

# Independent

Member APNS & CPNE

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Quetta

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## Lauds role of armed forces in fighting terrorism COAS urges youth to stay aware regarding hostile propaganda against state institutions

Vows to ensure safety, security of every Pakistani at any cost

RAWALPINDI (APP): The participants of National Security Workshop-25 visited General Headquarters (GHQ) on Thursday.

The participants were briefed about regional and internal security dynamics and the national security environment, said an Inter Services Public Relations press release.

Later, the participants had an interactive session with General Syed Asim Munir, Chief of Army Staff (COAS).

While addressing the participants, the COAS said, "Armed Forces of Pakistan and its security and intelligence setups have fought the menace of terrorism in an exemplary manner despite sustained and varied support of inimical forces. Success will be ours Insha Allah with the

continued support of the people of Pakistan".

The COAS emphasized that intelligentsia and civil society had greater responsibility to ensure that our people, especially youth stay aware and steadfast against hostile propaganda onslaught being launched through soft offensive against the state institutions of Pakistan.

The forum was also apprised about a host of measures being taken to curb activities of illegal spectrum, including smuggling, power theft, narcotics prevalence, border control measures, and repatriation of illegal foreigners from Pakistan.

On the subject of repatriation and deportation of illegal foreigners, the COAS said, "Safety and security of each Pakistani is of para-

mount importance which cannot be allowed to be compromised at any cost."

He also highlighted the economic positivity generated by multiple proactive steps, especially Special Facilitation Investment Council (SIFC).

"Pakistan Army is fully engaged in enabling national and provincial responses in different domains in step with other institutions of the state for the collective good of the people of Pakistan. We are a resilient nation that has endured the tests of time on its path to achieving peace and stability," the Army Chief added. National Security Workshop is an annual event at the National Defence University, participated by representatives from all segments of the society.



RAWALPINDI: Chief of the Army Staff General Syed Asim Munir interacting with participants of National Security Workshop-25 at General Headquarters (GHQ)

## BRI to give huge leap to Pakistan's economy: PM

ISLAMABAD (NNI): Prime Minister Anwar ul Haq Kakar says Belt and Road Initiative, being a flagship component of the CPEC, will give the much-needed huge leap to the Pakistani economy.

In an interview with a Chinese media network, he said the CPEC is a win-win for both countries.

The Prime Minister said the project offers immense opportunities to Pakistan to develop our infrastructure and energy sector, our ports especially the Gwadar port which is being connected with the rest of the country.

He said we look forward to multiple north south rail and road networks.

He said as we enter the

second phase of this project, the connectivity it offers has brought the Chinese and Pakistani societies more close than before. To a question about his visit to Urumqi, Anwar ul Haq Kakar said the area will be linked with Pakistan's northern region of Gilgit Baltistan through roads network thus reviving the old silk route.

He said Urumqi would be gateway for Pakistan with mainland China, and Pakistan anticipates a lot of trade and economic activity through this project. He said it will also usher in a new wave of tourism in the region as there are lot of historic and civilizational sites to be witnessed on the route.

## No compromise on deportation of illegal immigrants after deadline: warns Interior Minister

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Federal Minister for Interior, Sarfraz Bugti on Thursday gave an unwavering message that the government would not compromise on repatriation of illegal immigrants in Pakistan after the deadline ending on October 31st.

In a stern and resolute press conference, the interior minister said that according to the repatriation plan, all provincial governments, including the gov-

ernment in federal capital, Gilgit Baltistan and special areas, "Holding Centers" would be established to retain all illegal immigrants.

Females, children and senior citizens would be given special care in those holding centers and the government will ensure provision of food, security and medical care for all detained in those centers, said the minister.

He said that no one would be sent to jail but to

those who have no documents to stay would be deported from the centers to their respective countries after necessary documentation.

The minister said that the illegal immigrants would only be allowed to take Rs. 50,000 cash per family with them however if they wished to take more money to their country, they would have to use banking channel.



ISLAMABAD: Defence analyst and security expert Ikram Sehgal called on caretaker Prime Minister Anwar-ul-Haq Kakar.

## Highly educated disabled persons should also be accommodated on allocated quota: Governor

QUETTA: The Governor Balochistan, Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar has stressed that highly educated disabled persons should also be accommodated on bigger jobs according to their abilities and qualification against the quota allocated for the disabled persons in the government departments.

He said that although quota has been allocated for the disabled persons in the federal and provincial government departments, but it is implemented merely on

the lower grade jobs, while there are also highly educated persons among those disabled, therefore, it should be ensured to employ them on bigger jobs according to their ability and qualification. The Governor was speaking at a delegation who called on him here at the Governor House on Thursday. The head of Quetta Online Ziaur Rehman led the delegation. The Governor said that the offices related to the disabled persons should be on the ground floor so that it is easier for them to contact the concerned offices.



RAWALPINDI: Chief of the Naval Staff, Admiral Naveed Ashraf calls on Minister for Defence, Lt Gen Anwar Ali Hyder (Retd) in Ministry of Defence.

## Afghanistan has no exception on visa issue, says Achakzai

QUETTA (APP): Caretaker Information Minister of Balochistan, Jan Achakzai reiterating government resolve said any foreigner wanted to enter in Pakistan either through land or aerial route, will have to follow the visa policy of Pakistan and Afghanistan has no exception in this regard.

"Each individual, may it be Afghan national or a national of any other country, he will have to show passport and valid visa before entering into Pakistan.

This is the non-negotiable policy and a red line of our state," he said while talking to APP here on Thursday.

The Information minister said the caretaker government is committed to convince the participants of Chaman sit-in to culminate their protest.

We have held three meetings, and it is third round wherein, the government is engaged with the protesting people of border town for reaching to an amicable solution.

## Women being deprived of rights in unconstitutional way, says CJP

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chief Justice of Pakistan Qazi Faez Isa on Thursday observed that women were being deprived of their rights in an unconstitutional and un-Islamic manner.

The CJP was heading a three-member bench which heard the case pertaining to a land dispute.

The court ordered the Revenue Department of Dera Ghazi Khan to immediately hand over possession of her share of inherited land to woman Sara Akhtar after taking it from her maternal uncle Sardar Mansoor.

The court also directed the maternal uncle to pay all the expenditure his niece had incurred on litigation.

During the course of hearing, the CJP remarked that the court was not giving special concession to women.

