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

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

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

Maulana Fazlur Rehman asserted that they stand with our Palestinian brothers and are with them in the war of independence. He reiterated that the large gathering was a message directed towards America and Israel, underscoring the shared commitment of the JUI to the Pal-

estinian cause. "We declare equal participation in the liberation of Palestine," Maulana Fazlur Rehman added. In direct message to the world, Maulana Fazlur Rehman asserted, we stand with our Palestinian brothers. He expressed his unwavering belief in the readiness of the Mujahideen to fight against Israel.

Fazlur Rehman also addressed the changing dynamics of global power, stating, "America is no longer the superpower of the world," and urged the rulers to break free from what he perceived as subservience to America. Commenting on the global stage, Maulana Fazlur Rehman raised concerns about Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's open support for Israel.

He criticized the Pakistani rulers for not taking a stronger stand, highlighting the contrast in the terminology used to describe certain groups.



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

Caretaker federal cabinet to meet today on 14-point agenda

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

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

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

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

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

Approving repatriation orders for illegal aliens, extension of the Commission



DUKI: Chairman PkMAP Mehmood Khan Achakzai addressing Jirga.

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

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

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

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

Senate to discuss Gaza situation today

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Two remaining footballers recovered from Dera Bugti

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

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

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

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

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



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

Federal government's criminal delay become fatal blow to PIA

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

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

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

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

ferred as Federal Secretary on September 18. Due to the absence of a Federal Secretary, the upcoming Hajj and other matters of the Ministry of Religious Affairs are also pending.

Under the official Hajj scheme, PIA was entrusted with the responsibility of transporting 50% of the pilgrims to the Holy Hijaz.

61461 Pakistani pilgrims traveled through PIA this year while 258 flights were operated to bring pilgrims back home.

136 flights were operated from Jeddah and 122 from Madinah, the Ministry of Religious Affairs collected 250,000 rupees per person for air travel from the pilgrims.

President condoles with families of martyred troops

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

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

SC to hear cases under SC practice & procedure act

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

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

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

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

Anti-trafficking campaign is being given much attention and illegal transactions and hoarding are being controlled, she added.

Shamshad Akhtar said there is a special focus on the anti-trafficking campaign and the important role of the law enforcement agencies in the eradication of trafficking and for this I salute our law enforcement agencies.

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

Finance minister said "We all have to work to-

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

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

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

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

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

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

Catastrophe unfolding in Gaza, warns UN secretary general

Monitoring Desk

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



REPATRIATION OF ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS

DAYS REMAINING

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Kashmiris will never relinquish their freedom struggle: Masood Khan

WASHINGTON (INP): The Kashmiri people, who continue to suffer under India's military occupation, will not give up their struggle for the right to self-determination "under any circumstances," Pakistan's Ambassador to the U.N., Masood Khan, has said.

"We haven't achieved our goal but we will persevere in our struggle," he told a seminar held at the Pakistani embassy to mark the Kashmir Black Day.

"When you try to sweep such issues under the carpet, they erupt with intensity as it has happened in the case of Palestine," the Pakistani envoy warned the international community.

"The plight of Kashmiris is even worse than Palestinians," Masood Khan said, drawing attention to the presence of 900,00 Indian troops in the UN-recognized disputed state.

"Kashmiris are being

targeted by the occupation forces every day. There are killings, arrests, sexual violence, land grabs — all documented."

In this context, Ambassador Masood Khan called for recalibrating the strategy on the Kashmir issue, as the one being pursued over the last several years has not produced results. In the meantime, he said, India has violated all international laws and conventions in occupied Kashmir, as also the political, economic, social and cultural rights of the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

At the time of partition, the Ambassador said that the Indian leadership, including Mahatma Gandhi, Jawaharlal Nehru, and Vallabhbhai Patel, had failed to convince the Kashmiris to join India, as they always wanted to opt for Pakistan.

The Maharaja of Kashmir and Kashmiri leader Sheikh Abdullah had be-

trayed the people of Kashmir, he said, adding that India would never have occupied large swaths of Jammu and Kashmir militarily without their explicit consent and support.

"So it was a managed and fake accession," he remarked.

Messages of President Arif Alvi and Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar were read out on the occasion.

Former Norwegian MP Lars Rise, speaking to the gathering via Zoom, underscored the need for making world leaders realize about the gravity of the situation and the need to find a permanent solution to the long-standing issue.

The President Islamic Circle of North America, Dr. Mohasin Ansari, said that the voice for justice may take long but the truth and justice would finally prevail.

Noted Author and His-

torian Victoria Schofield called for galvanizing civil society and raising awareness about the issue of Kashmir.

American Analyst on Kashmir, Col Wesley Martin, highlighted the precarious humanitarian situation in occupied territory stating that the entire region was facing a grave threat. He opined that the wave of violence would continue under the present Indian leadership. Dr. Ghulam Nabi Fai, Secretary-General World Kashmir Awareness Forum, said that the people of Kashmir were facing an existential threat and genocide.



KARACHI: Governor Sindh Kamran Khan Tessori alongwith Consul General of Türkiye cutting cake on the occasion of the 100th anniversary of Türkiye



SIBI: Caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki addressing inauguration ceremony for restoration of Sibi-Harnai train service

India outclass defending champions England to remain undefeated in World Cup

Sports Desk
LUKNOW: India beat defending champions England in the World Cup 2023 match being played at Lucknow's Ekana Sports City to remain undefeated in the mega-event on Sunday.

Batting first, the hosts struggled to post a big total as England succeeded in taking wickets at crucial moments of the game. However, skipper Rohit Sharma's 87-run knock along with 49 runs from Surya Kumar Yadav propelled the Indian side to a modest total of 229 runs in 50 overs at the loss of nine wickets.

Defending a relatively low target, Indian bowlers bamboozled England's batting lineup as the defending champions were bowled out at 129 runs in the 35th over leading to a 100-run victory for Rohit Sharma's men.

With today's win, India recorded their sixth consecutive triumph in the mega event as the hosts have one foot in the semi-finals and are ranked number one on the points table.

Meanwhile, Jos Buttler's men are on the verge of elimination from the mega event as after six matches, the defending champions have so far only

registered one win, which came against Bangladesh in Dharamshala.

Batting second, England struggled in front of the deadly pace attack of India and were 39-4 with their top order batter — Jonny Bairstow, Dawid Malan, Joe Root and Ben Stokes — sent back to the pavilion with the latter two getting out for a duck.

The remaining damage was done by the spin attack of Kuldeep Yadav and Ravindra Jadeja as they shared three wickets between them.

Mohammad Shami was India's pick of the bowlers as the pacer bowled a remarkable spell, taking four wickets for 22 runs and making it nearly impossible for the English batters to connect with the ball.

Jasprit Bumrah was the second-highest wicket-taker for India with three scalps to his name.

During the second innings, a record was made as for the first time in the history of the Cricket World Cup, the number three batters of both teams — Virat Kohli and Joe Root — lost their wickets without scoring a run.

Earlier in the day, Indian batters — batting first — found it difficult to score big on the tricky wicket of

Lucknow from the start as opener Shubman Gill lost his wicket after scoring nine runs, leaving his side 26-1 in four overs.

He was followed by Kohli and Shreyas Iyer as the English bowlers continued to push the home side's batters and made them stand at 40-3 in 11.5 overs.

However, India got a much-needed breakthrough courtesy of a 91-run partnership between Rohit Sharma and KL Rahul.

After Rahul walked back to the pavilion, Suryakumar Yadav became Sharma's partner during the innings.

Sharma couldn't hold on to his wicket as he failed to read Adil Rashid's googly and ended up playing a sloppy shot, eventually getting caught by Liam Livingstone after scoring crucial 87 runs, leaving his side at 164-5 in 36.5 overs.

For once it looked like India would have to settle for a score under 200 runs but Yadav scored valuable 49 runs, missing his half-century just by a run as he was caught by Chris Woakes at deep back point.

The hosts will now face Sri Lanka on November 2 in Mumbai while defending champions England will play Australia on November 4 in Ahmedabad.

Religious scholar Maulana Tariq Jamil's son passes away

KHANEWAL (INP): Renowned Islamic scholar Maulana Tariq Jamil's son, Asim Jamil, passed away on Sunday in Khanewal district, Punjab.

Taking to X, formerly known as Twitter, the noted religious scholar announced the death of his son, saying: "My son Asim Jamil passed away in Tulamba [Khanewal, Punjab] today."

According to Multan RPO Sohail Chaudhry, "Asim died of a bullet wound." Responding to a question, the police officer said that the police reached the site and were collecting information about the incident.

The RPO added that Asim received a bullet in his chest.

Meanwhile, Punjab Inspector General of Police Dr Usman Anwar has sought a detailed report in this regard from the Multan RPO.

A spokesperson of the Punjab police said that the IG has directed to ascertain the causes of Asim's death in the light of evidence and the forensic report. The spokesperson further said that Khanewal DPO and other senior officials have reached the scene and evidence has been collected.

Encroachments on M-9 show bad governance, affect traffic flow: Altaf

KARACHI (INP): Encroachments around Karachi-Hyderabad M-9 Motorway and starting point of Lyari Expressway show gross negligence of National Highway Authority (NHA) as well as KMC and traffic police, causing traffic jams and the authorities concerned should take immediate action to remove them, said Pasban Democratic Party (PDP) Chairman Altaf Shakoor here Sunday.

He said that the M-9 area at Suhrah Goth area is a pure mess, showing total failure of the NHA, motorway police, as well as, KMC and local traffic police. He said this area is the gateway to Karachi and it should have displayed the proper face of the megacity but instead it is a jungle of encroachment, causing traffic jams.

He said there are shanties and huts, shops of motor mechanics and illegal stands of dumpers and tractors, besides illegal private bus terminals, tea shops, eateries and pushcart vendors. Even a traffic police establishment just at the beginning of the Lyari Expressway has occupied a big portion of land as its compound.

He said a few years ago, the Sindh High Court had taken notice of the encroachments at Suhrah Goth and ordered to remove them, but the government departments concerned simply ignored the orders of the SHC.

Its proof could be seen anytime at the M-9 in Suhrah Goth and nearby areas. He said in fact, the whole stretch of the M-9 from Suhrah Goth to the Jamali Bridge is a heaven of encroachments of transporters, sand and gravel sellers, huts and shanties, shopkeepers and pushcart vendors. He said ideally this gateway area of the megacity should display a look of civic discipline and order but it looks just opposite. He said during rush hours hundreds of vehicles remain stranded at the Lyari Expressway. He said though traffic police is posted in the area but they are more concerned about bribery than regulating traffic.

'HR violations in IIOJK witnessed massive increase since 05 August 2019'

SRINAGAR (INP): Political experts and analysts have said that human rights violations have witnessed a massive increase in Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir since the Modi-led Hindutva Indian government revoked Article 370 in August 2019.

According to Kashmir Media Service, the political experts and analysts in their interviews and statements in Srinagar said over 800 Kashmiris, including young boys and women, have been martyred, more than 2,380 injured and over 21,000 arrested in IIOJK since unilateral illegal actions of the Modi regime in August 2019.

"The Modi's BJP regime is openly violating international law and norms by committing gross human rights violations in IIOJK. Several independent institutions have documented massive rights violations by Indian troops in the territory. The Modi regime's continued atrocities in IIOJK are meant to subdue the Kashmiris' resolve for freedom," they deplored.

The political experts and analysts pointed out that the human rights abuses in IIOJK were directly connected to the decades-old unresolved Kashmir dispute. They said, India is disregarding international calls to probe rights violations in the occupied territory.

Restoration of Sibi-Harnai track to boost economic activities in region

ISLAMABAD (APP): The restoration of strategic Sibi-Harnai railway track for traffic after the completion of renovation and rehabilitation work by the Pakistan Railways will help boost economic and commercial activities in the region.

"The long-awaited Sibi-Harnai railway track was restored for traffic after the completion of reconstruction and renovation work of the project by Pakistan Railways with the support of the National Logistics Cell (NLC)", said an official of the Ministry of Railways.

