

# Independent

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## Govt. believes in freedom of media as an 'important state pillar': PM Kakar

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Friday said the government believed in the freedom of media and considered it an "important pillar of the state".

He expressed these views as Information Minister Murtaza Solangi called on him here at the PM House.

The meeting discussed the problems concerning the All Pakistan Newspaper Society (APNS), the Council of Pakistan Newspaper Editors (CPNE), and the media industry.

PM Kakar on the occasion directed for resolving the legitimate demands of the media industry and taking necessary steps in that regard. He said he would continue his interactions with journalists and media persons. The meeting was attended by Federal Information Secretary Zahoor Ahmed, Principal Information Officer Tariq Mahmood Khan, and Managing Director Associated Press of Pakistan (APP) Muhammad Asim Khichi.

Meanwhile Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Friday said

the recently signed accords between Pakistan and China would open up new opportunities of employment and economic development for the people of Gilgit-Baltistan.

The prime minister expressed these views as Chief Minister GB Gulbar Khan called on him here at the PM House.

The meeting discussed the memorandum of understanding signed during the prime minister's visit to China and other measures to further increase trade relations between GB and Xinjiang.



ISLAMABAD: The Caretaker Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Murtaza Solangi calls on the Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar.

## Senate passes resolution strongly reaffirming Pakistan's solidarity with Kashmiris

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Senate on Friday unanimously passed a resolution strongly reaffirming Pakistan's solidarity with the Kashmiri people in their just struggle for right to self-determination.

The resolution moved by Senator Kamil Ali Agha, reiterated Pakistan's moral, diplomatic and political support to the Kashmiri people. The resolution strongly condemned the Indian brutalities and killing of thousands of innocent Kashmiris in the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK).

It urged the International community for the expeditious formation of a Commission of Inquiry to investigate the gross human rights violation in IIOJK.

The House also rejected the conduct of fake elections in the held valley, adding it violates the UNSC resolutions which stipulated that the final disposition of the disputed territory would be made in accordance with the aspiration of Kashmiri people through the conduct of a free and impartial plebiscite under the UN.

The Senate also passed two more resolutions expressing profound grief and sorrow over the deaths of sitting Senator Rana Maqbool and former Senator S. M. Zafar.

The resolutions moved by Leader of House Ishaq Dar and Kamil Ali Agha paid tributes to the services and contributions of Rana Maqbool and S.M. Zafar saying that these will be remembered for a long time.

## Difference of opinion hallmark of democracy, says Solangi

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Minister for Information and Broadcasting Murtaza Solangi said on Friday that difference of opinion was a hallmark of democracy. Talking to media persons at the Parliament House after he met with the President Parliamentary Reporters Association Usman Khan and other journalists he said he belonged to the journalistic community.

"I have always been a supporter of freedom of expression and I am still fully committed to it", he added.

Stating that journalism and politics go hand in hand, he said he always had a respectful relationship with all the journalists.

## ECC approves Rs8 bln bridge financing for PIA

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

The financing will be provided through the Civil Aviation Authority's (CAA) resources to meet PIA's urgent overdue payment obligations.

The ECC allowed the Aviation Division to proceed with the bilateral arrangement between the CAA and PIA.

The Caretaker Federal Minister for Finance, Revenue, and Economic Affairs, Dr. Shamsud Akhtar presided over the meeting, according to news statement issued by the finance ministry.

The Aviation Division submitted a proposal for provision of financial support to PIA through the Civil Aviation Authority for certain emergent needs of the airline.

## AJK PM PM urges world to help resolve Kashmir issue in line with UN resolutions

MIRPUR [AJK] (APP): Azad Jammu Kashmir Prime Minister Chaudhry Anwar ul Haq on Friday urged the international community to play its due role in helping to resolve the lingering Kashmir issue peacefully in accordance with the UN Security Council resolutions.

In a statement issued on the eve of the black day observed on Friday against the Indian invasion of Kashmir on this day 76 years ago in 1947, Haq said that India has turned the held territory into a military cantonment where people have been deprived of their basic rights.

Termining October 27 as one of the darkest chapters of Kashmir history, Azad Jammu Kashmir Prime Minister Chaudhry Anwar ul Haq said that it was on this day in 1947 when India landed its troops at Srinagar Airport and occupied the state forcibly in violation of international law. He said that the move, which was rightly condemned as an act of aggression, had pushed the entire region into the throes of instability and perpetual violence.

## Illegal, Non-registered foreign persons to go home before dead line: Bugti

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Minister for Interior Sarfraz Ahmad Bugti on Friday said that non-registered and illegal foreign persons will have to leave Pakistan before dead line.

We will launch operation against the illegal foreigners including Afghan people after the dead line of Oct 31, he said while talking to a private television channel. In the second phase, he said crackdown will be made against the facilitators of illegal people in Pakistan.

Commenting on Afghan people doing business in this country, he said any body can do business in Pakistan with valid documents. The Caretaker government will facilitate all the foreign investors in Pa-

kistan, he added. About elections, he said, it is the duty of election commission of Pakistan to announce date for general elections. He said, we will provide security to ECP for holding next elections in a peaceful and transparent manner.

In reply to a question about facilities extended to Nawaz Sharif on arrival, he said that Caretaker government had provided maximum security to Ex Prime Minister to avoid any untoward incident on his arrival to hometown.

Pakistan has been facing terrorism for the last many years, he added that law enforcement agencies and Pakistan Armed Forces are making all out efforts to maintain peace in the country.



ISLAMABAD: Governor Sindh, Muhammad Kamran Khan Tessori, called on President Dr. Arif Alvi, at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

## Pakistan reaffirms support for Kashmiris' right to self-determination

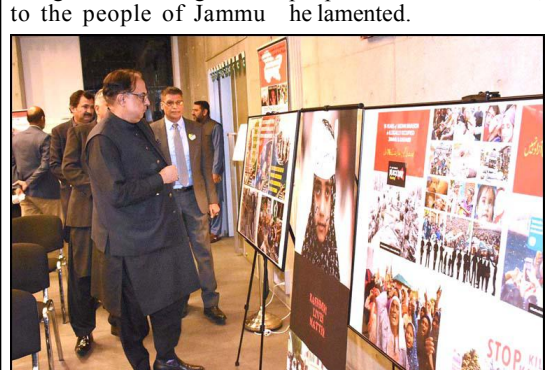
ISLAMABAD (INP): As the nation observes 'Kashmir Black Day' today, marking the 76 years of Indian armed forces' illegal occupation in Kashmir, President of Pakistan Dr Arif Alvi and Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar have assured the Kashmiri people of Pakistan's unwavering support for their legitimate struggle for the right to self-determination.

According to Kashmir Media Service, President Arif Alvi in his message said that October 27 1947 was one of the darkest days in the history of Jammu and Kashmir. "Over the last seventy-six years, India has not only reneged on its obligations to the people of Jammu

and Kashmir but has also disregarded multilateralism by backtracking on UNSC resolutions," he added.

He said the people of occupied Kashmir have endured endless oppression during this period, however, India has failed to weaken their resolve to realize their inalienable right to self-determination.

Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar in his message noted that over the last 76 years, India had employed various methods to perpetuate its illegal rule over Kashmir. However, since Aug 5, 2019, there has been an intensified campaign to 'Indianise' Kashmir and disempower the Kashmiri people in their own land, he lamented.



TOKYO: A photographic exhibition depicting continued atrocities being committed by Indian occupation forces was also organized at the Chancery.

## India, Israel resorting to identical tactics to change demographic composition of Kashmir & Palestine

ISLAMABAD (APP): Former Malaysian Prime Minister Dr Mahathir Muhammad on Friday, drawing parallels between Kashmir and Palestine issues, said India was resorting to the same tactics that had been employed by Israel to suppress the voice of people of occupied areas over the decades.

