

# Independent

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## Al-Aqsa Storm:

# 200 Palestinians martyred in air strikes after Hamas kills 100 Israelis, abducts dozens

Palestinian gunmen enter numerous Israeli communities with heavy barrage of rockets fired from Gaza Strip

**Monitoring Desk**  
GAZA: The Israeli death toll has risen to 100 as Hamas's "Operation Al-Aqsa Storm" rages on, while at least 200 Palestinians have so far been martyred and 1,610 wounded in the Gaza Strip in Israel's retaliatory air strikes.

According to Israel's N12 News, at least 100 Israelis have so far been killed in the attacks launched by the Hamas movement.

The Palestinian health ministry said up until 4:20 pm (13:20 GMT) there were "198 martyrs and 1,610 wounded with different injuries" in the conflict.

Meanwhile, Palestinians were seen celebrating the highly coordinated assault, which totally blindsided Tel Aviv, are do-

ing rounds on social media. Lior Hayat, the spokesperson of the Israeli foreign ministry, said Israel was a "nation in shock by the murders, the attacks" after civilians were targeted in Hamas' military operation, according to Al Arabiya English.

Meanwhile, Israel's army said it was fighting Gaza fighters who entered Israel by land, sea and air using paragliders after a barrage of rockets was fired at Israel from the Palestinian enclave.

"It was a combined ground raid which happened through paragliders, through the sea and through the ground," army spokesman Richard Hecht told reporters. "Right now we're fight-

ing. We're fighting in certain locations around the Gaza Strip... our forces are now fighting on the ground" in Israel, he added.

Hecht confirmed there are casualties but would not be drawn on details, nor discuss reports that multiple Israelis had been captured by Palestinian fighters.

Thousands of military reservists are set to be drawn up for Gaza, as well as northern Israel, near foes Lebanon and Syria, and the occupied West Bank.

"We're looking at all arenas... we understand this is something big," Hecht said.

"Right to defend" Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas in a statement said: "His people have the right to defend them-



Smoke and flames billow after Israeli forces struck a high-rise tower in Gaza City

selves against the "terror of settlers and occupation troops".

Abbas said this at an emergency meeting held in Ramallah with a number of top officials from the Palestinian Authority.

Al-Aqsa Storm  
Earlier, Hamas commandos attacked southern Israel after firing over 5,000 rockets at the settlers from the Gaza Strip, which was later followed by heavy infiltration of armed freedom fighters into the oppressive Jewish state.

The Al Jazeera correspondent said the unprecedented attack has left Israelis in "tremendous shock".

"I spoke by text with an acquaintance in Tel Aviv. She says she was hurrying to get into a bomb shelter. The fact that several villages including some towns were attacked and captured - this is something that has never happened before," Reynolds said.

"This took a lot of planning, strategising from Hamas," he noted.

Soon after the massive surprise attack, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu declared war against Palestine saying that Hamas had made a "grave mistake".

The attack marked an unprecedented infiltration by an unknown number of

Hamas gunmen into Israel from Gaza and one of the most serious escalations in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict in years, Reuters reported.

Israel's police chief said there were "21 active scenes" in southern Israel, indicating the extent of the attack.

In Gaza, people rushed to buy supplies in anticipation of days of conflict ahead. Some evacuated their homes and headed for shelters.

Hamas military commander Mohammad Deif announced the start of the operation in a broadcast on

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## PM underscores urgent need for addressing Palestine issue

Pakistan calls for immediate ceasefire in Israel-Palestine conflict

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar has said the escalating violence in the Middle East is heart-

broken. In his tweet on social media platform X, the Prime Minister urged restraint and protection of civilians following eruption of hostilities between Israel and Palestinians.

He said enduring peace in the Middle East lies in a two-state solution with a viable, contiguous, sovereign State of Palestine, founded on pre-1967 borders, with Al Quds Al-Sharif at its heart.

Meanwhile Pakistan's Foreign Office has issued a statement expressing deep concern over the recent escalation of hostilities between Israel and Palestinians in the Middle East.

The statement, released on Saturday, underscores the urgent need for a ceasefire and a return to peaceful negotiations.

"We are closely monitoring the unfolding situation in the Middle East and the eruption of hostilities between Israel and Palestinians. We are concerned about the human cost of the escalating situation," the statement read.

Pakistan's stance on the Israel-Palestine conflict has been consistent, advocating for a two-state solution as the key to enduring peace in the region. The foreign office emphasised the importance of a "just, comprehensive, and lasting solution to the Palestinian question anchored in international law and in line with relevant United Nations and OIC (Organisation of Islamic Cooperation) resolutions."

Pakistan's position is that a viable, sovereign, and contiguous State of Palestine should be established on the basis of pre-1967 borders, with Al Quds Al-Sharif (Jerusalem) as its capital.



ISLAMABAD: Former member Balochistan Assembly and Provincial Minister Sardar Sarfraz Domki calls on the Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar

## Everyone will be responsible if timely elections are not held, says Bilawal

JACOBABAD (INP): PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari has expressed hope that elections, which are due in Pakistan in January next year, would not be delayed, but everyone would be responsible if they were not held timely.

"All of us will be responsible if God forbid if they [general elections] are not held [till January]. But Insha Allah elections will be held," he said at a press conference in Jacobabad on Saturday.

Polis overseer has asked the people to prepare for chilly elections -

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JACOBABAD: Chairman Pakistan People's Party Bilawal Bhutto Zardari talking to media persons at the residence of PPP Central Executive Committee Member Mir Aijaz Hussain Jakhrani.

## Durable peace requires ending occupation of Palestinian land: Shehbaz

ISLAMABAD (Online): Ending Israel's illegal occupation, settlement expansion on Palestinian land, and oppression against innocent Palestinians are key for peace, justice, and prosperity in the region. These views were expressed by former Prime Minister Shehbaz taking to social blogging website x on Saturday.

today's events. What else can one expect when Israel continues to deny Palestinians their legitimate right to self-determination and statehood? What else, after daily provocations, attacks by occupation forces and settlers, and raids on Al-Aqsa Mosque and other holy sites of Christianity and Islam? "I am not surprised by



A man runs on a road as fire burns after rockets were launched from the Gaza Strip, in Ashkelon Israel

## Mistreatment of Afghan illegal immigrants Jan denies allegations of Taliban Islamic Emirate

**Independent Report**  
QUETTA: The caretaker Provincial Minister for Information and Public Relations, Jan Achakzai, vehemently denied the allegations made by the Taliban Islamic Emirate's Embassy and Consulate regarding the mistreatment of Afghan illegal immigrants.

In an official statement issued here on Saturday, Jan Achakzai clarified that the police have not engaged in

any form of harassment towards Afghan illegal immigrants. However, he assured that any complaint received will be thoroughly investigated.

Furthermore, Achakzai emphasized that Pakistan abides by both international and domestic laws, ensuring that every action taken is in accordance with international conventions, as is the Balochistan government.

PKMAP's public gathering in memory of Oct martyrs: Achakzai calls for convening round table conference to steer country out of prevailing crisis



**Independent Report**

QUETTA: The Chairman Pashtoonkhw Milli Awami Party (PKMAP) Mehmood Khan Achakzai has pleaded to convene round table conference for resolving the prevailing crisis in the country.

holders may find solo to steer the country out of the crisis.

The chairman PKMAP was addressing the public gathering held in memory of martyrs of October 1991 here at the lawn of Quetta Metropolitan corporation

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Serious steps to be taken against border violations: Pak-Iran JBC decides to counter terrorist groups, miscreants and narcotics smugglers together

**Independent Report**  
QUETTA: The Pak-Iran Joint Border Committee has decided to counter the terrorist groups, miscreants and narcotics smugglers together.

The Committee also decided to take serious measures against border violations and ensure steps on border crossing meeting all legal requirements.

The meeting also decided to provide electricity to four villages of Rajay/Tafan by Iran.

The decisions were made during a meeting of the Pak-Iran Border Committee held at Mir Java, Iran on Saturday.

The Additional Secretary Home Balochistan Abdul Salam Achakzai presiding over 7th meeting of Pak-Iran Border Committee

Khan Achakzai led the Pakistani delegation in the meeting while Iranian side was headed by Director General Security, Hussain Ali Hussaini.

Moreover it was also decided that Iran would provide facilities in issuance of the visa of zayreen visiting Iran.

## Two terrorists killed in Kech gun battle

QUETTA (INP): At least two terrorists were killed in an exchange of fire with army men during an operation in Balochistan's Kech district, the Inter-Services Public Relations said on Saturday.

In a statement, the military's media wing said that a heavy amount of arms and explosive devices were recovered from the site. The operation was conducted on a tip-off.

Last week, at least 10 terrorists were killed in an exchange of fire with army men in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Tank district.

The operation was conducted in the Pezu area of Tank after getting information about the terrorists' presence.

## Crackdown against illegal immigrants continue

22 more refugees apprehended

**Independent Report**

QUETTA: The crackdown against the illegal immigrants remained continued in the provincial metropolis and its suburbs on third consecutive day, Saturday.

According to the police sources, 22 more illegal Afghan immigrants were arrested from different localities in and around the Quetta city on Saturday.

The SSP Quetta Jawad Tariq informed that data of some 24,000 Afghan refugees have so far been collected in Quetta.

In all 116 Afghan refugees have so far been arrested against whom 45 cases have been registered.

He said that action would be taken against the illegal immigrants as per the government policy.

## Admiral Naveed Ashraf assumes command of Pakistan Navy



ISLAMABAD (Online): Admiral Naveed Ashraf HI(M) Tbt has assumed Command of Pakistan Navy as 23rd Chief of the Naval Staff. The Change of Command was held in an impressive ceremony at PNS ZAFAR Islamabad, in which Admiral Muhammad Amjad Khan Niazi NI(M) SBT, upon completion of his tenure of Service, handed over the reins of Command to Admiral Naveed Ashraf.

In his farewell address, the outgoing Naval Chief Admiral Muhammad Amjad Khan Niazi said that today Pakistan Navy stands as a strong and vital arm of the country's Armed

Forces, capable of protecting our maritime frontiers and radiating deterrence. Referring to the enormous military buildup by the eastern neighbour, Admiral Muhammad Amjad Khan Niazi highlighted that Pakistan Navy remained fully cognizant of the challenge and continues to pursue progressive capability development through induction of state-of-the-art naval platforms and equipment to enhance its combat readiness and potential.

The outgoing Naval Chief underscored that vitalization of Blue Economy is important for the economic development of the country.

## No country allows stay of illegal immigrants: Solangi

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Minister for Information and Broadcasting Murtaza Solangi reiterated on Saturday said that no government would permit the stay of illegal immigrants in their country.

Talking to a private TV channel, the minister clarified that individuals with legal rights could only reside in Pakistan.

He mentioned three categories of Afghan residents residing in Pakistan currently. The first group comprised of individuals who arrived in Pakistan in 1978 and had Proof of Registration cards. While the second category included those Afghans who had been in Pakistan since 2016 and had Afghan citizen cards verified by the previous government of Afghanistan.

The third group, totaling approximately 1.7 million people, entered Pakistan after August 15, 2021, he said, adding among them, some possessed expired visas, while others had entered the country illegally.

To a query, he said most of the illegal immigrants in Pakistan were from Afghanistan.



MIR JAVA: Additional Secretary Home Balochistan Abdul Salam Achakzai presiding over 7th meeting of Pak-Iran Border Committee

## Domki calls on PM

ISLAMABAD (APP): Former member Balochistan Assembly and Provincial Minister Sardar Sarfraz Domki called on the Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar here on Saturday.

During the meeting, they discussed matters relating to Balochistan province and other affairs of mutual interests, a statement issued by the Prime Minister Office said.

## 96% target of polio immunization drive achieved in Balochistan

**Independent Report**  
QUETTA: At least 96 per cent target of the anti-polio vaccination campaign has been achieved in the Balochistan province.

According to the sources of Emergency Operation Center (EOC) for polio eradication, the polio immunization campaign is going on successfully with no issue in it.

At end of the 5th day, other day, 96 per cent target of vaccination was achieved, sources of EOC told.

During the campaign, drops of Vitamin A were also administered to the children below five years of age. It may be mentioned here that it was targeted to vaccinate over 2.4 million children during the campaign.

The immunization campaign would also remain continued today (Sunday) as well.

## SC disposes of 224 cases in a week

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Supreme Court of Pakistan has disposed of 224 cases (excluding CMAs) during the period from 2nd October 2023 (Monday) to 6th October, 2023 (Friday).

Meanwhile, 312 new cases have been instituted during the period from 2nd October 2023 (Monday) to 7th October 2023 (Saturday).

The Hon'ble Chief Justice of Pakistan and the Hon'ble Judges of Supreme Court remained committed to accelerate disposal of the cases and diminish the backlog.

REPATRIATION OF ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS

DAYS REMAINING

23

in f @GovtOfPakistan

## Govt. committed to bolstering disaster management capabilities with numerous steps: PM Kakar

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar said that mindful of Pakistan's susceptibility to disasters and the grim specter of climate change, the government was resolutely committed to bolstering the disaster management capabilities, enacting requisite legislation, promoting governance that was attuned to risk, erecting resilient infrastructure, and above all, fostering adaptability.