The petitioner's lawyer said that the woman had sold her land in 1989 to her maternal uncle Sardar Mansoor, and reclaimed its ownership after 20 years and denied her own signature on the sale deed.

Justice Athar Minallah observed that it was the responsibility of the buyer to prove the purchase of the land. Three courts had ruled against the petitioner, he noted.

## Railways restore long-awaited Sibi-Harnai track for traffic

QUETTA (INP): The Sibi Harnai section of Pakistan Railways (PR) has been restored after almost 17 years.

Syed Mazhar Ali Shah, Chairman and Secretary of the Railway Department, announced the news on social media on Thursday. He said that the restoration of the railway section was a major achievement and would benefit the people of the region immensely.

Caretaker Provincial Information Minister Balochistan John Achakzai also congratulated the people and authorities on the restoration of the Sibi Harnai rail service. He said that the resumption of train service would provide facilities to the public and that it was heartening to see the enthusiastic response of the locals at the railway station. Achakzai also appreciated the efforts of the railway authorities and the FC in reviving the rail service. He said that the FC had played an important role in restoring the railway track and ensuring the safety of passengers.

The restoration of the Sibi Harnai rail service is a welcome development for the people of Balochistan. It will provide them with a safe and affordable mode of transportation and will also boost tourism in the region.

## Stern action against illegal immigrants after deadline: All federal & provincial institutions are on one page for making country hub of peace, says Zubair Jamali

Independent Report QUETTA: The caretaker Provincial Minister for Home, Captain (Retd) Mir Muhammad Zubair Jamali has categorically stated that

homeland from Balochistan via Chaman border during the ongoing campaign of repatriation of the illegal immigrants.

This and similar other



all immigrants belonging to the neighbouring countries are respectable to us, however, 31st October is the last day for repatriation of the illegal immigrants from the country.

He said that the plan has been prepared for ensuring implementation on the repatriation of the illegal immigrants, and on one (illegal immigrant) would be spared in this regard.

He informed that some 14,000 immigrants have so far been repatriated to their

details were shared by the Minister Home while addressing press conference at Quetta Press Club on Thursday morning.

In his presser, the Minister particularly focused on the matter of repatriation of the illegal immigrants. He said that the process of geo-fencing has been completed in all areas of the province regarding the presence of illegal immigrants, and a plan has also been prepared for their repatriation.

## IHC restores Nawaz's pleas in Avenfield, Al-Azizia cases

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Wednesday restored the appeals of Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz's (PML-N) Quaid Muhammad Nawaz Sharif against his conviction in the Al-Azizia Steel Mills and Avenfield property references.

A two-judge bench comprising Chief Justice Aamer Farooq and Justice Miangul Hassan Aurangzeb heard the petitions of Nawaz Sharif for restoration his appeals. Former prime minister Nawaz Sharif appeared before the

bench along with his daughter Maryam Nawaz and legal team.

During the course of proceedings, the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) Prosecutor General adopted the stance that the petitioner had rendered himself at the mercy of the court after surrender.

The chief justice questioned from the NAB officials that whether the Bureau wanted to arrest the petitioner.

The prosecutor replied that they did not require the custody of former prime minister.



QUETTA: Caretaker Advisor Irrigation Mir Danish Lango meeting with Caretaker Provincial Information Minister Jan Achakzai

**REPATRIATION OF ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS**

DAYS REMAINING

**04**

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## 76 years of Illegal occupation: Kashmiris to observe Black Day today

ISLAMABAD (APP): Kashmiris and their supporters the world over and on both sides of the Line of Control (LoC) will observe October 27 (Friday) as black day - the day when Indian forces illegally landed in Srinagar in 1947, marking a chapter of occupation, subjugation and oppression for the innocent people.

Black Day is observed every year to protest against the Indian illegal occupation and remind the world community of its commitments regarding the implementation of United Nations Security Council (UNSC) resolutions that advocate Kashmiris' right to plebiscite.

Call for the observance of Black Day and shutdown has been given by the All Parties Hurriyat Conference.



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Federal Minister for Interior Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti addressing a Press Conference.

## ECP denies vote postponing possibility

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) has emphatically denied any potential delay in the election, emphasizing that the Commission has already stated its position on this issue.

In a statement on Thursday, an ECP spokesperson clarified that the impression of election postponement had been sparked by comments made by the President during an interview on a private channel last Wednesday, which hinted at the possibility of

delaying the election. The spokesman stated that, as per the election action plan, all the necessary preparations by the Election Commission have been concluded, and the election schedule will be revealed after the constituencies are formally published. There is no uncertainty in this regard.

The initial phase of delimitation has concluded, and the second phase involving objection submissions will finish by Friday, October 27, 2023.

**کشمیر کی آزادی**

27 اکتوبر 2023

کشمیریوں کی ایک ہی آواز لے کے رہیں گے آزادی

76 سال پہلے آج کے دن بھارت نے جموں اور وادی کشمیر میں فوجیں اتار کر معصوم نیٹے کشمیری عوام پر ظلم و بربریت کی ایک المناک داستان رقم کی جو آج بھی جاری ہے۔

صوبہ بلوچستان کے عوام متوجہ کشمیر پر بھارت کے غاصبانہ قبضے اور نیٹے کشمیری عوام پر بھارتی فوج کے مظالم کے خلاف کشمیری بھائیوں کے ساتھ کھڑے ہیں اور دنیا کے ہر فورم پر اپنے کشمیری بھائیوں کی حمایت کرتے ہیں۔

کشمیر بنے گا پاکستان۔ انشاء اللہ

SS NO.07/26-10-2023

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## Chinese, Pakistani firms sign MOU to establish EV charging stations across Pakistan

BEIJING (APP): A leading Chinese company TGOOD and the REC Group of Pakistan signed a memorandum of understanding in Beijing aimed at promoting environmentally friendly electric vehicles (EVs) in Pakistan.

Chairman of the Senate of Pakistan, Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani, along with a Pakistani delegation, witnessed the signing ceremony. China Economic Net (CEN) reported on Thursday.

Chairman Sanjrani said this collaboration has resulted in a strategic partnership aligned with the sustainable green development initiatives set forth by China during the 3rd Belt and Road Forum.

The partnership covers areas such as hydrogen vehicle technology, hydrogen

filling station infrastructure, EV production, battery production and recycling solutions, and EV charging infrastructure development.