"The railway's track was made dysfunctional after a series of bomb blasts which damaged 22 steel bridges in the highly rugged and inaccessible area. The restoration of the railway between the twin historical cities of Sibi and Harnai will have a positive impact on the economy and agriculture of the entire region," the official added.

The rehabilitation of the railway track will not only enable the students of district Harnai and Ziarat acquire higher education

but boost the economic and commercial activities in the region.

"Pakistan Railways restored the Sibi-Harnai section, with the support of Pakistan Army, connecting people and business in the remote areas of the country," Secretary Railways Syed Mazhar Ali said in a tweet.

The official said the department had shown a keen interest in the completion of the reconstruction and renovation work of the project.

In March 2016, he said that a contract for rehabilitation and restoration of the Sibi-Harnai railway track along with the upgradation of railway stations was awarded to the NLC as no other construction firm agreed to undertake the project due to the prevalent security situation and enormity of the task. During the initial survey of the track, the official said it was found that 22 steel bridges of different sizes were destroyed and required replacement for the restoration of the train operation.

He said in addition, massive river protection

work was to be undertaken to save the infrastructure. The quantum of work, non-availability of road access, and requisite resources made the project a formidable challenge, he added.

The official said undertaking the project with the sincerity of purpose and utmost sense of duty, the NLC officers, engineers, and construction workers braved harsh weather conditions and a hostile security environment and subsequently completed the rehabilitation works in record time.

Termining the fabrication of steel bridges as a major task, he said that the steel bridges were fabricated in Karachi and were transported to the project site after being painstakingly assembled by NLC engineers in a befitting manner.

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



SIBI: Former Caretaker Chief Minister Nawab Ghous Bakhsh Barozai meeting with Caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki

Govt controls inflation with

Continued from page 1
Law enforcement agencies played a very good role when this issue came up and I am grateful to them because we knew, that smuggling is taking place, after which the exchange companies were reformed and now the matter is under control.

She said that we should discourage people from using illegal currency, we cannot take external measures to keep the Pakistani rupee stable, the exchange rate is determined by the market, but misuse of our currency is illegal and must be stopped. All government agencies are responsible.

Dr. Shamsad Akhtar said that the tax collected by FBR in the first quarter of the current fiscal is more than the target of IMF.

I have asked them to increase the revenue more because money is needed to run the government, we are trying to implement the reforms suggested by the IMF and the World Bank quickly and during the first quarter the IMF program What has been done effectively: Shamsad

Caretaker Finance Minister said that the IMF team is coming to Pakistan on November 2 and the team of the Ministry of Finance and other ministries will inform them about the program.

She said that it is important to look at the IMF program because when you

go to borrow money from the bank, they first look at your credit history and see how you have spent the money, when the IMF funds. If it is issued, money will also come from other international institutions.

Pakistani economy is facing numerous problems, the cottage industry also has problems and they need to be given relief because these can become big industries, treasury head said.

She said we tried to act responsibly, it is important not to panic but see if there is a change, it is important to work together.

Dr. Shamsad Akhtar further said that the agricultural development will also strengthen the GDP, the growth rate of economic development will be 2 to 3 percent, the World Bank has given a careful estimate in this regard, for the first time in 14 months, large scale industry and power sector has grown.

Finance minister further added that production of cement and tractors has improved, fertilizer sales have recovered rapidly, cotton production has increased by 80%, credit to farmers has increased by 44% during July-September, the interbank rupee has stabilized at 279.

The value of the rupee has improved by 8 percent. While reforms in exchange companies have also played an important role,

she added.

Shamsad said that war in Ukraine has affected oil prices and commodities, an economic recovery plan has been prepared on the instructions of the Prime Minister, and approval is being sought from the Cabinet to operationalize the Export-Import Bank.

She further maintained that they are talking about opening the export market from different countries, the role of the private sector is important in the restoration of the economy.

Chairman FBR Amjad Towana said that work on reforms and restructuring is going on in FBR, measures are also being taken to increase the tax net, they are working together with other institutions including NADRA.

Agreements have been signed with foreign institutions on digitization, filers and non-filers are under the impression that they have been exempted from additional tax while this is not the case, he went on.

45 lakh non-filers have been filed in the past years, work is also going on in withholding, he added.

After the swipe system is improved, the audit system will also be fine, 12 lakh new taxpayers were added last year, he concluded that the target was to bring 7 lakh new taxpayers, work on restructuring is going on tax payers.

Chameera replaces injured Kumara in Sri Lanka's ICC World Cup 2023 squad

NEW DELHI (INP): Dushmantha Chameera has been called into Sri Lanka's ICC World Cup 2023 squad after fellow pacesman Lahiru Kumara was ruled out through injury, the tournament's event technical committee announced Sunday.

The 31-year-old Chameera, a veteran of 44 one-day internationals, was selected after Kumara was sidelined by a left thigh muscle injury sustained during training in Pune, where Sri Lanka

play Afghanistan on Monday. Kumara took 3-35 in Sri Lanka's eight-wicket thrashing of defending champions England in Bengaluru on Thursday.

That success was one of just two victories 1996 World Cup winners Sri Lanka have managed in their opening five games of this edition.

They are, however, currently fifth in the ICC World Cup 2023 points table and still in with a chance of qualifying for the semi-finals.

PML-N celebrates Maryam Nawaz birthday

LAHORE (INP): Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz Central Vice President Maryam Nawaz's birthday celebration led by League Central Convener Bashir Memon, birthday cake cutting and fireworks by League workers, voice of oppressed people and flag cracking slogans of Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif. The birthday of Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz Central Vice President Maryam Nawaz was celebrated at Masha Allah House in Halla under the leadership of Nawaz League convener Bashir Memon, where the birthday cake was cut, fireworks were set off and League workers danced to League songs.

Pak, Korea have long-lasting friendship: Governor Tessori

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Governor Mohammed Kamran Khan Tessori has said that Pakistan and the Republic of Korea have a long-lasting friendship and it will grow.

He stated this while speaking as a chief guest at the Korean Foundation Day reception hosted by Mr. Yi Sung-ho, Consul General of the Republic of Korea at a local hotel, a communique said here.

It was attended by diplomats from various countries, high government officials, businessmen, industrialists, a large number of Korean Nationals based in Karachi, and the elite of the City. The Governor further said that it was my pleasure to attend the Korean National Day receptions in Islamabad and as well as in

Karachi as a chief guest.

The Consul General of the Republic of Korea (ROK) in Karachi Yi Sung-ho in his speech said that Korea and Pakistan have maintained close relations in many areas. He said the mutual trade and cooperation between the two countries goes back decades when Pakistan assisted Korea with its 5-Year Development Plan.

The National Anthem of both countries were played and a cake-cutting ceremony was also held to mark the anniversary of National Foundation Day of Korea. Korean CG said, "We are gathered here to mark the 4355th anniversary of National Foundation Day of Korea.

It is the day when Dangun, our national father,

spread the ideology of wide benefits people, and opened the sky for Korean people," Yi Sung-ho said.

The Korean Consul General said this year marks the 40th anniversary of diplomatic ties between Korea and Pakistan. Since the establishment of diplomatic relationships in 1983, Korea and Pakistan have maintained close relations in many areas.

He said that Pakistan assisted Korea with its 5-Year Development Plan and in return, the Korean government is contributing to the social and economic development of Pakistan via economic development cooperation fund (soft loan) or official development assistance (grant aid). This year, approximately \$48 million is being spent on 12

projects. At present, over 30 Korean companies are already operating in Pakistan, and more companies are looking to enter Pakistan, he said. Under the employment permit system yearly 4,000 Pakistani people can get jobs in Korea. Global Korea scholar initiative enables many Pakistani students to study in Korea year for higher education, he added.

He said that Korean people have continued their history for half of the millennium, overcoming numerous trials with a strong spirit and indomitable will to become the Republic of Korea today.

It has achieved phenomenal success both in economy and democracy. It is praised as the first country in the world to go from

receiving aid to giving aid.

"Our brilliant culture, which has blossomed over a long history, has become a culture that people around the world can see and enjoy together under the name of K-Culture," he said.

"As a responsible member of the international community, Korea is taking the lead in resolving global issues. And to pioneer a new future, we are working to host the 2030 World Expo in Busan. The theme of Busan Expo: Transforming our world, Navigating toward a better future is powerfully simple: we are here not only to show the world as it is but to shape it as we wish it to be. Having achieved the near impossible, we wish to share our experience with the rest of the world," he said.

Pakistan's space technology to help social-economic development, Minister

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for IT and Telecommunication Dr Umar Saif Sunday Pakistan's space technology will play a critical role in confronting numerous challenges in the fields of climate change, resource monitoring, disaster management, and health and education mitigation.

Talking to a private news channel, he said Pakistan's space sector would devote its prominent position to supporting the national economy, enhancing the country's attractiveness for investments, and highlighting global skills and innovations in this field.

"Minister also expressed confidence in Pakistan's capabilities and affirmed the nation's com-

mitment to scaling new heights in space exploration." He explained that the provision of timely and reliable information through satellite will also help in better decision-making.

The Minister also underlined several development projects in which Space technology played a vital role in the saving cost of the projects.

Replying to a question, he said the strong developments of science and technologies and digital transformation globally have presented both opportunities and challenges to nations.

He said digital transformation is a sound trend which will help to keep the new normal in the digital

space while contributing to economic recovery.

To another question, he added that Pakistan's strong developments of science and technologies and digital transformation to compete globally will present both opportunities and challenges to nations globally.

He said that technology zones will also be established in the federal capital as well as in all provincial capitals.

Plans for the digital economy sector will focus on creating a financial co-operation economy, freelance economy, digital markets, sharing economy, digital content economy, and information and data economy, he added.



ISLAMABAD: Artists from diverse backgrounds were invited at the Off-Grid Residency where they can work without the usual distractions and pressures of daily life. The central theme of this residency is the blend of wilderness and creativity.

APUBTA to sit-in before HEC to get promotion policy of university teachers

ISLAMABAD (Online): All Public Universities BPS Teachers Association (APUBTA) is all set to stage a protest followed by a sit-in outside the HEC head-office, Sector H-9, Islamabad, on Tuesday.

keep clear that APUBT is the only registered and directly elected representative body of BPS teachers of all public sector universities of Pakistan.

Thousands of BPS teachers of public sectors universities from all over Pakistan, including Islamabad, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Punjab, Sind, Balochistan, Azad Kashmir and Gilgit Baltistan will participate in the sit-in. The sit-in will continue till the acceptance of the main demand by Higher Education Commission.

APUBTA's sole demand is the issuance of notification regarding approval of service structure / promotion policy for all BPS teachers of public sector universities.

HEC has already gave written commitment in this regard in the past.

The protest and sit-in is being organized against the discriminatory and exploitative policies of HEC and delaying tactics on the part of the latter regarding approval of promotion policy for BPS teachers of public universities.

It is worth mentioning that BPS teachers of public universities are denied and deprived of their fundamental right of promotion because of lack of service structure due to criminal negligence of HEC since its establishment in 2002.

As per section 10(q) of HEC ordinance 2002, the HEC is tasked to prepare the criteria and guidelines for promotion of universities teachers which the former has been unable to perform after two decades since inception. Now it has created serious issues related to promotion and seniority for over 50,000 BPS faculty members of public sector universities.

APUBTA is struggling to address the promotion related problems of the varsity teachers since 2020 and it has staged several highly

successful nationwide protests.

During this period, it also held scores of meetings with HEC officials and convinced the latter on this issue. HEC officials signed written agreements with APUBTA on October 20, 2020, October 14, 2021, March 10, 2022, and July 24, 2023, making commitment every time that the service structure / promotion policy for BPS universities teachers will be approved and notified with a period of 2-3 months.

HEC officials also made commitment before meeting of the Senate standing committee on Education in its meeting on August 22, 2022 and also before National Assembly's standing committee on Education in its meeting on February 3, 2023 that promotion policy for varsity teachers would be approved soon. Besides standing committees of national assembly and Senate of Pakistan, the special committee of National Assembly for the aggrieved government employees issued clear directives.