He said India was now attempting to radically change the demographic composition of the occupied Jammu & Kashmir by settling non-Muslim outsiders on the same pattern the Israel patronized the settlers to occupy the Palestinians' lands over the years. "India is attempting to change the demographic composition of the State of Jammu & Kashmir by settling non-Muslim outsiders in the Muslim majority areas in the same way the Israeli

settlers have forcefully evicted Palestinians from their homes in the land grab activities sanctioned by the Tel Aviv regime," Dr Mahathir, in his video message played at an event organized by the Pakistan High Commission in Malaysia to mark the Kashmir Black Day 2023.

He said India's revocation of Jammu & Kashmir's autonomy unilaterally four years ago saw the deployment of hundreds of thousands of soldiers into the illegally occupied territories of Jammu and Kashmir. "Along with that, atrocities were committed, while placing the whole population under siege," He said, "We have also heard reports of how India is attempting to change the demographic composition of Jammu and Kashmir."



ISLAMABAD: Activists of All Party Hurriyat Conference in Islamabad under the auspices of Azad Jammu and Kashmir and Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Cell protest demonstration outside the United Nations Military Observer Group on the occasion of October 27 Black Day.

## Kashmiris on both sides of LoC, world observed Black Day

ISLAMABAD: Kashmiris on both sides of the Line of Control and across the world observed Kashmir Black Day today to convey the world that India had occupied their state illegally on this day in 1947.

It was on October 27, 1947 when Indian troops in total violation of the spirit of the Partition Plan of the Subcontinent had militarily invaded Jammu and Kashmir and illegally occupied it against the will of the Kashmiri people.

Protest marches, rallies and seminars were held across the country including Azad Jammu and Kashmir and all over the world to condemn the invasion of Indian Army on October 27, 1947 as well as the revocation of special status of occupied Kashmir by the Modi-led fascist government on August 5, 2019.

INP adds: The government and the people of Pakistan and Kashmiri people on Friday observed the 76th anniversary of the In-

dian troops' landing in Jammu and Kashmir as a 'Black Day'.

According to Kashmir Media Service, the president, the prime minister and the foreign minister, in their special messages on the occasion, reiterated Pakistan's unflinching moral, diplomatic and political support to the Kashmir Cause. They also underscored the need to reverse India's illegal and unilateral actions of 5th August 2019, which have triggered a process aimed at changing the demographic structure and political landscape of the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK). The foreign minister, Jalil Abbas Jilani, addressed letters to the President UN General Assembly, the President UN Security Council, the UN Secretary General, the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights and the OIC Secretary General to apprise them of the latest situation in IIOJK.

## PM condoles death of China's ex-PM Li Keqiang

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Friday expressed deep sorrow and shock over the death of former Chinese Premier Li Keqiang.

"Our thoughts and sympathies are with Late Premier Li, his family and with the Chinese nation at this hour of grief," he posted on social media platform, X.

PM Kakar termed Li Keqiang "a great friend of Pakistan".

"We fondly remember his visit to Pakistan in 2013," he said.

China's former premier, Li Keqiang died of a sudden heart attack in Shanghai in the early hours on Friday morning, according to China's Xinhua news agency. He was 68.

## Top US diplomat discusses Mideast conflict with Jilani

WASHINGTON (APP): A senior American diplomat Thursday spoke with Pakistani caretaker foreign Minister Jalil Abbas Jilani to discuss "critical issues" in the US-Pakistan partnership, including the Israel-Palestine conflict, according to State Department spokesperson Matthew Miller. The Acting Deputy Secretary of State and Under Secretary for Political Affairs, Victoria Nuland, also discussed "our mutual interest in facilitating the safe and timely resettlement of eligible Afghans to the United States," Miller said in a statement.

"They also agreed on the importance of free and fair elections that are inclusive and held in a manner consistent with Pakistan's laws," the statement said. During a discussion on the raging Israel-Palestine conflict, the Acting Deputy Secretary highlighted the United States' call for the release of all hostages and the protection of civilians from harm, it said.



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Federal Health Minister Dr Nadeem Jan addressing to the media on the occasion of inauguration of MRI Machine in PIMS Hospital.

## Bail plea of Imran Khan rejected in cipher case

ISLAMABAD (Online): Islamabad High Court (IHC) has rejected bail plea of PTI chairman Imran Khan in cipher case.

Chief Justice (CJ) IHC Aamer Farooq had reserved judgment on bail plea of chairman PTI in Cipher case on October 16 which was announced on Friday.

During previous hearing, counsels of Imran Khan and special prosecutor of FIA had given arguments.

IHC had reserved judgment after hearing the arguments.

Special prosecutor had said the counsel for the petitioner has not interpreted or defined section 5 of Official Secret Act (OSA) correctly. Chairman PTI transmitted the information about cipher to people while he was not authorized to do so.

He said this is statement of former foreign secretary, Sohail

Mehmood, deputy director Imran Sajid and Haseeb bin Aziz under 161 that cipher reached assistant Noman.

He had said there is statement of Shamnoon Qaisar, cipher officer in Prime Minister (PM) house, Haseeb Gauhar DSP M office, Sajid Mehmood DSP PM house and Azam Khan under 161.

They had said Azam Khan appeared before investigation officer and recorded his statement before respective magistrate. He had gone some where else for some time for peace of mind.

Special prosecutor Raja Rizwan Abbasi said it is clear in the statement of witness this was secret classified document. There is no circulation of secret document. He said foreign secretary had said in his statement "I had mentioned secret documents". Record is available only in cipher department.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Secretary for Information and Broadcasting Mr. Zahoor Ahmed inaugurating Digital Photographic and Painting Exhibitions in connection with Kashmir Black Day organized by Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.

## ANF North Commander visits Central Police Office; meets ICCPO



Independent Report ISLAMABAD: According to the details, Anti Narcotics Force North Commander Brigadier Hassan Abbas visited the Central Police Office Islamabad and met with Islamabad Capital City Police Officer Dr Akbar Nasir Khan, a public relations officer said.

Akbar Nasir Khan and ANF North Commander discussed the establishment of a dedicated police team comprising of 30 officers from Islamabad Capital Police and the ANF. This specialized team will focus on creating awareness and implementing preventive measures in educational institutions against the use of narcotics.

## Repatriation of Afghans residing illegally in Pakistan continues

ISLAMABAD (INP): The voluntary repatriation of illegal foreign nationals to their countries is continuing and only four days are left for undocumented foreign nationals to leave the country. He government has asked all undocumented foreign nationals to leave Pakistan by 31st of this month, otherwise law enforcement agencies will take action as per the law of land.

Meanwhile, the voluntary repatriation of Afghans residing illegally in Pakistan is continuing on daily basis through Torkham and Chaman border crossings.



Daily Voice of Masses  
**Independent**

**Finding the 'missing'**

Over the last two decades — and counting — Pakistan has seen many of its citizens go 'missing', a euphemism for enforced disappearances believed to have been carried out by the state.

Individuals have been targeted across the country, hauled away with no recourse to due process. In many cases, there is no news of their whereabouts for months, even years.

Even though the highest court of the land has criticised this despicable practice, elements within the state have refused to abandon it. Those suspected of having separatist sympathies in Balochistan and Sindh, or seen as religiously inspired militants as well as political cadres and activists, have all been 'disappeared'.

The latest to be added to this list are leaders and supporters of the PTI, who have faced the state's wrath in the aftermath of the May 9 violence.

Many of these individuals, after being off the radar for weeks or months, have resurfaced to address press conferences or make TV appearances to denounce their erstwhile party in what can only be described as a tragicomic spectacle.