Transport is a major contributor to pollution in Pakistan, making a transition to alternative fuels imperative. However, Pakistan has faced a challenging dilemma, with a lack of charging stations restricting the adoption of alternative fuel vehicles, while limited investment in such infrastructure is primarily due to the scarcity of such vehicles. The joint venture with REC Group in Pakistan signifies a significant step forward. TGOOD's commitment to expanding in Pakistan, facilitated by integrators within REC Group, is underpinned by a comprehensive Strategic

Partnership Framework Agreement, encompassing full technology transfer.

In addition to EVs, TGOOD will also spearhead the development of hydrogen fueling infrastructure in Pakistan. The joint venture is poised to explore regional export opportunities for the products manufactured in Pakistan.

The joint venture's primary mission is to tackle the catch-22 situation that has hindered the transition to alternative fuels in Pakistan.

Through strategic investments in EV components, recharging stations, and export-driven growth, the partnership aspires to resolve these challenges and stimulate the development of a sustainable green transportation ecosystem in Pakistan.



QUETTA: A delegation of Zamindar Action Committee led by former MPA Malik Naser Shahwani meeting with Governor Balochistan Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar

## PM reaffirms Pakistan's unwavering support to oppressed Kashmiris

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar, reaffirming Pakistan's unwavering support to the oppressed Kashmiris, called for an immediate reversal of the Indian government's unilateral and illegal actions of 5th August 2019.

The prime minister, in his message in connection with the 'Kashmir Black Day' being observed on Friday, also stressed that the Indian government should stop its egregious human rights violations in the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK), and implement the relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions.

"Pakistan, as always, stands shoulder-to-shoulder with its Kashmiri brethren. It will continue to extend its full moral, diplomatic and political support to their just struggle for realization of their inalienable right to self-determination," he remarked.

"Today marks the 76th anniversary of India's occupation of the large parts of Jammu and Kashmir against the will of the Kashmiri people. On 27th October 1947, India landed its troops in the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) for the first time. It continues to forcibly occupy this territory ever since."

He said in the last 76

years, India had tried different methods to perpetuate its illegal rule on Jammu and Kashmir. An intensified campaign to 'Indianize' Kashmir and transform Kashmiris into a disempowered community in their own land has been in full swing since August 5, 2019, he added.

"The Indian occupation forces have taken a number of steps to realize these nefarious designs, including gerrymandering of the electoral constituencies, addition of non-Kashmiris to voter rolls, issuance of domicile certificates to outsiders, and introduction of new laws on ownership of land and property."

PM Kakar said the un-

democratic and illegal measures were in direct contravention of the relevant UN Security Council resolutions and the Fourth Geneva Convention.

"Today, the IIOJK remains one of the most militarized regions of the world," he said, adding the true representatives of the Kashmiri people had been arbitrarily detained for years, while media blackouts and censorship were being extensively imposed to conceal oppression and muzzle dissent.

"Thousands of innocent Kashmiri men, women and children have lost their lives at the hands of Indian brutality during the last three decades. India has, however, failed to subju-

gate the Kashmiri people."

He said the latest developments in the Middle East had shown that the long-standing disputes should not be allowed to fester as pushing them under the rug did not guarantee durable peace.

The prime minister said three successive generations of Kashmiris had waited for the world, especially the United Nations, to deliver on its promise to hold an impartial plebiscite.

"The world can no longer eschew its responsibility. It owes it to the Kashmiris. The international community must take practical steps to hold India accountable for its excesses in IIOJK."



ISLAMABAD: A view of the banner at Faisal Avenue regarding the "Black Day of 27 October about the cruelty on oppressed Kashmir's of IIOJK".

## Bilwal urges international community to resolve Kashmir issue as per aspirations of Kashmiris

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairman Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Bilawal Bhutto Zardari Thursday said that the issue of Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) was a matter of stability in the region as well as peace in the world urged the international community to realize its responsibility to resolve this South Asian conflict.

In his message on the occasion of the Kashmir Black Day, he said that the illegal occupation of Jammu and Kashmir by India, against the will of the people there, had completed 76 years today.

"During this long period, India has martyred thousands of Kashmiris and tortured millions to maintain its occupation, turning the paradise-like valley into the world's largest open prison," he added.

Bilawal Bhutto said that the struggle and sacrifices of Kashmiris reflected

the unprecedented movement of a nation dedicated to the spirit of freedom.

He pointed out that freedom of Kashmir from illegal occupation of India was the mission of Shaheed Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, adding that Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto continued struggle for the cause of Kashmir throughout her life, while Asif Ali Zardari had been raising the slogan of "Pakistan Khatpe" as well as "Kashmir Khatpe".

"Advocating for Kashmir has been part of my upbringing. Even as a foreign minister, I have raised my voice on the Kashmir issue at every forum in the world," he said, adding that as a result of his efforts, countries like Germany were now talking that what was happening in the occupied valley could not be allowed to continue.

The chairman PPP said that the referendum under the United Nations in Kashmir was a democratic and

basic human right of Kashmiri people.

He said that during the last 4 years, India's repressive measures against occupied Kashmir had accelerated, adding that fake domiciles had been issued to millions of non-Kashmiris to make the Muslim majority areas of the occupied valley into Hindu majority constituencies.

"These measures of the Modi government are undemocratic and illegal and are direct violation of UN resolutions and the Fourth Geneva Convention," he added.

Bilawal Bhutto said that until Kashmiri people get freedom, PPP would continue to support its Kashmiri brothers politically, diplomatically and morally, adding: "Quaid-i-Awam Shaheed Zulfikar Ali Bhutto had announced to fight for Kashmir for a thousand years, PPP still stands by it."

## Mushahid thanks China for enduring support to Pakistan, investment in CPEC

ISLAMABAD (INP): In recognition of his longstanding role on CPEC, Senator Mushahid Hussain Syed was presented with a Silk Road Award during the Media Cooperation Forum on Belt and Road Initiative being held in Beijing.

In his acceptance speech, Mushahid Hussain Syed said this is an honor not just for him but for Pakistan and its people. He was addressing the general assembly of the IPU, where he urged legislation to counter Islamophobia as it was divisive, racist and bred violence against Muslims.

The IPU comprises 170 member parliaments, in which Pakistan has an active role as an elected member of the Executive Council, The Committee

on Human Rights of Parliamentarians and the Committee on Peace and Democracy, a news release said.

During the IPU conference, Senator Mushahid Hussain was invited to address the General Assembly thrice, while he also addressed the Islamic and Asia-Pacific regional group meetings as well as invited for an address to the Socialist International group.