Bike entry ban in high security zone of Islamabad

ISLAMABAD (Online): The federal government has decided to ban the entry of motorcycles in the high security zone of Islamabad.

The district administration and the police of the federal capital have developed a new strategy regarding the high security zone, from November 1, entry of motorcycles will be banned in the high security zone.

Sources said that under the new strategy, motorcycles will now be parked at the convention center and a shuttle service will be run from the convention center to enter the high security zone.

It has been learned from the sources that instructions have been issued to the police and the administration to implement the ban.

This decision has been taken to control the traffic

rush in the high security zone, under which an alternative route can be used to come and go to Bari Imam.

It has been reported that the Capital Police has put the security on high alert in the federal capital, SP Security Islamabad also briefed the officers and officials on duty at the high security zone checkpoints.

He issued instructions to do alert duty and maintain law and order situation in view of the current situation. Apart from this, a ban has been imposed on flying drones in Islamabad for 2 days. An important security meeting was held under the chairmanship of IG Islamabad Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan, in which top police officers participated. In the meeting, it was decided to ban the flying of drones in the federal capital Islamabad.

Islamabad admin netted 29 alms seekers in crackdown

ISLAMABAD (APP): In a crackdown against professional beggars, teams of Civil Defense arrested 29 beggars from different areas in Islamabad on the directions of Deputy Commissioner Irfan Nawaz Memon on Sunday.

The operations were carried out under the supervision of the Assistant Commissioner Secretariat and the Assistant Director of Civil Defense.

According to a spokesperson for the Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT), the professional beggars were arrested and transferred to the police station, while the rest of the minor children were sent to the Edhi Center.

The spokesperson added that the operation against beggars is going on under the supervision of Assistant Commissioners.



ISLAMABAD: Women activists of Majlis Wahdat-e-Muslimeen Pakistan (MWM) hold placards and Palestine national flags during protest against the Israeli attacks on Gaza, in the Federal Capital.

Hospitals heads to be recruited as per rules: Health Ministry

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Ministry of National Health Services, Regulations, and Coordination clarified on Sunday that the recruitment of heads of major hospitals in the federal capital will be undertaken as per recruitment rules.

According to the spokesperson of the Ministry of National Health Services, Regulations, and Coordination, these recruitments will be made strictly

on merit, following due process and procedures.

In a statement, he said that the decision in this regard was made in a meeting on August 25, 2023, chaired by the Federal Minister for Health.

He said that the necessary instructions to initiate the process for filling the posts of various cadres have been issued.

He said, "The government believes in upholding the utmost transparency

and merit in recruitment." He advised not to pay heed to any unverified stories or speculations circulating on social media.

"No infodemic can deter us from our mission of reforms and services to Pakistan."

He said that the government or the Ministry of Health has the right and utmost duty to select the most suitable candidates to improve service delivery for the public.

Jail threats to people will not change reality of Kashmir dispute: APHC

ISLAMABAD (APP): The All Parties Hurriyat Conference (APHC) has said that the open threat of jails and incarceration to the people of Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir, including Hurriyat leadership, by Indian forces will not change the reality that Kashmir dispute between India and Pakistan needs a resolution.

According to Kashmir Media Service, the Hurriyat leaders and activists, "Junglising in jails, in their separate messages have said that the APHC resolutely stood by its principled stance that the Kashmir dispute had to be resolved, a fact admitted by both India and Pakistan."

"The settlement has to be to the satisfaction of the entire people of Jammu and Kashmir. The main party in

the conflict, Hurriyat Conference, sees lasting peace and stability and good neighbourly relations in the region which is possible after the resolution of the lingering Kashmir dispute.

Meanwhile, the civil society members and ulama talking to media men in Srinagar and other parts of the territory denounced the assertion of the Lt Governor and other BJP leaders that the Hurriyat leaders had only two options, either join the pro-India politics or go to jail.

They said that the open threat of jail and incarceration by the BJP government was unfortunate and authoritarian. The arrests, house raids and seizing properties of people of Kashmir are tactics to harass the Kashmiri people, they added.

AIOU to organize three-day int'l moot on Islamic Finance

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Department of Islamic Thought, History and Culture of Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU) will organize a three-day international conference on Islamic Finance from 1st November. During the conference, the national and international speakers will present research papers on various Islamic finance systems, said a press release issued here Sunday.

Founder Akhuwat Foundation, Dr. Amjad Saqib will grace the inaugural session as the chief guest while, Vice Chancellor AIOU, Prof. Dr. Nasir Mahmood will preside over the session. Dean, Faculty of Arabic and Islamic Studies, Prof. Dr. Mohyuddin Hashmi will host the event. Renowned economists will shed light on the topic of Islamic banking.

Mobile Registration Centers of BISP to be operational by Nov

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Mobile Registration Vehicle Centers to facilitate the registration process for the intending beneficiaries of the Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP), belonging to the remote areas of the country, are likely to be operational by the month of November.

The Mobile Registration Centers will enable the deserving women residing in the far-flung areas to access the registration facilities through mobile vehicles.

According to the Secretary Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP), Amer Ali Ahmad, the process of induction of Mobile Vans, which started in August, has entered into its last stages.

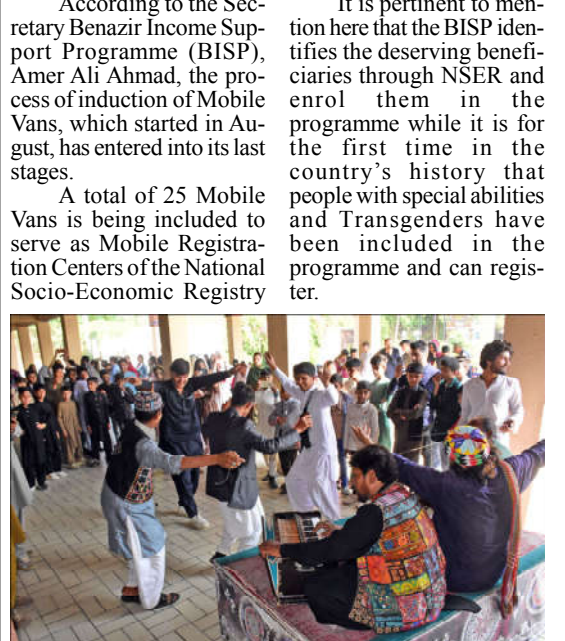
A total of 25 Mobile Vans is being included to serve as Mobile Registration Centers of the National Socio-Economic Registry

(NSER) which will facilitate those who were unable to access the registration facility.

He informed that as many as 19 Mobile Registration Centers are being established in the remote areas of Balochistan, five in Sindh and one in Islamabad in this phase.

"The Mobile Registration service is likely to be operational by November to facilitate the registration process of the beneficiaries residing in the far-off areas of the country", the Secretary BISP said.

It is pertinent to mention here that the BISP identifies the deserving beneficiaries through NSER and enrol them in the programme while it is for the first time in the country's history that people with special abilities and Transgenders have been included in the programme and can register.



ISLAMABAD: Youngsters are dancing on traditional music beat during visit at Lok Virsa Museum in the Federal Capital.

Public urged to take precautionary measures against seasonal influenza

ISLAMABAD (APP): Experts on Sunday advised various precautionary measures while citing immunity-boosting methods to help people stay healthy as the majority of patients are getting infected with flu-causing viruses, like influenza, RSV, adenovirus, and rhinovirus, ahead of the winter season.

Talking to a private news channel, A specialist for a chest infection, Dr. Rashid Dawood, said that most parts of the country, especially Karachi hospitals, are witnessing a surge in cases of "the influenza virus", adding that we advised people to take precautions and not panic given the rise in influenza cases.

The doctor also encouraged the public to get vaccinated and adhere to precautionary measures to reduce the spread of the virus, thereby safeguarding their own well-being and that of the broader community and averting potential complications arising from influenza infections.

Every year, thousands of people are affected by seasonal fever or influenza, he said, adding that the vi-

rus infects and multiplies within the body's cells and impacts the respiratory system.

Though it is not fatal, it can sometimes lead to hospitalization, he feared. Typically, the flu does not endure for more than two weeks, and the infection recedes at an average pace depending on the type of flu virus. In some rare cases, the flu virus can also adversely affect overall health by infecting the lungs, ears, sinuses, etc. "It is important to take extra care by following all the necessary precautions to prevent the spread of infection," he added.

Dr suggested that people should primarily avoid visiting crowded places, which include markets, offices, and family gatherings, and in unavoidable situations, should wear face masks, maintain hand hygiene, and practice respiratory etiquette.

He said the public should remember how we dealt with COVID-19 times, adding that the same things should apply again and cover their mouth while sneezing and coughing.



ISLAMABAD: Resident of District Mohmand Aurangzaib Khan addressing a Press conference against abduction of his brother Waris Khan.

ECP to hear Objections on electoral constituencies of 14 districts on Nov 1

ISLAMABAD (Online): The Election Commission has scheduled objections on electoral constituencies in 14 districts of the country, including the federal capital, for hearing. From Wednesday, November 1, two benches of the Election Commission will hear objections on constituencies on a daily basis.

Election Commission has made a bench to hear the objections submitted on the electoral constituencies.

According to the objections submitted to the commission for all the provinces and Islamabad, 672 in Punjab, 228 in Sindh, 293 in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, 124 in Balochistan and 07 of Islamabad.

Overall 1324 objections have been submitted to ECP.

On which Election Commission will start hearing from November 1, 2023 and benches have been formed for the hearing.

The Election Commission has also sent notices to the objectors for the hearing on November 1 and 2. After hearing all the objections, the final publication of the constituencies will be done on November 30.

Mr Shah as saying from Tihar jail.

These laws, he said, were meant to change the region's demography and deprive natives of their resources, jobs, identity, cultural, land and right to self-determination guaranteed them by the United Nations.

"The August 05, 2019 move was a deep-rooted conspiracy against Kashmiris to erase their political, cultural and national identity," he said.

Prior to 1947, the State of Jammu and Kashmir existed as one of 565 princely states that were not under direct control of British regime and given a choice to join either Pakistan or India. As a Muslim majority state Kashmir was widely believed to become a part of Pakistan but its ruler fraudulently acceded to India that resulted in public uprising.

Consequently, one-third of Kashmir, comprising present-day Azad Jammu & Kashmir and Gilgit Baltistan (GB) was liberated from India



ISLAMABAD: Girls taking selfie as wearing traditional caps during visit at Lok Virsa Museum in the Federal Capital.

Usurping IIOJK's special status, another scar on face of Modi regime

ISLAMABAD (APP): Narendra Modi-led fascist Indian government is making one after another nefarious attempt to bring about a demographic change and impose its Hindutva agenda in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir valley.

Besides intensifying its state terrorism through illegal actions since August 05, 2019, the Modi government has been forcefully implementing its settler colonial plan to turn Muslim majority of the occupied territory into a minority.

In the latest move, under its land for landless scheme it has so far allotted five Marla land each to 9,000 people with the experts claiming that majority of the beneficiary of this scheme are Indian Hindus.

The Modi government has already handed over thousands of kanals of land to the Indian industrialists to establish industries, bring Indian citizens as laborers and permanently settle them in the UN-recognized disputed territory.

In utter violation of

the UN resolutions, the Modi regime has also allowed the Indian citizens, temporarily residing in IIOJK, to vote in the so-called assembly elections.

The All Parties Hurriyat Conference and regional political parties including Peoples Democratic Party, National Conference and Communist Party of India have maintained that the scheme is part of the Modi regime's plans to alter the demography of the territory.

APHC leader and Chairman, Jammu and Kashmir Democratic Freedom Party (DFP) Shabbir Ahmed Shah has sought intervention of the world community to prevent the robbing of occupied Jammu and Kashmir people of their land, identity and integrity by the Modi-led regime.

