bank and International Monetary Fund (IMF), said a press release issued by the Ministry of Finance.

Building on previous discussions in Pakistan, the meeting centered on Pakistan Digital Stack like next generation of Raast supported Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) which Pakistan can introduce with BMG Foundation's help.

The meeting was followed by signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Ministry of Finance, Government of Pakistan with BMGF on the Pakistan Digital Stack.

This MoU solidifies the Foundation's continued support for this digital infrastructure project, following the success of the Raast - Pakistan Instant Payment System.



MARRAKECH: The meeting was followed by signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Ministry of Finance, Government of Pakistan with BMGF on the Pakistan Digital Stack, the CEO of Global Growth & Opportunity Division, Bill & Melinda Gates (BMG) Foundation, Mr. Mark Suzman, Federal Minister for Finance, Revenue, and Economic Affairs, Dr. Shamsah Akhtar also seen.

World Bank loan not in jeopardy, pledges exceed requirement

ISLAMABAD (APP): Ministry of Planning Development & Special Initiatives (PDSI) on Saturday said that the World Bank loan amounting to \$400 million for flood relief is not in jeopardy and that pledges made by donors exceed the requirement.

In a press release, it clarified that as per the financing agreement agreed in the 4RF (Rehabilitation and Reconstruction Framework), the external financing required is \$8.15 billion for three years.

Against that requirement, the government has successfully obtained pledges worth \$10.9

billion, which is \$2.70 billion in excess of the requirement.

It further said that the ministry has so far approved 13 projects from the Central Development Working Party (CDWP) and Executive Committee of the National Economic Council (ECNEC) worth \$3 billion, which is way ahead of the yearly target.

Moreover, project identification against committed project commitments by the donors is complete.

The PDSI is committed to the timely and effective implementation of the 4RF to ensure that the flood-

affected people are rehabilitated and reconstructed as early as possible.

The PDSI has also established a robust mechanism for the implementation and monitoring of the 4RF. There is a high-level Policy & Strategy Committee headed by the Planning Minister and a Federal Steering Committee headed by the Planning Secretary to oversee the implementation of projects in the affected provinces.

Besides, there is a Federal Rehabilitation & Reconstruction Unit which is responsible for overall coordination with the stakeholders.

Rs.352.2m fine imposed on 2,825 power pilferers

FAISALABAD (APP): The Faisalabad Electric Supply Company (FESCO) caught 2,825 power pilferers during the last 36 days and imposed a fine of over Rs. 352.2 million for stealing electricity in various areas of the company during the ongoing special anti-power theft drive.

Spokesman Tahir Sheikh said here on Saturday that over 7.815 million detection units were charged. A sum of over Rs.172.9 million was also recovered from the defaulters. He said that 2687 cases were registered against power theft in various police stations whereas the police also arrested 2189 pilferers so far.

In Jhang district, the FESCO teams caught 272 electricity thieves and imposed a fine of Rs.43 million under 1024,000 detection units.

Similarly, 274 cases of electricity theft were detected in Bhakkar district and the company handed down the power pilferers with a fine of Rs.36 million under 700,000 detection units.

He further said that

Gold rates up by Rs. 4,900 to Rs.202,000 per tola

ISLAMABAD (APP): The per tola price of 24 karat gold increased by Rs. 4,900 and was sold at Rs. 202,000 on Saturday compared to its sale at Rs. 197,100 the previous day of trading.

The price of 10 grams of 24 karat gold also increased by Rs.4,201 to Rs.173,182 from Rs.168,981 whereas the prices of 10 gram 22 karat gold went up to Rs.158,750 from Rs.154,900 the All Sindh Sarafa Jewellers Association reported.

The price of per tola and ten gram silver remained constant at Rs.2,500 and Rs.2,143.34 respectively.

Industrialists demand cut in policy interest rate to boost industrialization

ISLAMABAD (APP): A delegation of Islamabad Industrial Association (IIA) led by its President Muhammad Ahmed Waheed visited Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI).

They congratulated Faad Waheed on assuming charge as the Acting President ICCI, said a press release.

Addressing the delegation, Faad Waheed, Acting President, the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry said that the 22 percent policy interest rate is a major hurdle in promoting industrial activities.

He urged the government to bring it down to single-digit level that would help boost industrialization, promote investment, enhance exports, create jobs, and revive the economy.

He said that the industry in Pakistan is facing the highest interest rate in the whole Asia as the interest rate in Japan is -0.1%, Taiwan 1.88%, Thailand 2.5, Malaysia 3%, China 3.4%, Vietnam

4.5%, and Indonesia & Hongkong 5.75%, Bangladesh and India 6.5%.

He said that the high interest rate has made our industry uncompetitive in the international market due to which our exports are not growing up to the desired level.

He said that the best way to revive the economy is to focus on export-led growth of the economy for which single digit interest rate is the key requirement.

Muhammad Ahmed, President, Islamabad Industrial Association said that the private sector is the engine of growth for the economy, but the bank's net lending to the private sector in Pakistan has plunged 90 percent during the first 10 months of the current fiscal year, due to which the industry has experienced negative growth in many sectors.

He said that it has become almost impossible for small and medium industries to get credit from banks at such high interest rate due to which its expansion has come to a halt.



KARACHI: Pakistan Standards and Quality Control Authority (PSQCA) Ministry of Science & Technology organises a walk from Sindh Assembly to Karachi Press Club on the occasion of World Standards Day 2023.

Honesty and truthfulness in business stressed

FAISALABAD (APP): Maulana Abdul Habib Attari, Naib Ameer Dawate Islami, has said that honesty and truthfulness are imperative in the current complex business environment.

Delivering a lecture on "Guiding principles for trade in the light of Quran and Sunnah" in the Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (FCCI), he said that trading was not contradictory to Sharia.

"Hazrat Mohammad (Peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) and all other Prophets (Peace be upon them) remained engaged in trading", he said and particularly mentioned Prophet Shoaib (Peace be upon him) who was sent for two Ummahs. "The prophet stressed them to observe fairness in weights and measures but they were eliminated from the face of earth as they refused to follow his advice."