In this regard, lawyer Aitzaz Ahsan has filed a petition in the Supreme Court asking the latter to direct provincial governments to provide lists of missing persons, and identify those behind their disappearance.

It is hoped this effort succeeds where several past endeavours have failed, including the SC-mandated Commission of Inquiry on Enforced Disappearances.

It is crucial for the state to investigate such cases, especially as 'short-term disappearances' have picked up pace over the recent past. But it is also essential that aggrieved parties, for example the PTI, provide lists of missing supporters so that these can be tallied with official numbers and be probed. Moreover, the missing persons of Balochistan, KP and other peripheral areas should not be forgotten. The interim prime minister recently told a foreign media outlet that there were only 50 missing people in Balochistan according to UN figures. This is a classic example of denialism that nearly all ruling set-ups have indulged in, for, according to the missing persons' commission's own figures, the number of the missing from Balochistan is over 450. It is these attitudes that must change for enforced disappearances to end. As the petition has highlighted, some key questions need to be answered by the state: where have the missing been held? Under which law were they detained? Why were they not produced before the courts? It is hoped that the SC can instruct the authorities to provide satisfactory answers to these queries. Moreover, there is also merit in the petition's observation that the current commission on missing persons "does not adequately comply with legal and international standards".

"The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams." - Mustafa Kemal Atatürk.

Ankara, Turkey - October 29, 2023, marks a historic date in the annals of time, commemorating the centenary celebration of the Republic of Turkey since its monumental inception in 1923. Mustafa Kemal Atatürk, the visionary architect of modern Turkey, laid the cornerstone for a nation that not only shines as a beacon of hope and prosperity for its people but also resonates as an emblem of progress across the Muslim world. This momentous milestone underscores Turkey's incredible journey toward socio-economic development and its vital role in nurturing profound bonds with nations worldwide, most notably its deep-rooted connection with Pakistan.

Turkey has endured the tumultuous winds of history, facing five successful military coups since the birth of the Republic in 1923. However, the events that unfolded on that fateful Friday marked a daring attempt at the sixth coup, with soldiers marching against President Recep Tayyip Erdogan and his ruling Justice and Development Party, known as the A.K.P.

Nestled within the heart of this remarkable nation is a constitutional secular state, a unique blend of history and modernity. Turkey, with more than ninety-five percent of its population adhering to the Muslim faith, carries the legacy of once being the seat of a mighty Islamic empire. Throughout its storied history, the Turkish military has often stood as a stalwart guardian, shielding the cherished principles of secularism and the Constitution, diligently preserving the vision of its founding father, Mustafa Kemal Atatürk.

Turkey also shares a profound connection with the Indian subcontinent, which reviews the complexities of Muslim identity. As time flowed on, the dynamics of Muslim identity in India underwent significant transformations. Following the reign of Shah Alam II, a practice emerged that held deep symbolism - the recitation of the name of the Ottoman caliph during the Khutba, the Friday sermon. This seemingly subtle act signified a profound shift in perception, indicating that the mantle of safeguarding and defending the Muslim community in India had passed from the Mughal emperor to the Ottoman Caliph, the spiritual leader of the Ottoman Empire.

The passage of a century has borne witness to Turkey's remarkable metamorphosis into a regional powerhouse, replete with a robust economy and a rich cultural heritage. It stands as a dynamic and influential global player.

The transformation of Turkey's economic landscape across the past century is nothing short of extraordinary. Its commitment to diversification, innovation, and visionary leadership has catapulted it into the echelons of emerging economic giants. Straddling the continents of Europe and Asia, Turkey's strategic geographical position has amplified its global significance. Embarking on ambitious endeavors such as Vision 2023, Turkey is poised to continue its journey toward becoming one of the world's leading economies by its centennial anniversary. While the path ahead is laden with challenges, it also brims with opportunities for further progress, stability, and prosperity.

Over the course of the century, Turkey has borne witness to a remarkable economic transformation. This evolution has been marked by diversification, innovation, and technological advancement across various sectors. In recent years, Turkey has been ardently working towards establishing itself as a regional hub

across a spectrum of fields, encompassing finance, manufacturing, tourism, and agriculture, to name a few. Its geographical location at the crossroads of Europe and Asia has conferred upon it a unique advantage, facilitating international trade and beckoning foreign investments. Under the sagacious leadership of President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, Turkey has embarked on a series of comprehensive reforms aimed at fortifying economic growth and stability. Initiatives like the Vision 2023 plan, unveiled in 2011, have set audacious targets, envisaging Turkey as one of the world's top ten economies by its centennial anniversary. These reforms have fostered an environment conducive to foreign direct investment, nurturing both domestic and international trade.

This journey is nothing short of miraculous. Turkey's path to progress is emblematic of relentless pursuit - of growth, modernization, and diversification. It has transitioned from a primarily agrarian economy into a dynamic and multifaceted one.

Diversification stands at the heart of Turkey's economic prowess. The nation has been unwavering in its promotion of innovation and technological advancement across a spectrum of industries. This strategic approach has enabled Turkey to diversify its economic foundation, transcending traditional sectors and embracing novel opportunities.

In recent times, Turkey has been zealously endeavoring to establish itself as a regional hub, spanning various sectors from finance and manufacturing to tourism and agriculture. Its geographical juncture at the intersection of Europe and Asia has played a pivotal role in its regional ascent.

Turkey's unique geographical position bestows a strategic advantage, bridging two continents and serving as an ideal conduit for international trade. This

geographic centrality has enticed businesses and investors eager to leverage Turkey's role as a gateway to both Europe and Asia.

The visionary leadership of President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has been instrumental in steering Turkey's economic transformation. His administration has championed far-reaching reforms aimed at enhancing economic growth and stability. The commitment to creating an environment conducive to investment and innovation remains unwavering.

Among the most notable milestones in Turkey's recent economic history is the inception of the Vision 2023 plan in 2011. This ambitious plan laid out a series of goals and targets for Turkey to attain by its centennial anniversary. These targets spanned an array of economic facets, from GDP growth to foreign trade, infrastructure development to educational and healthcare reforms.

Central to Turkey's economic transformation is its prowess in attracting foreign direct investment. The Vision 2023 plan, coupled with other reform initiatives, has nurtured an environment that is alluring to international enterprises. This has precipitated a surge in foreign investments, fueling economic growth and job creation.

Moreover, Turkey's economic evolution is underscored by a substantial increase in both domestic and international trade. The nation's enhanced infrastructure, streamlined trade regulations, and strategic geographical position have rendered it an attractive destination for businesses seeking to expand their markets.

While Turkey's economic progress is indeed commendable, it has not been devoid of challenges. Economic stability and growth have, at times, been juxtaposed with the need to address issues such as inflation, fiscal deficits, and currency fluctuations. However, the nation's leadership

remains steadfast in their commitment to surmounting these challenges and pursuing opportunities for further growth.

Pakistan, a nation intertwined with Turkey through deep-rooted historical and cultural ties, has played an integral role in this journey of progress. The bilateral relationship between these two nations has burgeoned over the years, encapsulating various sectors, including trade, defense, education, and cultural exchange.

Pakistan and Turkey have joined hands in a plethora of initiatives, forging closer economic ties. The Pakistan-Turkey Free Trade Agreement, inked in 2013, has played a pivotal role in augmenting the volume of trade between the two nations, with a shared aspiration to reach \$5 billion by 2023. Furthermore, collaborative projects such as the Istanbul-Tehran-Islamabad (ITI) train service and the Pakistan-Turkey Cultural Year have fortified people-to-people interactions and deepened cultural understanding between the two nations.