"Enactment of a series of anti-Kashmiri laws like rebranding demographics and redrawing of Jammu and Kashmir's electoral map had instilled a fear of insecurity amongst Kashmiris," KMS reported

through an armed struggle. In 1947, India took the issue to UN Security Council that passed a resolution on January 5, 1949, giving Kashmiris the right to decide about their future through a UN-supervised plebiscite.

But, India gradually backed out from its commitment and declared Kashmir its integral part in disregard to the UNSC resolutions and used ruthless force, torture and mayhem to quell freedom struggle.

On Aug 05, 2019, India went a step ahead and stripped Jammu Kashmir of its special status, it enjoyed within the Indian union, announcing to integrate it with the rest of the country. The decision was a blatant violation of the UN resolutions that debarred both India and Pakistan from taking any action prejudice to the disputed status of the territory. These actions are also against the Simla Agreement signed by the two sides in 1972.

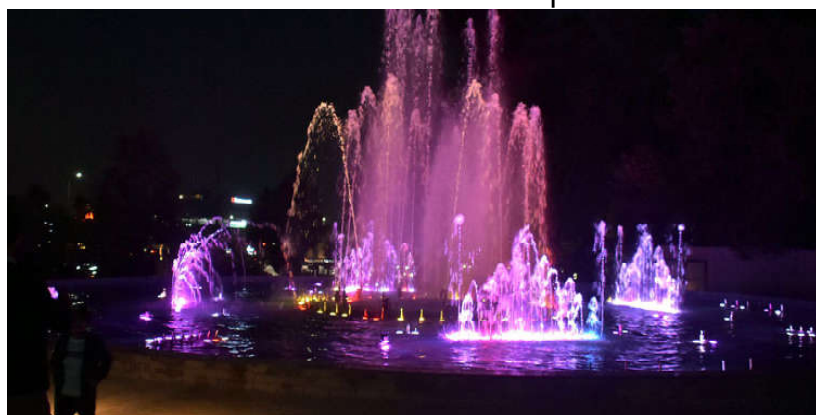
With the revoking of articles 370 and 35A, the

region stands bifurcated into two union territories: Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh; the former declared to have a state legislature while the latter to be ruled directly from New Delhi.

To preempt potential public reaction, months-long restrictions were imposed by Delhi, like cutting off all modes of communication, including mobile phone service and internet.

In a letter written to G-20 countries ahead of its summit in New Delhi in September this year, Amnesty International and six other organizations jointly invited the attention of the participating countries towards these restrictions.

"When India revoked Article 370 and Article 35A, stripping Jammu and Kashmir's autonomous status - the government has continued repressive policies including restricting freedom of expression, peaceful assembly and association and failed to investigate and prosecute alleged violations committed by its military, paramilitary, police and other forces".



ISLAMABAD: A beautiful view of the dancing fountain in the F-8 area.

Daily Voice of Masses Independent

Monday October 30, 2023

Gazan apocalypse

With Tel Aviv's troops carrying out land incursions inside Gaza while its jets mercilessly pound the congested Strip, obliterating hospitals, residential buildings and shelters, it is clear that Israel is attempting to foist its 'final solution' on the Palestinian people in the name of going after Hamas.

Since Oct 7, when Hamas staged raids inside Israel, over 7,000 Palestinians have been butchered by Israel, nearly half of them children. Tel Aviv has shown no mercy, wiping out entire families, targeting civilian infrastructure, and cutting off food, water, communication links, power and fuel to Gaza — all qualifying as war crimes.

Yet Israel's powerful friends, including US President Joe Biden, doubt the Palestinian toll; they believe Israeli accounts that Tel Aviv did not bomb the Al-Ahli Hospital, and that it was a misfired Palestinian rocket that caused the atrocity.

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

There is also disingenuous framing of the conflict by Israel and its friends in Western officialdom and media. The fact is that the Arab-Israeli conflict did not begin with the Hamas raid. For decades, Palestinians have faced death, humiliation and the usurpation of their ancestral land on a daily basis.

And, while the targeting of civilians by both sides is condemnable, Oct 7 was the explosive reaction to years of pent-up rage, as Gaza's people had been living under a siege enforced by Israel long before the latest hostilities broke out.

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

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

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

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

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



Tariq Khosa

One is reminded of Friedrich Nietzsche's words in the current environment of persecution in our country: "But thus do I counsel you, my friends: distrust all in whom the impulse to punish is powerful." In this impulse to punish those who dare to defy state institutions, there appears to be a method to the madness. A journalist on the run was assassinated in Kenya; another was kidnapped from Sialkot and released after months of illegal detention as a physical and mental wreck. Political activists of a party which is being brutally dismantled go missing, only to re-emerge with the same script of loyalty to a state institution and condemnation of those 'inciting' violence against the sacred cows.

Two prominent politi-

cians and erstwhile favourites of the establishment have been made examples for other 'recalcitrant' ones. The head of a political party was the latest "to be dragged in front of a camera" to put the blame of violence against the state on a leader in whose cabinet he was interior minister. Another prominent one out of favour was lately the chief minister of Punjab.

He is not allowed to come out of jail despite repeatedly being granted bail in cases registered against him by different state departments. Even women political activists and supporters are not being spared. They are being punished for protesting the illegal arrest of their leader. Who is to be blamed? Those carrying out illegal arrests, or those protesting illegality?

German philosopher Arthur Schopenhauer said: "The worst human trait is to enjoy the suffering of others." We, too, seem to have become insensitive to the worst possible human rights violations blatantly prevalent these days. The anger of the victims may reach a boiling point and they will be constrained not to suffer in silence anymore. This

state of persecution must come to an end.

Current politics is witnessing reverse engineering. Protective bail — in cases in which a political party leader had been declared an absconder — was granted even before he set foot in the country. The fugitive was officially seen off by our high commissioner in London; the VVIP lounge in Islamabad was opened, where the interior ministry provided biometrics facilities for filing appeals in the Islamabad High Court; and he was received on the Lahore airport tarmac by the commissioner and police chief of Lahore, who are supposed to represent a 'neutral caretaker Punjab government'.

His speech later that night was like a victory speech before 'coronation'. This paper's report on the return of the native and the large public meeting he addressed pointed out that what Lahore missed was "PTI-like youthful gaiety". A PML-N party leader ruefully conceded that their supremacy was not as relevant to youngsters as he used to be. The comparison with the PTI's Oct 30, 2011, rally was quite clear, when

the city "witnessed massive day-long noisy and lively celebrations on the roads. All main arteries were taken over by motorcyclist youth, playing party songs, honking horns of vehicles and all kinds of buses, vans and coasters ferrying party men to different points and creating a psychological impact". Nawaz Sharif made a "distasteful and unacceptable comparison between his women supporters, and those of the PTI" by declaring that the former are more 'decent' than the latter. This deep-rooted misogyny in our society finding expression in a key leader's discourse reflects lack of inclusivity that may affect his female support base.

While his speech reflected his keenness to "sell populist pipe dreams", his call for "harmony among all constitutional institutions and political players for the betterment of the country" conveniently ignored the major political adversary. This paper's concern over Nawaz Sharif "being hand-delivered another stint in power" and hope for a fair contest is quite pertinent.

Two prominent political parties are openly critical of the lack of a level play-

ing field during the current run-up to the national polls. "Elections delayed are elections denied," said the chairman of a major party, who expressed concerns over the mounting influence of a "new form of dictatorship", adding that "manipulated power transfer lies at the root of political instability". The party's spokesman stated: "If elections are to be held to bring a specific party to power, it would be more practical to simply hand them the throne and avoid wasting billions of rupees on a sham process." A key leader of the 'favourite' party has admitted having "managed things".

The present caretaker governments stand exposed in implementing pre-poll manoeuvres to facilitate the electoral success of the favourites. "When the Constitution has vested the responsibility of holding transparent elections with the Election Commission of Pakistan, what was the purpose of interim governments?" questioned CJP Qazi Faez Isa during a recent hearing. The caretakers' concept was introduced by military dictator Zia in 1985, who did not implement it upon arbitrarily removing

the government of PM Junjoe. Our democratic neighbour to the east relies on an independent election commission to hold elections on a regular basis, and despite strong political parties, no one alleges partisanship or doubts the impartiality of the electoral watchdog.

The so-called puppet caretakers are a national embarrassment. These clueless status seekers selected by the deep state need to be consigned to the dust heap of the university where they were incubated and hoisted over our benighted people. I strongly recommend doing away with this mockery of an interim government set-up for holding 'free and fair elections' in our country. The experiment conceived by a dictator has failed. All efforts should be made to ensure institutional autonomy and the independence of the ECP.

It is dangerous to be right when the government is wrong, said Voltaire. Therefore, can I impudently suggest to the string-pullers to spare this nation the farce of going through yet another politically engineered and rigged election. -- Courtesy Dawn

We don't need thought control



Dr Ayesha Razzaque

Since Israel began its genocidal campaign against Palestinians, observers and commentators the world over have been watching the unprecedented outpouring of public support in places where, historically, there has been little to none.

Most US colleges have a long history of being bastions of liberal ideology. Nevertheless, the scale of mobilization by various student groups marching and protesting in support of Palestinians has been unprecedented and unexpected.

What should be notable for us, sitting in Pakistan, is that although the support for Palestinians is greater than ever, the official statements made by most university leaders have been either neutral or pro-Israel. That puts pro-Palestinian student

groups in direct opposition to their university leaders and US government policy.

The rights of students and faculty and (where it is the case) university leaders to disagree with their state's and federal government's official policy so openly and freely flows from the academic freedom both students and faculty enjoy — the freedom of students and faculty to study, teach, pursue knowledge, without undue outside interference from without (regulators and the state) or within (institutional restrictions).

The granting of tenure that usually accompanies the promotion from the rank of assistant to associate professor further solidifies this freedom for faculty members. Unless found guilty of some gross illegality, it is almost impossible to fire tenured faculty members. The purpose of granting this level of job security, which is almost impossible to find in any other sector of the economy now, is to give scholars the freedom to pursue answers even to difficult questions without fear of retaliation and jeopardizing their employment.

The current situation in Palestine is also exposing the price this academic free-

dom can exact. A number of law graduates had their offers of employment from a prestigious law firm rescinded for publicly supporting Palestine's cause of freedom.

At Harvard, a number of influential alumni have announced ending the support (in terms of donations or student opportunities) they have been providing the university or at least to student groups that voiced support for Palestinians. Employers cannot be forced to hire an applicant and donors cannot be forced to donate, so both are within their rights.

And while academic freedom is not absolute but has its own limits and consequences in the West, there is still enough of it where student groups can protest and counter-protest on every side of just about every issue. That is why sitting afar, we can only marvel at the academic freedom (however imperfect it may be) college communities enjoy and the public disagreement that is allowed to air on US college campuses.

Meanwhile, here at home, the term tenure has been grossly misused in the naming of the "Tenure Track System" the HEC introduced over a decade ago. The

granting of tenure is free of all associated meanings of academic freedom.

As chance would have it, as if to make my point for me, a few days ago several papers published the news that an assistant professor of zoology was "taken to task" by a group of local clerics in Bannu for teaching evolution in biology and speaking at a local seminar on equal rights of women under the constitution of Pakistan. Apparently, this was too much to bear for some and he was made to sign a public statement renouncing evolution as un-Islamic, declaring women as inferior to men and, for good measure, absolving the people coercing him of all blame for any future misfortune that might befall him. So much for academic freedom in the Land of the Pure. How can we expect and why should there not be a brain drain when educated people may be subjected to such indignities and threats on a whim?

And just a few days later, a well-known local community centre and think-tank in Islamabad was barred from holding a conversation on the deportation of Afghan refugees, some of whom have been living in

this country for decades. Since there seem to be no other pressing issues worthy of their attention (save for the daily muggings, break ins, carjackings, and holdups), the Islamabad Police saw it necessary to intervene and break up the gathering. The state has given itself the right to stop people sitting indoors at a private venue and having a calm, civilized discussion on an issue.

Muzzles on (differences of) opinion are enforced by force, intimidation, law, threats and/or harassment, sometimes by power centers of the state at others by thugs exploiting religious sentiments — and I speak from some personal experience here. Members of the educated middle class, who have built themselves a tolerable life, have the most to lose and are, understandably, easiest to silence.