Hajji Abdul Habib said that earning profit

through businesses was not prohibited but for it, we must observe honesty in our deals. Quoting a companion of the Prophet (Peace be upon him), Attari said that the Sahabi asked the Prophet Mohammad (Peace be upon him), how his all prayers could be accepted by Allah Almighty (Mustajab-ul-Dua). The reply of Prophet Mohammad (Peace be upon him) was a one liner "keep your earning pure".

Attari further said that a true businessman would be resurrected on the day of judgement along with the honest and martyrs (Siddiqains and Sudda). He said that these examples clearly indicated the importance of weights and measures in businesses.

He said that Allah Almighty is "pak" and accepts charity from only pure earnings. "We must shun the tendency to give charity from "haram" income and consider ourselves free from the

Pak Exports to Turkey decrease by 2.56%

ISLAMABAD (INP): Pakistan's exports of goods and services to Turkey decreased by 2.56% on an annual basis during the first two months of the current fiscal year, says in media reports.

Exports to Turkey during July and August 2022-23 amounted to US\$61.354 million, down from US\$63.161 million in the same period of the previous fiscal year.

The report also showed that Turkey's exports to Pakistan declined by 8.99% year-on-year in August 2023, from US\$32.815 million to US\$29.863 million.

Overall, Pakistan's exports to other countries decreased by 8.26% in the first two months of FY2022-23, from US\$4.951 billion to US\$4.541 billion.

SMBR reviews tax collection, facilities

LAHORE (APP): Senior Member Board of Revenue (SMBR) Nabil Javed, during a meeting held here on Friday, reviewed the tax collection and provision of public facilities in the Board of Revenue.

Member Tax briefed the meeting about the progress in Tax Collection Abiyana.

The SMBR issued instructions to develop revenue collection on modern lines. He directed PITB (Punjab Information Technology Board) to prepare an app for all heads of revenue collection and issued instructions to include Abiyana Agricultural Income Tax municipal fees and chowkidara charges in the app. Nabil Javed said that Lambardar And Patwari will provide information about taxes.

far.

He further said that the FESCO teams detected electricity theft at 950 points in Faisalabad district and imposed a fine of Rs.117.6 million on them under the head of 2.547 million detection units.

In Jhang district, the FESCO teams caught 272 electricity thieves and imposed a fine of Rs.43 million under 1024,000 detection units.

Similarly, 274 cases of electricity theft were detected in Bhakkar district and the company handed down the power pilferers with a fine of Rs.36 million under 700,000 detection units.

He further said that



RAWALPINDI: President Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI) Saqib Rafique participate in rally to mark the World White Cane Day in City.

Commissioner reviews digitalisation of LDA

LAHORE (APP): Lahore Commissioner and Lahore Development Authority (LDA) Director General Muhammad Ali Randhawa, during a meeting held here on Saturday, reviewed ongoing reforms of LDA's One Window Cell.

Punjab Information Technology Board (PITB) Chairman Faisal Yousuf and Deputy Commissioner Lahore Rafia Haider and other officers participated in the meeting.

The meeting assessed various reforms and digitalisation processes of

the LDA. Randhawa said that citizens are getting LDA related services at their doorsteps, adding that documents are being delivered to the senior citizens above 75 years absolutely free at their doorstep.

He said that services and information related to LDA are available on the mobile app.

In the meeting, the preparation of Dastak model app was reviewed. Dastak will provide selected services to the citizens at the doorstep in the Lahore.

FCCI staff member dies

FAISALABAD (APP): Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry staff member Rana Sanaullah died due to cardiac arrest.

His funeral prayer was offered in the graveyard of Chak No.225-RB Malkhawala which was attended by Vice President FCCI Hajji Muhammad Aslam Bhalli, Executive Members Hajji Abdul Rauf, Maqsood Akhtar Butt and other staff members of the chamber in addition to his relatives and friends. Meanwhile, President FCCI Dr. Khuram Tariq and Senior Vice President Dr. Sajjad Arshad have expressed deep sorrow over the death.

Senior Vice President (SVP) Sialkot Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SCCI) Wahub Jahangir, while participating in the ceremony as the special guest, thanked the founder

Telenor Pakistan to celebrate Customer Day

ISLAMABAD (APP): Telenor Pakistan will celebrate the Customer Day 2023 next week, reaffirming its unwavering commitment to enhancing the customer experience.

The occasion and activities will be graced by the presence of Pette-Børre Furberg, Telenor's Head of Asia, who is making his first visit to Pakistan in his new role said a news release issued here on Saturday.

Telenor Pakistan, with its 46 million plus customers, considers its customers the most valuable asset. The upcoming Customer Day will underscore the organization's dedication to its customers and the importance of understanding their evolving needs and preferences.

White Cane Safety Day marked at SCCI

SIALKOT (APP): A ceremony was held in the Sialkot Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SCCI) here today to highlight the importance of "White Cane Safety Day" and education for visually challenged people.

The ceremony was organized by a local organization, "Travel to Light Educational Institute".

Senior Vice President (SVP) Sialkot Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SCCI) Wahub Jahangir, while participating in the ceremony as the special guest, thanked the founder

understanding their evolving needs and preferences. This commitment is pivotal to Telenor Pakistan's mission of empowering societies and connecting people to what matters most.

The day's agenda will encompass a range of engaging activities focused on reinforcing the strong bond between Telenor Pakistan and its valued customers.

Telenor management and the entire workforce will venture into the markets, actively connecting and interacting with customers through diverse channels.

They will engage with customers to understand their experiences.

Awareness walk on World Standards Day held

KARACHI (APP): PSQCA held an awareness walk on Saturday to commemorate World Standards Day. According to a communiqué here, the walk started from Sindh Assembly to Karachi Press Club, led by Aijaz Pamhwar, Director of Import and Export at PSQCA, addressing the participants of the walk, said that in the business industry, standards are strategic tools that reduce costs by minimizing waste and errors and increasing productivity.