Disaster Management System in Pakistan was witnessing a transition from a reactive to a proactive approach which signified a crucial shift in how they collectively responded to unforeseen crises, the prime minister said in a message on the occasion of "National Resilience Day", being observed on October 8.

"I believe that the National Resilience Day will inspire the people of Pakistan to not only deepen their understanding of disaster risk management but also share the vital message of readiness, resilience, fortitude, and self-sufficiency," he added.

He said previously, the focus was primarily on reacting to emergencies after they occurred, often resulting in significant loss of life and property.

However, with advancements in technology and a deeper understanding of natural phenomena, Pakistan was moving towards a proactive approach, he said, adding this involved establishment of a modern National Emergencies Operation Center (NEOC) at NDMA.

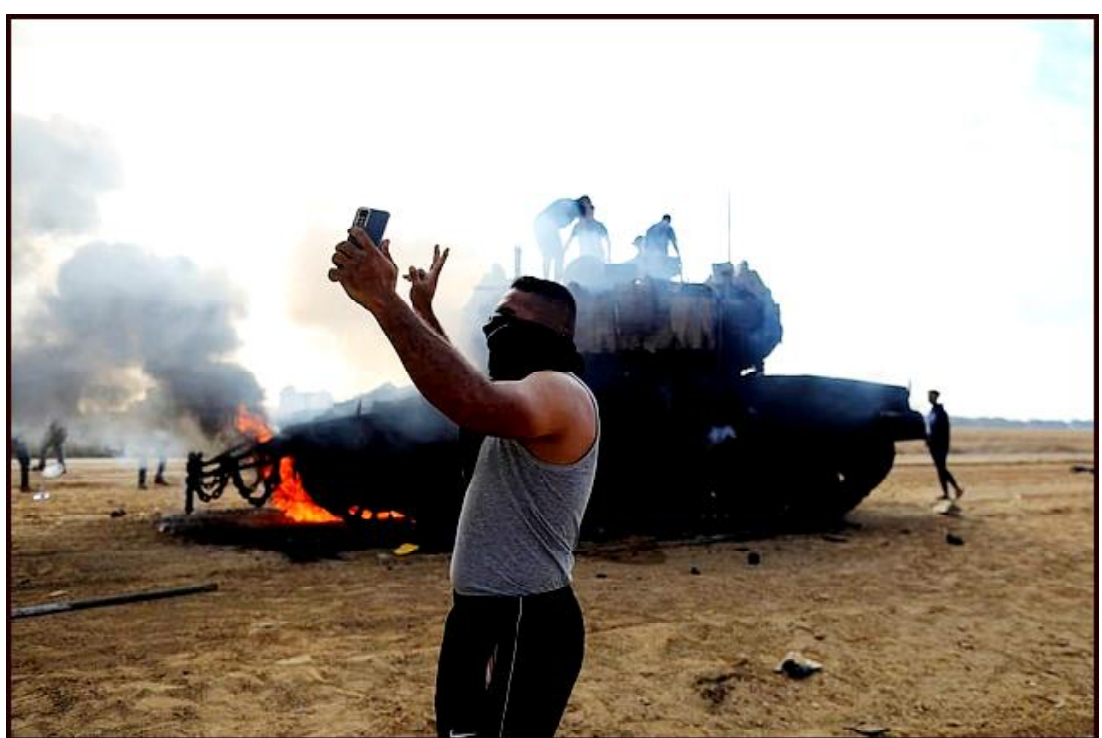
NEOC had the capacity to create common operating picture enabled by multiple satellite feeds, software, Artificial Intelligence tools that would strengthen digital risk assessment, early warning systems, and preparedness strategies, he observed.

The caretaker prime minister further said "Alhamdulillah, today, we have a robust institutional structure for disaster management in the form of NDMA and PDMA's. We now, need to strengthen the Disaster Management system at the district level to evolve as the actual implementing bodies of Disaster Risk Reduction policy and plans at the local level."

He said National Resilience Day was marked on 8th October as a solemn tribute to the indomitable spirit of the people of Pakistan and Azad Jammu & Kashmir, who had borne the brunt of harrowing disasters.

"It serves as a stark reminder that we reside in a region profoundly susceptible to calamities. Pakistan ranks as one of the most vulnerable countries declared by the Climate Risk Index. We have witnessed a series of natural catastrophes in the shape of earthquakes, floods, GLOF events, scorching heatwaves and forest fires - exacting a toll on the precious lives as well as billions of dollars lost to infrastructure," the prime minister said.

On this day, he said, they aimed to raise awareness of the devastating impacts of climate change-induced disasters with a special focus on disaster resilience.



A Palestinian man takes a selfie in front of a burning Israeli military vehicle after it was hit by Palestinian gunmen who infiltrated areas of southern Israel, at the Israeli side of Israel-Gaza border



SKARDU: A participant approaching towards his target during the "Sarfaranga Cold Desert Rally 5th Edition 2023 in qualifying round at world highest desert sarfaranga.

## Asif optimistic of Nawaz's becoming PM for 4th time

SIALKOT (INP): Senior leader of Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) and former defence minister Khawaja Asif was optimistic of Nawaz Sharif's becoming the prime minister of Pakistan for fourth time.

Addressing a press conference in Sialkot on Saturday, he said that the Nawaz Sharif will arrive in Pakistan on October 21 to resolve the issues being faced by the country.

Khawaja Asif further stated that when the PML-N supreme left the government in 2017, the per unit electricity cost was just 11 rupees and now it was 55

rupees per unit.

All the prevailing crises of Pakistan would be resolved when the Nawaz Sharif would take oath as prime minister for the fourth time, he added.

The former defence minister was of the view that the PML-N's supremacy wasn't even named in the Panama Case but still he was disqualified.

He informed, the former PM would land in Pakistan after visiting a couple of foreign countries.

"We saved Pakistan from default during our coalition government of 16 months," Asif concluded.

## Dr Nadeem to represent Pak at regional health forum

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Federal Minister for Health Dr. Nadeem Jan will represent Pakistan at the highest regional health forum involving 22 nations.

Speaking at Islamabad International Airport, the minister mentioned that meetings with health ministers from friendly countries have been scheduled.

He said that during these meetings, they will discuss enhancing cooperation in the field of technology transfer for vaccine production in Pakistan.

He said that efforts would be made to ensure robust advocacy for Pakistan's hosting of the Global Health Security Summit, which was a prestigious opportunity.

The 70th session of the World Health Organization's (WHO) Regional Committee for the Eastern Mediterranean Region is commencing in Cairo on October 9.

During this session, Dr. Nadeem Jan will brief on Pakistan's initiatives and challenges and present future action plans.

## Aneeq Ahmed visits historical Masjid Mahabat Khan

PESHAWAR (APP): Caretaker Federal Minister for Religious Affairs, Aneeq Ahmed, visited the historical Masjid Mahabat Khan on Saturday. Speaking to the media, Aneeq Ahmed said that we aim to promote the message of faith.

While emphasizing the importance of spreading religious teachings, the minister expressed his determination to uplift the nation from despair and uncertainty.

We must have faith that better days are ahead, said Minister Aneeq Ahmed. He said that we should place our trust in Allah for improvement. In a message to the nation, he stated that, at this time, Pakistan's leadership will guide the nation through its challenges.

The Federal Minister for Religious Affairs, Aneeq Ahmed, said that our goal is to spread the message of religion, whether through respected religious scholars or those connected to the media, to reach our fellow citizens with positive and constructive messages.

## Uplifting country's economy to be great challenge: Fazal

PESHAWAR (INP): Chief of Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (JUI-F), Maulana Fazlur Rehman has said that uplifting the economy of country will be a great challenge.

While addressing a ceremony in Peshawar on Saturday, he did not want to see his opponents his jail and desires that every politician should be out of jail.

Referring to statement of one of the ambassadors raising concerns over arrest of chairman Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), Fazlur Rehman said that he had remarked that what's your opinion about sending our leader who remained three times country's premier, behind the bars.

He made it clear that the party was not having any personal tussle with any stakeholder. However, there are differences in ideology.

The JUI-F chief bemoaned that the traders are facing severe economic hardships, adding that the people were

staging protests against the inflated power bills.

He lashed out at the interim government, saying, "The interim government has nothing to do."

Meanwhile, while addressing a press conference in Faisalabad, Fazlur Rehman said that his party will welcome Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) supreme Nawaz Sharif on his return.

He said: "We have made no contacts on the return of Nawaz Sharif to the country. Nawaz Sharif has the right to return and do politics."

"The PML-N knows that Nawaz Sharif will return to the country with an organised plan," he added.

Speaking about the merger of the Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA), Rehman said: "No benefits have been reaped for the people with the merger of FATA."

"No single candidate can run the election campaign in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan."

## Pak-Afghan improved relations crucial for regional peace, stability

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

He, along with prominent religious leaders, held a press conference at Jamia Manzoor-ul-Islam, stressing the need for improved relations between Pakistan and Afghanistan and the importance of maintaining peace in the region.

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

He underscored the distinction between Afghan refugees and illegal migrants and expressed Pakistan's commitment to ensuring

that Afghan nationals living legally in Pakistan face no issues.

Addressing the issue of terrorism, he stressed that both countries should cooperate in preventing individuals from either side from engaging in acts of terrorism in the neighbouring country. He called for a direct channel of communication between the governments of Pakistan and Afghanistan to address concerns and resolve issues.

Ashrafi highlighted the sacrifices made by Pakistan for the cause of peace in the region, including hosting almost four million Afghan refugees. He also reminded the audience that Pakistan had supported Afghanistan against the Soviet Union and suffered significant losses during the war on terror, with over 80,000 Pakistanis martyred.

Regarding the current situation in Afghanistan, he expressed hope in the interim government and Pakistan's ongoing efforts to bring stability to the region. He urged cooperation

between both nations in facilitating the return of illegal Afghan migrants while ensuring the protection of those living legally in Pakistan.

In conclusion, Ashrafi stressed the importance of collaboration between religious scholars and political leaders from both Pakistan and Afghanistan to promote regional peace. He called for open channels of communication and the removal of misunderstandings that could be exploited by outsiders to create divisions between the two countries.

He also addressed the global issues of Palestine and Kashmir, emphasizing the need for unity in addressing oppression and finding peaceful solutions to these long-standing conflicts.

The press conference participants echoed the sentiment that regional peace was a shared goal, and both Pakistan and Afghanistan must work together to eliminate the threat of terrorism and foster stability in the region.

## South Africa beat Sri Lanka by 102 runs in high scoring World Cup match

**Sports Desk**  
NEW DELHI: South Africa beat Sri Lanka by 102 runs in a high-scoring Men's 50-over World Cup match in Delhi on Saturday to make a solid start in their mega event campaign as the Lions' struggled to chase a mammoth target of 429 runs.

Chasing an imposing 429, Dasun Shanaka's side fell short as South Africa's imperious batting performance helped them clinch victory as well as put in the highest total of the event.

Small partnerships between the Sri Lankan middle order raised some hopes but the task ultimately proved too much. They were all out for 326 runs.

South Africa posted the highest World Cup total on Saturday when they scored 428-5 against Sri Lanka on a record-setting day in New Delhi.

The Proteas bettered the previous World Cup best of 417 made by Australia against Afghanistan at Perth in 2015.

Aiden Markram (106) also made history by smashing the fastest World Cup century, reaching the milestone in just 49 balls.

Rassie van der Dussen (108) and Quinton de Kock (100) also hit centuries in the first World Cup match to feature three tons in the same innings.

De Kock, who is playing in his final international tournament, hit his 18th ODI century off 83 balls with 12 fours and three sixes. De Kock put on 204 runs for the second wicket

with van der Dussen before being dismissed off the next ball he faced after reaching 100, top edging a delivery from Matheesha Pathirana to Dhananjaya de Silva at mid-on.

Van der Dussen soon reached his fifth century in the format off 103 balls with 12 fours and three sixes.

De Kock and van der Dussen came together at the fall of the first wicket when skipper Temba Bavuma was trapped lbw by Dilshan Madushanka for just eight in the second over.

with van der Dussen before being dismissed off the next ball he faced after reaching 100, top edging a delivery from Matheesha Pathirana to Dhananjaya de Silva at mid-on.

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QUETTA: Advocate Qamer un Nisa addressing a press conference.

## IPP announces worker conventions, public gatherings from October 13

ISLAMABAD (APP): Istehkam-i-Pakistan Party (IPP) Central Information Secretary, Dr. Firdous Ashiq Awan on Saturday announced that the party will hold worker conventions and public gatherings across the country from October 13.

Addressing a press conference, she said, "Under the leadership of Jahangir Khan Tareen and party president Abdul Haleem Khan, IPP has decided to organize worker conventions and public gatherings from October 13 throughout the country. These public gatherings will demonstrate that IPP represents the public at the grassroots level."

## 200 Palestinians martyred...

**Continued from page 1**

Hamas media, calling on Palestinians everywhere to fight.

"This is the day of the greatest battle to end the last occupation on earth," he said, adding that 5,000 rockets had been launched.

The last major flare-up between Israel and Hamas was a 10-day war in 2021.