Limits on expression have a tendency to turn into limits on thinking which, in turn, leads to group-think at the national level. You may disagree, but it often feels like many people I run into on any issue hold one of a small set of predictable views, ideas, and opinions. If two

heads are better than one, then nearly 250 million put together ought to be a powerhouse of ideas and opinions (and creativity).

At a time when many countries are turning inward and taking a turn to the right, seeing empathetic young people standing up for liberal ideas is what gives one hope for the future. Even the best universities, which ought to be fertile ground for debate, are anything but. Conferences, study-circles or speakers on issues even tangentially sensitive to the official state narrative are routinely blocked, 'discouraged' or (if they attempt to go ahead anyway) shut-down.

Not everyone engages in debate on every issue but seeing facts and high-quality arguments — as opposed to fact-free opinions — put forward in a public debate by those who have them on an issue, sets standards, informs the entire community and elevates the quality of discourse in other debates. Academic freedom for students and faculty on university campuses brings up a thinking and engaged citizenry, but maybe that is not the desired outcome. -- Courtesy TheNews

Mission Lion-heart



Muna Khan

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

line clerics.

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

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

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

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

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

never honoured. To date, the Palestinians, like the Kashmiris, have been fighting for the right to live on their own lands with honour and dignity, a right that most people get easily. Palestine's Israel conundrum can be understood from three dimensions: territorial, ideological, and geopolitical.

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

Ideologically, this land has religious significance for the Jews, Christians and Muslims. The Muslims revere the Al-Aqsa Mosque, while for the Jews this land was home to their traditional ancestors and Hebrew patriarchs.

Geopolitically, it was Britain that initiated the idea of creating a Jewish state in Palestine, pulling in Jews from Europe and displacing the local population. Over the past 70 years, the US and Britain have treated Israel as the pivot of their Middle East policy.

Given the above territorial, ideological, and geopolitical factors, peace continues to elude the land of Palestine. Neither the Arab-Israeli wars of 1948, 1967 and 1973, nor the Palestinians' indigenous resistance

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Governor KP visits AUST, inaugurates projects worth one billion rupees

PESHAWAR (APP): Governor of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Haji Ghulam Ali has reaffirmed his commitment for advancing the education and research in the province.

During his visit to the Abbottabad University of Science and Technology (AUST) on Sunday, the Governor underlined the importance of universities engaging in commercial research, showcasing how universities worldwide are generating billions through research commercialization. He urged universities in the province to make a name for themselves in the research field.

During his visit, the Governor inaugurated various projects worth one

billion rupees, funded by the Higher Education Commission in the university. These projects included the establishment of the Institute of Space Technology and initiatives to harness solar energy for the University.

The Governor unveiled a new Academic Block and a Regional Anti-Terrorism Center at the University, emphasizing the importance of research and security efforts.

Governor Ghulam Ali distributed laptops among the university's students and Higher Education Commission scholarships.

The inaugural ceremony was attended by numerous dignitaries, including Vice Chancellor Abbottabad University, Dr. Majid-ur-Rahman, faculty

members, and representatives from the Higher Education Commission, along with a large gathering of students.

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



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

Governor urges mothers to encourage daughters to pursue their career

KARACHI (APP): Governor Sindh Kamran Khan Tessori has urged mothers to encourage their daughters to pursue their chosen fields even after their marriage.

This he said while speaking at a women's festival organized by PINKtober, an NGO working for awareness about breast cancer.

"It is a reality that after marriage the girls are expected to only look after their homes as a housewife and leave behind their professional degrees and aspirations for the future", he observed.

Governor Sindh said that this trend is depriving girls to contribute towards national economy. "Their degrees and higher education are wasted as they are not allowed to work in their chosen fields after getting married", he opined.

He said that despite all odds and hurdles the women in Pakistan are performing brilliantly in every walk of life with distinction. "From politics to business, civil service to sports and social work to armed force, their contributions are not less than men", he added.

He said that NGOs play a vital role in the social sector and their contributions especially in health and education are immensely important for the provision of better facilities to the masses especially the poor and downtrodden, he remarked.

The Governor said that lack of awareness about breast cancer was the root cause of deaths from this disease, which was higher as compared with other Asian countries, "These deaths can be prevented with timely diagnosis and mammography", he added.

IGP instructs officials to complete modern law and order control training

LAHORE (APP): Inspector General of Police (IGP) Punjab Dr Usman Anwar on Sunday visited Punjab Constabulary Headquarters Ferozabad.

He presided over a meeting about the training matters of Punjab Constabulary officials, reviewed the training modules, inspected the field exercises of anti-riot force, issued orders after listening to problems of the field officers, and gave away awards to the best performers in various categories as well.

The IGP started his visit by laying wreaths at

the Martyrs Memorial, recited Fateha and paid tribute to sacrifices of the martyrs. He inspected the anti-riot force formations exercise at PC Headquarters parade ground. He instructed the officials to complete the modern law and order control training with utmost dedication.

The IGP said that the anti-riots course had been designed to deal with emergency situations including control of violent angry protesters and crowd dispersal. He also visited Police Training School Ferozabad.

Call for capitalizing proximity in South Asia like EU, ASEAN

LAHORE (APP): Like the EU (European Union) and ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations), South Asia, a region of two billion people, has yet to capitalise its proximity and come together despite a shared history, diverse culture and philosophy.

SAARC Chamber of Commerce and Industry former President Ifkhar Ali Malik expressed these views while chairing an inaugural session of a seminar through zoom titled "How South Asia can emerge as thriving region" here Sunday. He

said that South Asian leaders need a vision followed by a strong will to act, adding Pakistan has much to offer, especially to smaller countries and even making inroads through the use of drone technology in agriculture. He argued that if Pak made footballs are used in World Cup matches and why not in South Asia?

Malik was confident that trade among countries in this region can reduce abject poverty. By setting aside mistrust, businesses would be less cumbersome and transport and digital connectivity.

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

LAHORE (APP): At least six persons were killed and 1268 injured in 1167 road accidents in all 37 districts of Punjab during the last 24 hours.

Out of them, 624 people with serious injuries were shifted to hospitals, while 644 victims with minor injuries were treated at the sites by rescue medical teams thus reducing the burden of hospitals.

Furthermore, the analysis showed that 601 drivers, 35 underage drivers, 161 pedestrians, and 512 passengers were among the victims. The statistics show that 258 accidents were reported in Lahore which affected 285 persons placing the provincial capital at top of the list followed by 83 in Faisalabad with 92 victims and Multan with 67 accidents and 69 victims.

Two cops among four booked

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

Punjab CM greets leadership of Turkiye

Independent Report LAHORE: Punjab Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi has congratulated the leadership and people on the Republic Day of Turkiye.

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

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



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

PDB expedites work on 43 development projects

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

The meeting was informed that 92 percent of the work on Shadara Multigrade Flyover

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

A report was presented on the upgradation of Lahore Zoo and Safari Park while orders were issued to speed up the upgradation of Darbar Baba Bulleh Shah.



LAHORE: Leaders of Muslim League Q, Chaudhry Sarwar and Chaudhry Shafa Hussain, are addressing to the participants of the rally which is organized to express solidarity with the Palestinians in front of the Press Club.

Ali Zafar, Ushna criticise celebrities for silence on Palestine 'genocide'

LAHORE (APP): Pakistan showbiz stars Ali Zafar and Ushna Shah came hard on local and international celebrities for not raising their voice against the genocide of Palestinians by Israel. 'Habs' star Ushna Shah recently joined a rally of hundreds of marchers, with a placard reading, "This is not a conflict, it is genocide", as they walked to express their support to Palestinians.

Speaking to the media at the march, Ushna Shah criticized local and global celebrities for not raising their voice to support innocent children being murdered daily by Israel in Palestine.

Ushna said, "It is our collective responsibility being a Muslim, and being a human to raise our voice when it is not even a war, rather genocide, apartheid,

or murder. We need to continue our protest until it stops, and I am not talking about a temporary ceasefire, but an absolute freedom."

Renowned singer and actor Ali Zafar, in a media statement on Sunday, criticised Nobel laureate Malala Yousafzai for not highlighting the Palestine issue. He urged global celebrities and Muslim superpowers to speak up on the matter instead of adopting a neutral stance. "It is the need of the hour for the common people to take to the streets and demand the West to openly condemn unprecedented atrocities on Palestinians by Israeli forces. It is no more a Muslims vs. Jews war, but a 'Zionist' propaganda to put the Palestine people through ethnic cleansing.



LAHORE: Caretaker Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi inspecting the under construction work of Emergency Block during his visit to Meo Hospital.

ANF recovers 137kg drugs in six operations

RAWALPINDI (APP): Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) while conducting six operations managed to recover over 137 kg of drugs and arrested three accused including a woman, said an ANF Headquarters spokesman.

He informed that 3.6 kg hashish was recovered from the possession of an accused, a resident of Karachi arrested in Dera Ghazi Khan. The accused was trying to smuggle drugs from Quetta to Punjab.

A woman resident of Okara who was going to Doha by flight number QR-621 from Allama Iqbal Airport was arrested, 59 heroin and Ice filled capsules were recovered from her possession.

426 more get ration from Governor House

KARACHI (APP): As many as 426 deserving persons including women were handed over Taqatwar Pakistan ration sags on the directives of Governor Sindh Kamran Khan Tessori on Sunday.

Governor Sindh Kamran Khan Tessori said that with the help of philanthropists, the distribution of ration would continue as we are determined to help persons in need.

It is pertinent to mention here that more than 120,000 persons have so far been given these ration bags.

Naqvi convene Punjab Cabinet special today

LAHORE (Online): Caretaker Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi called a special meeting of the Punjab Cabinet today (Monday).

In the meeting, the budget for the next four months of the current financial year 2023-24 will be approved.

Provincial Ministers, Advisors, Chief Secretary, Inspector General of Police, Chairman Planning and Board, Secretaries of concerned departments and senior officials will participate in the meeting.

Muslims urged to unite for Palestine cause

SIALKOT (APP): Jammu and Kashmir Freedom Movement convener Dr. Zahid Ghani Dar has said that Israel's atrocities on Palestinians should stop immediately.

Talking to APP here today, he urged the world community to use its influence to pressurize Israel for halting larger scale human rights violations and genocide of the Palestinian people by the Israel armed forces.

He said that Israel's atrocities on the oppressed Palestinians had reached an extreme level. He said that the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) and Muslim countries should play their role in stopping the war. He demanded that Muslim countries should come together for the Palestine cause.

"Raising voices for Palestinians is the responsibility of Muslims and a part of their faith."

Tribal youth hold walk, car rally, photo exhibition in Khyber to express solidarity with Kashmiris

PESHAWAR (APP): A walk and photo exhibition depicting the Indian force's brutality against innocent Kashmiris, followed by a walk and car rally expressing solidarity with the people of illegally held Kashmir. The participants of the walk and car rally chanted slogans against India's forces for killing innocent women, children, and other people in occupied Kashmir. Along with athletes from other games, District Sports Officer Kashif Farhan led the walk and car rally.

The photo exhibition highlighted the true

pictures of India's forces' brutality against innocent Kashmiris, followed by a walk and car rally expressing solidarity with the people of illegally held Kashmir. The participants of the walk and car rally chanted slogans against India's forces for killing innocent women, children, and other people in occupied Kashmir. Along with athletes from other games, District Sports Officer Kashif Farhan led the walk and car rally.

participants, Kashif Farhan said that the sacrifices of Kashmiris would not go in vain; Pakistan is incomplete without Kashmir. The entire nation is with the Kashmiris in their right to self-determination and freedom struggle, he said. He said that the Kashmir issue should be resolved according to the resolutions of the United Nations. He said that on October 27, Pakistanis successfully observed Black Day 3.



KARACHI: Shia Muslim hold a banner during protest rally against the Israeli attacks on Gaza, in Provincial Capital.