Turkish businesses have made substantial investments in Pakistan, significantly contributing to its economic development. Turkish companies have played a pivotal role in diverse sectors, including construction, energy, telecommunications, and textiles, imparting valuable expertise and creating employment opportunities for the Pakistani workforce.

Furthermore, educational and cultural exchanges have cemented the bond between Turkey and Pakistan. Countless scholarships, exchange programs, and cultural festivals have offered opportunities for students and citizens from both nations to immerse themselves in each other's rich heritage, thus fostering enduring ties.

As Turkey commemorates its extraordinary century, we find ourselves compelled to applaud the nation's unwavering dedica-

tion to socio-economic advancement. In this remarkable journey, Turkey's partnership with Pakistan emerges as a shining exemplar, epitomizing the immense power latent within robust international bonds.

With an unshakable sense of purpose, Turkey boldly embarks on its next century, poised to achieve even greater feats. Turkey's epic journey of a century is a guiding light, not just for its people but for nations worldwide. It stands as an enduring testament to the extraordinary outcomes that arise from unwavering dedication to progress, socio-economic growth, and international cooperation. The luminous torch of inspiration ignited by Turkey's journey reaches far and wide, casting a hopeful glow on what can be achieved when vision, determination, and unity converge.

Today, Turkey stands as a vibrant tapestry of diversity and dynamism, a bridge between two continents, effortlessly weaving together a mosaic of cultures. With a thriving economy, a youthful population, and a strategically vital geopolitical position, Turkey emerges as a pivotal force on the global stage. Its role in regional politics, acting as a vital link between Europe and Asia, remains pivotal. Turkey continues to be a key influencer in international affairs, shaping the destinies of nations while cherishing its rich heritage.

The leadership of Turkey, rooted in an unshakable belief in the enchanting power of dreams, unwavering dedication to progress, and an unyielding commitment to modernity, stands as an enduring testament to the limitless potential residing within the hearts and souls of the Turkish people and the great nation they proudly call home.

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**Turkey at 100: Inspiring Progress in a Changing World**

Syed Ali Nawaz Gilani

**Commerce News**

**Govt taking multifaceted measures to accelerate ICT growth: Dr Umar**

KARACHI (APP): Caretaker Federal Minister for Information Technology and Telecommunication Dr Umar Saif distributed annual ICT Awards 2023 among IT professionals for groundbreaking achievements and visionary contributions in the technology sector.

HBL P@SHA ICT Awards 2023 featured 34 remarkable Gold Awards and 40 Merit Awards in different categories, including Artificial Intelligence, Internet of Things, Fintech, Business and Industry, etc. with a total of 727 nominees, showcasing the remarkable growth and advancements within the Pakistani tech industry.

The 21<sup>st</sup> version of ICT Awards 2023 was jointly organized by the Pakistan Software Houses Association (P@SHA) and HBL late Thursday night.

Addressing the ceremony Dr. Umar Saif said the government was taking multifaceted measures to accelerate the growth of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) in Pakistan.

He said that though the tenure of interim government was short, "we, in the available time, will lay the foundation of sustainable measures under the right line of action, which will provide the required benefits of ICT sector to the up-coming government".

The fast developing IT sector possessed an enormous growth potential and it could play a significant role in economic stability, he said, adding

that the government was doing its part to provide facilities and the industry should play its part by increasing its capabilities.

Pakistan with its significant youth bulge, resources, skills, grit and every ancillary factor had a vast potential to grow in the ICT sector, the minister noted, adding that the ICT sector with steps in right direction could leave every traditional industry behind.

It was evident from the fact that foreign investment in start-ups had crossed the \$800 million mark while a number of global companies were investing in Pakistan, he added.

Terming the establishment of Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) an imperative initiative, Dr Saif said the need of a high level powerful forum was being felt for a long time that could play a central role in framing a sustainable policy and its implementation, with carrying out necessary changes when required.

The SIFC, he said, had taken in two months important decisions which were awaited for years. It would surely fill the gap and realize the agenda of growth and revival of national economy, he added.

The minister said the State Bank had also taken steps to facilitate the IT exporters and freelancers which included ease of opening accounts and increase in permissible retention limit of IT export proceeds from 35 percent to 50 percent in the Exporters' Specialized Foreign Currency Accounts.

He urged the IT companies, professionals and freelancers to take benefit of the incentives and contribute to the country's foreign exchange reserves.



ISLAMABAD: Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, President Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry along with Bangladesh Deputy High Commissioner to Pakistan Ruhul Alam Siddique inaugurating Germs and Mineral exhibition at Centaurus Mall.

**Governor SBP stresses RMB use for Pak-China trade and investment**

ISLAMABAD (APP): Governor State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) Jameel Ahmad on Friday highlighted the strong and long-lasting economic and financial ties between Pakistan and China, and said using Renminbi (RMB) for settling cross-border trade and investment transactions with China can further strengthen these ties.

He said while addressing a ceremony on "Promoting the use of

RMB in Cross-Border Settlement", organized by ICBC Bank here to mark the bank's designation as the RMB clearing agent in Pakistan by the People's Bank of China (PBOC), said a news release here.

Governor SBP elaborated that given the importance of Pakistan's economic ties with China, the SBP has put in place the required regulatory framework that facilitates use of RMB in trade and investment transactions, such as opening of L/Cs and availing financing facilities in RMB.

In terms of regulations in Pakistan, RMB is at par with other international currencies, such as the US Dollar, Euro and Japanese Yen, he asserted.

Both public and private sector enterprises in Pakistan are free to choose RMB for bilateral trade and investment activities.

**Pakistan should focus on Africa for business promotion: Envoy**

ISLAMABAD (APP): Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) hosted a farewell reception in honor of Muhammad Bello Abioye, High Commissioner of Nigeria to Pakistan at his residence here Friday.

Ambassadors of different countries including Morocco, Ethiopia, Algeria, Somalia, Mauritius and Director General Foreign Affairs Shahid Ali Bhutto, Asif Luqman Qazi and many other dignitaries and notables of the city were also present.

Speaking on the occasion Commissioner of Nigeria Muhammad Bello Abioye High said that Africa was being termed as the continent of future by the trade experts and Pakistan should focus on it to promote its trade by developing close cooperation with Nigeria.

He said that direct flights between Nigeria and Pakistan had the potential to make significant increases in bilateral trade.

**Kitchen items' prices eases by 0.33 percent**

ISLAMABAD (APP): The weekly inflation, measured by the Sensitive Price Indicator (SPI), witnessed decrease of 0.33 percent for the combined consumption group during the week ended on October 26, the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) reported on Friday.

The SPI for the week under review in the above-mentioned group was recorded at 277.11 points

**PSX witnesses bearish trend, losing 241 points**

ISLAMABAD (APP): The 100-index of Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) witnessed bearish trend on Friday, losing 241.44 points, a negative change of 0.47 percent, closing at 50,943.84 points against 51,185.28 points the previous day. A total of 350,834,736 shares valuing Rs10,607 billion were traded during the day as compared to 364,039,493 shares valuing Rs.10,928 billion the previous day.

**SECP initiates consultation on voluntary ESG**

ISLAMABAD (Online): The Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) has issued draft guidelines on ESG disclosures for consultation as part of its Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) Regulatory Roadmap issued in June 2022.

The guidelines have been prepared to encourage listed companies to enhance their ESG disclosures in a fair and

transparent manner on voluntary basis. Since the guidelines are non-mandatory in nature, non-listed companies may also seek guidance from the draft guidelines for embarking on their journey towards adoption of ESG standards. The draft guidelines cover a wide range of topics under the E, S and G pillars including the recommended metrics related to climate change.