Saturday's incident marked an unprecedented infiltration by Hamas fighters into Israel from Gaza, and was the most serious escalation since Israel and Hamas fought a 10-day war in 2021.

Israeli media reported gunbattles between bands of Palestinian fighters and Israeli security forces in towns in southern Israel. In Gaza, people rushed to buy supplies in anticipation of days of conflict ahead.

Hamas military commander Mohammad Deif announced the start of the operation in a broadcast on Hamas media, calling on Palestinians everywhere to fight.

"This is the day of the greatest battle to end the last occupation on earth," he said, adding that 5,000 rockets had been launched.

The Lebanese group Hezbollah said the operation was a "decisive response to Israel's continued occupation and a message to those seeking normalisation with Israel".

An adviser to Iran's Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei congratulated Palestinian fighters for the attack. The Israeli military said its forces were operating inside Gaza but gave no details.

Israeli Defence Minister Gallant said Hamas had "launched a war against the State of Israel". Israeli "troops are fighting against the enemy at every location", he said.

"A number of terrorists have infiltrated into Israeli territory from the Gaza Strip," the Israeli military said in a statement, adding that residents in the area surrounding the Gaza Strip had been told to stay in their homes.

Israeli media claimed that gunmen had opened fire on passers-by in the town of Sderot, in southern Israel, and footage circulating on social media appeared to show clashes in city streets as well as gunmen in jeeps roaming the countryside.

## ICC assures PCB to resolve visa issue for Pakistan journalists

LAHORE (INP): The International Cricket Council (ICC) has issued a statement on the non-issuance of visas to Pakistan journalists and cricket fans for the upcoming World Cup in India. The ICC spokesperson acknowledged the seriousness of the situation and assured that all possible efforts are being made to resolve the issue immediately.

The ICC has assured the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) that they are trying to resolve the issue as soon as possible and will reach a conclusion soon.

Yesterday, the PCB had expressed concern over the issue of visas for fans and journalists while demanding action from the ICC on the visa policy of the World Cup. The board said that they are disappointed that Pakistani journalists and fans are uncertain about obtaining Indian visas to cover Pakistan's opening match in the ICC World Cup. This uncertainty

is causing significant pressure on them.

The PCB also reminded the ICC of its responsibilities and members' agreement regarding the issuance of visas for fans and journalists. The board said that they have been reminding the ICC about this for the last three years, but the issue remains unresolved.

The ICC has not yet released any further details on the steps they are taking to resolve the issue. However, the fact that they have issued a statement and assured the PCB of their efforts suggests that they are taking the matter seriously.

The non-issuance of visas to Pakistan journalists and fans is a serious issue that could have a negative impact on the World Cup. The ICC needs to act quickly and decisively to resolve the issue and ensure that all fans and journalists are able to attend the tournament.

## Achakzai calls for convening...

**Continued from page 1**

on Saturday evening.

The public gathering was arranged by PKMAP.

The senior leaders of PKMAP and large number of its workers participated in the gathering.

The Chairman PKMAP expressed concern about the increasing price-hike, unemployment and law and order situation in the province and so in the country.

He said that common men are suffering due to these problems and as such steps should be taken to end them.

Mehmood Khan Achakzai was also critical of the concerned high ups for allegedly decreasing the population of the

Pashtoons living in Balochistan.

He said that the population of Pashtoons was counted less than the actual in the digital population census as such it rejected it.

He said that it is need of the hour to raise forceful voice for the public issues and rights.

He said that every nationality has its own identity and as such it must be acclaimed and honored.

Other leaders of the PKMAP including Abdul Rahim Ziaratal also addressed the gathering.

They also voiced concern about the manner ongoing crackdown in being done against the Afghan refugees in the country.



QUETTA: Activists of Rail Mazdoor Mahaz holding a protest in front DS Office against stoppage of salaries of railway employees



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Defence Production Lt Gen Anwar Ali Hyder (Retd), Ambassador of Egypt, Egyptian Defense Attaché staff Brigadier Mohamed Saad and others standing in respect of national anthem of Pakistan and Egypt on the occasion of the Egyptian Armed Forces Day at a local hotel.

## AJK PM remembers World community's unprecedented for rehabilitation of Oct. 8

ISLAMABAD (APP): Azad Jammu and Kashmir Prime Minister Chaudhry Anwar ul Haq on Saturday said that Kashmiris would never forget the international community's unprecedented role it had played in relief, rescue and rehabilitation operations following the deadly earthquake that shook the region on October 8, 2005. In his message issued on the 18th anniversary of the earthquake, the AJK premier said, "the international community played such a remarkable role that won the hearts and minds of the Pakistani and the Kashmiri nation". He said that the people of Azad Jammu and Kashmir owe a debt of gratitude to all those countries who helped us in this tragedy. Hailing the government and people of Pakistan for their all-out support, the PM said that the spirit of generosity shown by the Pakistani nation during the deadly situation

was a real morale booster that besides generating a wave of hope amongst the quake victims, encouraged them to overcome the difficulties. He said that it was heartening to see that the region, with the gracious support of the international community and the Pakistani nation, has been able to recover fully. "The cities and towns that were flattened by the earthquake have been rebuilt, damaged roads have been turned into highways,

buildings for educational institutions, hospitals and government offices have been reconstructed afresh with the aid and assistance of the international community", he said, adding that the construction of many such projects was still under progress. He said that national institutions have played an exemplary role in all these reconstruction activities. He said that modern facilities would be provided in every city and village of Azad Kashmir.

## Pakistan, UK agree to work jointly for Pakistani women empowerment: Mushaaf

ISLAMABAD (APP): Special Assistant to Prime Minister on Human Rights and Women Empowerment Mushaaf Hussein Mullick and Afzal Khan MP Labour Party Shadow Minister UK Parliament on Saturday agreed to work together in adopting sustained policy initiatives for Pakistani economic women empowerment and growth in the work sector. During the meeting, the SAPM on HR and Women Empowerment and MP Labour Party Shadow Minister UK Parliament discussed adopting sustained policy initiatives to empower Pakistani women in detail, said a press release. They both agreed that there was not only a dire need to start skill development programs for Pakistani women but also to give them funds in order to enable them so they could play their role alongside

male colleagues for the betterment and uplift of the country. SAPM on HR and Women Empowerment also discussed the plight of women in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) with Afzal Khan. Mushaaf said that fascist Narendra Modi-led Indian army had been criminally involved in human rights violations as they were not only involved in gang-raping over 11000 women but also rendering around 22,963 women widows during the last few years. She informed the Shadow Minister UK Parliament that the Modi regime hatched numerous conspiracies to change the demography of the occupied valley in sheer violation of UN resolutions and international laws. She reiterated that the resolution of the Kashmir

## Ban on DFP by Modi govt in IIOJK denounced

ISLAMABAD (APP): The All Parties Hurriyat Conference (APHC) leaders strongly denouncing the ban imposed by the Narendra Modi-led Indian government on the pro-freedom organization Democratic Freedom Party in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir have termed the move as completely unjustified and illegal. According to Kashmir Media Service, the incarcerated APHC General Secretary, Molvi Bashir Ahmed Irfani, in a message from jail and other leaders including Fayaz Hussain Jafari, Syed Sibte Shabbir Qummi and Farida Bahenji in their statements in Srinagar said India, the world's largest so-called democracy, is violating democratic values and principles in occupied Jammu and Kashmir. They said the international community recognizes Jammu and Kashmir as a disputed territory while the UN has passed several resolutions regarding the right to self-determination of the Kashmiris. Therefore, they said, the Kashmiris' struggle against the India's illegal occupation of their homeland is completely legitimate and just.

The APHC leader said India's action to suppress the Kashmir freedom movement by force and to ban freedom-loving organizations is against the international laws and principles. They said that the ban on the DFP is a manifestation of Indian cowardice. They said India should keep in mind that freedom movements cannot be crushed by repressive tactics. The APHC's constituent organizations, Jammu and Kashmir Democratic Political Movement, Jammu and Kashmir Freedom Front, and Jammu and Kashmir Employees Movement in a joint statement in Srinagar also denounced the ban on DFP. They urged the UN, Organization of Islamic Cooperation and European Union to stop India from banning political parties of occupied Jammu and Kashmir striving for the resolution of the Kashmir dispute in accordance with the UN resolutions. Meanwhile, APHC-AJK leaders including Muhammad Farooq Rehmani, Ghulam Muhammad Safi, Syed Yousuf Naseem, Mir Tahir Masood, Syed Faiz Naqshbandi, Altaf Hussain Wani, Sheikh Abdul Mateen, Imtiaz Wani, Sheikh Muhammad Yaqub, Nisar Mirza, Hassan Bana, Altaf Ahmad Butt, Zahid Safi, Haji Sultan Butt, Syed Mushtaq, Adeel Mushtaq Wani, Abdul Majeed, Muhammad Ashraf Dar, Sheikh Abdul Majeed, Syed Aijaz Rehmani, Advocate Parvez Ahmed, Mushtaq Ahmad Butt, Zahid Ashraf.



ISLAMABAD: Laborers are busy in their work during the construction of Golra Mor Underpass in Federal Capital.

## BISP to evaluate performance of zones on number of complaints addressed

ISLAMABAD (APP): Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) has decided to evaluate performance of different regions and zones on the basis of number of complaints addressed by the officials in order to make the program more transparent and effective. According to the Secretary BISP, Amer Ali Ahmed, the performance of the regional and zonal heads of BISP will be judged on the basis of complaint redressal which is a quantifiable element to reflect upon their performance.

During the past 48 hours, a total of 819 complaints have been resolved on the spot, leading to the recovery of more than Rs. 1.1 million. BISP management has taken immediate action against the agents responsible for deductions, in a swift response to these matters. To date, 13 First Information Reports (FIRs) have been registered, and seven agents have been arrested, showcasing BISP unwavering commitment to transparency and accountability.

Secretary BISP informed the participants of a meeting to review complaint redress system, that he will also participate in the Live E-Katcheri as a sequence of follow up on the unresolved complaints. This virtual engagement will take place via official Facebook account of BISP on October 10 (Tuesday) at 11:30 am. In addition, a dedicated phone line (051-9246421) has been designated to provide a direct channel for the beneficiaries to contact BISP with their queries and concerns.

## Allotment of official residences: IHC declares subject to vacancy allotment letter illegal

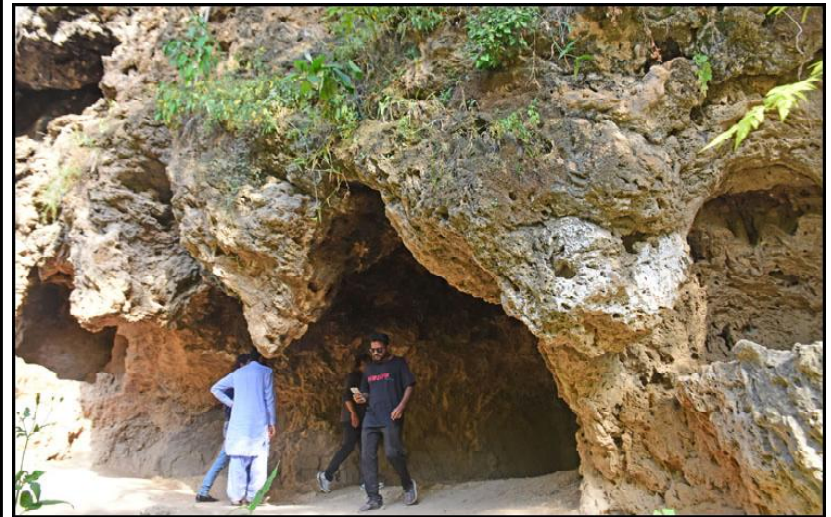
ISLAMABAD (Online): Islamabad High Court (IHC) has declared subject to vacancy allotment letter illegal in connection with official residence in Islamabad. Justice Babar Sattar of IHC issued detailed decision regarding dismissal of petition against cancellation of allotment of contract employee Sumera Siddiqui Saturday. High Court has maintained all the allotment letters of subject to vacancy will be considered revoked. Attorney General (AG) and ministry of housing accepted that there is no room for it in the rules. Federal government has been violating accommodation rules in the allotment of official residences. The court while directing secretary housing to prepare data of federal gov-

ernment employees included in general waiting list related to allotment of government residences remarked data should be prepared with the verification of NADRA and establishment division. Availability of waiting list and accommodation list on website of ministry of housing be ensured within 30 days. It has been said in the decision establishment division, ministry of IT, Finance division and NADRA should assist in preparation of data. Secretary housing gave undertaking that he will get conduct survey about those who have rented out the residence allotted to them. Housing secretary can initiate proceedings as per law against those who have rented out allotted residences.

## AIOU issues instructions for admission candidates

ISLAMABAD (APP): Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU) has closed admissions for matriculation and FA programs offered in the semester autumn 2023. According to the admissions department, students who applied manually and paid the fee but have not sent the admission form and documents to the university are instructed to send these documents by October 13, 2023. Admission will not be granted in the said semester and the candidate will be responsible for not dispatching documents in the given time.