He said that they help companies access new markets, level the playing field for developing countries, and facilitate free and fair global trade.

different slogans to spread awareness among the public regarding Quality Standards Day. The day is marked each year on October 14.

Aijaz Pamhwar, Director of Import and Export at PSQCA, addressing the participants of the walk, said that in the business industry, standards are strategic tools that reduce costs by minimizing waste and errors and increasing productivity.

He said that they help companies access new markets, level the playing field for developing countries, and facilitate free and fair global trade.



ISLAMABAD: Workers are busy unloading the fruit cottons from truck at Fruit and Vegetables Market in Federal Capital.

Ibrahim Murad visits veterinary hospitals

LAHORE (APP): Caretaker Punjab Minister for Livestock Ibrahim Murad visited different veterinary hospitals in Barki, Shahadra and Harbaspura areas, here on Saturday.

During his visit he took briefing on mobile dispensaries, service centers and other facilities delivered by veterinary hospitals.

He was also briefed about various matters related to animals, especially the breeding of

rural poultry. Ibrahim Murad checked the provision of food and medicines to animals in veterinary hospitals and also examined the operation procedures in operation theater.

He also participated in a special meetings of livestock persons and inquired about facilities provided in health centers for animals and other issues. He emphasized taking feedback of treatment facilities.

FWCCI forms committee for minorities development

FAISALABAD (APP): The Faisalabad Women Chamber of Commerce & Industry (FWCCI) has constituted a committee on "minorities development" to protect human rights of all communities.

In a statement issued here on Saturday, FWCCI President Mrs. Rubina Amjad said that it was a leading chamber in the country which formed a full-fledged committee on "minorities development" and it was working with

difficulties and low rates of female participation in business ownership in Pakistan, it was a fact that there was a positive correlation between female participation in business ownership and economic growth. Quoting a survey of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) conducted in 2018, she said that the GDP of Pakistan could be raised by 30% through empowering women and enhancing their role in business activities.

She said that despite



RAWALPINDI: A street vendor display used clothes on his rickshaw loader along the road side in City.

Iran's foreign minister warns Israel from Beirut it could suffer 'a huge earthquake'

Monitoring Desk
BEIRUT: Iran's foreign minister on Saturday called on Israel to stop its attacks on Gaza, warning that the war might expand to other parts of the Middle East if Hezbollah joins the battle, and that would make Israel suffer "a huge earthquake."
Hossein Amirabdollahian told reporters in Beirut that Lebanon's Hezbollah group has taken all the scenarios of a war into consideration and Israel should stop its attacks on Gaza as soon as possible.
Israel considers Hezbollah its most serious immediate threat, estimating it has some 150,000 rockets and missiles, including precision-guided missiles that

can hit anywhere in Israel. The group, which has thousands of battle-hardened fighters who participated in Syria's 12-year conflict, also has different types of military drones. Hezbollah fighters have been on full alert along Lebanon's borders with Israel following last Saturday's attack by the militant Palestinian group Hamas that left hundreds of Israeli civilians and soldiers dead. On Saturday, the Israeli military said an Israeli drone strike along the border with Lebanon killed a "cell" that was trying to infiltrate into Israel. On Friday, Hezbollah said its fighters fired several rockets at four Israel positions along the border. On Saturday afternoon,

Hezbollah fighters fired a barrage of rockets and shells at Israeli positions in the disputed Chebaa Farms. Israeli troops fired back on nearby areas in southern Lebanon.
Amirabdollahian discussed during a meeting in Beirut Saturday the situation in Gaza and the region with the top Hamas official in exile, Saleh Arouri, and the leader of the Palestinian Islamic Jihad group, Ziad Nakhleh, according to Hezbollah's Al-Manar TV.
Hamas officials have repeatedly said that last Saturday's attack on southern Israel that killed over 1,300 civilians and troops was the work of the Palestinian group and Iran had nothing to do with it.



Lebanese Prime Minister Najib Mikati meets with the Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amirabdollahian, in Beirut Lebanon.

Saudi Arabia pauses normalisation talks with Israel amid ongoing war with Hamas

Monitoring Desk
RIYADH: Hamas launched a large-scale attack on Israel on October 7 that killed 1,300 people, sparking a retaliatory bombing campaign that has killed at least 2,215 in the Gaza Strip ahead of a potential Israeli ground invasion of the Palestinian coastal territory.

US-brokered Abraham Accords that saw its Gulf neighbours Bahrain and the United Arab Emirates as well as Morocco establish formal ties with Israel.
US President Joe Biden's administration had been pushing hard in recent months for Saudi Arabia to take the same step.

Saudi Arabia has decided to pause discussion on possible normalisation and has informed US officials, a source familiar with the discussions told AFP. The Gulf kingdom, home to the holiest sites in Islam, has never recognised Israel and did not join the

programme.
In an interview with Fox News last month, MBS said "every day we get closer" to a deal, though he also insisted the Palestinian issue was "very important" for Riyadh.
"We need to solve that part. We need to ease the life of the Palestinians," he said.
News that normalisation discussions are now on hold comes as US Secretary of State Antony Blinken is due to meet with his Saudi counterpart on Saturday, the latest stop on a six-nation tour of the region.

Under de facto ruler Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman - known as MBS - Riyadh had laid out conditions for normalisation including security guarantees from Washington and help in developing a civilian nuclear

Armenian president approves parliament's decision to join the International Criminal Court

Monitoring Desk
YEREVAN: Armenian President Vahagn Khachaturyan approved the parliament's decision to join the International Criminal Court in a move that has further strained the country's ties with its old ally Russia. Last week, Armenia's parliament voted to join the ICC by ratifying the Rome Statute that created the tribunal.