**HEADQUARTERS FRONTIER CORPS BALOCHISTAN (NORTH) TENDER NOTICE FOR PROCUREMENT OF STATIONERY STORES FINANCIAL YEAR 2023-24**

- Headquarters Frontier Corps Balochistan (North) invites Sealed Bids from the Firms, Original Manufacturers as well as Contractors registered with Income Tax and Sales Tax Departments and who are on Active Taxpayers List of Federal Board of Revenue Pakistan for supply of stationery store.
- Bidding documents, containing detailed terms and conditions, etc. are available at Establishment Branch, Headquarters Frontier Corps Balochistan (North) Quetta. Technical Specifications for each item required, will be provided with the Bidding Documents.
- Sealed bids, prepared in accordance with the instructions in the Bidding Documents, must reach at Establishment Branch Headquarters Frontier Corps Balochistan (North) Quetta by 16 November 2023 before 11:00 AM and bids will be opened at 12:00 PM on same day.
- Tender Sample for each item along with its specifications must also be submitted with the Bid.
- Rate should be quoted F.O.R. Headquarters Frontier Corps Balochistan (North) Quetta.
- Bids must accompany Call Deposit or Bank Draft or Pay Order in the Name of Inspector General Frontier Corps Balochistan (North) as Earnest Money as per following rates, otherwise bids will be rejected:-
 

a. Firms, Original Manufacturers and Contractors registered with Headquarters Frontier Corps Balochistan	5% of total value of the bid / tender
b. Un-registered Firms, Original Manufacturers and Contractors	8% of total value of the bid / tender
- Bids for each item offered, will remain valid for acceptance upto 30 June 2024 from the date of opening of bids.
- Cutting / erasing / over writing and misprints etc. of entries / rates shown in the bids will not be considered.
- Inspector General Frontier Corps Balochistan (North) is empowered to accept / reject one or all of the bids as per PPRA Rules-2004. Conditional bids will not be accepted.
- All bidders will be permitted to see Frontier Corps Balochistan Samples for each item during all working days except Saturday and Sunday from 09:00 AM to 16:00 PM. This permission will be restricted till a day before Tender Opening.
- This advertisement is also available on PPRA website at [www.ppra.org.pk](http://www.ppra.org.pk) as well as Headquarters Frontier Corps Balochistan (North) website [www.fcbalochistan.gov.pk](http://www.fcbalochistan.gov.pk).
- For further inquiry please contact undersigned during working hours on Phone number 081-9201542, Extension 250 Quetta.

Lieutenant Colonel For Inspector General Frontier Corps (Najam Shabbir Rana) PID(Q)139/23



## Punjab, Sindh CMs inspect work on Rawalpindi Ring Road project

RAWALPINDI (APP): Caretaker Punjab Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi along with Caretaker Sindh Chief Minister Maqbool Baqar on Friday visited the Rawalpindi Ring Road Project to review progress of the construction work. Chief Minister Naqvi appreciated the Commissioner Rawalpindi and Frontier Works Organization over their performance. The work on the project should be completed swiftly, he said and directed the authorities to provide necessary project drawings

to NESPAK as soon as possible. The Sindh CM appreciated the ongoing projects in Punjab, especially the construction work of Rawalpindi Ring Road. He said the problems being faced by the commuters in Karachi could be resolved through the Lyari Expressway and Karachi Circular Railway projects. Mohsin Naqvi offered full support of the Punjab government to his Sindh counterpart in the execution of different projects in the province. CM Naqvi drove the vehicle himself and

inspected the project site with the Sindh chief minister. They also reviewed the progress of the project at Union Council Trahia. In order to speed up the work on the Ring Road, CM Naqvi directed the authorities to use additional road leveling machinery at the project site. He said the Rawalpindi Ring Road was an important project of public interest and all-out efforts should be made to complete it before the stipulated time frame. He directed the authorities to ensure

construction work on the project in three shifts so that the targets could be achieved as soon as possible. The completion of Ring Road would permanently resolve the traffic congestion problem in Rawalpindi and Islamabad, Mohsin Naqvi added. Both the chief ministers also had an aerial view of the ongoing work on the entire road. The FWO officials, during a briefing, informed the CM that six-lane Rawalpindi Ring Road would be 38.3 kilometers long.



LAHORE: Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman leading a rally on eve of Kashmir Black Day organized by Information and Culture Department.



PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor Haji Ghulam Ali and Caretaker Chief Minister Muhammad Azam Khan talking with mediators on eve of Kashmir Black Day in front of Governor House.

## KP Governor, CM led central protest rally condemning India's illegal annexation of IIOJK

PESHAWAR (APP): The central protest rally led by KP Governor Haji Ghulam Ali and caretaker Chief Minister, Muhammad Azam Khan here on Friday strongly condemned an illegal annexation of Indian illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) by India on October 27, 1947. The rally attended by people from all walks of life, was started from the Chief Minister Secretariat and culminated at Governor House Peshawar. Besides others, the rally was also attended by

the caretaker ministers, advisers, officials, civil society and students in large number. The participants holding placards and banners condemned state terrorism, human rights abuses and repression at IIOJK and expressed solidarity with the oppressed Kashmiris of the held valley. The rally also condemned the illegal revoking of the special status of IIOJK by the fascist Modi regime on August 5, 2019 and human

rights violations at the occupied territory. The rally urged the United Nations Security Council to implement its resolutions on Kashmir and press the Modi government to give the right of self-determination to Kashmiris as promised to them by UNO. The road to peace in South Asia was passing through Kashmir and resolution of this long lingering issue was must for lasting peace in the held valley. Later, the rally was dispersed peacefully.

## World peace hinges on Kashmir and Palestine resolution: Feroze Shah

**Independent Report**  
PESHAWAR: To express unwavering support and solidarity with people of Occupied Kashmir, the Chief Minister of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, the Governor of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, and members of the caretaker cabinet came together to lead a solidarity rally in Peshawar on October 27. Imtiaz Iqbal Wani, the Secretary of All Parties Huriyat Conference, also attended the rally. Following the rally, Wani convened a special meeting with Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Information Minister, Barrister Feroze Jamal Shah Kakakhel, to extend heartfelt appreciation to the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government and its people for their resolute support of the oppressed Kashmiri population.

## 13 dead, 1,320 injured in Punjab road accidents

**Independent Report**  
LAHORE: At least 13 people were killed and 1,320 others injured in 1,228 road accidents in Punjab during the last 24 hours. As many as 669 people with serious injuries were shifted to different hospitals, while 651 with minor injuries were treated at the incident site by the rescue medical teams. The data analysis showed that 629 drivers, 41 underage drivers, 162 pedestrians, and 542 passengers were among the victims of road crashes. The statistics show that 277 accidents were reported in Lahore, which affected 301 people, placing the provincial capital at top of the list, followed by 95 in Faisalabad with 103 victims and at third Multan with 81 accidents and 75 victims. According to the data, 1,043 motorbikes, 85 auto-rickshaws, 138 motorcars, 33 vans, 13 passenger buses, 21 trucks and 111 other types of vehicles and slow-moving carts were involved in these road accidents.

## Governor urges world community to check atrocities against Kashmiris

LAHORE (APP): Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman has said the international community should play its role in checking Indian army's atrocities against innocent Kashmiris. Addressing a ceremony in connection with the Kashmir Black Day at Alhama hall here on Friday, he said durable peace could not be established in the Subcontinent without resolving the Kashmir issue, urging the

international community to pay attention to just solution to Kashmir and Palestine issues so that the future of the world could be secured. The Kashmir Black Day is marked to condemn illegal occupation of Kashmir by the Indian occupying forces on October 27, 1947 and the ceremony was held under the auspices of the Punjab Information and Culture Department. Balighur Rahman also inaugurated a photo exhibition at Alhama Art Gallery and led a rally to

mark the black day. He said today people of Pakistan and Kashmiri people living in the world are observing Kashmir Black Day against India's invasion and occupation of Jammu & Kashmir on October 27, 1947. He said the purpose of observing the day was to draw the attention of the international community to the Indian occupation and oppression of Kashmiris so that the oppressed Kashmiris get their right to self-determination.