In his speech, Senator Mushahid Hussain made three fundamental points. First, that Palestinian resistance to illegal Israeli occupation was justified under international law and the UN Charter, as it is a natural reaction to 56 years of occupation and brutal Israeli practices, including killings of innocent

## EC gives clean chit to TLP

ISLAMABAD (Online): Election Commission (EC) has filed report in Supreme Court (SC) regarding implementation of decision in Faizabad Dharma case.

In this report EC has given clean chit to Tehreek-e-Labaik Pakistan (TLP) on the allegations of anti state activities and foreign funding.

In the report it has been further stated report was sought from interior ministry on the involvement of TLP in anti state activities.

As per interior ministry TLP is not involved in anti state activities. TLP funding sources were also reviewed.

According to scrutiny committee report TLP received Rs 15 lac from prohibited sources. The amount of 15 lac for TLP is next to Nil. The small amount received by TLP cannot be considered foreign funding.

## PTI leaders meet Maulana Fazl, discuss 'political situation'

PESHAWAR (NNI): A delegation of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leaders, headed by Asad Qaiser, called on Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam-Fazl (JUI-F) President Maulana Fazlur Rehman and discussed the country's overall 'political situation'.

The delegation of PTI leaders - which included bigwigs Asad Qaiser, Ali Mohammad Khan, Junaid Akbar and Barrister Saif - consoled the Maulana Fazlur Rehman's mother-in-law.

During the meeting, sources said that PTI leaders also engaged in discussions about the political situation in the country with the JUI-F chief.

Sources further claimed that the delegation also lauded the Maulana Fazl's 'reconciliation' narrative among political parties. He stressed the need for 'unity

among all stakeholders to pull the country out of crisis.

The JUI-F chief also stressed for 'politeness' in political differences among parties.

Meanwhile, the politicians also discussed Maulana Fazlur Rehman's meeting with former federal minister Muhammad Ali Durani, which occurred on October 23.

In a meeting that lasted for almost two hours in Islamabad, Maulana Fazl agreed to 'reconciliation' narrative, which Ali Durani presented to major political parties.

Both politicians also agreed that every stakeholder should work together for the development of the country. They also stressed for a strategy to improve the 'political situation' of the country, sources added.

## Haider Ali praises coaches, teammates for support after winning gold medal

BEIJING (APP): Pakistani star athlete Haider Ali has expressed gratitude to his coaches, teammates and Pakistani sports authorities for their unwavering support at 4th Hangzhou Asian Para Games.

Speaking after winning gold medal, he hoped his achievement would inspire fellow Pakistani para-athletes to strive for excellence and overcome challenges.

Haider Ali has made the nation proud by clinching first position and winning a gold medal in the men's

discus throw F37 event at the ongoing 4th Hangzhou Asian Para Games.

He emphasized the warm hospitality of the Chinese people, who embraced participants from various countries, Chinese media reported Thursday.

He mentioned the friendly and welcoming nature of Chinese volunteers and staff, who helped create a positive, encouraging environment.

Haider displayed exceptional strength and skill, throwing the discus an impressive 51.53 meters.

## IHC seeks details regarding officers' transfers

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Thursday sought details from authorities pertaining to transfers of officers on the recommendation of Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) during caretaker set up.

Justice Miangul Hassan Aurangzeb heard the case against the transfer of member planning CDA.

The court questioned that how many federal secretaries, posted by the previous government, were working on same posts.

The court instructed the ECP to ensure implementation on its notification pertaining to the transfers without discrimination.

During the course of proceeding, DG Law ECP said that chief commissioner and chairman CDA were transferred on the recommendation of ECP.

The court asked that whether the ECP's notification had been fully implemented regarding the transfers.

The court remarked that the ECP could not do pick and choose regarding implementing its orders in caretaker set up.

The court sought the progress report from ECP and adjourned the case till coming Tuesday.



QUETTA: Director NAB Muhammad Rashid addressing a seminar at Chamber of Commerce Quetta

## UoT scholar Mazhar Mohsin completed Doctorate degree

**Independent Report**

TURBAT: Mr. Mazhar Mohsin (PhD), Assistant Professor at the Department of Computer Science, University of Turbat, successfully defended his PhD thesis at the University of Eastern Finland. His research, centered on Computer Vision and Deep Learning, is titled "Deep Learning-Based Real-Time Defect Detection, Classification, and Segmentation Methods for Industrial Quality Control." The thesis comprises 4 research articles.

During his PhD studies, he collaborated on several European Union research projects, including the European Digital Innovation Hub and EIT Digital. These projects primarily focused on developing Artificial Intelligence solutions for industrial challenges. Notably, he recently developed a machine vision-based intelligent application for forest harvesters, enabling real-time detection, segmentation, and measurement of

wood logs. This innovative work has led to the acceptance of two patents, now published online. His significant contributions have garnered recognition in Finland, and have been featured in prominent Finnish news outlets, and got significant attention. His work has not only earned accolades within academic circles but has also been recognized with scholarships and financial backing from the European Union. It is further reported that numerous major companies in Finland and across Europe are now collaborating with Mazhar Mohsin's research team eager to advance product development based on these inventions.

Vice Chancellor, University of Turbat, Prof. Dr. Jan Muhammad extended his heartfelt congratulations to Mr. Mazhar Mohsin for completing his PhD and remarkable achievement in the field of industrial automation and AI methodologies in Finland.



ISLAMABAD: Military Attache of Embassy of Russia in Pakistan Col Surgey A Tyurin poses for a group photo along with Lahore Division after winning Inter Division National Basketball championship at Pakistan Sports Complex in Federal Capital.