Ministry summoned Armenia's ambassador. Armenia later sought to assure Russia that Putin would not be arrested if he entered the country. Armenian officials have argued the move has nothing to do with Russia and was prompted by what they call Azerbaijan's aggression against the country. Lawmakers voted to ratify the Rome Statute by a vote of 60-22. The decision comes into force 60 days after the ratification, according to Armenian lawmakers.

Countries that have signed and ratified the Rome Statute are bound to arrest Russian President Vladimir Putin, who was indicted for war crimes connected to the deportation of children from Ukraine, if he sets foot on their soil. Moscow last month called Yerevan's decision an "unfriendly step," and the Russian Foreign

Armenia had started the process of joining the tribunal more than 20 years ago, but in 2004 the Constitutional Court ruled that the Rome Statute contradicted the country's constitution at the time.

Iran says US 'cannot renege' on deal to transfer \$6bn via Qatar

Monitoring Desk
TEHRAN: Iran said the United States "cannot renege" on an agreement to transfer \$6 billion in frozen funds through mediator Qatar following the Hamas raid. Tehran has come under intense scrutiny since Hamas fighters stormed across Israel's southern border at the weekend.
Iran says it was not involved, but celebrated the Hamas attack as a "success". "The US government knows that it can NOT renege on the agreement," Ali Karimi Magham, spokesman for Iran's permanent mission to the United Nations, said late on Thursday in a post on X.

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Christopher Luxon, Leader of the National Party arrives at his election party after winning the general election to become New Zealand's next prime minister in Auckland, New Zealand.

US must be ready for simultaneous wars with China, Russia, report says

Monitoring Desk
WASHINGTON: The United States must prepare for possible simultaneous wars with Russia and China by expanding its conventional forces, strengthening alliances and enhancing its nuclear weapons modernization program, a congressional appointed bipartisan panel said on Thursday.
The report from the Strategic Posture Commission comes amid tensions with China over Taiwan and other issues and worsening frictions with Russia over its invasion of Ukraine.

anonymity.
The findings would upend current US national security strategy calling for winning one conflict while deterring another and require huge defense spending increases with uncertain congressional support. "We do recognize budget realities, but we also believe the nation must make these investments," the Democratic chair, Madelyn Creedon, a former deputy head of the agency that oversees U.S. nuclear weapons, and the vice chair, Jon Kyl, a retired Republican senator, said in the report's preface.

A senior official involved in the report declined to say if the panel's intelligence briefings showed any Chinese and Russian nuclear weapons cooperation. "We worry ... there may be ultimate coordination between them in some way, which gets us to this two-war construct," the official said on condition of

Addressing a briefing held to release the report, Kyl said the president and Congress must "take the case to the American people" that higher defense spending is a small price to pay "to hopefully preclude" a possible nuclear war involving the United States, China and Russia.

Tens of thousands protest after Muslim prayers across Mideast over Israeli airstrikes on Gaza

Monitoring Desk
JERUSALEM: Tens of thousands of Muslims demonstrated Friday across the Middle East in support of the Palestinians and against the intensifying Israeli bombardment of Gaza, underscoring the risk of a wider regional conflict as Israel prepares for a possible ground invasion.

dren to enter the sprawling hilltop compound for prayers, trying to limit the potential for violence. Only 5,000 worshippers made it into the site, the Islamic endowment that manages the mosque said. On a typical Friday, some 50,000 perform the prayers. An Associated Press reporter watched police allow just a Palestinian teenage girl and her mother into the compound out of 20 worshippers who tried to get in, some of them even over the age of 50. Young Palestinian men who were refused entry gathered at the steps near Lion's Gate, eyes downcast, until police shouted at them and shepherded them outside the Old City ramparts altogether. "We can't live, we can't breathe, they are killing everything that is good within us," said Ahmad Barbour, a 57-year-old cleaner.

From the typically sedate streets of downtown Amman in Jordan, to Yemen's war-scarred capital of Sanaa, crowds of Muslim worshippers poured into the streets after weekly Friday prayers, angered by devastating Israeli airstrikes on Gaza that began after the militant group Hamas launched an unprecedented surprise attack on Israel last Saturday.
At the Al-Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem's Old City, Israeli police were permitting only certain older men, women and chil-

Washington had been in contact with Palestinian-Americans inside Gaza, some of whom expressed a wish to leave via Rafah, but it was unclear whether Palestinian Islamist group Hamas would allow access to the crossing.



Palestinians with dual citizenship gather outside Rafah border crossing with Egypt in the hope of getting permission to leave Gaza, amid the ongoing Israeli-Palestinian conflict, in Rafah in the southern Gaza Strip.

US advises its citizens in Gaza to move closer to Egypt's Rafah crossing

Monitoring Desk
ABU DHABI: The U.S. government on Saturday advised its citizens in Gaza to move south toward the Rafah border crossing with Egypt to be ready for its possible reopening amid the humanitarian crisis in the coastal enclave after a Hamas attack in Israel drew Israeli military retaliation.
Washington has been working with Egypt, Israel and Qatar to open the Rafah crossing on Saturday afternoon to allow Palestinian-Americans to leave, a senior State Department official said earlier.



Pro-Palestinian students take part in a protest in support of the Palestinians amid the ongoing conflict in Gaza, at Columbia University in New York City, US.

"We have been trying to facilitate access for it to be open from 12 to five today. The Egyptians, the Israelis and the Qataris have been working with us on that," the official told reporters travelling with U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken.
Washington had been in contact with Palestinian-Americans inside Gaza, some of whom expressed a wish to leave via Rafah, but it was unclear whether Palestinian Islamist group Hamas would allow access to the crossing.

Anti-Israel protests continue in US despite harassment

Monitoring Desk
WASHINGTON: An Arab advocacy group has claimed that the US Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agency has detained some Palestinian Americans, apparently for participating in protest rallies against Israel.

Thursday, in different states, as well as Arab inmates. This is a troubling trend," he wrote.
His claim could not be independently confirmed.
Earlier this week, students at the prestigious Harvard University also faced nationwide condemnation for writing a letter that blamed Israel for allegedly starting the process that led to this week's rocket attacks by Hamas. A truck toured the campus, displaying the names of groups and individuals who signed that letter while CEOs of some US firms announced that they would not hire the signatories.