The APHC leader said India's action to suppress the Kashmir freedom movement by force and to ban freedom-loving organiza-



ISLAMABAD: Tourists are enjoying at the historical Buddha Caves at Shah Allah Ditta area of the Federal Capital.

## APHC urges UN to address long pending Kashmir dispute

ISLAMABAD (APP): The All Parties Hurriyat Conference (APHC) has urged the United Nations to take cognizance of grim situation in Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) and force India to peacefully resolve the Kashmir dispute without any further delay for ensuring durable peace in the region. According to Kashmir Media Service on Saturday, the APHC spokesman in a statement issued in Srinagar said the Narendra Modi-led Indian government through brutal colo-

nialed measures is trying, in vain, to deter the Kashmiri people from demanding their internationally-recognized right to self-determination. He termed the killings, arrests and other human rights abuses by Indian troops in IIOJK as the tactics of bygone Stone Age to crush a righteous demand. He said that political disputes like Kashmir could only be resolved through political means. He condemned the upsurge in the cordon and search operations and house

raids by the Indian forces' personnel and sleuths of dreaded investigation agencies across the occupied territory to harass the Kashmiris. He said the purpose of such repressive measures is to force the Kashmiris to give up their ongoing freedom movement. "We are facing a sorry story of death and destruction at the hands of Indian occupation forces since 1947, but we shall never bow before the Indian military might and illegal occupation," he maintained.

## Cleft lip, cleft palate patients receive free examination at camp

ISLAMABAD (APP): As many as 23 patients of cleft lip and cleft palate on Saturday received free examination services from expert surgeons at a medical camp. These deserving patients mostly from far-flung areas like Malakand were short-listed for treatment and surgery. The treatment and surgery process will soon be started at the local hospitals of Islamabad and Rawalpindi. A team of doctors and surgeon led by Dr. Azhar Sheikh conducted the detail examinations. The camp was arranged by Islamabad Cleft Lip and Palate Association (ICLAPA).

According to the association's senior member Mrs. Farhat Akhtar Rehman, ICLAPA's team of surgeons are working to bring smiles on the faces of lip and palate patients bringing positive change in their lives. She said that the association has been working to provide free medical facilities to the poor families since 2004 with the support of families, friends and philanthropists. She added the ICLAPA is a group of volunteers, which relied on donors to bring hope and happiness in the lives of people, for whom it was financially difficult to give treatment to their children.



ISLAMABAD: A watchmaker is repairing the wrist watch for customer at his road side setup at Sector G-11 in Federal Capital.

## Missing person recovery commission deals 7714 cases by August 2023

ISLAMABAD (Online): The Commission for the Recovery of Missing Persons from all over the country has released its performance report, which states that 55 cases of missing persons have been solved during September 2023, while the number of cases solved till August 2023 is 7714. According to the report issued by the Missing Persons Commission, the number of cases till August 2023 was 9967, but in this month of September, 47 more cases have been added and thus the total number of cases has reached 10014.

of which 7749 cases have been solved so far. It is 2265. According to the details of 55 settled cases, 32 missing persons have been traced 26 persons have returned to their homes. Four people are in detention centers. One is in jail. One person has died. A copy of the report has been sent to the concerned authorities. A copy has also been submitted to the Supreme Court. All these details have been sent by Registrar Khalid Seem.

## IRSA releases 140,900 cusecs water

ISLAMABAD (APP): Indus River System Authority (IRSA) Saturday released 140,900 cusecs of water from various rim stations with an inflow of 77,000 cusecs. According to the data released by IRSA, the water level in the River Indus at Tarbela Dam was 1532.88 feet and was 134.88 feet higher than its dead level of 1,398 feet. Water inflow and outflow in the dam was recorded as 44,500 cusecs and 75,000 cusecs respectively. The water level in River Jhelum at Mangla Dam was 1220.80 feet, which was 170.80 feet higher than its dead level of 1,050 feet. The inflow and outflow of water was recorded at 6,600 cusecs and 40,000 cusecs respectively. The release of water at Kalabagh, Taunsa, Guddu and Sukkur was recorded as 72,000, 82,800, 65,300 and 23,200 cusecs respectively.

## Daylight exposure can improve blood sugar control in diabetics

ISLAMABAD (APP): Improving blood sugar control may be as easy as increasing daytime exposure to natural light, according to a new research that can help millions of people with Type 2 diabetes (T2D). The study showed that natural daylight can boost metabolism and help treat and prevent diabetes. It can also help curb other metabolic conditions, such as obesity. "The misalignment of our internal circadian clock with the demands of a 24/7 society is associated with an increased incidence of metabolic diseases, including type 2 diabetes," said Ivo Habets, of Maastricht University, in the Netherlands. "Natural daylight is

the strongest zeitgeber, or environmental cue, of the circadian clock but most people are indoors during the day and so under constant artificial lighting. "Our research shows that the type of light you are exposed to matters for your metabolism. If you work in an office with almost no exposure to natural light, it will have an impact on your metabolism and your risk or control of Type 2 diabetes, so try to get as much daylight as possible, and ideally, get outdoors when you can," Habets said. The findings were presented at the annual meeting of the European Association for the Study of Diabetes (EASD) in Hamburg, Germany from October 2-6.

The team carried out a range of metabolic tests on 13 people with T2D when they were exposed to natural light and when they were exposed to artificial light and compared the results, Medical Daily reported. They were exposed to two lighting conditions during office hours (8am to 5pm) in a randomised cross-over fashion: natural daylight from windows and artificial LED lighting. There was a gap of at least four weeks between the two interventions, each of which lasted 4.5 days. During the natural daylight intervention, the light intensity was usually highest at 12:30pm, with an average reading of 2,453 lux. The artificial light was a constant 300 lux.

Evenings were spent in dim light (less than 5 lux) and the sleeping period (11 p.m. to 7 a.m.) in darkness. The results showed that blood glucose levels were within the normal range for longer during the natural daylight intervention than in the artificial light intervention (59 per cent of the 4.5 days vs. 51 per cent). The respiratory exchange ratio (this provides an indication of whether fat or carbohydrates are being used as the source of energy) was lower during the daylight intervention than during the artificial light intervention, indicating that the participants found it easier to switch from using carbohydrate to fat as an energy source when exposed to natural

light. Per1 and Cry1 — genes that help control circadian rhythms, were more active in natural light than in artificial light. Resting energy expenditure and core body temperature followed similar 24-hour patterns in both light conditions. Serum insulin levels were similar in both light conditions but the pattern of serum glucose and plasma free acids was significantly different between conditions. "Further research is still needed to determine the extent to which artificial light affects metabolism and the amount of time that needs to be spent in natural light or outdoors to compensate for this," Habets said.



ISLAMABAD: Vendors are buying grapes from whole sale dealers at Fruit and Vegetables market in Federal Capital.



## Universities should focus on the character building of students: Punjab Governor

**Independent Report**  
LAHORE: Punjab Governor, Muhammad Balighur Rehman, attended the opening ceremony of the 4th International Rehabilitation Sciences Conference organized by Riphah International University here today as a special guest. Vice Chancellor of Riphah International University, Professor Dr. Anees Ahmed, deans, directors, foreign delegates, and people from academia were present on this occasion.

Addressing the ceremony, Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman said that Riphah International University is striving to meet international standards in the field of

education and research. The efforts of Vice-Chancellor Prof. Dr. Anees Ahmed in this regard are commendable, he added. He said that special attention is also being given to the character building of students in Riphah International University, along with imparting modern education to them.

He said that all universities should focus on the character building of students. He said that education and research are the only means to take the country on the path of prosperity in modern era. He said that such conferences provide an opportunity to learn about the latest trends and research in scientific

development and learn from each other's experiences. He said that we should make progress in the fields of science and technology and equip our youth with the latest trends in technology. He stressed the need to develop research oriented attitudes. He said that we should verify facts before believing. Later, Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman issued a letter to the Vice Chancellors/Rectors of public and private sector universities and directed them to provide facilities for differently abled persons. In the letter, attention is invited to Section 6 of the Punjab Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2022.



**PESHAWAR:** Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor Haji Ghulam Ali meeting with special persons came from Mardan while sitting on stairs at Governor House.

## USAID USAID-ERDA facilitating Micro, Small & Medium enterprises

**PESHAWAR (APP):** As part of its efforts towards private sector led economic growth, USAID-ERDA has extended support to the Livestock and Dairy Development Department, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, and Livestock Farmers Welfare Association KP for organizing the International Livestock, Agri, Fisheries Exhibition 2023 here.

The exhibition provided an opportunity and platform to MSMEs from across Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and NMDs to showcase their products, meet potential customers face-to-face, and enhance their capacities in various aspects of their businesses, including product presentation, packaging, and marketing.

Despite multiple challenges, micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) have emerged as

a critical force in the region's economic recovery and rehabilitation. Recognizing the increasing need for private sector led economic growth in the region, the USAID's Economic Recovery and Development Activity (USAID-ERDA) is implementing several impactful interventions to strengthen and promote micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) and mobilize private sector investments in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

Ghulam Akbar from Wana Waziristan exhibiting Olive Oil and other exotic products from his area, emphasized the pivotal role of MSMEs during crises and challenges.

He expressed that MSMEs had shown resilience and the potential to drive economic recovery in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

## Ashiana Housing scheme AC summons lawyers go give final arguments in connection with acquittal of Shahbaz

**LAHORE (Online):** Accountability Court (AC) Lahore has summoned lawyers to give final arguments in connection with acquittal of Shahbaz Sharif and other accused in Ashiana Housing Scheme.

The court also reserved judgment on indicting two more new accused.

Judge of AC Lahore took up the case for hearing Saturday.

Amjid Pervez counsel for Shahbaz Sharif while giving arguments said inquiry into Ashiana Iqbal started on the complaint of an unknown person. Reference was made on the basis of tales and stories. Loss of not a single pie was

caused to national exchequer due to project. Government provided land and expenditure on construction was incurred by private companies. State land is still there and it has become more costly.

He said there is charge that the cost of construction of project was increased due to delay in project. The cost has increased in respect of several projects during succeeding government stints. There should be reference to no on those projects. Shahbaz Sharif, Ahmad Cheema and all accused are innocent. No evidence of corruption was found during NAB investigation.



**KARACHI:** Afghan refugees leaves the Pakistani port city as they return to Afghanistan Pakistan's government decision to expel people illegally staying in the country as thousands of Afghans living illegally in Pakistan have been given until November 1 to leave voluntarily or face deportation.

## Court approves bail of Haleem, Raja in riots case

**KARACHI (Online):** Bail pleas of PTI leaders Haleem Adil Sheikh and Raja Azhar have been approved in riots and vandalism case.

The case pertaining to riots and vandalism on May 9 in the area of Feroze Abad police station came up for hearing in Anti Terrorism Court (ATC) Karachi Saturday.

The court approved the bail of Haleem Adil Sheikh and Raja Azhar against surety bonds in the sum of Rs one lac each.

The court while endorsing interim bail of PTI leader Khurram Sher Zaman adjourned the hearing of the case till October 23.

Haleem Adil Sheikh and others are facing charges of riots, violence and vandalism.

Haleem Adil Sheikh is in jail on judicial remand in the case registered in police station Town.

## DG reviews LDA projects

**LAHORE (APP):** Lahore Development Authority (LDA) Director General Muhammad Ali Randhawa, during a meeting held here on Saturday, reviewed the development projects of LDA City, LDA Avenue and Jubilee Town housing societies.

The DG assessed the pace of development work and directed officers to take strict measures against land grabbers. He ordered improving services and facilities to the residents of LDA Avenue-I and Jubilee Town. He said that increase in commercial activities in LDA societies had created new opportunities for investment.

Randhawa said that the LDA would start plantation drive in its societies to control environmental pollution and minimize smog.

Unauthorized commercial use of residential buildings and sealed eight properties in Civil Lines area.

According to the RDA spokesman, the Enforcement Squad of RDA conducted the operation and took action against the rules violators. The properties constructed on plot number 8, plot number B-10 Dupilex, plot number 11, Kamal Homeo Cure Centre, plot number 39, plot number 17 and plot number 17-A Silver Oaks School, plot number 38 Sadeeqa's Learning System (SLS) School, plot number 24, plot number 25, Fauji Security Services, CIT, Civil Lines, were sealed.

He said that the Enforcement Squad including the Deputy Director of Building Control, Assistant Director



**LAHORE:** Caretaker Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi presides over the 29th meeting of Provincial Cabinet.

## Saifullah calls on Azam, discusses empowering of local body representatives

**PESHAWAR (INP):** Former Federal Minister, Salim Saifullah Khan called on Caretaker Chief Minister, Azam Khan and discussed with him matters relating to empowering local bodies representatives, securing provincial fiscal rights and water crisis in District Lakki Marwat.

Both discussed current political scenario after dissolution of assemblies, said a statement issued here Saturday.

Salim Saifullah Khan urged the government to grant power and allocate funds to local body representatives and said that the approach would motivate local body

representatives to serve the nation effectively.

He also emphasized the importance of the completion of the Kurram Tangi Dam and the release of water into Marwat canal.

The caretaker CM assured Salim Saifullah Khan of the government's unwavering commitment to expeditiously advance the construction of Kurram Tangi Dam and ensure the release of water well ahead of the upcoming sowing season. He said, "We are committed to resolving these issues on a permanent basis and will tirelessly engage with federal government to ensure that the rights of the province are upheld."