**"SECTION-IX UNDER LAND ACQUISITION ACT 1894"**

**"CONSTRUCTION OF SARDAR MUNIR AHMED ROAD CHANDNI CHOWK TO EASTREN BYPASS, QUETTA"**

Whereas, the draft declaration under section 06 & 07 of the Land Acquisition Act, 1894 has been issued by the Commissioner, Quetta Division, Quetta vide No. 10/RB/Acq/6&7/2023/1393-1400 dated 09<sup>th</sup> October, 2023 with respect to land situated in Mahal Khushkaba Kansi, Mouza Shadara, Tappa Saddar-II, Quetta, Mahal Khushkaba Takhtani, Mouza Khushkaba Takhtani, Tappa, Kechi Baig-I, Quetta, under Khasra Nos: 2212/66/3864/65/1, 1260/2/41, 1259/2/41, 2 / 2091 / 43 / 2 / 432/41, 1264 / 2/2019/43, 1266/2086/43, 1264/2/2019/34, 1266/2088/43, 1266/2088/43, 962/924/910/898/42, 848/844/42, 453/452/450/411-400-392-390 /384-382-299-270/42, 296 / 270 / 42, 298 / 270 / 42, 956 / 952 / 918 / 906 / 902 / 45, 314 / 307 / 14, 312/311-309/301-257/45, 360/13, 875/873/14, 962 /924 /910 /898/42, 921/916/892/854/43, 874/259/46, 821/818-816-811-808/806-804-516-514/510-478-470 / 45, 922 / 919/918/920-815/813-58 measuring 138,840 square feet (detail given in the schedule appended below), is needed to be acquired by Executive Engineer Project Division-I, Quetta, for public purpose namely "Construction of Sardar Munir Ahmed Road Chandni Chowk to Eastren Bypass, Quetta". It is hereby notified that the land in the locality (details can be seen/obtained from the office of the undersigned during office hours) is likely to be acquired for the aforesaid purpose.

Whereas, I, LT O Saad Bin Asad, Deputy Commissioner/Collector, Quetta do hereby call upon the concerned landowners (name whereof mentioned in the schedule appended below) to appear before the undersigned in person or through their representatives / counsels within Fifteen (15) days from the date of receipt of this notice for putting in their objections, if any. If they fail to appear before the undersigned within the stipulated period it will be presumed that they are willing to give the said land in their occupation to the Deputy Commissioner, Quetta for the aforesaid purpose.

Deputy Commissioner/Collector, Quetta

PRQ No.846/26-10-2023

**SHOW CAUSE NOTICE**

Under Section 13 (4).

WHEREAS, it has been brought to the notice of the Competent Authority that Ameer Baksh Khoso, Assistant Food Controller (B-11) / Ex-Incharge P.R.Centre Dera Murad Jamali have committed the following acts of omission and commission: 1. During the course of Inquiry and Investigation, NAB Investigation team visited P.R.Centre Dera Murad Jamali, District Naseerabad in the presence of representative of District Administration and higher authorities of Food Department Government of Balochistan. During the course of the investigation it is proved that 26162 Government wheat bags worth of Rs.69.852 million were embezzled and he being an Incharge P.R.Centre Dera Murad Jamali is responsible for the said embezzlement. ii. The Deputy Director Food Naseerabad / Sibi zone vide letter No.09, dated 19<sup>th</sup> February, 2013 forwarded a report that a quantity of 26162 Government wheat bags were found short / missing on ground. Detail of embezzled and available Government wheat stock at P.R.Centre is as under:-

S.No	Stock	Wheat Bags	Kgs	Amount of shortage / embezzled wheat
1	Stock had to be available	37846	3784600	--
2	Available Stock	11684	1168400	--
3	Shortage / Embezzled	26162	2616200	Rs.69.852 million

iii. He had failed to perform his duty according to his job description and Food Manual as Incharge P.R.Centre Dera Murad Jamali and sustained huge financial losses of Rs.69.852 million the Government ex-checker. iv. The Department has been paying high markup to concerned Banks against the embezzled amount for last five year which also has to be recovered from him other than the actual embezzled amount. 2. WHEREAS, by reason of above, formal inquiry was initiated against you under Section-5 of BEEDA 2011 and Mr. Manzoor Ahmed Zehri (BSS / B-20) Secretary Urban Planning was nominated as Inquiry Officer. After observing all the codal formalities, the inquiry officer has recommended that: (i). The amount of the embezzled worth Rs.69.852 million be recovered from Ameer Baksh Khoso, Ex-Incharge P.R.Centre D.M.Jamali for the cost of wheat under the relevant laws and (ii). It is further recommended that the incumbent official may be dismissed from service in accordance with Provisions of Section 4 (b) (viii) of BEEDA, 2011. By reasons of above, you are found to be guilty in terms of Section 3 of the Balochistan Employees, Efficiency & Discipline Act 2011 and liable to impose any penalty which may be prescribed under Section 4 of the Ibid Act 3. AND WHEREAS, I, Shakeel Qadir Khan, the Chief Secretary Government of Balochistan being Competent Authority after considering the above mentioned facts of the case and reason / ground thereof, satisfied that the charges of corruption / embezzlement of Rs. 69 Million have been established beyond any shadow of doubt which rendered you liable to any penalty under Section-4 (b) read with 13(5) (b) of the Ibid Act. 4. NOW, THEREFORE, you are hereby called upon to submit written additional defense (if any) within Seven (07) days of the receipt of this notice as to why you should not be proceeded under relevant provisions of Balochistan Employees, Efficiency & Discipline Act 2011. 5. TAKE NOTICE that in case of failure to submit a reply within the prescribe period, it would be presumed that, you have no defense to offer or have declined to offer the same and accepted the charge(s) and in that case, ex-parte order will be passed against you.

CHIEF SECRETARY BALOCHISTAN

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## Kashmiri leaders call on world community to address IOJK, Palestine issues for Global Peace

ISLAMABAD (APP): The top leadership of Kashmir has urged the international community to come forward and play a vital role in addressing the issue of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IOJK) and Palestine for the sake of durable global peace.

During a news conference held on Thursday, the Kashmiri leadership pointed out that the Indian regime, led by the controversial figure Narendra Modi, was employing tactics similar to those used by Israel in the Kashmir valley to change the demographic composition from a Muslim majority to a minority in favor of the Hindu community.

Sheikh Mateen, the General Secretary of APHC-AJK, stated that the Modi government was blatantly violating numerous international human rights laws and regulations, as a substantial portion of the Kashmiri leadership was either detained in Indian jails or placed under house arrest.

Describing the 27th of October as the darkest day in Kashmir's recent history, he emphasized that India's aggressive actions on this day in 1947 set the ground-

work for the long-standing Kashmir conflict, which continues to threaten peace and stability in the South Asian region even after 76 years.

He noted that this act of aggression not only hindered the smooth and complete implementation of the partition plan for the subcontinent but also plunged the entire region into a state of uncertainty, chaos, and instability.

Mehmood Ahmed Saghar, the convener of the APHC-PAK chapter, lamented that the bloodshed initiated by India in occupied Jammu and Kashmir in 1947 still persists today, with the blood of innocent Kashmiris being shed on both sides of the ceasefire line. Referring to India's history of colonialism in Kashmir, he pointed out that the settler colonialism policies of the Indian government, mirroring Israel's policies, have instilled fear among Kashmiris, leaving them increasingly unsafe and insecure even within their own homes.