"We have received multiple calls today regarding Palestinian nationals detained by ICE, and/or visited by the FBI," Abed Ayoub, the executive director of the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee, said in a tweet posted on Thursday.
"The FBI has also visited multiple mosques on

China's Foreign Minister calls US Secretary of State on crisis in Israel and Gaza

Monitoring Desk
BEIJING: China's Foreign Minister Wang Yi spoke with U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken by phone on Saturday on the crisis in Israel and Gaza, a statement from his ministry said.
"China calls for the convening of an international peace conference as soon as possible," the statement read, while warning that "the Palestinian-Israeli conflict is escalating and risks getting out of control".
Wang told Blinken that "China opposes all acts that harm civilians and condemns practices that violate international law".

China calls for the convening of an international peace conference as soon as possible," the statement read, while warning that "the Palestinian-Israeli conflict is escalating and risks getting out of control".
Wang told Blinken that "China opposes all acts that harm civilians and condemns practices that violate international law".

Polish police cordon off Warsaw square amid reports of bomb threat

Monitoring Desk
WARSAW: Police cordoned off Warsaw's Pilsudski Square and the surrounding area of the Polish capital on Saturday, with local media reporting that a man had climbed onto a monument in the square and threatened to blow himself up. The incident came a day before Poland holds a high-stakes parliamentary election.
A police officer at the scene told a Reuters reporter: "No entrance, there is a bomb," but a police spokesperson quoted by

the state-run PAP news agency did not confirm the reports that the man was threatening to blow himself up. "At the moment negotiations are going on, on the scene there are negotiators and counter-terrorist officers," the spokesperson told Reuters, urging members of the public to stay away from the area. He declined further comment on the ongoing incident. Footage posted on social media platform X, formerly known as Twitter, showed a man standing on top of the Smolensk monument.

Indonesia leader's volunteer network endorses ex-general Prabowo for president

Monitoring Desk
JAKARTA: The vast volunteer network of outgoing Indonesian President Joko Widodo on Saturday endorsed retired general Prabowo Subianto for president in February's election.
The endorsement from the "Projo" network, seen as a proxy for the president, is the strongest signal yet that the incumbent will back his former rival in the closely contested race.

Top Ukraine general says fighting in northeast has 'significantly worsened'

Monitoring Desk
KYIV: Fighting along the northern portion of Ukraine's eastern front has "significantly worsened" in recent days, the commander of Kyiv's ground forces said on Saturday.

Syrskyi added that Russian forces were carrying out "dozens" of assaults each day, but that Ukrainian troops had been ready and were holding their ground.
The development comes as Kremlin forces were also pummeling the strategic Ukrainian city of Avdiivka, on a different section of the eastern front, in what Russian and Western officials said amounted to a new offensive.

Oleksandr Syrskyi, who was visiting Ukrainian troops in the area, said Russian forces had regrouped after suffering losses and were attacking around the village of Makiivka and towards the city of Kupiansk.
"The main objective of the enemy is the defeat of a grouping of our troops, the encirclement of Kupiansk and to reach the Oskil River," he said in comments carried by an official military platform.

A four-month-old Ukrainian counteroffensive has made some progress in both the east, near Bakhmut, and in the south, where Kyiv hopes to reach the Sea of Azov, but gains have been incremental.

White House says Russian new offensive in eastern Ukraine hasn't made much progress

Monitoring Desk
WASHINGTON: Russia's "renewed offensive" in eastern Ukraine hasn't made much progress despite the Russian military bringing back its infamous "human wave" tactics, U.S. National Security Council spokesperson John Kirby said on Oct. 13, as cited by Politico.

the front lines since the very start of Russia's war in 2014, but the new Russian offensive occurred after months of comparatively static siege.

Kirby described the tactics as throwing "masses of poorly trained soldiers right into the battlefield without proper equipment, and apparently without proper training and preparation."

According to the Insider media outlet, Kirby also said that Russia "continues to show no regard for the lives of its own soldiers, willingly sacrificing them in pursuit of Putin's goals, while Ukraine continues to fight bravely, effectively, and smartly."

His statement comes three days after Russia launched a heavy assault against Avdiivka in Donetsk Oblast, deploying over 2,000 soldiers to the area, according to the Ukrainian military.
Avdiivka has stood on

However, Moscow's decision to resume "human wave" tactics is "a sobering reminder that Russia is not prepared to give up on this fight," the White House official added. "And as long as Russia continues its brutal assault on Ukraine, the United States must support the Ukrainian peoples' ability to defend themselves."

Bakeries run out of bread, water scarce in Gaza as Israeli bombardment continues

Monitoring Desk
GAZA STRIP: As an unrelenting Israeli bombardment intensified on Saturday, bakeries in Gaza were running out of bread, drinking water was in short supply and power outages left families without charged phones to find out if fleeing relatives were safe.
Thousands of Palestinians fled the north of the Gaza Strip from the path of an expected Israeli ground assault, while Israel pounded the area with more air strikes and said it would keep two roads open to let people escape.

dren, the Palestinian territory's Hamas-controlled health ministry said on Saturday.
Some 458 women were among those killed, the ministry said. It added that 8,714 people have also been wounded, after an earlier statement said at least 324 people were killed in the past 24 hours alone.

Israel has vowed to annihilate Hamas for the offensive a week ago, in which its fighters killed 1,300 Israelis, mainly civilians, and seized scores of hostages.
It has imposed a "total blockade", halting food supplies and cutting electricity to Gaza, and bombarded it with unprecedented air strikes. A week after that began, shops are running out of many items.
Israeli strikes on the Gaza Strip since last week have killed at least 2,215 people, including 724 chil-

"There is an electricity crisis, food crisis, water crisis, a crisis of everything," Eyad Abu Mutlaq, 45, said in Khan Younis in south Gaza, a region filling up with thousands of people fleeing the north for fear of an Israeli invasion.
"It is only God who can resolve it," he said after touring four bakeries to find long queues or no supplies.
The flood of people arriving in south Gaza after Israel told them on Friday to leave an area in the north has stretched resources that were already strained to breaking point.

