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

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwar-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 Anwar-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.

The chief minister Gilgit-Baltistan thanked the prime minister for his recent visit to GB and for taking interest in the development of the area.



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

October 27 dark day in history: Baqar

KARACHI (APP): Caretaker Chief Minister Sindh Justice (Retd.) Maqbool Baqar has said that October 27, 1947, was a dark day in human history when India oppressed the people of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK).

Today, we reiterate our commitment to Kashmiris' right to self-determination and political and diplomatic support, he said adding that despite the passage of 76 years, the

people of IIOJK were suffering from the oppression of the Indian government, which is condemned Baqar said that Kashmiris were losing their innocent children for the sake of fighting for their rights.

He said that India was using new tactics every day to suppress the voice of Kashmiris.

The CM said that the United Nations should support IIOJK brothers and sisters against Indian state oppression.

Governor felicitates Karachi Whites on victory in Quaid-e-Azam Trophy

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Governor Mohammed Kamran Khan Tessori on Friday congratulated "Karachi Whites" captain Sarfraz Ahmed, players and team management on their success in the Quaid-e-Azam Trophy.

The Governor said that the team under the leadership of Sarfraz Ahmed, played an exemplary game throughout the tournament.

He said that Karachi Whites' performance against Faisalabad in the final was excellent.

Date for registration of vote extended by one day

ISLAMABAD (Online): Election Commission (EC) has extended date for registration of vote by one day more.

EC offices will remain open on Saturday too.

Earlier EC had extended date of registration of vote for three days on October 24.

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.



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

IIOJK, biggest prison in world: Asif Zardari

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Pakistan Peoples Party Parliamentarians (PPP) Asif Ali Zardari said that the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) is the biggest prison in the world. He said this on the 76th anniversary of the Black Day of Kashmir.

Asif Zardari in a statement said that the freedom from Indian occupation is the fundamental and democratic right of the people of IIOJK.

It is not possible to silence the voice of the IIOJK people by force. He said that the world is now

aware that India is a terrorist country.

He said that the liberation of Kashmir from Indian occupation was the mission of Shaheed Zulfikar Ali Bhutto. If Quaid-e-Azam Zulfikar Ali Bhutto had not been martyred, the Occupied Kashmir would have long been free from Indian occupation.

Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto raised the voice of the people of Occupied Kashmir on every international forum.

Billawal Bhutto introduced Modi to the world as the butcher of Kashmir and India as a terrorist country.

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

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwar-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.

Difference of opinion hallmark of democracy: 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.

He opined that sometimes unpleasant things happen but it was a part of democratic culture.

Resignation of Dr Tauqir Shah principal secretary to PM accepted

ISLAMABAD (Online): Caretaker Prime Minister (PM) has accepted the resignation of his principal secretary Dr Tauqir Shah.

Tauqir Shah will leave the post of principal secretary from October 31. Period of one month notice was also abolished.

Establishment division has issued notification regarding acceptance of Dr Tauqir Shah resignation.

According to sources Dr Tauqir Shah has got job in World Bank (WB). He will move to WB next month.

Former PM Shehbaz Sharif had appointed Dr Tauqir Shah on the basis of one year contract. He is grade 22 officer of Pakistan administration service.

He was given extension of one year in service on contract basis after reaching retirement age in last week of December 2022.



KARACHI: Demonstrators holds placards and shouting slogans during protest to mark the Black Day against the cruelty of Indian Army on oppressed Kashmiris of IIOJK.

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 out-

siders 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.

India killed 0.5m Kashmiris in occupied Kashmir in past 76 years

SRINAGAR (Online): In Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir, Indian forces have killed five hundred thousand Kashmiris, including over 250,000 in Jammu region, as the occupied territory completed 76 years of invasion by the Indian Army on this day in 1947.

A report released by Media on 27th October, Friday, which is being observed as Black Day in IIOJK, Azad Jammu and Kashmir and wherever Kashmiris live in the world,

said that more than 3.5 million Kashmiris were forced to migrate to Azad Jammu and Kashmir, Pakistan and other parts of the world since October 27, 1947.

Here is the data released by Research Section of Kashmir Media Service from January 1989 till October 27, 2023: The report said the number of actual Indian troops present in the occupied territory is 1,501,000. The research also gave a break-up of the Indian forces' personnel.