He further emphasized that the deadly conflict has taken a more perilous turn after the Indian government, led by the BJP, revoked the region's special status guaranteed under Article 370 of the Indian

constitution.

Ghulam Ahmed Sakhi expressed his lament that Indian rulers have consistently employed repressive state apparatus, Machiavellian tactics, and colonial strategies to suppress the ongoing liberation struggle in Kashmir, curtail the fundamental freedoms and liberties of the people, and silence democratic dissent in the region.

He noted that despite India's commitments on Kashmir, successive Indian governments and rulers have deceitfully pursued a policy to neutralize the legitimate demands of Kashmiri masses for a UN-backed referendum. He highlighted that UNSC resolutions advocating a free and impartial plebiscite in the region were endorsed by India in the UN Security Council, particularly by then-Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru, who was the first to approach the highest forum on the matter. Sakhi emphasized that no Kashmiri would ever forget the 27th of October, the day when India invaded and illegally occupied Kashmir. He reiterated the Kashmiri people's determination to continue their struggle until a just conclusion is reached.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Secretary for Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training Waseem Ajmal Chaudhry release balloon during launching ceremony of Dyslexia Special Measures Act-2022 IMCG F-6/2.

## Minister visits NAVTTC, reviews its ongoing projects

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister of State for Tourism, Wasi Shah here on Thursday visited the National Vocational and Technical Training Commission (NAVTTC) to review the ongoing project of the commission.

During the visit, Director General NAVTTC Dr. Khalid Mehmood briefed the minister about the Youth Skill Development Program (YSDP) and expressed their commitment to jointly working for the betterment of the organiza-

tion, said a news release. Wasi Shah was also briefed regarding the achievements of NAVTTC and its programmes to make the youth skilled emp-

owered. The minister appreciated the efforts and programmes launched by the NAVTTC in empowering youth and make them able to compete in the world. He committed in helping NAVTTC for media strategy to encourage youth to join skill development opportunities.

## PMA to protect medical practitioners' rights

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan Medical Association (PMA) Islamabad chapter on Thursday said that the association is committed to safeguarding the rights of medical practitioners.

President PMA Islamabad chapter Professor Dr. Akhtar Ali Bandisha said this while chairing the executive body meeting of PMA Islamabad.

General Secretary PMA Islamabad Dr. Mubashar Mushtaq Dahi and other members of PMA also participated in the meeting.

It was decided that the PMA Islamabad chapter would raise voices for doctors for early address their outstanding issues by using all relevant forums. The participants of the meeting agreed that they would take all issues in an appropriate manner and in a democratic way.

The meeting asked the Pakistan Medical and Dental Council (PMDC) to take necessary steps for the betterment of physicians. The meeting decided to convey their worries to the Islamabad Healthcare Regulatory Authority (IHRA). It was also appealed to restore the health care scheme with further improvements. The meeting was attended by PMA body members including Dr. Shahzad Ali Khan, Dr. Mian Rasheed, Dr. Imran Sikandar, Dr. S. M. Shaheen.

## CDA, district administration continue operation against illegal Afghan refugees

ISLAMABAD (APP): In pursuance of the government's decision the crackdown against the Afghan refugees living illegally in the federal capital, the Capital Development Authority (CDA) and the district administration bulldozed hundreds of illegally built homes of Afghans situated in several areas of the city.

According to an official of CDA, large contingents of Islamabad Police, Rangers and district administration looked after the operation against illegal Afghan refugees and heavy machinery was

used for the purpose. The officials said that they had issued a notice to the residents of the Afghan settlement soon after the notification issued by the government asking them to vacate their homes otherwise action would be taken against them.

In order to maintain peace in the federal capital, the operation would continue till the last eviction of the Afghan refugees as they were involved in criminal activities and had been occupying the places in the city for a long time.



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Provincial Minister for Science & Technology, Sports & Youth Affairs Dr. Najeebullah called on caretaker Federal Minister for National Food Security & Research, Chairman Pakistan Science Foundation Dr. Shahid Mehmood is also present on the eve.

## Secretary education for providing educational support to dyslexia students

ISLAMABAD (APP): Secretary Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training Waseem Ajmal on Thursday said that every child irrespective of their learning differences, shall receive the support and resources they need to succeed in their educational journey.

He was speaking as Chief Guest at a launching ceremony for the Dyslexia Bill, hosted by the Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training.

Secretary of Education underscored the significance of the Dyslexia Bill, stating, "This legislation marks a pivotal moment in our commitment to inclusive education.

Dyslexia should not be a barrier to learning. With the implementation of this bill, we aim to ensure that

every child, regardless of their learning differences, receives the support and resources they need to succeed in their educational journey."

Waseem Ajmal also highlighted the collaborative efforts between the government, educators, advocacy groups, and the renowned organization IDEAS. This collaborative effort resulted in a groundbreaking pilot study.

The study, conducted with precision and dedication, produced valuable insights into the unique needs of students with dyslexia.

Secretary Education was briefed on the occasion that the Education Ministry is collaborating with FPSC to adapt the assessment mechanism according to the needs of dyslexic candidates.

## Search operation conducted in suburbs of Islamabad

ISLAMABAD (APP): Islamabad Capital Police, Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) conducted a search and combing operation at Noon police station jurisdiction and arrested three suspects.

Police said that search and combing operations were being conducted in different areas of the city to ensure the safety and security of the Islamabad citizens.

A search and combing operation was conducted in different areas of Noon police station jurisdiction by CTD, FC and local police team under the supervision of SP CTD.

During the operation, 10 houses, five vehicles and 15 motorcycles were thoroughly checked.

## Int'l Conference on EU & Regional Integration held at NUML

ISLAMABAD (APP): International Conference on "European Union as Model for Regional Integration: Lessons for South Asia" was organized by the International Relations department of the National University of Modern Languages (NUML) and the Jean Monnet Chair in Jinnah Auditorium on Thursday.

Philip Oliver Gross Deputy Head of Mission, European Union Delegation to Pakistan was the chief guest of the inaugural ceremony, while former ambassador to European Union Naghmah Hashmi was the keynote speaker.

Director General NUML Brig Shahzad Munir, Head of Department International Relations, and Jean Monnet Chair Prof. Dr. Riaz Shad, deans, directors, guest speakers.