Adulterated food items play havoc with human health

PESHAWAR (APP): Like other developing countries, Pakistan is also being faced with the monster challenge of overweight and obesity issues mostly contracted by people excessively consuming unhygienic and substandard food items that play havoc with human health.

The open sale of unsafe and substandard foods including burgers, shawarma, potato chips, snacks, beverages and other unhygienic food in markets, bazaars and vendor shops in Peshawar and its peripheries areas, especially in front of schools were adversely

affecting the health of students and children.

Plenty of shops vendors food stalls can be seen at historic Qissa Khwani bazaar, Namak Mandai, Karimpura, Charsadda Road, Faqirabad, Hastnagri, Tehkal, Board bazaar and other localities that are selling unsafe cuisines and expired foods, exposing people to different diseases including obesity and stomach disorders.

"I have brought my son Ibrahim Khan (7) for a medical checkup after he complained about irritable bowel syndrome due to excessive eating of chips

and snacks being sold openly in shops and markets in villages and towns of Peshawar and Nowshera districts without any check," said Sumbal Riaz, a housewife of Pabbi tehsil while talking to APP.

"My son was in great pain during the last couple of days due to piles, irritable bowel syndrome and obesity problems diagnosed by doctors citing overeating of chips, snacks, high carbohydrate fatty food along with beverages. Now I am going to Peshawar for his proper treatment from specialist doctors," she said with

sobbing eyes.

Dr Sirzamin Khan, Head of the medical department of Government Hospital Pabbi Nowshera said that obesity and overweight mostly caused by eating unhygienic and substandard fast food was the fifth leading cause of global deaths.

Causing many non-communicable diseases (NCD), he said obesity contributes 60-70% of deaths in the world including in Pakistan and as per WHO report, the number of children aged five to 19 with obesity increased from 11 million in 1975 to 124 million in

2016 in the world due to consumption of junk food during school time.

He said that 30 percent of the world population was overweight while 44 percent of the burden of diabetes 23 percent of heart diseases and seven to 41 percent of certain cancers were attributed to overweight and obesity. Dr Sirzamin said Pakistan has ranked 10th out of 188 countries with about 50 percent population being overweight or obese, and that according to the World Obesity Foundation report, 5.4 million school-aged children in Pakistan.



HYDERABAD: Workers of Sindhi Shagird Tehreek hold a protest rally in favor of their demands, in Hyderabad.

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

ISLAMABAD (APP): Ambassador Yerzhan Kistafin of Kazakhstan to Pakistan has said that the bilateral trade between Kazakhstan and Pakistan continues to witness steady and robust expansion each year.

"Interaction between Kazakhstan and Pakistan in the scientific and educational spheres is intensifying, coupled with an increase in the number of Pakistani students attending universities in Kazakhstan. Along with a progressive improvement in bilateral relations in the banking sector," he said while talking to APP on the occasion of Kazakhstan's Republic Day.

The ambassador said that both nations are celebrating the remarkable 30-year friendship, peace, and harmony between

Kazakhstan and Pakistan. Kistafin said that during the past 30 years, the countries have established and reinforced close relations across various domains, including political interaction, trade, economics, culture, and humanitarian cooperation.

He said that positive dynamics have become evident in the industrial production sector. "Key elements driving trade, economic, and investment interaction between the two countries included meetings of the Intergovernmental Commission, Business Council, business forums, and reciprocal visits by business delegations," he added.

He further said that cooperation in the field of inter-parliamentary

interaction, particularly at the upper houses of legislative assemblies, is generating substantial interest not only in bilateral relations but also in multilateral formats. The Ambassador expressed confidence that such interaction at the legislative level would significantly advance the matters discussed between the two governments.

He recalled the frequent meetings between President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev of Kazakhstan and Pakistan's Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif in 2022, which further strengthened their relationship. In 2023, on the sidelines of the Belt and Road Forum, a meeting took place between the President of Kazakhstan and the caretaker Prime Minister of Pakistan.



HYDERABAD: Former Federal Minister and PPP leader Syed Naveed Qamar talking to newsmen at Sindh Chamber of Agriculture in the city.

Private sector asked for investing in technology advancement

ISLAMABAD (APP): Coordinator to Federal Tax Ombudsman Meher Kashif Younis Sunday emphasized the paramount significance of innovation in propelling Pakistan's technology sector to greater heights with sole active participation of private sector.

He said technology parks have played a central role in these efforts. Technology parks and innovation clusters are physical locations where businesses, research institutions, and entrepreneurs can collaborate and innovate, he added.

He said Finlan, Singapore, South Korea, Germany, China, California, Ankara, Bangalore in India and Cambridge are excellent living examples of promoting innovation that played magic in propelling their economies to new heights globally. Pakistan, with its vast pool of talent and untapped potential, has a unique opportunity to harness innovation for economic growth, he said adding that by investing in research and development, fostering a culture of creativity, and providing adequate support to startups and entrepreneurs, Pakistan must unlock new avenues in technology.

Speaking at a seminar on "Innovation for development led Economy" organised under the aegis of Gold Ring Economic Forum, he said in today's rapidly evolving global landscape, innovation stands as the cornerstone of progress, enabling nations to adapt, compete, and thrive.

He said Innovation not only drives advancements in sectors such as healthcare, agriculture, and education but also enhances the nation's overall competitiveness on the international stage.

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Railways all set to upgrade Rawalpindi Rail Station

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan Railways is all set to upgrade and commercialize the Victoria-era Rawalpindi Railway Station aimed at facilitating the passengers and making it the business hub, considering its location in the centre of business activities. "The Railway Station was built a century ago in a British style, the value addition to the station and its surroundings would make it commercially viable and would generate significant revenues for all the stakeholders involved", an official in the Ministry told

APP. He said the upgrade was already decided in a meeting that reviewed the upgradation as well as commercialization plan of Rawalpindi Railway Station, and observed that the railway stations will remain important commercial hubs in the future, earning substantial revenue and generating economic opportunities at a large scale. The official said that besides improving passenger facility, the redeveloping of Rawalpindi Railway Station can become a business hub.

HomeNet Pak celebrates Home-Based Workers Day

KARACHI (APP): Pakistan celebrated Home-Based Workers Day, a day dedicated to recognizing and celebrating the contributions of home-based workers, with a particular focus on the empowerment and resilience of women in the remote workforce.

International Home-Based Worker Day is an occasion to acknowledge the growing workforce of home-based workers, highlighting their dedication, resilience, and adaptability.



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

Pakistan Pavilion in Chengdu introduces famous touristic sites

BEIJING (APP): Pakistan National Pavilion at the Sichuan Agriculture Expo in Chengdu has introduced the famous touristic sites in Pakistan and displayed a number of the agricultural goods produced by the country.

More than a dozen Pakistani companies displayed their agricultural products here. The Pavilion attracted great interest from the participants attending the Expo.

Pakistan's Ambassador to China, Moin ul Haque, inaugurated the Pavilion.

He was joined by the Vice governor of Sichuan Province Hu Yun, Secretary Trade Development Authority of Pakistan (TDAP), Dr Farheed Iqbal and Pakistan's Acting Consul General in Chengdu Agha Hunain Abbas Khan, CEN reported.

Need urged to support research, development of seed technology

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairman of Pakistan Hightech Hybrid Seed Association (PHHSA), Shahzad Ali Malik Sunday urged to continue supporting research and development in seed technology, enabling farmers nationwide to harness the full potential of these remarkable innovations.

He said hybrid seeds have made remarkable contributions in boosting agricultural production worldwide including Pakistan.

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

Ambassador participated in the Opening Ceremony of the 9th Sichuan Agriculture Expo, where Pakistan is the Country of Honor. In his address during the opening ceremony, the Ambassador highlighted the strong bilateral relations between Pakistan and China, that are based on political trust, strategic communication, and practical cooperation.

He also highlighted the close cooperation between Pakistan and Sichuan, including through sister province and city collaborations.

Pakistan's participation in the Expo will inject impetus into the ongoing cooperation between Pakistan and China in the agriculture sector. Recently five important agriculture SPS protocols have been finalized between the two sides, giving Pakistan access to a market of US\$30 billion.

the development and utilization of hybrid seeds. He said its significance in enhancing agricultural productivity cannot be overstated. He said Guard hybrid rice seed, engineered through meticulous research and cutting-edge techniques, has proven to be a game-changer for farmers in Pakistan.

Their unique genetic composition, combining desirable traits from different varieties, empowers farmers to cultivate crops that are more resilient, disease-resistant, and high-yielding, he remarked.

This resilience not only ensures a stable food supply but also minimizes the environmental impact of farming practices, he added.

Seminar on '3rd Belt and Road Forum' held

LAHORE (APP): The Chinese Consulate Lahore and the Institute of International Relations and Media Research organized a seminar titled: "3rd Belt and Road Forum" at a local hotel on Sunday.

Caretaker Provincial Minister for Industries and Commerce SM Tanvir and Consul General Zhao Shiran participated as the special guests and talked about the possibility of increasing cooperation between the two countries. The participants emphasized the promotion of bilateral economic cooperation and people-to-people contacts.

Provincial Minister of Industry and Commerce SM Tanvir said that China is a sincere friend of Pakistan and has come to help Pakistan in every hour of difficulty. Two agreements were signed during the PM's recent visit to China while two agreements were signed during the visit of a delegation led by the Punjab chief minister. The minister said that friendship and cooperation between Pakistan and China are getting stronger with each passing moment and the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor is a very important project for both countries.

Rs 419.5m fine imposed on 3,331 electricity thieves: FESCO

FAISALABAD (APP): The Faisalabad Electric Supply Company (FESCO) has imposed Rs 419.5 million fine on 3,331 electricity thieves during the last 51 days.

FESCO Spokesman Tahir Sheikh said here on Sunday that the company was pursuing a vigorous anti-theft drive these days in its eight districts. The company imposed fine on pilferers under the head of detection units of 902.2 million and recovered Rs 240.4 million from pilferers.



MULTAN: Workers are busy stitching quilts at their workplace as demand increases in winter season.

PFC taking steps to address issues of skilled manpower

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chief Executive Officer Pakistan Furniture Council (PFC) Mian Kashif Ashfaq Sunday said that the Council was making efforts to address the issue of a skilled workforce for the development of the local furniture industry. He said that the furniture industry was currently grappling with a shortage of skilled workers, leading to significant delays in meeting export targets.

He said the upgrade was already decided in a meeting that reviewed the upgradation as well as commercialization plan of Rawalpindi Railway Station, and observed that the railway stations will remain important commercial hubs in the future, earning substantial revenue and generating economic opportunities at a large scale. The official said that besides improving passenger facility, the redeveloping of Rawalpindi Railway Station can become a business hub.

Lahore Science Mela concludes

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

Lahore Science Mela was started in 2017 and from then it has become a regular annual event.

Planning Ministry bolsters efforts for agriculture sector projects

ISLAMABAD (APP): Considering the agriculture sector's paramount importance, already identified as a priority by the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC), the Ministry of Planning, Development, and Special Initiatives has intensified its efforts to execute agriculture-related projects.

While gearing up the efforts, the Planning Ministry asked the ministries concerned to accelerate the implementation so that the projects could be completed timely, especially at a time when the SIFC took the lead and agriculture was the top priority besides the other key sectors.

investment in the field of agriculture as the country is a semi-industrialized economy with a well-integrated agricultural sector that contributes 22.9% to Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and creates 37.4% of jobs, ensures food security and provides raw materials for industries.

The projects include Cage Culture Cluster Development Project, Commercialization of Potato Tissue Culture Technology in Pakistan, Establishment of consumer-sourcing seed authenticity system and Strengthening of Labs of F&S&R; Establishment of Plant Breeders Rights Registry and Strengthening of DUS Examination System; Establishment of Seed Certification Services

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

PESHAWAR (APP): In a resolute and impassioned plea, KPTMA Chairman, Muhammad Kamran Shah, has reached out to the Prime Minister of Pakistan, seeking immediate help to address the profound challenges confronting the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Industry.