## Arshad pledges support for legal community

**Independent Report**  
PESHAWAR: Justice, retired Syed Arshad Hussain Shah, the caretaker minister for Law and Human Rights in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, has reaffirmed the government's commitment to addressing the concerns of the legal community as a top priority. He encouraged unity within the Bar Association and emphasized the importance

of resolving any misunderstandings between the legal bar and the judiciary. Justice Shah stressed the need to prioritize respect for both the bar and the bench, acknowledging the pivotal role that lawyers play in upholding the rule of law and delivering justice. These statements were made during the oath-taking ceremony for the newly elected cabinet of the District Bar Association.

## International News

## After finding south no safer, Gazans head back north

**Monitoring Desk**  
KHAN YUNIS: When Israel warned civilians to leave northern Gaza, Rahma Saqallah and her family fled south. But after Israeli bombs killed her husband and three of her children, she decided to head back home. "Wherever we go, we will die," Saqallah said, as she prepared to leave the city of Khan Yunis, in the south of the territory to return to Gaza City with her surviving child. She is among roughly 600,000 Palestinians who went south in response to Israel's warning to evacuate "for your own safety". But repeated deadly strikes on the south of the territory in recent days have prompted 30,000 of the displaced to head back home, according to UN figures. Many were in any case struggling to find shelter in Khan Yunis, an al-

ready densely populated city which has been swamped by the influx of families fleeing the north. **Israel expects 'long' ground war in Gaza to destroy Hamas and its many tunnels**  
**Monitoring Desk**  
DEIR AL-BALAH: Israel expects to launch a long and difficult ground offensive into Gaza soon to destroy Hamas, the country's defense minister said Friday, describing a campaign that will require dismantling a vast network of tunnels used by the territory's militant rulers. Defense Minister Yoav Gallant spoke to a small group of foreign reporters in Tel Aviv after Israeli forces backed by fighter jets and drones carried out a second, limited ground raid into Gaza in as many days, striking the outskirts of Gaza City. Gallant said the ground invasion that follows weeks of airstrikes "will take a long time," and that it would lead to another lengthy phase of lower-intensity fighting, as Israel destroys "pockets of resistance." In a sign of rising tensions in the region, U.S. warplanes struck targets in eastern Syria that the Pentagon said were linked to Iran's Revolutionary Guard after a string of attacks on American forces, and two mysterious objects hit towns in Egypt's Sinai Peninsula.



People rescue a survivor from the rubble of a building destroyed during Israeli bombardment in Khan Yunis.

## EU summit turns its eyes away from Ukraine despite a commitment to stay the course with Zelenskyy

**Monitoring Desk**  
BRUSSELS: It was a good thing Ukrainian Prime Minister Volodymyr Zelenskyy had his videoconference address to the European Union summit pre-slotted for the opening session. Immediately afterward, EU leaders switched off and went to the order of the day — the Israel-Hamas war. They didn't come back to the issue of Russia's war in Ukraine again before Friday's closing day of the summit. After dominating summit after summit since Moscow launched a full-

scale invasion of Ukraine on Feb. 24, 2022, the timing alone, anecdotal as it was, underscored a deeper reality: Zelenskyy will be facing tougher times to get all the attention and political, economic and military aid that Ukraine wants. Not only in Europe too, since the new U.S. House Speaker Mike Johnson has shown little interest in providing additional money from Congress to support Ukraine and also said that now is the moment "we must stand with our important ally in the Middle East and that's Israel."

And it's not only geopolitics creeping up on Ukraine. EU politics too are no longer as kind to Zelenskyy. "Ukraine is one of the most corrupt countries in the world," new Slovak Prime Minister Robert Fico said when he assessed the summit on his Facebook page on Friday. After the summit, he added: "we are ready to help, but not militarily, because I do not believe in a military solution of this conflict in Ukraine." But military victory ahead of peace is the most precious thing to Zelenskyy.

## Blinken, Wang meet as US-China gear up towards expected leaders summit

**Monitoring Desk**  
WASHINGTON: U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken and China's top diplomat Wang Yi reconvened for a second day of meetings on Friday as the two rival powers discuss how to manage differences while laying groundwork for an expected summit between President Joe Biden and his counterpart Xi Jinping. Wang arrived at the State Department late on Thursday and held a meeting with Blinken followed by a dinner. The two diplomats engaged again on Friday morning, sitting across from each other at a wide table with their senior aides before journalists were ushered out of the closed-door meeting. Wang is set to head to the White House and meet with U.S. National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan later on Friday. He is also expected to speak with Biden, although it is unclear how substantial their interaction will be. Wang's three-day visit is the latest in a flurry of diplomatic engagements between China and the U.S., and the trip primarily is to prepare for an expected Xi-Biden summit in November on the sidelines of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation leaders meeting in San Francisco.

erred out of the closed-door meeting. Wang is set to head to the White House and meet with U.S. National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan later on Friday. He is also expected to speak with Biden, although it is unclear how substantial their interaction will be. Wang's three-day visit is the latest in a flurry of diplomatic engagements between China and the U.S., and the trip primarily is to prepare for an expected Xi-Biden summit in November on the sidelines of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation leaders meeting in San Francisco.



U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken meets with Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi at the State Department in Washington, U.S.

## US military says Chinese fighter jet came within 10 feet of B-52 bomber over South China Sea

**Monitoring Desk**  
BANGKOK: A Chinese fighter jet came within 10 feet of an American B-52 bomber flying over the South China Sea, nearly causing an accident, the U.S. military said, underscoring the potential for a mishap as both countries vie for influence in the region. In the night intercept, the Shenyang J-11 twin-engine fighter closed on the U.S. Air Force plane at an "uncontrolled excessive speed, flying below, in front of, and within 10 feet of the B-52, putting both aircraft in danger of a collision," the U.S. Indo-Pacific Command said in a statement released late Thursday. "We are concerned this pilot was unaware of how

close he came to causing a collision," the military said. China's Foreign Ministry put the blame on the U.S., suggesting the American aircraft was flying over the South China Sea as a deliberate provocation. "The U.S. military planes traveled thousands of miles to China's doorstep to flex muscle," said Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Mao Ning. "That is the source of maritime and air security risks, and is not conducive to regional peace and stability." The U.S. military said in its statement that the aircraft was "lawfully conducting routine operations" ahead of the intercept Tuesday.

## Palestinians plead 'stop the bombs' at UN meeting but Israel insists Hamas must be 'obliterated'

**Monitoring Desk**  
UNITED NATIONS: "Stop the bombs and save lives!" the Palestinian ambassador pleaded at an emotional U.N. meeting Thursday on the war in Gaza. But Israel's envoy was adamant, declaring again, "We will not rest until Hamas is obliterated." The war sparked by Gaza's Hamas rulers' surprise attacks on Israel on Oct. 7 played out in the vast hall of the 193-nation General Assembly, where Arab nations expected to adopt a resolution Friday calling for an immediate cease-fire in Gaza after the Security Council's four failed attempts to agree on any action. At the assembly's resumed emergency special session on Israeli actions in the Palestinian territories Thursday, speaker after

speaker backed the Arab resolution's cease-fire call — except for Israel's U.N. Ambassador Gilad Erdan, who told the 193-member world body, "A cease-fire means giving Hamas time to rearm itself, so they can massacre us again." After quoting several Hamas statements vowing to destroy Israel and the Jews, he said, "Any call for a cease-fire is not an attempt at peace. It is an attempt to tie Israel's hands, preventing us from eliminating a huge threat to our citizens." On another key issue — the more than 220 hostages taken from Israel — Iran's foreign minister said Hamas is ready to release civilian prisoners, and he said the international community must take responsibility for releasing 6,000 Palestinian prisoners held in Israel.