## Naqvi stresses collective efforts to achieve desired results

**Independent Report**  
**LAHORE:** Caretaker Punjab Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi said on Saturday that collective efforts were needed to achieve desired targets. Addressing a press conference along with Caretaker Federal Minister for Commerce Dr Gohar Ejaz here on Saturday, the CM appreciated the role of the agriculture department, APTMA and Pak Army which provided technical support to control a whitely attack on the cotton crop.

The CM said the whitely attack had damaged almost 1.5 million cotton bales while floods in the Satluj also destroyed cotton grown over 70,000 acres of land.

"This year rice worth \$2 billion will be exported," he added. Mohsin Naqvi said special attention was

being paid towards achieving maximum per acre yield of wheat this year.

The CM said that the provision of quality seed and fertiliser to farmers was necessary besides implementing a good strategy to obtain desired production targets. "It is the need of the hour to streamline research institutes," he added.

To a question, he said that the price of sugar had been reduced from Rs 180 to Rs 140-150. "The situation will further improve after smuggling completely stops," he maintained.

He said that an all-out effort was being made to complete development work at the earliest. He also added that relevant departments were working to control smog.



**LAHORE:** Punjab Governor, Muhammad Balighur Rehman addressing the opening ceremony of the 4th International Rehabilitation Sciences Conference organized by Riphah International University.

## RDA seals eight illegal commercial properties in Civil Lines area

**RAWALPINDI (APP):** Rawalpindi Development Authority (RDA) on the directives of the Director General (DG), Rawalpindi Development Authority (RDA), Muhammad Saif Anwar Jappa, here on Saturday carried out an operation against illegal commercial use of residential buildings and sealed eight properties in Civil Lines area.

According to the RDA spokesman, the Enforcement Squad of RDA conducted the operation and took action against the rules violators. The properties constructed on plot number 8, plot number B-10 Dupilex, plot number 11, Kamal Homeo Cure Centre, plot number 39, plot number 17 and plot number 17-A Silver Oaks School, plot number 38 Sadeeqa's Learning System (SLS) School, plot number 24, plot number 25, Fauji Security Services, CIT, Civil Lines, were sealed.

He said that the Enforcement Squad including the Deputy Director of Building Control, Assistant Director

of Building Control/Incharge Enforcement Squad, Building Superintendent, and Building Inspectors carried out the operation under section 39 of the Punjab Development of Cities (PDC) Act 1976.

The spokesman said that earlier notices were also issued to the owners of these properties namely Tahir Shahzad, Sh Usman, Asad Pervaiz Qureshi, Muhammad Zaman, Talha Umar, Hamid Iqbal, Dr. Rustam and Khalid Mehmood.

He said that the sealed properties violated approved plans/maps, the PDC Act 1976 and RDA Building and Zoning Regulations 2020 and constructed illegal commercial buildings without approval and No Objection Certificates.

He said that the DG had directed the Land Use and Building Control (LU&BC) Wing to take strict action against encroachments, illegal and unauthorized constructions and commercial activities without any discrimination.

## KP govt crackdown against illegal housing societies for recovery

**PESHAWAR (Online):** In Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, it has been decided to launch strict crackdown against illegal housing societies as defaulter of billions in terms of paying of electricity bills and speed up the operation against commercial electricity consumers, including the recovery of electricity bills from the users of defaulter feeders in various districts of the province. Orders have been issued to district administrations and police officers across the province to ensure implementation of SOPs before registration of FIRs against electricity consumers. Under the supervision of KP Task Force for energy, during a short period of single month operation more than 20 thousand 645 accused involved in Kunda Culture

have been disconnected, while in terms of fines/ arrears, more than Rs. 1.43 billion amount have been recovered and Rs. 110 million have been recovered from the electricity consumers involved in the heinous act.

Third important meeting of Provincial Task Force was held under the chairmanship of Additional Chief Secretary Home and Tribal Affairs Department, Mohammad Abid Majeed, the Head of Provincial Task Force for Energy, in which senior officials including Divisional Commissioners, Deputy Commissioners, District Police Officers, Representatives of Energy & Power and Industries departments and CEO PESCO were also attended the meeting. It was held from 5th

September, more than 10,406 raids were conducted in various districts of the province jointly by PESCO, district administration and police in streets, neighborhoods and bazaars, where large commercial hubs and factories involved in illegal use of electricity were raided. More than 20 thousand 645 connections of Kunda mafia including consumers were cut while cases were registered against more than 7080 accused by local police, amongst them 479 accused were also arrested.

Moreover, the Chairman Task Force Muhammad Abid Majeed emphasized that strict action should be taken against such housing colonies which have been established without government permission.

## Governor announces jobs for three disabled persons

**PESHAWAR (APP):** Demonstrated love and affection, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor Haji Ghulam Ali here on Saturday met with three disabled persons of Mardan district upon their requests at Governor's house and announced Govt jobs besides handed over cash assistance to them. The Governor met with them at the staircase of the Governor's house after coming out of his office to welcome them. The governor encouraged the special persons Saifur Rehman, Rahamdil and Asad Khan and assured them of providing jobs to them after they requested the same on the disabled quota.



**RAWALPINDI:** A lady health Worker administers Polio Drops to child at Dhoke Ratta area during Polio Vaccination Campaign in City.

## Nutrition Int'l delegation calls on caretaker Minister

**PESHAWAR (Online):** A delegation led by Nutrition International's Global Director Kristen Jo AAN along with a delegation visited the caretaker Minister for Food, Agriculture, Livestock and Forests Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Asif Rafiq in the Civil Secretariat Peshawar, where discussion held regarding the nutrition situation in the province and promoting awareness about it in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Furthermore, high officials of Nutrition International Pakistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa also participated were included in the delegation.

The delegation gave a briefing to the caretaker

provincial minister on the ongoing balanced diet and nutrition projects of Nutrition International in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and shared their performance. Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Minister for Food, Agriculture, Livestock and Forests Asif Rafiq, while remarking that a balanced diet is the need of every individual, in this regard, more awareness should be given regarding taking care of the nutrition of newborns and lactating mothers. He said that in government hospitals of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa parents of new-born children and pregnant women are encouraged to eat a balanced diet so that a healthy society can be formed.



**HYDERABAD:** Visitors viewing the models made by students during the exhibition at Allied High School.

## Awareness walk organized to get prepared for disasters

**MUZAFFARABAD (APP):** A walk was organized here on Saturday to create awareness to promote preparedness to meet disasters amid the 18th anniversary of the deadliest earthquake of October 8, 2005 under the auspicious of Pakistan Red Crescent Society (PRCS) Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) Chapter.

The event saw a significant turnout of community members, volunteers, and PRCS representatives, all coming together to highlight the importance of disaster preparedness and response. The walk commenced at upper Adda and concluded at CMH

Chouk. During the walk, participants carried banners, placards, and informational materials emphasizing the significance of preparedness for natural disasters such as earthquakes, floods, and landslides, which are prevalent in the AJK region. The event also featured speeches by PRCS and State Disaster Management Authority (SDMA) officials and local experts on disaster management and preparedness. In addition, State Disaster Management Authority, District Administration, public and private schools.

## Gohar marks World Cotton Day by announcing record cotton yield in Pakistan

LAHORE (APP): Chief Minister Syed Mohsin Naqvi, APTMA (North) Chairman Kamran Arshad, Senior Vice Chairman Asad Shafi, former Chairman APTMA Syed Ali Ahsan, Secretary General Raza Baqir and other members were also present on the occasion.

Gohar said that World Cotton Day is being celebrated in the country after eleven years when Punjab had produced eight million bales, which was set to reach five million bales during the current year.

He also highlighted that the province had produced 3.3 million bales besides 1.6 million bales in Sindh. He congratulated Punjab Chief Minister

Syed Mohsin Naqvi, Chief Secretary Punjab and Secretary Agriculture Punjab for their dedicated work towards enhancing cotton production in the province. The country would save foreign exchange worth \$ 3 billion with this increase in cotton production, he stressed.

According to him, Pakistan has become part of five major cotton producers in the world and all credit goes to the Punjab chief minister to achieve this stature. He also announced Rs 100 million fund for the Cotton Research Centre on behalf of APTMA, making it clear that APTMA would not fund salaries of the staff of the centre.



MULTAN: Caretaker Provincial Minister for Energy, Industries, Commerce, Investment & Skill Development SM Tanveer addressing a seminar on World Cotton Day organized by Cotton Ginners Association.

## Minister reviews mass transit system

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Caretaker Minister for Transport Ibrahim Hassan Murad on Saturday visited the Central Business District (CBD) headquarters and held extensive discussions on matters related to connectivity of the Punjab mass transit system with the transit plans of Ravi Urban Development Authority (RUDA) and CBD.

He appreciated the transport and transit plans of both authorities, saying that due to price hikes, petroleum price variations and an overall dip in economic activity the solution to public mobility is affordable and people

friendly mass transit systems.

During a briefing session the contours of RUDA transit plan basing on nine precincts with extensive primary, secondary and tertiary roads network with 300 feet right of way at main nodes was elaborately explained with inclusions of transport technology, transport corridors, expected corridor densities and rider stipulations.

Huge parking depots, freight terminals, intelligent transport system and revamping of existing railway stations in the area are one of few highlights which underscore the most modern, public friendly

and sustainable transport and transit plan. The execution will be delineated through employing the latest, metro, LRT, BRT and conventional systems.

On divulging upon the CBD transit system, it was reiterated that it will have the most ideal connectivity with Punjab mass transit, basing upon feeder corridor, blue line and grand communication infrastructure initiatives like Ghora Chowk flyover and revamping of Walton Road.

The minister also proposed to have renamed/branded the kalma chowk metro station as CBD station with display panopolies.



GWADAR: A delegation of Real Estate Association meeting with Deputy Commissioner Gwadar Aurangzaib Badini.

## ICCI calls for better development of Blue Area to boost trade activities

ISLAMABAD (APP): Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) on Saturday urged the Capital Development Authority (CDA) to focus on the better development to Blue Area in order to facilitate the growth of trade activities in the federal capital.

It said that Blue Area is the largest commercial centre of Islamabad, which plays an important role in the development of the economy.

While talking to a delegation of Traders Welfare Association, that visited ICCI Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, President ICCI said that parking is the most serious issue of the Blue Area.

He urged CDA to allow parking of vehicles on the green area of Fazal Haq Road till the construction of a parking plaza is materialized.

## Recovery of electricity dues from defaulter continues in KP

PESHAWAR (APP): Under the supervision of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Task Force for Energy, the recovery of electricity bills from the users of defaulter feeders in various districts of the province continued.

Strict directives have been issued to district administrations and police officers across the province to ensure the implementation of SOPs before registration of FIRs against electricity consumers.

Under the supervision of KP Task Force for Energy, more than 20645 connections involved in Kunda culture have been disconnected, while in terms of fines and arrears, more than Rs. 1.43 billion amount have been recovered and Rs. 110 million have been recovered from the electricity

consumers involved in the heinous act.

Third important meeting of the Provincial Task Force was held under the chairmanship of Additional Chief Secretary Home and Tribal Affairs Department, Mohammad Abid Majeed, the Head of Provincial Task Force for Energy.

Senior officials including Divisional Commissioners, Deputy Commissioners, District Police Officers, Representatives of Energy & Power and Industries departments and the CEO of PESCO also attended the meeting.

It was told in the meeting that from September 5, more than 10,406 raids were conducted in various districts of the province jointly by PESCO.

## 5m cottons bales obtained this year

FAISALABAD (APP): More than 5 million bales of cotton have been obtained this year due to efforts of the agricultural scientists and the government.

Ayub Agriculture Research Institute (AARI) Faisalabad Senior Scientist Dr Jahanzaib Farooq told a function, organised on the World Cotton Day of the World Trade Organisation (WTO), on Saturday that cotton was a precious cash crop, which played a pivotal role in strengthening national economy and Pakistan was ranked top fifth country that was producing cotton and exporting its products.

He said the government had evolved a comprehensive strategy to increase cotton production by facilitating the cotton growers at maximum extent. In this connection, the cotton growers were also provided subsidies on various appliances in addition to ensuring provision of quality seeds, pesticides.

## Vice President SCCI assumes charge

PESHAWAR (APP): Sanaullah Khan formally took charge of his office as Senior Vice President of the Sarhad Chamber of Commerce and Industry, according to a press release issued here on Saturday.

Ghazanfar Bilour, former President of FPCCI, and Fuad Ishaq, President of the Sarhad Chamber of Commerce and Industry, along with representatives of traders, attended the ceremony.

Former FPCCI president Ghazanfar Bilour and traders' leaders extended heartfelt felicitations to the SCCI's President Fuad Ishaq and Senior Vice President Sanaullah Khan Saraf and expressed hope that they, along with other members of their cabinet, would play an important role in the resolution of business.

## Gas theft crackdown: 55 more connections cut off, Rs 30mln fine imposed

LAHORE (APP): The Sui Northern Gas Pipelines Limited (SNGPL) detected another 55 illegal connections and imposed a fine of worth Rs 30 million in its ongoing crackdown against gas theft.