## Motorway Police holds road safety seminar to prevent accidents

ISLAMABAD (APP): The National Highways and Motorway Police (NHMP) will leave no stone unturned to prevent accidents, as evident from its recent road safety seminar in Chakri.

The event, which was held on the special instructions of DIG Motorway North Zone Muhammad Yusuf Malik, brought together owners, terminal authorities, drivers, the general public, Motorway Police officers and employees to discuss and raise awareness of traffic safety issues. The seminar featured a

multimedia presentation by Motorway Police officers on traffic rules, as well as a Q&A session in which participants tested their knowledge of the rules and won prizes for correct answers. Transporter officials also shared their views and insights on traffic safety.

At the end of the event, shields were distributed to participants and the Motorway Police reiterated its commitment to continue to hold such events to promote road safety and cooperation with transporters.

## Industrial-Area police arrest 1900 accused during last six months

ISLAMABAD (APP): Islamabad capital police Industrial-Area zone police teams arrested 1900 outlaws including 163 absconders during the last six months involved in a series of heinous crimes and criminal activities.

Islamabad police spokesperson said that crackdown has been intensified against the criminal elements to eliminate the crime from the city.

He said that Industrial-Area Zone police teams conducted a massive crackdown against the criminal elements involved in a series of criminal activities and succeeded in apprehending 1900 outlaws including 163 absconders.

## Breast cancer awareness session held at Islamabad Int'l airport

ISLAMABAD (APP): Civil Aviation Authority's (CAA) medical section and Maroof International Hospital on Thursday organized a breast cancer awareness session at Islamabad International Airport (IAP). This informative cancer and mental health awareness session was held in connection with the breast cancer awareness month of October.

## Ahmad Irfan Aslam says Pakistan seeks int'l collaboration to combat water related issues

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Federal Minister for Water Resources, Ahmad Irfan Aslam on Thursday said Pakistan was highly grateful to IAHR for extending its all-out support in various areas of national development, in particular the climate change and water sector.

During a meeting with the President of International Association for Hydro-Environment Engineering and Research (IAHR), Philippe Gourbesville, he said IAHR was playing an outstanding role in strengthening Pakistan's relation with the international community to mitigate flood's damage and climate related issues.

Ministry of Water Resources, Federal Joint Secretary, Syed Muhammad Mehar Ali Shah and Chairman Federal Flood Commission, Ahmad Kamal were also present in

the meeting. The president of IAHR conveyed that the vision of his organization was to offer support to the national organizations in the field of climate change adaptation and mitigation, energy transition and carbon neutrality, water related disaster mitigation and digital transformation.

Indonesia, China, Spain, France, Chile, Brazil, and other countries were already on this platform, and this initiative would significantly contribute to support Pakistan's planning and strategies to combat water and climate related issues, he added.

Later on, the caretaker minister for water resources endorsed that irrigation departments from the provinces and Pakistan Meteorological Department would also be brought into the umbrella of IAHR for better understanding and joint collaboration.



ISLAMABAD: Members of Civil Society take part in a rally against Israeli airstrikes on Gaza, to show solidarity with the Palestinian people.

## Saudi ambassador appreciates IUI Sports Gala

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Sports Gala of International Islamic University (IUI) concluded with a colorful ceremony at the male Campus on Thursday that was graced by Saudi Ambassador Nawaf bin Said Al-Malki.

The ambassador congratulated the president of IUI and the university administration for organizing a successful sports gala and the active participation of national and foreign students.

He said that technology has caused a decrease in sports activities and IUI's recent effort is laudable in this regard as it will help promote healthy activities in youth. Referring

to Pak-Saudi relations, he said that the whole world knows the brotherly and exemplary relations between Saudi Arabia and Pakistan.

He said Pakistan has a special place in our hearts. He furthered that the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques and the Saudi government have always valued relations with Pakistan. Around 1,000 students from Pakistan and more than 30 countries participated in this week-long sports gala of the International Islamic University.

More than 50 departments of 11 faculties of the university participated in more than 30 sports categories in indoor.

## PIDE to hold Economy Festival "EconFest-2023" from Saturday

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE), in collaboration with the Research for Social Transformation & Advancement (ASTA) programme and the Pakistan Society of Development Economists (PSDE), will hold the second two-day Economy Festival "EconFest-2023" from October 28-29 here at the Pak-China Friendship Centre.

For the event, PIDE would bring together leading economists, public policy experts, practitioners, professionals, academicians, and prominent

personalities from various fields to address Pakistan's pressing economic challenges, a news release said.

PIDE said there would be no registration fee to participate in the festival and it would be open for all. The Institute, with its rich tradition of convening experts to tackle the intricate challenges faced by the country offers a unique opportunity for the broader public to engage directly with the genuine issues impacting that national economy. It serves as a platform for concerned citizens to engage in meaningful dialogues with experts from diverse backgrounds.



ISLAMABAD: Labourers busy in extension work of Chak Shahzad Road during development work in Federal Capital.

## India's naked aggression in 1947 laid a horrible foundation of Kashmir conflict: Altaf Wani

ISLAMABAD (APP): Vice Chairman Jammu and Kashmir National Front (JKNF) Altaf Hussain Wani, while terming 27 October is darkest day in Kashmir's recent history, has said that India's naked aggression on this fateful day in 1947 laid a horrible foundation of the Kashmir conflict that threatens peace and stability in the South Asian region even after the passage of 76 long years.

In a statement issued here on Thursday, the National Front leader said that

this act of aggression not only put a stumbling block in the way of smooth and full implementation of the agenda of the partition plan in the subcontinent but also pushed the entire region into a quagmire of uncertainty, chaos and instability. "Unfortunately, the bloodshed that India started in occupied Jammu and Kashmir in 1947 is still going on unabated", he said, adding that the blood of innocent Kashmiris was being spilt with impunity on both sides of the ceasefire line.



ISLAMABAD: Senator Naseebullah Bazai, Chairman Senate Standing Committee On Poverty Alleviation & Social Safety presiding over a meeting of the committee at Parliament House.

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## Deadline approaches

The deadline for 'illegal immigrants' to exit the country looms like the sword of Damocles.

Although Oct 31 is set as the last day for all undocumented foreigners to leave, it seems the government's energies are focused on expelling the Afghans, whom the interior minister claims number around 1.73m.

The deadline was set earlier this month, with less than a 30-day window provided to them to leave. In this time, thousands have been rounded up, a lot of them in arbitrary crackdowns.