## 27 killed after hurricane lashes Mexico

**Monitoring Desk**  
ACAPULCO: Hurricane Otis killed at least 27 people as it lashed Mexico's beach resort city of Acapulco as a scale-topping category 5 storm, officials said on Thursday, in what residents called a "total disaster." The storm crashed into Acapulco with furious winds of 165 miles (270 kilometres) per hour, largely cutting off communications and road links with the region. President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador arrived at the scene late on Wednesday, after his convoy found roads blocked by landslides and other debris, forcing top officials to abandon their vehicles and walk the final miles. The closures meant some residents slogged for hours through mud and debris in an attempt to find food and shelter.

## EU leaders urge pauses in Gaza bombing to get aid in

**Monitoring Desk**  
BRUSSELS: EU leaders called on Thursday for pauses in Israeli bombing and Hamas rocket attacks to get humanitarian aid into Gaza after days of wrangling that highlighted divisions within the bloc over the broader Israel-Palestinian conflict. In a declaration agreed at a summit in Brussels, the leaders of the Union's 27 nations expressed the "gravest concern for the deteriorating humanitarian situation in Gaza". They called for "continued, rapid, safe and unhindered humanitarian access and aid to reach those in need through all necessary measures including humanitarian corridors and pauses for humanitarian needs". The summit was the leaders' first in-person meeting since the deadly Oct. 7 assault on Israel by Palestinian militant group Hamas, which prompted Israel to bombard and blockade Hamas-run Gaza.

## China nudges Mongolia to join Eurasian security bloc

**Monitoring Desk**  
BEIJING: Chinese Premier Li Qiang said China will boost its cooperation with Mongolia under a Eurasian security bloc, which this year admitted its ninth member Iran, gently nudging its smaller neighbour to join a regional group that also includes Russia. Mongolia has refrained from joining the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) for almost two decades, choosing to be an observer state since 2004 even as other nations.



## President directs varsity to accommodate student who missed degree course due to COVID-19

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Dr Arif Alvi on Friday asked Air University to reconsider the case of granting one additional year to its student for completing her degree which as she was unable to complete the remaining courses due to suffering from COVID-19. He expressed displeasure that the university did not timely process her case, despite the fact that Higher Education Commission (HEC)'s Policy and University Regulations provided for remedies to resolve such issues by granting extension.

He said that there was no reason for the university to deviate from the HEC's policy and recommendations, stating that instead of rectifying its maladministration, the university submitted a representation before the President without realizing its implications in respect of public exchequer and wastage of study time of its student.

He advised the Air

University to not let the student's devotion, hard work, and money go waste and take measures to help and guide students, especially in the case of women.

The president gave these directions while deciding upon a representation filed by Air University against the order of the Wafaqi Mohtasib directing it to place Ms Iqra Munir's case before the University Functional Committee (UFC) and reconsider it for allowing her one more year to complete her BS degree. As per details, Iqra Munir (the complainant) had filed a complaint before the Wafaqi Mohtasib alleging that she was a student of Bachelor of Science (Hons) in Psychology Programme in one of the colleges affiliated with the Air University. According to her, due to Covid pandemic, she could not complete her degree in 2020. She approached the university to allow her for

completion of her degree but she was advised to contact HEC for grant of an additional year to complete her studies.

Later, HEC advised that the competent authority of the University to reconsider her case for extension keeping in view her medical history and the provisions already available in HEC Policy and University Regulations.

However, after a lapse of one year she was not given the extension. Feeling aggrieved, she approached the Wafaqi Mohtasib, who passed the order in her favour.

The university then filed a representation before the President against the order of the Mohtasib.

The president rejected the representation and observed that the university did not follow the recommendations of the HEC and did not put the case before the UFC, who was competent to make a decision in this regard.



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Federal Minister for Information & Broadcasting, Murtaza Solangi leading a walk in connection with Kashmir Black Day at Constitution Avenue.

## Qayyum urges British govt to play role in resolving Palestine, Kashmir issues

ISLAMABAD (APP): Senator General (ret'd) Abdul Qayyum on Friday urged the British Government to play its role in achieving an everlasting solution of Palestinian and Kashmir disputes and to immediately stop the blatant violations of international law and Geneva conventions which guaranteed human rights and strictly forbid attacks on population centres and hospitals.

"If serious issues like East Timor and Southern Sudan can be resolved by peaceful means, why the oldest disputes like Palestine and Kashmir are being

deliberately ignored," he questioned.

During his breakfast meeting with former British National Security Advisor (NSA) and ex-Britain's permanent representative in UN Sir Mark Lyall Grant in London, the senator further questioned "Will merciless slaughter of human beings, blasting of multi-storey buildings and even physical occupation of entire Gaza strip solve Palestinian issue?" The answer is surely in negative until Israel vacates illegally occupied Palestinian land and recognises their right to live an honourable life in an

independent sovereign state established as per UN charter and resolutions, he added. Sir Mark Lyall Grant, in response showed his concern over the highly volatile situation prevailing in the Middle East which he said could explode and go beyond control if concerned groups do not show diplomatic prudence.

Mark Lyall Grant and Senator Abdul Qayyum agreed to continue their endeavours to further strengthen UK-Pakistan bilateral politico economic and defence ties and for achieving international peace.

## Japanese government honors former Pakistani diplomat

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Government of Japan has conferred the 2023 Spring Imperial Decorations, "The Order of the Rising Sun, Gold and Silver Star" on Imtiaz Ahmad, former Ambassador of Pakistan to Japan.

This distinguished honor was bestowed upon him in recognition of his significant contribution towards strengthening friendship, cultural and economic relations and mutual understanding between Japan and Pakistan said a news release of the embassy.

The Order of the Rising Sun is awarded by the Emperor of Japan to Japanese and foreign individuals in recognition of their long-time contributions.

On behalf of the Gov-



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Japan to Pakistan WADA Mitsuhiro conferred the Imperial decoration "The Order of the Rising Sun, Gold and Silver Star" on Imtiaz Ahmad, former Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan to Japan on behalf of the Government of Japan following the recognition of his significant contribution towards strengthening the friendship, cultural and economic relations and mutual understanding between Japan and Pakistan, during a Conferment ceremony at the residence of the Japan Ambassador in Federal Capital.

## Ashrafi urges global action to address Kashmir, Palestine human rights violations

ISLAMABAD (APP): Special Representative to the Prime Minister on Religious Harmony and Pakistani Diaspora in the Middle East and Islamic Countries, Hafiz Muhammad Tahir Mehmood Ashrafi on Friday emphasized that the severe human rights violations in Kashmir and Palestine posed a significant threat to world peace.

Addressing Arab media on the occasion of Kashmir Solidarity Day, he called on world powers and the United Nations to intervene and prevent India and Israel from perpetrating acts that threaten humanity.

He warned that neglecting these enduring global issues could lead the world towards anarchy.

Ashrafi who is also the Chairman of Pakistan Ulema Council highlighted the determination of the third generation of Kashmiris who continued to fight for their freedom.

Despite Indian oppression, tyranny, and the unlawful alteration of the Muslim population's demographic makeup in the occupied valley, the spirit of independence remained strong among Kashmiris.