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"I was looking for basic food, eggs, rice, canned food, even milk for the children and I couldn't find them," said Khan Younis resident, giving only her nickname of Um Salem.

Australia rejects Indigenous referendum in setback for reconciliation

Monitoring Desk
SYDNEY: Australia on Saturday decisively rejected a proposal to recognise Indigenous people in the constitution, in a major setback to the country's efforts for reconciliation with its First Peoples.

have to seek a new way forward for reconciliation.

Australians had to vote "Yes" or "No" in the referendum, the first in almost a quarter of a century, on the question of whether to alter the constitution to recognise Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island people through the creation of an Indigenous advisory body, the "Voice to Parliament".
Nationwide, with almost 70% of the vote counted, the "No" vote led "Yes" 60% to 40%. Australian broadcaster ABC and other TV networks have projected that a majority of voters in all six of Australia's states would vote against altering the 122-year-old constitution.
A successful referendum requires at least four of the six to vote in favour, along with a national majority. Prime Minister Anthony Albanese acknowledged it was not the outcome he had hoped for but said the country would

"Our nation's road to reconciliation has often been hard going," Albanese said in a televised news conference. "Tonight is not the end of the road and is certainly not the end of our efforts to bring people together." Academics and human rights advocates fear the win by the "No" camp could set back reconciliation efforts by years.
The Voice to Parliament was proposed in the Uluru Statement from the Heart, a 2017 document crafted by Indigenous leaders that set out a roadmap for reconciliation with wider Australia.

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Australia's Indigenous citizens, who make up 3.8% of the country's 26 million population, have inhabited the land for about 60,000 years but are not mentioned in the constitution and are, by most socio-economic measures, the most disadvantaged people in the country.
Supporters of the proposal believed entrenching an Indigenous Voice into the constitution would unite Australia and usher in a new era with its Indigenous people.

UN terms Israel's ultimatum to Palestinians to withdraw from Gaza dangerous

GENEVA (Online): United Nations (UN) Secretary General Antonio Guterres has said that Israel's ongoing ultimatum for the withdrawal of Palestinians from Gaza is dangerous and worrisome.

In a statement on the situation in Gaza, Antonio Guterres said that a large-scale evacuation in a very short period of time could have devastating humanitarian effects.

The evacuation order will apply to at least 1.1 million Palestinians. He said that the affected areas are already under Israeli siege and bombardment, the Pal-

estinian areas are deprived of fuel, electricity, water and food. The area has already been reduced to rubble by Israeli bombardment, a large-scale evacuation will not be possible in a short period of time.

Antonio Guterres said that there are UN staff members in the affected areas, more than 200,000 people are living in shelters under the UN in these areas. He said we need immediate humanitarian access to all of Gaza. So that we can provide fuel, food and water to every individual.

Secretary General said that people are also being

held in schools, health centers and clinics.

The implementation of the Israeli evacuation order will also affect thousands of children. Almost half of the population of Gaza consists of people under the age of 18.

Earlier, the United Nations had demanded that 423,000 Palestinians have already been displaced. Israel should withdraw the order to evacuate the citizens of Gaza.

It should be clear that Israel has ordered the Palestinians to evacuate Gaza in 24 hours. Gaza is one of the most densely popu-

lated places in the world. On the other hand, the Palestinian resistance organization Hamas has announced that it will not leave Gaza. Hamas spokesman Khaled Qadumi has said that the Palestinians of Gaza will not become refugees again like in 1948, an attempt is being made to discourage the citizens of Gaza.

In addition, the chief spokesman of the Israeli army revealed that the infantry with the help of tanks entered the Gaza Strip on Friday, this is the beginning of the ground invasion after the airstrikes.



MARRAKECH: Federal Minister for Finance, Revenue, and Economic Affairs, Dr. Shamsad Akhtar, attends a significant event on the theme of "Making the IMF supported programs work" during the annual meetings of WB/IMF.



QUETTA: Caretaker Provincial Minister Aman Ullah Kinzani addressing on the World Blind Day ceremony.

Caretaker Minister Home takes notice of Turbat firing incident; orders inquiry

Independent Report
QUETTA: The caretaker Provincial Minister for Home, Captain (Retd) Mir Zubair Jamali has taken notice of the incident of killing of six persons in Turbat. The Minister Home asked the Deputy Commissioner and SSP Kech to submit report on the incident. He directed them to form a special team for investigation into the firing incident.

He also directed the concerned quarters to arrest the culprits involved in the

incident after thoroughly investigating it from all aspects.

Mir Zubair Jamali pledged that the culprits involved in the brutal killing would be taken to task ensuring justice for heirs of the deceased.

Meanwhile, the Minister Home expressed sympathy and condolence with the bereaved families and prayed for their departed souls.

He also prayed for early recovery of the injured labourers.

PRIDE held two days training workshop for journalists in Quetta

QUETTA (APP): Policy Research Institute for Equitable Development (PRIDE) organized a two-day training workshop (Friday to Saturday) for local journalists of Quetta on the theme of "Energy Transition and Climate Justice".

Journalists from electronic and print media participated in the workshop. The participants were informed about electricity load shedding, effects on gardens and crops due to climate change, protection of marine life, sources of renewable energy and other topics.

On the first day of the workshop, a lecture was given to journalists about the emission of greenhouse gases and their effects on the environment.

On the occasion, Amel Ghani and Badar Alam,

while giving a briefing to the participants, said that along with the emission of gasses from greenhouses, deforestation, fuel burning in vehicles and factories, and the use of coal are also our problems.

These are affecting the environment badly, due to environmental changes; the protective layer of the earth is being damaged, which is causing an increase in temperature, which has reduced the ability of the earth to absorb carbon dioxide.