Rangers, police arrest target killer in Karachi

KARACHI (APP): In a joint intelligence-based operation, the Pakistan Rangers Sindh and Police arrested an accused allegedly involved in target killings, street crimes, and other robbery cases in Azizabad, Karachi. The accused was a member of Faizan alias Bhoori Group, identified as Zohan alias Sanwal. He was involved in over 800 street crimes in different areas of Karachi, including Tariq Road, Shahrah-e-Faisal, Jamshed Road, Manzoor Colony, Sindh Muslim Society, New Karachi, Gulshan Iqbal.

Govt constitutes FFC to fix responsibility in Faizabad Dharna case

ISLAMABAD (Online): Federal government has constituted Fact Finding Committee (FFC) to fix responsibility in Faizabad Dharna case.

The AG report further said FFC will record statements of witnesses besides determining handlers and those found responsible in Faizabad Dharna case.

The committee will determine who issued orders and sent message in Dharna case.

First meeting of FFC was held on October 26 under set TORs. The committee will submit report based on proposals after investigation. The report will be filed in Defence ministry till December 01. If committee needs more time then it will approach defence ministry.

It has been mentioned in the report that request was made to court to withdraw Faizabad Dharna case review petition.

ences regarding Faizabad Dharna and will review all collected evidence, documents and record.

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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 Kamal 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 the 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 Kamal 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. The House through its resolutions extended condolences to the bereaved families and prayed for the departed souls.

Imran terms Nawaz's return 'total mockery of law'

ISLAMABAD (INP): Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan has condemned the "complete collapse of the justice system", saying Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) supreme Nawaz Sharif's return to the country is the execution of the London "agreement".

In a statement issued through his family on Oct 24 and posted on PTI chief's official X handle on Friday, the former prime minister said that all that was happening today was

a "total mockery of the law".

"My Pakistanis! In the last few days, we have witnessed a total mockery of the law. All that is happening today is not just an execution of a London 'plan' but London 'agreement' that was signed between a cowardly fugitive & corrupt criminal and his facilitators," Imran was quoted as saying.

The statement was released six days after Nawaz's homecoming from four years of self-imposed exile in London on Oct 21.



KARACHI: Afghan families board a bus to depart for their homeland following Pakistan's order for all illegal migrants to leave the country.

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. Shamshad 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. The meeting was attended by the Caretaker Minister for Privatization, Fawad Hassan Fawad, Caretaker Minister for Planning and Development.



KARACHI: A group photo of Mayor Karachi Murtaza Wahab along with the employees who received the appointment letter under death quota in Municipal Corporation.

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 com-

plexities 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



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.

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 21st 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.

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 presented.

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.

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.

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

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

as compared to 278.04 points during the past week, according to the PBS data.

As compared to the corresponding week of last year, the SPI for the combined consumption group in the week under review witnessed an increase of 29.65 percent. The weekly SPI with the base year 2015-16 = 100 covers 17 urban centers and 51 essential items for all expenditure groups.

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.

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 Yari 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.

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

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.



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.

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.

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.



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.

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 she was unable to complete 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 timeline 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. He said that the student fell ill due to COVID-19 and had been running from pillar to post to get some time to complete her degree. He said that HEC's Policy Guidelines provided that the maximum time limit to complete her degree was 6 years, which was further extendable for one year with the approval of the Statutory Bodies. He added that if her case had been placed before the UFC at the right time, her issue could have been resolved but it was not done.



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.

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 renege on its obligations to the people of Jammu and Kashmir but has also disregarded multilateralism by tracking 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 August 5, 2019, there has been an intensified campaign to 'Indianise' Kashmir and disempower the Kashmiri people in their own land, he lamented.



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Interior Minister Sarfraz Bugti is meeting Governor Sindh Kamran Khan Tessori at Sindh House.

Black Day observed in Larkana division to express solidarity with Kashmiris

LARKANA (APP): In a show of solidarity with the Kashmiri people, residents of Larkana, Kamber-Shahdadkot, Shikarpur, Jacobabad, and Kandhkot-Kashmore districts of Larkana Division observed "Black Day" on Friday to protest against India's alleged illegitimate occupation of Kashmir. The day marked the aggression of India's military entry into Srinagar on October 27, 1947, and its subsequent control over parts of Jammu and Kashmir.