"They look to the United Nations and the world's major powers for justice and support," he added.

## AIOU marks Black Day to show solidarity with Kashmiri people

ISLAMABAD (APP): Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU) observed Black Day against the humanitarian atrocities and human rights abuses in Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) by arranging a seminar with the presence of faculty members, officers, employees and students.

Director General Regional Services, Dr Malik Tauqir Ahmed Khan presided over the seminar, while the Chairperson of the Department of History, Dr. Kishwar Sultana hosted the event.

Dr. Malik Tauqir stated that Pakistan has always stood by the Kashmiri people and will continue to support them, as Muhammad Ali Jinnah said, "Kashmir is the aorta of Pakistan". It is our duty to protect Kashmir.

Dr. Ashraf Wani, as a guest speaker, conveyed the voice of the Kashmiris and stated that seminars, conferences, and observance of Black Day boost the morale of Kashmiris.

They want the Muslim Ummah to practically stand with them and Palestine during these difficult times just as the whole West stands with Israel against Palestine.

## CDA plans to develop Festival Square in F-9 Park

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Capital Development Authority (CDA) has planned to develop Festival Square in F-9 Park which would not only provide food outlets but also folk musicians to the residents of the federal capital.

"The authority has asked the interested well-established food brands and firms to submit their applications to become a part of this Festival Square till November 01 on the official @CDAttheCapital," an official in the CDA told APP here on Friday.

He said that the Festival Square will feature food trucks, street performers, folk musicians and handicraft stalls.

The CDA has asked that only well-established brands with at least experience of five years would be preferred.

The official informed that the authority has allocated a quota for establishing stalls in the Festival Square including 40 percent for men, 55 percent for women and five percent for Transgenders.



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Minister for Planning and Development Aami Saeed along with Caretaker Information Minister Murtaza Solangi, Governor Sindh Kamran Tessori, Ambassador of Korea to Pakistan Park Kijun and others cutting the cake on the occasion of the National Foundation Day and Armed Forces Day, at the residence of the Korean Ambassador on 26 October in Federal Capital.

## Nadeem inaugurates MRI machine at PIMS

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Federal Minister for Health Dr. Nadeem Jan on Friday inaugurated the MRI machine at Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences (PIMS). Addressing the inauguration ceremony, he said that health sector reform was his top agenda and mission. He added without reforms, improvement and development in the health sector was not possible. Dr. Nadeem Jan said that he received complaints that the MRI machine at the hospital was out of order for the last four years and patients had to go to private hospitals for MRI.

"On which I had given a deadline to the administration to make MRI functional by today," the minister added.

He said that although the machine had become functional but he directed the hospital management to take action against the responsible for the delay.



ISLAMABAD: Governor of Sindh Kamran Khan Tessori meeting the Ambassador of Palestine, Ahmed Jawader Beech, at the Embassy of Palestine.

## ICCPO directs to ensure foolproof security measures in Islamabad

**Independent Report**  
ISLAMABAD: According to the details, the Islamabad Capital City Police Officer (ICCPO) Dr Akbar Nasir Khan presided over an important meeting, in which security measures were intensely reviewed, a public relations officer said.

He said that, all the Capital Police Officers were also present on the occasion. During the meeting, the ICCPO Dr Akbar Nasir Khan took a series of security measures to ensure the safety and security within the capital and issued directives to ensure the effective implementation of these measures.

ICCPO emphasized the necessity of establishing robust security measures within Islamabad, enforcing effective moni-

## DC Islamabad orders strict measures to control dengue

ISLAMABAD (APP): Deputy Commissioner (DC) Irfan Nawaz Memon on Friday chaired a review meeting regarding the anti-dengue campaign and directed the authorities to improve sanitation arrangements and remove garbage from all places to prevent the breeding of mosquitoes.

He also assured that all possible resources would be used to control the deadly virus and protect the lives of the citizens.

Additional Deputy Commissioners, District Health Officer, Assistant Commissioners, Magistrates, and other stakeholders attended the meeting.

The deputy commissioner said that dengue was not a dangerous disease, but it was important to take precautionary measures.

He directed the authorities to improve sanitation arrangements in different areas of the city to prevent the breeding of mosquitoes.

## IRSA releases 92,400 cusecs water

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Indus River System Authority (IRSA) on Friday released 92,400 cusecs water from various rim stations with inflow of 61,600 cusecs.

According to the data released by IRSA, water level in the River Indus at Tarbela Dam was 1527.54 feet, which was 129.54 feet higher than its dead level of 1,398 feet.

Water inflow and outflow in the dam was recorded as 30,700 cusecs and 40,000 cusecs respectively.

Water level in the River Jhelum at Mangla Dam was 1206.25 feet, which was 156.25 feet higher than its dead level of 1,050 feet.

The inflow and outflow of water was recorded 8,500 cusecs and 30,000 cusecs respectively.

The release of water at Kalabagh, Taunsa, Guddab and Sukkur was recorded as 48,900, 45,000, 41,800 and 11,000 cusecs respectively. Similarly, from River Kabul, a total of 9,500 cusecs of water released at Nowshera and 4,800 cusecs released from River Chenab at Marala.

## Pak and Korea Celebrate 40yrs of Diplomatic ties with photographic exhibition

ISLAMABAD (APP): To commemorate 40 years of diplomatic relations between Pakistan and the Republic of Korea, the Department of Archeology and Museum (DOAM) in collaboration with the Embassy of the Republic of Korea organized a photographic exhibition titled "40 Years of Diplomatic Relations between the Republic of Korea and Pakistan."

The exhibition, which opened on Friday, features photographs of historical sites and monuments in Pakistan and Korea, including Buddhist sites in Pakistan. It also showcases the work done during excavations, conservation, and restoration of important Buddhist sites in both countries.

In his opening address, notable speakers were Park Kijun, the Korean Ambassador, the Executive Director of the Korea Cultural Heritage Foundation (KCHF), and Dr. Abdul Azeem, the Director General of DOAM.



ISLAMABAD: Former Senator Saleem Saifullah calls on the Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar.

## IPO organizes seminar to elevate innovation, create IP awareness

ISLAMABAD (APP): Intellectual Property Organization (IPO) Pakistan organized a training seminar on Technology Search and the Development of Technology and Innovation Support Centers (TISCs) in Pakistan in collaboration with WIPO, HEC and NUST, the other day. Highlighting key points, Chairman IPO Farukh Amil lamented the lack of attention given to the intellectual property (IP) and IPO in Pakistan, said a press release issued here Friday.

He stressed the need for a paradigm shift, with IPO actively promoting research and product development to bolster the country's innovation landscape. Amil pointed out that Pakistan often operates in silos, where academia, industry, and research institutions work independently. Bridging these divides is vital to accelerate technological advancements and innovation, he added.

Additionally, Chairman Amil underscored the importance of agri-tech in combating climate change, emphasizing the role of technology in sustainable agricultural practices and food security.

He praised the collaboration between IPO-Pakistan, HEC, and the development of 48 TISCs at HEC-recognized institutions. These partnerships aim to enhance research commercialization and intellectual property protection in collaboration with TISCs and ORICs. The seminar gathered experts and participants dedicated to advancing technology and innovation in Pakistan.

Amil encouraged productive discussions, networking, and learning, with the hope that the knowledge and insights gained will drive tangible progress in Pakistan's innovation ecosystem.

The IPO Pakistan, along with its partners, is determined to elevate the importance of IP and promote innovation, ultimately positioning Pakistan at the forefront of technological advancement and intellectual property protection.



ISLAMABAD: Chairman Senate, Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani presiding over a senate house business advisory committee meeting at Parliament House.