According to a spokesman for SNGPL, a Lahore regional team cut off 15 connections on illegal use of gas and another two on use of compressors and 47 underbilling cases have been processed and a FIR was lodged against them.

In Bahawalpur, the regional team cut off seven connections on use of compressor while another 16 for illegal use and 17 underbilling cases were processed. The company

severed 11 connections on illegal use of gas while another 09 on compressor use and 6 underbilling cases have been processed in Multan. The team imposed a fine of Rs 40,000 on gas pilferers.

In Sheikhpura, one connection was disconnected on use of compressor while 63 under billing cases have been processed. In Peshawar and Karak, the company disconnected 44 connections on account of direct use of gas and illegal connections. The regional team also lodged two FIRs against gas thieves.

In Rawalpindi, the regional team severed six gas connections on direct and illegal use of gas.

## Cotton major part of Pak exports: CM

LAHORE (APP): Caretaker Punjab Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi has said that cotton is not only the important part of the country's export but a source of income for farmers.

He said this in his message issued on the World Cotton Day, here on Saturday. The CM said that cotton provides raw material for preparing various items related to clothes, industrial items, household products, etc.

Mohsin Naqvi said that the Cotton Day was being observed to highlight the significance of cotton besides finding solutions to problems of the cotton industry. He said, "Many countries have taken seed from Pakistan and increased their cotton yield."

## Punjab govt to announce 10-year plan for agriculture promotion soon: SM Tanveer

MULTAN (APP): Caretaker Provincial Minister for Industry, Commerce and Agriculture, SM Tanveer, said on Saturday that Punjab Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi and his team have worked hard to enhance cotton cultivation and production due to which over 10 million cotton bales to be obtained this year.

He expressed these views during a ceremony organized by the Pakistan Cotton Ginners Association in connection with World Cotton Day in which SM Tanveer participated representing caretaker chief minister Punjab.

The minister further said that the purpose of marking World Cotton Day was to highlight the importance of cotton not only in Pakistan but also worldwide.

He informed that they would give a 10-year plan for the promotion of

agriculture in the next two months, adding that important steps are to be taken to prevent water wastage.

The greater Thal Kanals project will be completed. 58 small dams will be made functional in the Potohar region.

He said that cotton production has to be increased by using modern technology and the South Punjab has a unique position in terms of cotton production.

The minister said that the provision of high-quality seeds and pesticides to farmers was being ensured.

Secretary of Agriculture Punjab, Ifkhar Ali Sahu while addressing the ceremony, said that the economy was based on agriculture and agriculture based on cotton.

He said that the journey started in April for the revival of cotton has yielded positive results.



LAHORE: A laborer is busy cutting iron sheet at his work place.

## Development of poultry sector imperative to create jobs: Governor

PESHAWAR (APP): Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor, Haji Ghulam Ali here Saturday said that employment opportunities could be created for youth by developing the poultry sector in the province.

He said efforts would be made to facilitate people associated with the poultry sector in the province.

The Governor

expressed these views during a meeting with office bearers of all poultry associations led by its patron-in-chief Malook Khan here at Governor's house. The delegation apprised the Governor about their problems.

The Governor directed the concerned authorities for its speedy resolutions.

## NCP goods worth over Rs 11.6 m seized in DI Khan

DERA ISMAIL KHAN (APP): The district police have seized non custom paid (NCP) goods worth over Rs 11.6 million during checking of several vehicles here in the limits of Darazinda and Daraban police stations.

According to the Police spokesman, following the directions of District Police Officer Abdul Rauf Babar Qaisrani, the operations against smugglings of NCP goods were continued across the district.

A team of Darazinda police station led by SDPO Darazinda Circle Sher Ullah Khan along with SHO Din Muhammad Khan and Incharge of Aman-Mela check post Rehman Ullah recovered 155 tyres of different sizes

from a vehicle bearing number (TMM-436). The estimated worth of the recovered tyres is Rs 9.3 million.

Similarly, Daraban police team led by SDPO Daraban Circle Malik Aneesul Hassan along with SHO Atta Ullah Khan and Daraban Check post Incharge Muhammad Imran checked different vehicles at the check post.

During which, the police team recovered NCP items including 15 rolls of cloth, one sack of tea, two sacks of Gutka, five cartons of cosmetics items, 33 tyres of different sizes, 20 sacks of plastic bags, three sacks of dry milk, two cartons of veterinary medicines, five cartons Shampoo, 70 sacks of China Salt.



HYDERABAD: Farmer women collecting the turnips from their farm field.

## 7m cotton bales production expected in South, Punjab this year; Saqib Ali Ateel

MULTAN (APP): Secretary Agriculture South Punjab, Saqib Ali Ateel said that the government was taking positive measures for the revival of cotton as the crop had been cultivated on four million acres land across the region from which seven million cotton bales production expected this year.

He expressed these views while addressing a ceremony held at Central Cotton Research Institute regarding the World Cotton Day here Saturday.

He further said that the Agriculture Secretariat South Punjab had turned the region into cotton

valley in a short time period. Now the confidence of the farmers has to be maintained by making cotton crop profitable.

Provision of high quality seeds of climate resistant varieties, promotion of IPM technology, equal use of effective pesticides, water arrangement for irrigation, contact farming, availability of agri inputs on fixed rates and reasonable support price are more important for cotton farmers, he said and added that cotton played very important role in the prosperity of our farmers and the stability.



LAHORE: People are buying grocery from shops at Akbari Market as people are feels relax after decreasing of the prices of such daily usage stuff but further they are demanding decreasing of fuel prices also to manage their expenditure according to their budget, in Provincial Capital.

## LCCI chief happy with cotton sector's revival

LAHORE (APP): The cotton sector of Pakistan can play a critical role in economic development and poverty alleviation provided the government forms sustainable and supportive policies with the consultation of stakeholders.

In a message on World Cotton Day here Saturday, Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry Kashif Anwar President said that it is a good sign that Pakistan's cotton sector has made a

remarkable recovery after suffering massive losses due to last year's devastating floods and around 71 percent surge has been recorded in cotton production.

He said that the credit goes to Federal Commerce Minister Gohar Ejaz, Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi and Punjab Minister for Energy, Industries, Commerce, Investment & Skills Development SM Tanveer for making serious efforts for the revival of the cotton sector.

## Farmers advised for wheat cultivation from mid-October

FAISALABAD (APP): The agricultural experts have advised farmers to prepare their lands to start wheat cultivation from mid-October for getting bumper yield.

A spokesman for the Agriculture (Extension) Department said here on Saturday that mid-October to end-November was the most suitable time for wheat cultivation. Therefore, farmers should prepare their lands and use

approved wheat varieties for cultivation. Among the approved varieties include Chakwal-50, NARC-2009, PARC-2009, Dharabi-2011, Pakistan-2013, Sehar-2006, Galaxy-2013, NN Gandum-I, 2016, Johar-2016, Anaj-2017, Lasani-2008, Faisalabad-2008, AARI-2011, Punjab-2011, Millat-2011, NARC-2011, Shafaq-2006, Fareed-2006, Meraj-2008 and Aas-2011.

## 'Half the village is gone': Ukraine hamlet reels after missile strike

**Monitoring Desk**  
**HROZA:** In a burial plot next to a field outside the remote Ukrainian hamlet of Hroza, residents removed undergrowth and cleared away litter to make space for more graves.

Working quietly, it was something to distract them from the horror of what happened the day before.

As dozens of people gathered in the local cafe for a meal to honour a soldier who died in the war against Russia, a missile struck, killing at least 52 people.

It was one of the most deadly attacks during 20 months of fighting, and one that has devastated the tiny, tight-knit community.

Shock is giving way to grief, as well as questions

about how the Russians could have known about the gathering in what some Hroza residents say was a deliberate attack.

Among those killed was Olya, 36, who is survived by three children. Her husband died too.

Her father, Valeriy Kozyr, was at the cemetery preparing to bury her and his son-in-law.

"It would have been better if I had died," he said quietly as he wept. "Oh God, you cannot punish me like this. To leave the father and take the children!"

Wiping tears from his face, the 61-year-old explained that he must now work out how to care for his three grand-children aged 10, 15 and 17. Kozyr wants to bury Olya and her

husband side-by-side in a single grave.

He told Reuters he was not in the cafe on Thursday because he worked night shifts as a security guard, and so was spared.

Nearby, three brothers were readying a plot in which to bury their parents, both killed in what President Volodymyr Zelenskyy has called a deliberate Russian assault on civilians.

Moscow denies targeting civilians in its full-scale invasion, a position it repeated on Friday in response to the Hroza strike.

Thousands have been killed in a bombing campaign that has hit apartment blocks and restaurants as well as power stations, bridges and grain silos.



Police officers inspect the fragments of a Russian missile in the village of Hroza near Kharkiv, Ukraine.

## China, Vietnam prepare for possible Xi visit to Hanoi in next month -sources

**Monitoring Desk**  
**HANOI:** Vietnamese and Chinese officials are preparing for a possible visit from President Xi Jinping to Hanoi at the end of October or early November, on the heels of U.S. President Joe Biden's trip in September, four people familiar with the plans said.

The visit would underline the Southeast Asian manufacturing hub's growing strategic importance, as big powers jostle for influence in the region amid rising tensions between Beijing and Washington.

Work is under way on a joint statement that would be issued during the visit, four people informed about the negotiations told Reuters.

Two of them said the parties were discussing a reference to being together in a "community of common destiny", a phrase often used by Xi that some find controversial. Vietnamese officials were cautious about adding that ref-

erence, the two sources said.

A fifth Vietnamese source said the joint statement was likely to include that reference. It could be interpreted as an elevation of ties between the two countries, according to two of the sources, but it is unclear what that would entail and what concrete agreements might be announced.

That person, and the four informed about the negotiations, declined to be named because of the sensitivity of the matter.

The visit has not been announced and could still be called off or postponed, but logistical arrangements have been explored.

"All important diplomatic activities of Vietnam would be announced to you when appropriate," Vietnam's foreign affairs ministry spokesperson Pham Thu Hang told a news conference on Thursday when asked about the possible visit.

## Biden-Xi meeting in November not finalized: US officials

**Monitoring Desk**  
**WASHINGTON:** The White House is working to arrange a face-to-face meeting between U.S. President Joe Biden and Chinese President Xi Jinping next month in San Francisco, U.S. officials say, but they warn that plans are still uncertain.

The Biden team has been working for months to try to get the two leaders together at a centerpiece event during the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation forum to be held in San Francisco from Nov. 11 to 17, but U.S. officials cautioned that the time and location of a meeting and items for discussion have not been nailed down. The Washington Post reported on Thursday that plans for the San Francisco summit were "pretty firm."

U.S. officials see a meeting as essential to help cool a relationship that has grown testy in recent years, with tensions rising over Taiwan and a Chinese military buildup in the South China Sea.

## Armed men kidnap 9 in Nigeria's northwest Zamfara state

**Monitoring Desk**  
**MAIDUGURI:** At least nine people were kidnapped in an attack on Friday by gunmen in Nigeria's northwest Zamfara state, residents said.

Kidnapping for ransom by armed gangs is rife in northwest Nigeria due to high levels of poverty, unemployment, and the proliferation of illegal firearms.

The Zamfara police and local government did not immediately respond to Reuters requests for comment on Friday.

Residents of Tsohuwar Kasuwa community in Kaura Namoda local government area of the state said the gunmen stormed their village in an early morning raid on motorcycles.

"They abducted my two children and they were taken to an unknown destination," Rabe Sarkawa, a

resident of the community, told Reuters by phone. "I am in pain right now."

Five members of resident Alhaji Sabitu's household were among those abducted, and his herd of cattle was taken.

"Apart from unrest from the abductions for ransom, and the loss of innocent lives, we're also not allowed to carry out our daily livelihood in peace," Sabitu said.

Attacks in the northwest are part of widespread insecurity in Nigeria, with a 14-year Islamist insurgency in the northeast, and gang and separatist violence in the southeast.

Deadly clashes also frequently occur between farmers and herders.

On Wednesday gunmen kidnapped five female students from a university in the neighbouring Katsina state, police said.

## Ex Colombia President Uribe says witness tampering case to go to trial

**Monitoring Desk**  
**BOGOTA:** Colombia's former President Alvaro Uribe said his long-running witness tampering case will go to trial, citing a news magazine ahead of an expected formal decision from a Bogota court on Friday.

Uribe and several allies have been investigated over allegations of witness tampering carried out in an attempt to discredit accusations he had ties to right-wing paramilitaries. The former president has always maintained his innocence. Some media on Thursday reported that Uribe would face trial, citing sources. "Clearly I read this with enormous concern. I have ardently defended my reputation but I don't know anything about bribing witnesses or misleading the court."



A building is ablaze following rocket attacks from the Gaza Strip, in Tel Aviv, Israel.

## Turkey steps up strikes on militants as conflict escalates in Syria

**Monitoring Desk**  
**ISTANBUL:** Turkish security forces attacked Kurdish militants in northern Syria and eastern Turkey, and Ankara said it will continue to destroy their capabilities across the region as conflict escalated nearly a week after a bomb attack in Ankara.