Various rallies and seminars were organized in these districts to draw international attention to the long-standing issue of Kashmir. Social and cultural organizations led rallies to condemn Indian actions in the region and called for Kashmiris' right to self-determination.

In Larkana city, a program held at the Begum Nusrat Bhutto Women Library Hall was organized by the District Administration Larkana and Education Department Larkana to denounce India's occupation of Jammu and Kashmir and reaffirm Pakistan's unwavering support for the Kashmiri struggle. Commissioner Larkana Division Abdul Wahid Shaikh was the chief guest at the event.

During the program, Commissioner Abdul Wahid Sheikh emphasized the importance of character in the fight for freedom, highlighting India's occupation of Kashmir in 1947 and the subsequent violation of the basic rights of Kashmiris.

Chairman of the District Council Larkana, Aijaz Ahmed Leghari, spoke about the significance of the day, pointing out the clear violation of international law and humanitarian norms by Indian forces when they landed in Srinagar 76 years ago.



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.

No power on earth can crush Kashmiris struggle for freedom: Solangi

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Murtaza Solangi said on Friday that no power on earth could crush the Kashmiris freedom movement, who were struggling for the right to self-determination promised by none other than the United Nations in its several resolutions.

Addressing the participants of a rally organized here marking October 27, the black day to protest against Indian illegal occupation of the then princely state in 1947.

The minister said that the history of oppression of the Kashmiri people spanned over centuries.

He said that on this day in 1947, India landed its troops in the valley in violation of international law.

He lamented the champions of human rights and democracy, who raise their voice against any injustice across the world were silent over the Kashmiri genocide at the hands of Indian occupation forces.

China, Pak forge strong education partnership at CACIE Forum

BEIJING (APP): The International Industry-Education Cooperation Forum in the Context of Education Digitalization, part of the 2023 China Annual Conference & Expo for International Education (CACIE), was held on Friday at the China National Convention Center in Beijing.

The forum brought together leaders from Chinese government departments, diplomatic envoys, and representatives from various universities and enterprises.

Pakistan Ambassador to China, Moin ul Haque, delivered a keynote speech via video.

During the event, the China-Pakistan International Industrial Academic Integration Alliance (CPIA) released an Introduction Report and introduced affiliated committees, including the Agricultural and Forestry Industrial-Educational Cooperation Committee, Classical Medicine Industrial-Educational Cooperation Committee, and Water Resources and Hydropower Engineering Industrial-Educational Cooperation Committee, CEN reported.



UMARKOT: Commissioner Mirpurkhas Faisal Ahmed Aqaili presiding over a meeting in DC Office.

Provision of basic facilities to people first priority of govt: Commissioner Mirpurkhas

By Aijaz Mughal
 UMARKOT: Commissioner Mirpurkhas Division Faisal Ahmed Aqaili says that provision of basic facilities to the people is the first priority of the Sindh government, all the officers should perform their responsibilities well, efforts will be made to solve the administrative problems.

He expressed his views during a one-day visit to Umarkot district. During two separate meetings held at the Durbar Hall of Deputy Commissioner Office Umarkot, Deputy Commissioner Umarkot Wali Muhammad Baloch, SSP Umarkot Dr. Abdul Khaliq Pirzada, Chairman District Council Umarkot Haji Muhammad Baqa Palli, Additional Deputy Commissioner One Abdul Hameed Mughal, Additional Deputy Commissioner to Sanjay Kumar, four Assistant Commissioner of Tehsils, Mukhtarkar, Engineer Wali Muhammad Rahmon, Ghulam Akbar Dars, Haji Ali Murad Rajar, Shakeel Bajwa, Noorjadam Mungreo, officers of various departments, Abadgar Board officials, representatives of business community, civil society leaders, fertilizer dealers and Others were also present.

Deputy Commissioner Umarkot Willi at the beginning of the meeting Muhammad Baloch and officers of various departments provided detailed information, Commissioner Faisal Ahmed Aqaili said that quality seeds are necessary for the improvement of agriculture, so if any fertilizer dealer sells non-standard seeds, strict legal action will be taken against him.

I brought, he said, the sowing of spring crops it has been started, so the Department of Agriculture should play its full role in providing quality seeds to the farmers and ensure availability of quality seeds in the market.