He perceived as a serious injustice the imposition of Blended Gas, which combines natural gas with RNLG. This policy, according to Kamran Shah, is fundamentally flawed, unjust, and significantly detrimental to the interests of the KP industry.

The pressing matter was discussed during a pivotal meeting of the KP Textile Mills Association, where grave concerns were raised over the Federal Government's recent decision to implement a blended gas supply, composed of 80 per cent RNLG (Re-Gasified Liquefied Natural Gas), to serve the KP industry, said a press release issued here on Sunday.

Kamran Shah, in his fervent appeal, beseeches the National Authorities to intervene promptly. Shah emphasizes that all sectors of the KP industry stand united against what they perceive as a serious injustice the imposition of Blended Gas, which combines natural gas with RNLG. This policy, according to Kamran Shah, is fundamentally flawed, unjust, and significantly detrimental to the interests of the KP industry.

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

Agriculture sector need to be priorities for improvement in economy

HYDERABAD (APP): Former federal minister and PPP leader Naveed Qamar has said that the share of agriculture in the economy was decreasing with time, we need to prioritize agriculture sector for improving country's economy.

He said that fertilizer policy needs to be prioritized and currently we do not have foreign exchange and have not signed any agreement with any big company in cotton cultivation. We also need to invest in water management, even in the past, the governments did not make a pro-agriculture policy, and therefore long-term results were not obtained. He said that how long wheat could be imported from outside.

He expressed these views while talking to the media at the "Awaan-e-Zaraat" after a meeting of farmers' leaders here in Hyderabad. Naveed Qamar said that the problems faced by those related to the agriculture sector have been discussed in today's meeting, adding that the

PCMEA says: Exporters facing problems due to dollar factor

LAHORE (APP): Pakistan Carpet Manufacturers and Exporters Association (PCMEA) Senior Vice Chairman Usman Ashraf said on Sunday that exporters are facing many problems as despite the lucid slashing in dollar rate, the prices of imported raw materials did not decrease.

who visited the PCMEA office along with a delegation. Carpet Training Institute (CTI) Chairman Ejaz Rehman, senior central leader Abdul Latif Malik, Shahid Hasan Sheikh, senior member Riaz Ahmed, Saeed Khan, Major (Rtd) Akhtar Nazir, Faisal Saeed Khan and others were also present.

"Keeping this in view, we are promoting links with all institutions to solve problems." He expressed these views while talking to Chief Executive Officer/Chairman of Soneri Bank, Muhtashim Ahmed Ashai,

Usman Ashraf informed the delegation about the difficulties faced by the exporters in banking matters and said that sometimes new rules are implemented without giving timely information.



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



SARGODHA: A vendor selling dry fruit on his roadside setup.

Pakistan has vast potential for foreign

The SIFC was

in Southern Balochistan; National Oilseed Enhancement Program; National Peste Des Petits Ruminants (PPR) Eradication Programme; Phase I - Risk Based PPR Control In Sheep and Goats of Pakistan; National Program for Enhancing the Command Area in Barani Areas of Pakistan; National Program for Improvement of Watercourses in Pakistan - Phase II; Pilot Shrimp farming Cluster Development; Productivity Enhancement of Rice; Productivity Enhancement of Sugarcane; Productivity Enhancement of Wheat, Promoting Research for Productivity Enhancement in Pulses, Promotion of Olive

cultivation on commercial scale in Pakistan - Phase II; Promotion of Trout Farming in Northern Areas of Pakistan; Sino-Pak Agricultural Breeding Innovations Project for Rapid Yield Enhancement; Water Conservation in Barani Areas of KP; Locust Emergency and Food Security Project; Mainstreaming of MARC for the promotion of high value agriculture in Gilgit-Baltistan; Pakistan-Korea Joint Program on Certified Seed Potato Production System and Professional Capacity Building in Agriculture TVET National reforms program. Prime Minister's Initiatives for Green Revolution 2.0 worth Rs 5000 million.

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

Monitoring Desk
WASHINGTON: As the 3-week-old Israel-Hamas war enters what Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu says could be a “long and difficult” new stage, President Joe Biden is calling on Israeli and Arab leaders to think hard about their eventual postwar reality.

It’s one, he argues, where finally finding agreement on a long-sought two-state solution to the Israel-Palestinian conflict should be a priority. “There’s no going back to the status quo as it stood on Oct. 6,” Biden told reporters, referring to the day before Hamas militants attacked Israel and set off the latest war. The White House says Biden conveyed the same message directly to

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

Palestinian statehood is something that Biden rarely addressed in the early going of his adminis-

tration. During his visit to the West Bank last year, Biden said the “ground is not ripe” for new attempts to reach a permanent peace even as he reiterated to Palestinians the long-held U.S. support for statehood.

Now, at a moment of heightened concern that the Israel-Hamas war could spiral into a broader regional conflict, Biden has begun to emphasize that once the bombing and shooting stop, working toward a Palestinian state should no longer be ignored. Until recently, Biden had put far more emphasis on what his administration saw as the achievable ambition of normalizing relations between Israel and its Arab neighbors than on restarting peace talks.



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

Hundreds of thousands attend pro-Palestinian rallies in Europe

Monitoring Desk
LONDON: Hundreds of thousands of demonstrators rallied in cities across Europe, the Middle East and Asia on Saturday to show support for the Palestinians.

In London, which saw one of the biggest marches, aerial footage showed large crowds marching through the centre of the British capital to demand the government of Prime Minister Rishi Sunak call for a halt to hostilities.

“The superpowers at play are not doing enough at the moment. This is why we’re here: we’re calling for a ceasefire, calling for Palestinian rights, the right to exist, to live, human rights,

all our rights,” said protester Camille Revuelta. “This is not about Hamas. This is about protecting Palestinian lives,” she added.

Echoing Washington’s stance, Rishi Sunak’s government has stopped short of calling for a ceasefire, and instead advocated “humanitarian pauses” to allow aid to reach Gaza.

Britain has supported Israel’s right to defend itself after the Oct 7 Hamas raid in Israel.

There has been strong support and sympathy for Israel from Western governments and many citizens over the Hamas raids, but the Israeli response has also prompted anger, particu-

larly in Arab and other Muslim countries.

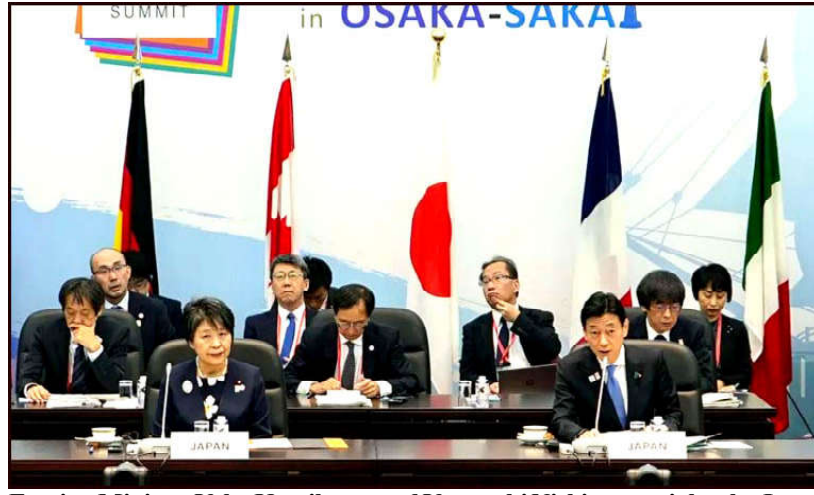
In Malaysia, a large crowd of demonstrators chanted slogans outside the US embassy in Kuala Lumpur.

A huge rally in the Turkish city of Istanbul also drew hundreds of thousands of people.

In the Israeli-occupied West Bank, Palestinian protesters took to the streets in Hebron, calling for a global boycott of Israeli products.

“Don’t contribute to the killing of the children of Palestine,” they chanted.

Elsewhere in Europe, people took to the streets of Copenhagen, Rome and Stockholm.



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

Macron vows to enshrine women’s rights to abortion in French Constitution in 2024

Monitoring Desk
PARIS: President Emmanuel Macron promised on Sunday to enshrine a woman’s right to an abortion in the French Constitution by next year.

The president said on X, formerly Twitter, that a bill making this possible would be presented to his Cabinet by the end of this year so that “in 2024, the freedom of women to have an abortion will be irreversible.”

Abortion in France was decriminalized under a 1975 law, but there is nothing in the constitution that would guarantee abortion rights.

It was the rollback of abortion rights in the United States after the U.S. Supreme Court overturned a 50-year-old ruling last year and stripped women’s

constitutional protections for abortion that propelled France on a path toward unconditionally guaranteeing such rights.

Macron, honoring feminist Gisele Halimi in March, said he wanted to change the constitution in order “to enshrine the freedom of women to have an abortion, to solemnly ensure that nothing can stop or undo what will be irreversible.” Amending the constitution is a laborious process, but the government came up with a shortcut to avoid a referendum on the question. By presenting its own bill, rather than one originating among lawmakers, Macron can convene a special “congress” of both houses that must adopt the amendment by a three-fifths majority.

Chinese party delegation visits Solomon Islands

Monitoring Desk
BEIJING: A Chinese communist party delegation has visited the Solomon Islands, calling the “flourishing” cooperation between China and the Pacific nation a show of how diplomatic ties were in their peoples’ interest, Chinese state media said on Sunday.

The delegation led by the deputy head of the international department under China’s Communist Party central committee, Guo Yezhou, met Solomon Islands’ Prime Minister Manasseh Sogavare during a visit spanning Friday to Sunday. The delegation also met the foreign minister and energy minister. China had signed a policing pact with the Solomon Islands in July, as both countries upgraded their ties to a “comprehensive strategic partnership” when Sogavare met Chinese Premier Li Qiang in Beijing. China’s visit to the southern Pacific archipelago comes a week before Australia’s Prime Minister Anthony Albanese is set to visit Beijing.

Catastrophe unfolding in Gaza, warns UN secretary general

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

The UN General Assembly adopted a resolution by 120 to 14 votes calling for an “immediate, durable and sustained humanitarian truce” in Gaza. But even this overwhelming

support for a pause in fighting had little impact on the situation in Gaza, where the Israeli military action seems to have entered a decisive phase.

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

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

Egypt FM accuses Israel of impeding aid into Gaza

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

Kazakhstan in mourning as death toll rises to 42 at mine

Monitoring Desk
KARAGANDA: Kazakhstan was in nationwide mourning on Sunday as death toll from a fire at a mine owned by ArcelorMittal in Kazakhstan rose to 42 people and search for four missing miners continued, the Ministry for Emergency Situations said.

“The search operation is hampered by the presence of destroyed mining equipment, as well as rubble in some places”, the ministry said in a statement.

Rescuers are searching for miners in two areas of the mine 4 kilometres (2.5 miles) apart, it said.

Earlier, the Ministry of Emergency Situations said at 10:00 am local time (0400 GMT), “the bodies of 36 miners were found and 10 workers were still being sought”.

The chances of finding them alive are, however, “very low,” the rescuers warned the night before, due to the lack of ventilation in the mine and the force of Saturday’s explosion, which spread over two kilometres.

Kazakhstan’s Presi-

dent Kassym-Jomart Tokayev travelled to the scene of the incident Saturday and ordered cooperation with ArcelorMittal be “brought to an end”.

Speaking to victims’ relatives at the Karaganda mine in the country’s centre, Tokayev called ArcelorMittal “the worst enterprise in Kazakhstan’s history in terms of cooperation with the government”. The Kazakh government and the steel giant announced a preliminary agreement to “transfer ownership of the (local) firm in favour of the Republic of Kazakhstan”, Prime Minister Alikhan Smailov stated.

“ArcelorMittal can confirm that the two parties have... signed a preliminary agreement for a transaction that will transfer ownership to the Republic of Kazakhstan,” the global steel giant stated, adding it was committed to “finalising this transaction as soon as possible.”

On Sunday, flags were at half-mast to mark the day of national mourning declared by Tokayev, an AFP correspondent saw.