After U.S. forces shot down a Turkish drone in northern Syria on Thursday, Turkey confirmed the incident but assigned no blame, indicating it may want to contain any tensions with its NATO ally.

The military "neutralised" 26 Kurdish militants in northern Syria

overnight in retaliation for a rocket attack on a Turkish base, the defence ministry said. Turkey typically uses the term "neutralise" to mean kill.

The rocket attack on the base, by the Syrian Kurdish YPG militia, killed one Turkish police officer and wounded seven officers and soldiers in north-west Syria's Dabiq area on Thursday evening, Ankara said.

Turkey also conducted air strikes and destroyed 30 militant targets elsewhere in northern Syria on Thursday night, including an oil well, a storage facility and

shelters, the defence ministry said.

On Friday, the ministry said Turkey's military had conducted another round of air strikes in northern Syria and destroyed 15 other militant targets where it said militants were believed to be. It did not say where in northern Syria the strikes, carried out at 1900 GMT, had hit.

"As has been done in Iraq, all the capabilities and revenue sources developed by the terrorist organisation in Syria will continue to be destroyed in a systematic way," the foreign ministry said in a statement.

## Hungary, Poland rail at EU migration policy

**Monitoring Desk**  
**GRANADA:** Poland accused Berlin and Brussels of imposing a migration "diktat" on the European Union and Hungary said the bloc was forcing through a deal as EU leaders sought to tackle the growing number of immigrants from the Middle East and Africa.

The EU summit in the Spanish city of Granada is seeking ways to bring down the number of refugees and migrants arriving in Europe outside of regular border crossings, something Italy, Spain and Germany are especially concerned about.

But the bloc remains at odds about how to share out the task of providing for those who make the deal. A long-stalled deal

between member states came together last week despite opposition from populist governments in Poland and Hungary.

The EU's proposed new agreement on migration aims to ease pressure on frontline countries like Italy and Greece by moving some arrivals to other EU countries. Those opposed to hosting asylum seekers will have to pay those that do so.

The top migration official in the EU, home to 450 million people, last week said there had been 250,000 irregular arrivals so far this year — far below 2015, when more than a million people made it across the sea, overwhelming the bloc.

## Washington expels two Russian diplomats

**Monitoring Desk**  
**WASHINGTON:** The United States said it was expelling two Russian diplomats, a retaliatory step after Moscow kicked out two Americans last month. "In response to the Russian Federation's specious expulsion of two US embassy Moscow diplomats, the State Department reciprocated by declaring persona non grata two Russian embassy officials operating in the United States," a State Department spokesperson said.

Russia said last month that it was expelling two US diplomats for liaising with Robert Shonov, a Russian citizen who had formerly worked at the US consulate in the Far Eastern city of Vladivostok.



People walk along a street as a jeep is buried in the mud due to the flood at Teesta Bazaar in Kalimpong District, West Bengal, India.

## Slovakia halts military aid for Ukraine as parties that oppose it negotiate to form a new government

**Monitoring Desk**  
**BRATISLAVA:** Slovakia's president has refused a plan by her country's caretaker government to send further military aid to Ukraine, saying it doesn't have the authority and parties that oppose such support are in talks to form a government following last week's election.

The presidential office said in a statement Thursday that the current government of technocrats has only limited powers because it lost a mandatory confidence vote in Parliament on June 15, a month after President Zuzana

Caputova swore it in.

The technocrat Cabinet was created with the aim of leading the country to Saturday's early election. Fico has vowed to withdraw Slovakia's military support for Ukraine, and his victory could further strain the fragile unity in the European Union and NATO. Fico needs to find coalition partners to rule with a parliamentary majority and has been negotiating with two other parties. He has been given two weeks.

The presidential office said that Caputova, who has been a staunch supporter of Ukraine and visited Kyiv twice.

## France's Sarkozy investigated for suspected witness tampering in Libya funds case

**Monitoring Desk**  
**PARIS:** Former French President Nicolas Sarkozy was placed under formal investigation for suspected witness tampering and fraud, as part of a probe into whether he received illegal Libyan funding for his successful 2007 election campaign. Sarkozy, due to go on trial in 2025 over the accusations he illegally accepted the Libyan funds, has always denied wrongdoing. His lawyers could not be immediately reached for comment.

## Foxconn founder Terry Gou says he has reached Taiwan election bid threshold

**Monitoring Desk**  
**TAIPEI:** Terry Gou, the billionaire founder of major Apple supplier Foxconn (2317.TW), said he had already collected enough electorate signatures to qualify to stand as an independent in January's presidential election.

Gou announced his bid in August, saying he wanted to unite the opposition and ensure the island did not become "the next Ukraine", blaming the ruling Democratic Progressive Party (DPP) for taking Taiwan to the brink of war by antagonising China which claims the island as its own

territory. Gou was the fourth person to throw his hat in the ring, but his poll numbers have put him at the bottom and well behind the front-runner, the ruling Democratic Progressive Party's (DPP) William Lai, who is currently vice president. Speaking to supporters at a temple in Banqiao outside of Taipei, Gou said he had already on Wednesday collected enough signatures to qualify to be on the ballot, his campaign said in a statement.

"Your signatures are a responsibility for me, and your signatures are a spur and encouragement to me.

## An American tourist is arrested for smashing ancient Roman statues at a museum in Israel

**Monitoring Desk**  
**JERUSALEM:** Israeli police have arrested an American tourist at the Israel Museum in Jerusalem after he hurled works of art to the floor, defacing two second-century Roman statues. The vandalism late Thursday raised questions about the safety of Israel's priceless collections and stirred concern about a rise in attacks on cultural heritage in Jerusalem. Police identified the suspect as a radical 40-year-old Jewish American tourist and said initial questioning suggested he smashed the statues.

## US doesn't want to build new sections of border wall, Mexico says

**Monitoring Desk**  
**MEXICO CITY:** The US government does not want to build new sections of wall on its border with Mexico, Mexican President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador said, expressing doubt that the planned construction would be carried out.

"It's pure publicity," Lopez Obrador said in a regular morning press conference, after the Biden administration announced it would build additional sections of border wall, carrying forward a signature policy of the Trump administration.

A high-ranking delegation of US officials met Thursday with their Mexican counterparts, among them US Secretary of State

Antony Blinken.

"They don't want to (build more sections of the wall), that's what they told us," Lopez Obrador said.

US President Joe Biden said on Thursday that the funds allocated for the construction were appropriated by Congress and that he could not, by law, redirect the money.

Biden, when he took office in 2021, pledged that "no more American taxpayer dollars be diverted to construct a border wall."

Mexico's president added that in the meetings the day before, the Mexican delegation expressed that Mexico "does not believe (additional border wall construction) to be the answer to the migration problem."

## EU leaders back bigger union but avoid date, warn against short cuts

**Monitoring Desk**  
**GRANADA:** European Union leaders declared support for adding new members to the bloc but set no target date and warned candidates such as Ukraine that there would be no short cuts. At a summit in the Spanish city of Granada, leaders of the 27-nation union proclaimed that EU enlargement is an "investment in peace, security, stability and prosperity."

But they also said that both the EU and would-be members - which include Ukraine, Moldova and Western Balkan states - would need to make big changes to be ready for an enlarged union.

"Aspiring members need to step up their reform efforts, notably in the area of rule of law," they said in a statement. Russia's invasion of Ukraine has propelled enlargement up the agenda of

the EU. Its leaders say the conflict has shown the danger of countries being in contested "grey zones" rather than being firmly part of the EU political camp.

Even as it fights Russia's invasion, Ukraine has made EU membership talks one of its top priorities. It aims to get the green light from EU leaders at a summit in December. Countries have to meet legal, economic and democratic standards to join the EU - a process that takes years. Officials say the EU will also have to overhaul its decision-making procedures and budget rules to take in new members. Charles Michel, the president of the European Council of EU leaders, has proposed the bloc should be ready to expand by 2030, arguing setting such a target would encourage both the EU and candidate countries to step up their reform efforts.

## KFOR commander calls on Kosovo and Serbia to return to talks to prevent future violence

**Monitoring Desk**  
**PRISTINA:** The NATO-led peacekeeping force called on both Kosovo and Serbia to return to the negotiating table to resolve their issues to prevent violence like the recent shootout between masked Serb gunmen and Kosovo police that left four people dead and sent tensions soaring in the region.

Kosovo Force commander Maj. Gen. Angelo Michele Ristuccia called on both countries to "refrain from inflammatory and counterproductive rhetoric and help to create the necessary conditions for lasting security in Kosovo and across the region."

Ristuccia told a news conference that KFOR fully supported European Union-facilitated dialogue to normalize their ties.

In February, the EU put forward a 10-point plan to end months of political crises. Kosovo Prime Minister Albin Kurti and Serbian President Aleksandar Vucic gave their approval at the time, but with some reservations that haven't been resolved.

"If the parties do not come back to the table ... and do not find a common solution and do not negotiate for a political solution,

I think this balance will become more fragile and volatile in the future," Ristuccia said.

On Sept. 24, around 30 Serb gunmen killed a Kosovo police officer and then set up barricades in northern Kosovo before launching an hours-long gunbattle with Kosovo police. Three gunmen were killed.

NATO beefed up its peacekeeping presence in Kosovo by about 200 British troops after the crisis. More are expected to be deployed from Romania and other allies if the situation requires, Ristuccia said. KFOR is made up of around 4,500 troops from 27 nations.

The EU-facilitated dialogue, which began in 2011, has yielded few results.

Serbia and Kosovo have been at odds for decades. Their 1998-1999 war, which ended after a 78-day NATO bombing campaign forced Serbian forces to withdraw from Kosovo, left more than 10,000 people dead, mostly Kosovo Albanians.

Kosovo, a former province of Serbia, declared independence in 2008 — a move that Belgrade refuses to recognize.

## Scientists untangle mystery of universe's earliest galaxies

**Monitoring Desk**  
**WASHINGTON:** The James Webb Space Telescope has provided an astonishing glimpse of the early history of our universe, spotting a collection of galaxies dating to the enigmatic epoch called cosmic dawn.

But the existence of what appear to be massive and mature galaxies during the universe's infancy defied expectations.

This left scientists scrambling for an explanation, while questioning the basic tenets of cosmology, the science of the origin and development of the universe.

Now, a new study may resolve the mystery without ripping up the textbooks. Researchers used sophisticated computer simulations to model how the earliest galaxies evolved.

This indicated that star formation unfolded differently in these galaxies in

the first few hundred million years after the Big Bang than it does in large galaxies like our Milky Way today.

According to the study, these galaxies may have been relatively small, as expected, but might glow just as brightly as massive galaxies giving a deceptive impression of great mass because of brilliant bursts of star formation.

"Astronomers can securely measure how bright those early galaxies are because photons (particles of light) are directly detectable and countable, whereas it is much more difficult to tell whether those galaxies are really big or massive. They appear to be big because they are observed to be bright," said Guochao Sun, a postdoctoral fellow in astronomy at North-western University in Illinois and lead author of the study published this week in the Astrophysical Journal Letters.



A woman poses for pictures amid tourists visiting the Badaling section of the Great Wall on the National Day holiday in Beijing, China.



## India's persistent repression of Kashmiris' right to freedom threatens peace: Pakistan

UNITED NATIONS (APP): Pakistan has warned that India's continued "repression" of the UN-promised Kashmiri people's right to self-determination, in defiance of Security Council resolutions, posed a grave threat to regional and international peace and security.

"Strategic stability is also threatened by this state (India) as it continues to receive abundant supply of conventional and non-conventional weaponry, and now new sensitive technologies and platforms," Ambassador Khalil Hashmi told the UN General Assembly's First Committee, which deals with disarmament and international security matters on Friday.

"These generous supplies and its designation as a net security provider have emboldened this State to impose its hegemony and the well-advertised ambition to emerge as a dominant power in South Asia, the Indian Ocean and beyond," said Ambassador Hashmi, who is Pakistan's permanent representative

to UN offices in Geneva. The Pakistani envoy, who was speaking in a general debate, reaffirmed the need for equitable and balanced disarmament measures that ensure each State's right to security, with no individual State or group of States gaining advantages over others.

Noting an unprecedented increase in military expenditures and rising great power rivalries, he characterized the global security landscape as "grim."

Without naming India, Ambassador Hashmi said "this state" continued to pursue belligerent policies, aggressive war-fighting doctrines, and heightened readiness postures and deployments, fraught with demonstrated risks of accidental launches. Pakistan, he said, cannot remain oblivious to this evolving security dynamics "in our immediate neighbourhood", and will maintain its capability of minimum credible deterrence against all forms of aggression.

Despite continuing threats, Pakistan remained

committed to the goal of a peaceful and stable South Asia.

Over the past quarter century, he said, Pakistan proposed a number of initiatives to promote peace and security and prevent the emergence of nuclear weapons in South Asia.

Following the nuclear tests in South Asia, Pakistan proposed the establishment of a Strategic Restraint Regime (SRR) in the region, premised on three interlocking and mutually reinforcing elements of conflict resolution, nuclear and missile restraint and conventional arms balance.

"The proposal remains on the table," Ambassador Hashmi said, pointing out that Pakistan's security policy continued to be defined by restraint, responsibility and avoidance of a mutually debilitating arms race in the region.