They said that on 18th century, the era of industrial revolution began on the planet, after which 27 conferences have been held around the world in the name of Parties Conference to solve this problem. This time, the 28th conference is being held in Dubai.



KARACHI: Journalists participating in a demonstration rally at Karachi Press Club to express solidarity with Palestinian journalists and their families, who are facing Israeli brutality.

Three brothers perish in under construction house well in Mansehra

MANSEHRA (APP): Three real brothers Saturday lost their lives owing to the poisonous gas leakage while they were engaged in construction work in the Dhodial area of Manshera. The three ill-fated brothers met an untimely death when they fell into a well, the three brothers, who were actively engaged in construction work at the residence, had been staying at the site.

On the evening of the incident, when they did not return home the family informed police. Subsequently, the police arrived at the newly constructed

house where they discovered the three brothers in the well.

The brothers were identified as Zeeshan 36 years old, Muneeb 28 years old and Muhammad Umar 23 years old. Abbottabad Rescue 1122 team also arrived at the scene and initiated a rescue operation.

The Abbottabad Rescue 1122 team also arrived at the scene and initiated a rescue operation. After several hours of concerted efforts, the bodies were successfully retrieved from the well and were shifted to the hospital for post-mortem examinations.

Srinagar mosque shut, Mirwaiz back in house arrest

NEW DELHI (Online): The Indian administration shut down Srinagar's Jama Masjid on Friday and put Hurriyat chief Mirwaiz Umar Farooq under house arrest yet again with a view to stifling protests against a human catastrophe unfolding in Gaza.

The reimposed closure of occupied Kashmir's historic mosque stalled a Friday congregation that recently resumed for the first time since India annulled occupied Kashmir's special status in Aug 2019.

The fresh measures against the Mirwaiz and his traditional address to Friday worshippers followed what looked like the unveiling of a new Indian policy that extends support to Israel and commits Palestine to a stony silence.

PPP chief pays tribute to Rashid Rabbani

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairman Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Bilawal Bhutto Zardari has said that late Rashid Rabbani was one of those party workers, who are considered, unquestionably, the backbone of the party.

According to the press release issued by Media Cell Bilawal House, he paid glowing tribute to late Rashid Rabbani, the party's senior leader, on the latter's third death anniversary, saying that late Rabbani's services to the party and sacrifices for democracy are long and unparalleled.

Ahsan Iqbal says We will get confiscate security deposit of PTI candidates in election

NAROWAL (Online): PML-N leader Ahsan Iqbal has said his party will get confiscate security deposits of PTI candidates in general election.

"We are sitting here in lights and on the other hand our Palestinian brothers are sitting in Karbala, there is such a lobby in US which has gone blind in enmity against Islam, former planning minister said this while addressing workers convention here Saturday. What attack was made by PTI on army, I salute Pakistani nation which frustrated this conspiracy and saved nuclear program, he underlined. Pakistan is bigger than all of us. We are if Pakistan is, Pakistan will stay for ever no matter we become prime minister or otherwise, he added.

4RF framework to be implemented in letter & spirit

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Planning Minister for Planning Development and Special Initiatives, Muhammad Sami Saeed reiterated government's commitment to implement Resilient, Recovery, Rehabilitation and Reconstruction (4RF) framework while urging the provinces to play their constructive role in this regard.

While chairing a meeting on Saturday to review the progress over the implementation status of the 4RF framework, the Minister said that the interim government is committed to implement the framework in letter and spirit and asked the Provinces to expedite their respective projects initiated in flood-affected areas.

The meeting was attended by the Member Infrastructure Planning Commission, representatives from various ministries were also present at the occasion. During the meeting, a comprehensive briefing was given to the Minister over the implementation status of the framework.

It is noted that last year, Pakistan faced unprecedented devastation

due to torrential rains and flooding in most parts of the country, affecting 33 million people and resulting in economic losses worth \$30 billion.

In response, the government devised the 4RF framework, which proposed effective coordination and participation arrangements among federal and provincial governments, development partners, donors, international and national NGOs and academic and private sectors.

It was further appraised that an exclusive dashboard for 4RF is at the final which will be housed at the Planning Ministry that would ensure real time monitoring and provide information to the donors and development partners.

The provinces were also asked to submit the lists of their respective projects. Similarly, it was informed that a Monitoring & Evaluation Framework is being strengthened to ensure community and partners participations to provide an independent assessment of the equity and transparency of all flood reconstruction spend during this productive meeting.

AJK PM for OIC's vibrant role in resolution of Kashmir dispute

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Prime Minister of Azad Jammu and Kashmir, Chaudhry Anwar ul Haq, has called for OIC's vibrant role to help resolve the Kashmir dispute under the UN Security Council resolutions.

The AJK Prime Minister while talking to OIC's special envoy on Kashmir, Ambassador Yousef M Al-Dobeay, who called on him in Islamabad, appreciated the OIC's continued support for the Kashmiris' just struggle. He said given the precarious situation in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir there was an urgent need that the member states of the OIC should come forward in a big way to help resolve the Kashmir dispute peacefully in accordance with the UNSC resolutions.

Chaudhry Anwar ul Haq pointed out that the unresolved Kashmir dispute is the main cause and consequence of bloodshed and violence in IIOJK. He said that the Muslim Body, which has stood by the Kashmiris through every thick and thin, should use its political and diplomatic clout to seek an early settlement of the lingering dispute.

Aneeq warns against undermining youth with religious misconceptions

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Minister for Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony, Aneeq Ahmed expressed concerns over certain elements attempting to sow doubts and misconceptions among the nation's youth.

Addressing students during an event here at Rawalpindi Arts Council, organized by the Suffa Sweet Home the other day, he emphasized the need for young individuals to be equipped with knowledge and wisdom to tackle contemporary challenges.

Minister Aneeq stressed the importance of fostering a strong connection with Almighty Allah and the Prophet Muhammad (Peace Be Upon Him). He outlined the three phases of the life of the Prophet (PBUH) as the pursuit of truth, its proclamation, and its implementation, paralleling these phases to Allama Iqbal's poetry and the interpretation of Quranic verses.