India police probe bomb that killed one in Kerala, injured dozens

Monitoring Desk
NEW DELHI: Indian police are questioning a man who surrendered after at least one homemade bomb exploded at a convention centre in Kerala state on Sunday where a Christian group was holding a prayer meeting, killing a woman and wounding dozens of others. After initial questioning, the native of the city of Kochi, who surrendered in the southern state’s Thrissur district, will be interrogated in detail by a senior police official, Asianet News reported, citing sources. The situation was under control and the police and other agencies were investigating it. Ernakulam District Collector N S K Umesh told Reuters. “Investigation is taking its course, and we ensuring that everyone is getting the best medical treatment.”



DHAKA: Police personnel stand guard in front of Bangladesh Nationalist Party activists during a rally demanding the resignation of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

Anti-Hasina protest turns violent, leaves two dead

Monitoring Desk
DHAKA: Police fired tear gas and rubber bullets at huge crowds of Bangladesh opposition supporters on Saturday to break up a giant protest against the prime minister, with an officer and a protester killed in several hours of violent clashes in central Dhaka.

More than 100,000 supporters of two major Bangladesh opposition parties rallied to demand Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina step down to allow a free

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

Thousands urged to evacuate after bushfires in Australia

Monitoring Desk
SYDNEY: Authorities on Saturday urged thousands of people in Australia’s Queensland state to evacuate as bushfires that have destroyed at least 30 homes continued to threaten rural towns.

More than 35 bushfires were burning on Saturday in Queensland, with the town of Tara, about 890 kilometres north of state capital Brisbane, among areas most at risk, according to fire authorities.

Myanmar ex-information minister arrested: junta

Monitoring Desk
BANGKOK: Myanmar’s former information minister has been arrested and charged with encouraging dissent against the military, the junta said Sunday, the latest in a series of high-profile arrests.

In recent months the military, who have faced armed resistance since seizing power in a 2021 coup, have detained a number of trade and commerce officials as the civil conflict batters Myanmar’s already struggling economy.

Ye Htut was information minister and presidential spokesperson under the military government of Thein Sein, which ceded power to Aung San Suu Kyi following 2015’s landmark elections.

In a statement, the junta information team said the 64-year-old had been detained on Saturday evening in connection with “spreading wrong information on social media”.

“U Ye Htut was arrested last night and charged under section 505 (a),” a security source told AFP on condition of anonymity and without giving further detail.

Section 505 outlaws any action deemed to undermine the military. The law carries a maximum jail term of three years.

His arrest comes a week after pro-junta Telegram channels accused him of exposing the address of a retired military officer on social media.

Mexico city ravaged by hurricane Otis

Monitoring Desk
ACAPULCO: Looting ravaged the Mexican city of Acapulco after the iconic beach resort was hammered this week by Hurricane Otis, a record-breaking storm that killed at least 27 people and left thousands of residents struggling to get food and water.

Otis pounded Acapulco with winds of 165 miles per hour early on Wednesday, flooding the city, tearing roofs from homes, stores and hotels, submerging vehicles, and severing communications as well as road and air connections.

The cost of devastation left by the Category 5 storm was estimated at billions of dollars.

Ukrainian drones hit Nuclear waste facility, says Moscow

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

“We call on all governments to issue a strong condemnation of Kyiv’s barbaric actions, which are extremely dangerous and could lead to irreparable

consequences,” said foreign ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova.

Moscow said that it had thwarted Thursday’s drone attack and two news outlets said an explosion had damaged the facade of a warehouse storing nuclear waste. Saturday’s statement was the first official confirmation of the damage.

Zakharova said one explosive-packed drone had damaged the nuclear waste facility’s walls while another two had hit an administrative building complex. “According to preliminary data, the drones used in the attack on the nuclear power plant used components supplied by Western countries.”

Turkiye celebrates centenary under shadow of Gaza war

Monitoring Desk
ISTANBUL: Turkiye marks its centenary as a post-Ottoman republic on Sunday with somewhat muted celebrations held under the shadow of Israel’s escalating war with Hamas militants in Gaza.

President Recep Tayyip Erdogan will be front and centre of day-long events that both honour the secular republic’s founder and play up the achievement of the Islamic-rooted party running Turkiye since 2002.

Erdogan and World War I-era military commander Mustafa Kemal Ataturk have become the seminal figures of the modern Turkish state.

Ataturk is lionised across Turkish society for driving out invading forces and building a brand new

nation out of the fallen Ottoman Empire’s ruins in the wake of World War I.

Turkiye was formed as a Western-facing nation that stripped religion from its state institutions and tried to forge a modern identity out of its myriad ethnic groups.

It eventually became a proud member of the US-led NATO defence alliance and a beacon of democratic hopes in the Middle East.

But Ataturk’s social and geopolitical transformation of the overwhelmingly Muslim nation created divisions that weigh on Turkish politics to this day.

Erdogan tapped into these as he led his conservative Justice and Development Party (AKP) to power over the leftist Republican People’s Party (CHP) formed by Ataturk.

G7 calls for immediate repeal of bans on Japanese food, pressing China

Monitoring Desk
TOKYO: The Group of Seven (G7) industrial powers called on Sunday for the “immediate repeal” of import curbs on Japanese food products, a reference to China’s restrictions after Japan began releasing wastewater from the Fukushima nuclear power plant.

The G7 trade ministers, in a statement after a weekend meeting in Osaka, did not mention China but they also denounced what they consider its rising economic coercion through trade. “We deplore actions to weaponize economic dependencies and commit to build on free, fair, and mutually beneficial economic and trade relationships,” said the 10-page statement.

China slapped a blanket suspension of Japanese fish imports two months ago when Japan started the release of treated radioactive water from the wrecked Fukushima plant into the Pacific. While Japan and the US have called the curbs unfair, Russia announced a similar restriction earlier this month.

The G7 - the United

States, Japan, Germany, Britain, France, Italy and Canada - expressed “concern” over recent control measures on the export of critical minerals.

China, the world’s top graphite producer, this month announced export curbs on the key material, used in electric vehicle batteries, in another bid to control critical mineral supply in response to challenges over its global manufacturing dominance. The G7 ministers “shared the need, a genuinely strong one, to reduce dependence on a particular country” for the supply of critical resources, said Yasutoshi Nishimura, trade minister of the host Japan. “We completely agreed to build resilient and reliable supply chains” for critical minerals, semiconductor and batteries, he told a press conference. The ministers reaffirmed their concerns on “a wide and evolving range of non-market policies” that include “pervasive, opaque and trade-distortive industrial subsidies” and forced technology transfer, the statement said.

London police chief calls for clarity on handling extremism at protests

Monitoring Desk
LONDON: Britain’s most senior police officer said on Sunday he would support a review into the legal definition of extremism in response to criticism of the way his officers handled pro-Palestinian protests in London.

Antisemitic and Islamophobic incidents have surged in Britain since a deadly rampage by Hamas gunmen in Israel on Oct. 7, and Israel’s retaliatory attacks on Gaza since then, with massive pro-Palestinian demonstrations held in London and other major UK cities, and vigils by Jewish groups in solidarity with hostages who were taken by the militants.

Some British politicians have criticised London’s police after they failed to arrest people at a pro-Palestinian rally shouting “jihad”. The police later said the phrase could have a number of meanings, concluding no offence had taken place.

Mark Rowley, head of London’s Metropolitan Police force, said his officers would “ruth-

lessly” arrest anyone who commits a hate crime, but there could only be prosecutions when the law is broken.

“There is scope to be much sharper in how we deal with extremism within this country,” he told Sky News. “The law was never designed to deal with extremism, there’s a lot to do with terrorism and hate crime but we don’t have a body of law that deals with extremism and that is creating a gap.”

Ministers are reviewing the legal definition of extremism in a move designed to counter hate crimes, including antisemitism, according to one government official. This work began with the attacks in Israel, the official said.

The government is also examining potential changes to terrorism legislation. The Sunday Telegraph reported.

A spokeswoman for the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, which is responsible for examining the legal definition of extremism, declined to comment.



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

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

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

Caretaker has congratulated the President and people of Turkiye.

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

He said the relationship between Pakistan and Turkiye had been very old, even before the formation

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

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

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



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



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

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

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

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

addressing the Palestinian crisis.

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

In a heartbreaking turn of events, he said Al Jazeera Arabic's Gaza bureau chief lost his wife, son, daughter, and grandson in an Israeli airstrike on his home. He said the absence of for-

ign journalists in Gaza amplified the courage of Palestinian journalists, who were risking their lives to report on the situation in a region under Israeli siege.

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

PIA restores Skardu flights to rescue stranded tourists

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

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

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

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

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

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

Bilawal grieves over death of Prof. Shahida

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

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

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

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

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

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

Speaking to an international youth delegation at the Pakistan Mission, he said that the ongoing conflict in the Middle East highlighted the need for a push to settle old disputes. The delegation comprised youth delegates from various

countries who were in New York for a 4-day Global Peace Summit, which concluded on Saturday.

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

Freedom Network Pakistan fails to stop crimes against journalists despite legislation

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

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

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

against journalists.

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

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

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

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

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

The administration has not allowed entry of the rally participants to the Srinagar Highway, a high-

security zone. Later, the JI staged its protest at Aabpara Chowk.

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

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

He said that JI workers faced police baton charge and arrests before the protest. Haq announced to continue the series of pro-

tests against the Israeli barbaric moves against Palestinians across the country until an end to the war.

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

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

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

13 detained PTI workers released from Adiala Jail

RAWALPINDI (Online): 13 detained workers of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) were released from Adiala Jail.

According to jail sources, the workers were released from Adiala Jail on completion of their detention period. Last two days, 19 PTI workers were released from Adiala Jail. The district administration had issued detention orders for PTI workers.



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

Caretaker Health Minister visits Palestinian Embassy

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

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

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

The Palestinian Ambassador said that millions

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

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

SC to hear appeals against NAB amendment decision on Tuesday

ISLAMABAD (Online): Supreme Court of Pakistan will hear appeals against the decision of NAB (National Accountability Bureau) amendments on Tuesday, for which the Chief Justice of Pakistan had constituted a five-member larger bench.

A five-member larger bench headed by Chief Justice Qazi Faiz Isa will hear the case on October 31. Other members of the larger bench include Justice Aminuddin Khan, Justice Jamal Mandukhel, Justice Athar Minullah and Justice Hasan Azhar Rizvi.

It should be remembered that in front of a 3-member special bench headed by former Chief Justice of Pakistan Umar Atta Bandial, Imran Khan challenged the NAB amendments introduced by the former government led by the then Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif in 2022.

In September this year, the Supreme Court had declared a safe decision on the petition filed by

former Prime Minister and Chairman of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf Imran Khan against NAB amendments and invalidated several clauses.

In its decision, the Supreme Court had reinstated the corruption cases against public officials, while NAB was allowed to investigate corruption cases worth less than Rs 50 crore.

The decision has reauthorized the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) to crack down on politicians and influential figures involved in white-collar crimes of less than Rs 50 crore and about 1,800 closed cases will now be reopened.

Apparently, as a result of the Supreme Court's decision, the cases against former Prime Ministers Nawaz Sharif, Imran Khan, Shehbaz Sharif, Yusuf Raza Gilani, Raja Pervaiz Ashraf, Shahid Khaqan Abbasi and Shaukat Aziz will also be reopened, as well as former President Asif Ali Zardari.

Indian troops martyr 1 more Kashmiri youth in Kupwara

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

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

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

Lahore tops polluted cities' list

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

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

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



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

PML-Q calls for an end to Israeli oppression on Palestinians

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

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

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

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

Carrying banners and placards bearing slogans in

Nawaz likely to start political activities next week

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

According to the sources, Nawaz Sharif will first address the general meeting in Mansehra. Nawaz Sharif will start the activities after the relief from the high court and the fears of arrest are over, while the schedule of meetings with the leaders of other political parties is also being fixed.

Meetings with the leaders of Nawaz Sharif's recent allied parties will be prioritized. Chaudhry Nisar Ali Khan, Shahid Khaqan Abbasi are also likely to be met.

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



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