He said that peace and stability in South Asia can be built through the resumption of negotiations to resolve the outstanding India-Pakistan disputes.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Defence Production Lt Gen Anwar Ali Hyder (Retd) receives souvenir from Egyptian Defense Attaché staff Brigadier Mohamed Saad on the occasion of the Egyptian Armed Forces Day as Ambassador of Egypt to Pakistan Tarek Dahroug were also present on the occasion on 06 October in Federal Capital.

## Indian police receive threat email to blow up PM, Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad

MUMBAI (INP): The Mumbai police has received an email threatening to blow up the Indian prime minister and the Narendra Modi stadium in Ahmedabad, which is currently the venue for several ICC Cricket World Cup matches.

The email warned the authorities that the group that sent the email has already mobilised individuals to carry out the assaults if the Indian government does not pay 5 billion Indian rupees and release infamous gangster Lawrence Bishnoi who is currently lodged in Mandoli jail, in Delhi, Indian media reported.

The threat message, which allegedly originated in Europe, was sent to India's National Investigation Agency (NIA) who then informed the Mumbai police about it, the police said.

"We have received the email from the NIA, which has alerted all concerned agencies in other places as well. We also got the email ID from which the NIA got the email and are trying to trace that as well and prima facie it seems that the mail has come from Europe," a police officer said. He said the message appears to be a hoax or mischief played by

someone sitting in a foreign country, but they have still launched the manhunt for the sender, and the security of all cricket matches will be reviewed and beefed up if required.

The email sent to the NIA read: "We will blow up Narendra Modi and the Narendra Modi stadium as well if the government fails to pay us Rs 500 crore and release Lawrence Bishnoi."

"Everything sells in Hindustan, so we too have bought something. No matter how much you secure, you won't be able to remain safe from us. If you wish to talk, do so on this email," it added.



QUETTA: Caretaker Information Minister Jan Achakzai in a group photo with teachers and students on eve of Digital Media Skill Training.

## Afghanistan plays major role in re-organizing TTP

RAWALPINDI (Online): Pakistan army launched operation "Zarb-e-azb" in 2014 to eliminate terrorism from the country.

This operation led to devastate TTP and its terrorists shifted to Afghanistan for saving and regrouping them. Taliban hoisted the flag of victory in Kabul, capital of Afghanistan in 2021 and hours after TTP was the first faction which celebrated the victory enthusiastically. In a statement issued on August 17, 2021, TTP dubbed Taliban occupation of Kabul as great victory. TTP ring leader Noor Wali Mehsud said over victory of Taliban in Afghanistan that now TTP will work for ensuring stability of Taliban government.

Noor Wali Mehsud renewed the pledge of allegiance with Taliban Amir Haibat Ullah Akhonzada besides announcing to continue unconditional support for Taliban.

The major benefit availed by TTP due to Taliban control over Kabul was that its hundreds of terrorists were released

from jails. This added to its prowess and force.

The TTP ring leaders who were released included Mouly Faqr Muhammad Bajori and former spokesperson Mufi Khalid Bilti.

Afghan Taliban leadership apparently discourages its warriors to join war against Pakistan. Certain groups consider support to TTP their religious and national obligation in ideological perspective. They have established personal relations in tribal areas of Pakistan. Consequently golden opportunities are available to TTP terrorists for organizing them on Afghan territory with complete safety adjacent to Pakistan.

In video TTP terrorists can be seen cutting the barbed wire installed on border before their arrest in conducting terrorist attacks in Pakistan. The evidences are available on Afghan suicide attackers joining vicious war of TTP against Pakistan. Certain soldiers of Afghan Taliban have gone to this extent in saying the next part of their Jihad is war against Pakistan.

## Returning of Afghan refugees continue thru Torkham border

PESHAWAR (APP): Afghan refugees are returning to Afghanistan through Torkham border and in the last four days around two hundred Afghan migrant families left for their country, an official of the Torkham border said here Saturday. Giving detail on the assurance of not to be named, the official disclosed that 198 families were transported to Afghanistan through 54 vehicles through Torkham border. The International Organization for Refugees (IOM) is also registering returning Afghan refugees at Torkham border, he said. The official said that 9,56,720 Afghan refugees are living in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, another official of the Afghan Commissionerate in Peshawar said. He said 6,48,968 Afghan refugees are registered in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and 885,000 Afghan refugees are living in settled areas and 22,390 Afghan refugees.



TORKHAM: Afghan refugees living in Pakistan are standing in a queue on Pak Afghan Torkham border with their families, a government decision to expel people illegally staying in the country.

## Masood Khan thanks US lawmakers for foiling move to bar aid to Pakistan

WASHINGTON (APP): Pakistan's Ambassador to the United States, Masood Khan, met a number of American lawmakers in the past week to thank them for rejecting a proposal aimed at cutting off funds to Pakistan on the ground that some of its policies have been contrary to U.S. interests.

Apart from personally meeting Congressmen and Senators, both Democrats and Republicans, he also wrote letters to many of them expressing his appreciation for their support in defeating Tennessee Congressman Andy Ogles's amendment to the State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs (SFOPS) Act, 2024, seeking to prohibit assistance to Pakistan, according to a Pakistani embassy press release.

The final tally was 298 members voting against Ogles's amendment, while 132 cast 'yes' votes, an

overwhelming rejection of the anti-Pakistan move.

The lawmaker Masood Khan met included Senator Bill Hagerty, Senator Jon Ossoff, Congressman Jim Banks, Co-Chair of the Pakistan Congressional Caucus, Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur, Ranking Member of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development and Congressman Jason Crow. The Ambassador also thanked US Congressman Mike McCaul, Chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee, Chairperson of the Congressional Pakistan Caucus, Congressman Dean Phillips, Congresswoman Barbara Lee, A Congresswoman Marilyn Strickland, Congresswoman Melanie Stansbury, and Congressman Lance Gooden for showing strong support to Pakistan.



QUETTA: Members of Milli Yakjehi Council Balochistan Maulana Abdul Haq Hashmi, Syed Habibullah Shah Chishty, Syed Allama Raza Ikhlaiqi and others addressing a Press conference.

## Jilani to attend ECO Council of Ministers' meeting in Azerbaijan

ISLAMABAD (APP): Foreign Office Spokesperson on Saturday.

As the policy-making forum of the ECO, the Council of Ministers approves the decisions and annual work plan of the Organization.

At the 27th COM, the member states will discuss the promotion of sustainable economic development of the ECO region through trade and economic cooperation and mutual assistance in social, cultural, technical and scientific fields. The theme of this year's event is "Green Transition and Interconnectivity".

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LORALAI: Caretaker Health Minister Dr. Ameer Muhammad Khan Jogezi presiding over a meeting with officers of health department and other concerned departments.

## Reshuffle in senior civil bureaucracy Several administrative secretaries and senior officers transferred

QUETTA: Several administrative secretaries of provincial government departments have been changed following reshuffle in the senior civil bureaucracy of Balochistan.

According to an official notification issued here by the Services and General Administration Department the other day, the transfer and posting of the secretaries and other senior officers has been made with the approval of competent authority (Chief Minister) and permission of the Election Commission of Pakistan in view of public interest.

As per the notification, special secretary Agriculture department, Abdul Wali Baraich has been transferred and posted as secretary Urban planning and development department.

Secretary urban planning and development, Manzoor Zehri has been posted as Member Chief Minister Inspection Team, and Secretary science and Information Technology, Abdul Fateh Bhangar has been posted as Member CMIT.

Similarly, secretary Livestock department, Arshad Bugti has proceeded for National Management course.

Moreover, secretary culture Tourism and archive Manzoor Hussain has been transferred and posted as Member CMIT, secretary provincial ombudsman office, Hashim Nadeem has been transferred and posted as secretary culture and Tourism, Archive department while Chairman Balochistan Development Authority, Abdul Wali Kakar has been transferred and posted as secretary PHE department and his predecessor, Saleh Muhammad Baloch has been posted as secretary Food department.

Secretary Social welfare department, Imran Khan has been transferred and posted as secretary information department and secretary women development department, Syed Sikandar shah has posted as secretary social welfare department and Member CMIT Sardar Khan Bugti has been transferred and posted as secretary women development department.

Member CMIT Yasir Khan has been transferred and posted as secretary Transport department while secretary Minorities Affairs Noor Muhammad Jogezi has been transferred and made S&GAD /proceeded on NDU.

Similarly, special secretary Health Muhammad Dawood Khan Bazai has been posted as secretary Minorities Affairs and secretary Food, Mujeebur Rehman has been posted as Managing Director BPRA and Member CMIT, Kalimullah Babar has been transferred and posted as secretary Law and parliamentary Affairs department.

The BCS officer awaiting posting order, Abdul Latif Kakar has been posted as Member Board of Revenue-II and Member CMIT, Abdul Khaliq Mandokhail has been transferred and posted as secretary Labour and Manpower department while Tariq Mengal, awaiting posting order has been posted as Director General Social Welfare department and DG Tourism Sher Shah Ghilzai had been posted as DG BCDA.

## Dr. Jogezi says Health Cards to be effective in Balochistan by end of current month

Independent Report

QUETTA: The caretaker Provincial Minister for Health, Dr Amir Muhammad Khan Jogezi has stated that the interim government has done so many things including launch of the Health Cards for the people of Balochistan.

The Health Cards would be operational in the province by end of current month.

For the Health Cards, our budget is more than other provinces, and every patient holding the Card would be able to spend up to Rs. 1.2 million on one's treatment.

We have ended safarish culture in the Health Card Programme, maintained the Minister Health while speaking at the meeting with the Health department and other concerned officials in Loralai on Saturday.

The Frontier Corps Brigadier Abdul Razzaq especially participated in the meeting.

Others who were in the attendance at meeting were included Deputy Commissioner Loralai, Sajjad Aslam, SSP Asif Haleem, Principal BRC, Principal Loralai Medical College and other concerned high ups.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Jogezi said that it is the main task of caretaker government to conduct free and fair elections, but still we would pay special attention on the public issues as long as the interim set up exists.



LONDON: Chief Coordinator and Senior Vice President International Affairs Barrister Amjad Malik called on Former prime minister and PML-N supremo Nawaz Sharif.

## Pakistan's Namira Salim makes history with travel in space

Independent Report

QUETTA: The caretaker Provincial Minister for Information, Jan Achakzai visited Usman Killa, Pashtoonabad here on Saturday.

During the visit, Jan Achakzai met Usman Khan Achakzai. Also present on the occasion were a large number of tribal and political elders.

The Minister Information briefed the participants about the policies and steps of the caretaker provincial government.

Meanwhile, the local people appraised Jan Achakzai about the issues of community.

Later, Usman Khan Achakzai also invited Jan Achakzai to meet other leaders of the community in Pashtoonabad in his next visit.

On Friday, Galactic 04 mission began at about 8:40 p.m. (Pakistan standard time), when Virgin Galactic's VSS Unity space plane lifted off beneath the wings of its carrier craft, known as VMS Eve,

SPACE.com said.

Eve carried Unity high into the New Mexico skies, ultimately releasing the space plane at roughly 9:24 pm (PST) at an altitude of around 45,000 feet (13,700 meters). Unity then fired up its onboard rocket motor, powering its way to suborbital space.

Ms. Salim and her fellow space tourist customers—British advertising executive Trevor Beattie and American astronomy educator Ron Rosano—then experienced a few minutes of weightlessness and see Earth against the darkness of space.

Their flight ended at 9:43 pm (PST), when Unity finally touched down at Spaceport America.



KARACHI: Turkish actor Burak Ozcivit, best known for his leading role in the renowned Turkish series 'Kurulus: Osman', addressing a press conference on launch of a new fragrance 'Ruler' by J. at a local hotel.

## Ready to work in Pak entertainment industry if offered a project: Burak

KARACHI (APP): Turkish Actor Burak Ozcivit, best known for his leading role in the renowned Turkish series 'Kurulus: Osman', has said that he will work in the Pakistani entertainment industry if offered a project.

He said that Pakistan and Turkey had similar cultures and they shared the same feelings.

While addressing a press conference regarding the launch of a new fragrance 'Ruler' by J. at a local hotel here on Saturday, the Turkish actor said that normally he had to visit Pakistan two years ago but owing to some engagements he could make it to.

Ozcivit said that he was on a two-day visit to Pakistan and intended to visit here again.

He said, 'I would like to work in Pakistan film industry if offered a project.'

The Turkish actor speaking on the new fragrance 'Ruler' said that he was offered the project three to four years ago by J. and he accepted it. He said that J. gave me the opportunity to visit Pakistan.

He said that he also intended to promote tourism in Pakistan.

He further said that his series 'Kurulus: Osman' was very much liked over here.

Earlier, J., Managing Director, Sohail Hamid Khan said that they started their journey to fragrances with former cricketer and King of Swing Waseem Akram and introduced a perfume with a bottle having design of a 'Ball'.

He said that they initiated to associate popular faces and designed perfume bottles in accordance with their style and profession. He said that they were moving a next step.



QUETTA: A protest demonstration being held by Haq Do Masih Mahaz in front of Quetta Press Club.