He noted that the Holy Quran holds the solution to all of humanity's issues. The minister also pointed out that Muslims should not only be social workers but also leaders. He highlighted the significance of a united Islamic community and noted that Muslims constitute 25 per cent of humanity, making their global impact undeniable.

He said, "If we follow the right path, problems like Gaza, Burma, Kashmir would not arise." He urged scholars and leaders to guide the nation and instill hope rather than despair, emphasizing that "despair is a trait of Satan."

He concluded on a hopeful note, stating that "Pakistan's bright days are ahead."

The seminar featured speeches by former Minister for Religious Affairs Senator Talha Mahmood, Mufti Zubair, and other scholars and intellectuals. During the event, outstanding students in the speech competitions were rewarded with prizes. Participants in the seminar strongly condemned the severe atrocities in Gaza by the occupier Israel, using harsh language to denounce the ongoing genocide of Muslims.



QUETTA: Caretaker Provincial Health Minister Dr. Ameer Muhammad Khan Jozgazi visiting Sheikh Zayed Hospital

Pakistan says covenant on right to development meets global challenges

UNITED NATIONS (APP): Pakistan has welcomed the conclusion of a legally binding instrument on the right to development, saying it addresses development challenges confronting the world.

In this regard, Ambassador Usman Jadoon, the acting permanent representative of Pakistan to the UN, commended the leadership role of former Pakistani Ambassador Zamir Akram in preparing the draft covenant on the right to development as a human right.

Ambassador Akram is currently the chair of the Geneva-based Human

Rights Council's Working Group on the Right to Development.

The covenant was adopted on Thursday by the 47-member Council, which submitted the document to the U.N. General Assembly for adoption.

"The adoption by a legally binding instrument would be a leap forward towards the realization of the right to development for those who have been left behind," Ambassador Jadoon told the General Assembly's Third Committee, which deals with social, humanitarian, and cultural issues.

QWP expresses sympathies with people of Palestine

PESHAWAR (APP): Qaumi Watan Party (QWP) provincial Chairman Sikkandar Hayat Khan Sherpao on Saturday expressed his sympathies with the people of Palestine and said that they were facing Israeli aggression in Gaza. Addressing a gathering of party workers held in connection with 11th foundation day of QWP in Fizzagat area in Swat, he said that the time had come for the Muslim Ummah to forge unity among their ranks and find a viable solution to the Palestine issue.

The QWP also congratulated the newly elected party's office-bearers, who were elected in the intra-party election.

Court dismisses petition of a citizen seeking permission to drink poison

LAHORE (Online): Lahore High Court (LHC) has rejected the plea of a citizen seeking permission to drink poison publicly.

The decision on maintainability of petition was reserved on September 12.

Citizen Sarwar Taj resident of Mazang area of Lahore while resorting to court to seek permission to drink poison had said he wanted to make this experiment before all as nothing will happen to him.

The petitioner said "I don't want any fame. I have belief on Almighty Allah that nothing will happen to me. I want to conduct this experiment before all in Mochi gate Lahore.

Court should grant permission.

Justice Raheel Kamran Sheikh issued a 7-page decision related to petition.

The court said in the decision that the petition seems to be means of earning fame in the guise of public interest.

It has been said in the decision that petitioner said if he dies then no one will be responsible.

If he remains alive then the court should order the government to use his recipe for treatment of cancer.

According to the petitioner he had obtained this recipe from Sufis.

High-level committee evaluates LHC orders in Hassan Muawiya case

ISLAMABAD (APP): A high-level committee, devised by the prime minister to assess the, on Saturday held a meeting in the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony to review progress on the Lahore High Court (LHC) orders in the Hassan Muawiya case.

The meeting, chaired by the Minister for Interior, Sarfraz Bugti, included key representatives from the religious affairs, law, foreign affairs, education, and information and broadcasting ministries, along with members from the Pakistan Telecommunication Authority, provincial chief secretaries, and law enforcement agencies.

Interior Minister Sarfraz Bugti emphasized the importance of ensuring that all provinces fully implement court rulings to maintain the rule of law. He directed the law enforcement agencies, particularly the Punjab Police to ensure that unregistered publishers and those involved in the unauthorized dissemination of non-Muslim or defamatory Quranic texts face immediate legal actions. He said the non-Muslim community should be more effectively informed about the laws related to the respect and sanctity of the Holy Quran.

CTD operation: MQM London worker arrested on charges of double murder

KARACHI (Online): CTD investigation has arrested activist and proclaimed offender of MQM London on the charges of double murder while conducting an operation near Chowranghi of Sarjani 4. CTD spokesperson said that suspect Mohammad Danish alias Kala Ward Mansoori killed two Baloch people belonging to Lyari gang war in 2024.

The suspect committed the murder along with his accomplices during killing and looting of Baloch migrants on the direction of sectors. The suspect and his accomplices shot and killed Abdul Waheed alias Kalu and Danish Accham in New Karachi industrial area.



QUETTA: People holds protest against the Israeli bombardment on Hospitals, residential areas and on the media teams, outside press club in Provincial Capital.

Chemical Factory in Gwadar Free Zone North under plan

ISLAMABAD (INP): In a new development, a chemical factory is going to be established in Gwadar Free Zone North (Phase II).

According to Gwadar Port Authority (GPA) official, an Islamabad based firm named Acrez Mark Private Limited plans to establish a chemical factory in Gwadar Free Zone.

"The firm has expressed its plan to construct a Phthalic Anhydride production plant in Gwadar

Free Zone. The Industry would stretch to 218 acres," GPA official told Gwadar Pro.

"The total project cost is a whopping \$83 million. With a total production capacity of 40,000 tons per year. Acrez plans to export 4300 containers abroad," he added.

To materialise the project, he said, the company requires 3 megawatts electricity. Future expansion plans include the production of plasticisers.