Pakistan embassy marks Kashmir Black Day

KABUL (APP): The Embassy of Pakistan in Kabul, Afghanistan marked the Kashmir Black Day on Friday and paid rich tribute to the sacrifices of the people of Jammu and Kashmir in resisting the illegal Indian occupation.

The event commenced with the recitation of the Holy Quran, followed by the playing of national anthem of Pakistan.

Special messages of the president, prime minister and foreign minister were also read out.

Repatriation of Afghans residing illegally in Pakistan continues

ISLAMABAD (INP): The voluntarily repatriation of illegal foreign nationals to their countries is continuing and only four days are left for undocumented foreign nationals to leave the country.

The 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.

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.

Referring to the attempted annexation of the state by the Modi government, the PM said that in stark contrast to the UN resolutions on Kashmir, India's fascist regime led by Modi wrapped up the region's political system, imposed a crippling siege on the state, detained the political leadership of all hues and shades, dissolved the state and reduced its status to a union territory.

Terming it as a glaring example of high-handedness on the part of the Indian government, he said that the move was an atrocious assault on the Kashmiris' cultural and political identity.

demmed as an act of aggression, had pushed the entire region into the throes of instability and perpetual violence.

He said that it was quite unfortunate that the United Nations and other international human rights organizations have failed to stop human rights violations and atrocities inflicted upon Kashmiris by the Indian occupation forces.



ISLAMABAD: Chief Minister Gilgit Baltistan, Gulbar Khan calls on Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar.

Top US diplomat discusses Mideast conflict with Gilani

WASHINGTON (APP): A senior American diplomat Thursday spoke with Pakistani caretaker foreign Minister Jilil Abbas Gilani 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. "Acting Deputy Secretary Nuland and Foreign Minister Gilani also agreed on the need for a continuous flow of humanitarian aid to civilians in Gaza and to prevent the conflict from spreading," the statement added.

UK lauds Pakistan for its support in facilitating relocation of Afghans

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Foreign Minister Jilil Abbas Gilani received a telephone call on Friday from the UK Foreign Secretary James Cleverly.

They discussed bilateral cooperation and stressed the importance of high-level engagement and dialogue to further strengthen Pakistan-UK relations.

The foreign minister reiterated Pakistan's continued commitment to facilitate relocation of Afghans destined for the UK. They also discussed the situation in Gaza, its impact on regional security and ensuring humanitarian crises.

Foreign Secretary Cleverly appreciated Pakistan for its support and cooperation in facilitating relocation of Afghans sponsored by the UK government.

The foreign minister reiterated Pakistan's continued commitment to facilitate relocation of Afghans destined for the UK. They also discussed the situation in Gaza, its impact on regional security and ensuring humanitarian crises.



KUNRI: A view of rally organized by Arain Ittehad in support of Palestinians and against Israel and America.

Rallies held in Umarkot to express solidarity with Kashmiri people

By Aijaz Mughal
 UMARKOT: Rallies were taken out across Umarkot district to express solidarity with the Kashmiri people, demanding the right of self-determination to Kashmiris.

According to the details, Black Day was celebrated and rallies were taken out as an expression of solidarity with Kashmiris in all small and big cities of Umarkot district including Umarkot, Kanri, Samaroo and Pithura. Under the leadership of Sheikh To express solidarity with the Kashmiri people, a large rally was taken out from Deputy Commissioner Office Umarkot to Press Club Umarkot, in which a large number of officers, teachers and students of various departments participated.

A big rally was taken out from the school to A l l a h w a l a Chowk. Addressing the participants of the rally, the speakers said that the purpose of our gathering is to tell the world that we are with the Kashmiri brothers in their struggle.

The day is not far when they will be free, October 27, 1947 75, 76 years ago today. India occupied Kashmir by usurping Kashmir, Quid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah said that Kashmir is our aorta, today Kashmiris are looking to the United Nations for justice, he said that until Kashmiris get freedom. We will stand with them, he said, taking notice from the United Nations and the people of Kashmir They have demanded the right to self-determination.



SUKKUR: Participants are holding rally to express solidarity with Kashmiri people and condemn brutality of Indian Army in Kashmir on the occasion of Black Day of Kashmir organized by District Administration, in Sukkur.