While the 'welfare and security' of the country were declared paramount when the decision was announced, the state must not lose sight of the fact that so many of these people are not just immigrants, but refugees, who escaped unimaginable horrors to seek shelter in a country that they felt had welcomed them for decades.

Evicting them so abruptly and so heartlessly not only puts them at risk of returning to hostile conditions, it is tantamount to washing away all the generosity shown to them in years past.

It is no wonder an Afghan cricketer in a post-match presentation dedicated his Player of the Match award to "people who were sent from Pakistan to back home [sic]". His words are very telling, of how Pakistan's actions are being viewed globally, particularly by Afghans.

Instead of a broad-brush approach during crackdowns, there must be a system in place to separate wanted individuals from ordinary people. Afghans, especially those fleeing persecution, have repeatedly raised concerns about harassment by police and officials. They bemoan their limbo: they have neither been registered in Pakistan nor had their visas renewed.

This is not to say Pakistan alone is responsible for their welfare, or failing them on that count. They have not received much international attention either. It is only now that reports have surfaced that 3,000 of those who assisted coalition troops will be relocated to UK this week.

The West, quick to mount pressure on Pakistan to not turn away refugees, would do well to remember it has a moral responsibility towards these people who are reeling from the fallout of the 2021 troops withdrawal from Afghanistan.

Although Pakistan has long struggled with a growing refugee population, one is forced to question if mass deportation is the best way to overcome the challenge. There are more compassionate approaches. For starters, the deadline must be pushed ahead to allow Afghans enough time to leave with dignity. They are owed at least that kindness. Countries that promised relocation schemes must do their part and expedite the process. Most importantly, Pakistan must consider integrating refugees into our social and economic frameworks, giving them access to education and opportunities, and ensuring their rights are protected.

## Navigating Peace: The Complex Landscape of the Israel-Palestine Conflict

By Ayesha Rafiq

The Israel-Palestine conflict is a long-standing and deeply complex issue that continues to challenge the international community. It's a conflict fraught with historical, cultural, and territorial dimensions, which makes neutrality in discussions difficult but essential. This article aims to provide a balanced perspective on the situation, focusing on key factors, including international law, the role of the United Nations, the actions of groups like Hamas, and potential pathways to peace.

International law plays a crucial role in addressing the Israel-Palestine conflict. The 1947 UN Partition Plan sought to divide the territory into separate Jewish and Arab states, an initiative that was met with mixed reactions. While it provided a framework for resolving the issue, its implementation was anything but smooth. The recognition of Israel as a state in 1948 and the subsequent Arab-Israeli wars created a complicated legal landscape.

The United Nations has been at the forefront of attempts to address the conflict through resolutions and negotiations.

However, the effectiveness of these efforts has been debated. The UN has passed numerous resolutions, including Resolution 242 and 338, which called for a peaceful resolution of the conflict. These resolutions remain integral to international discussions on the issue. Still, their successful implementation has been elusive, partly due to conflicting interpretations and a lack of enforcement mechanisms.

Hamas, an Islamist Palestinian group, has been a significant player in the Israel-Palestine conflict. Founded in 1987 during the First Intifada, Hamas has, at various times, been both a political party and a militant organization. The group has received support from some Palestinians for its stance against Israel, but it has also been labeled a terrorist organization by Israel, the United States, and the European Union.

While Hamas's resistance efforts have garnered support among some Palestinians, its tactics, which include rocket attacks and suicide bombings, have been widely criticized for the civilian casualties. Balancing the

legitimate grievances of Palestinians with the need for a peaceful solution remains a considerable challenge.

The broader regional context further complicates the situation. The Israel-Palestine conflict is intertwined with the larger Arab-Israeli conflict, and the changing dynamics in the Middle East add complexity. Arab countries like the United Arab Emirates and Bahrain have normalized relations with Israel, signaling a shift in regional alliances. This changing landscape brings new opportunities for diplomacy but also raises questions about the future of the Palestinian cause.

The question of borders and territories is central to the Israel-Palestine conflict. The status of East Jerusalem, the West Bank, and the Gaza Strip remains a contentious issue. The construction of Israeli settlements in the West Bank, considered illegal under international law, has been a significant obstacle to negotiations. Balancing the aspirations of Israelis for secure borders with the Palestinian desire for a viable state is essential for any potential

peace agreement.

Finding a lasting solution to the Israel-Palestine conflict is a daunting challenge, but it is not an impossible one. While neutrality remains a vital perspective in understanding the complex issue, it is equally crucial to explore potential pathways to peace.

The most direct route to resolution is through negotiations and diplomacy. Past peace efforts, like the Oslo Accords and the Camp David Summit, have laid the groundwork for a two-state solution. Renewing and reinvigorating these diplomatic efforts could pave the way for a peaceful coexistence between Israel and Palestine.

The two-state solution, which envisions an independent and sovereign Palestinian state alongside Israel, has long been a favored approach by the international community. Such a solution would require the establishment of secure borders, a fair division of territories, and the resolution of key issues like the status of Jerusalem and the right of return for Palestinian refugees.

The changing dy-

namics in the Middle East present opportunities for regional diplomacy. Involving neighboring countries with interests in the Israel-Palestine issue can provide additional leverage for achieving peace. Arab nations and the broader international community can play a constructive role in promoting dialogue.

Investing in the economic development of both Israel and Palestine can contribute to stability and the building of mutual trust. Economic cooperation projects have the potential to foster interdependence and create incentives for peace.

People-to-people initiatives, educational exchanges, and civil society involvement can help bridge the gaps between Israelis and Palestinians. Grassroots movements and dialogues that foster understanding, tolerance, and empathy are vital in building a foundation for lasting peace.

Acknowledging the pain and suffering endured by both Israelis and Palestinians is a necessary step. Reconciliation processes, truth and reconciliation commissions, and programs aimed at

healing wounds can promote a sense of justice and closure.

The international community, including the United Nations, must continue to support the peace process and advocate for the adherence to international law. The enforcement of UN resolutions and the protection of human rights for all parties involved are fundamental to achieving a just and lasting peace.

In conclusion, the Israel-Palestine conflict is far from being a lost cause. A neutral stance recognizes the pain and aspirations of both parties. A lasting solution can only be achieved through a multifaceted approach that combines negotiations, diplomacy, regional collaboration, and, most importantly, a shared commitment to peace and justice. The road to peace may be long and challenging, but it is a journey worth pursuing for the sake of a more stable and harmonious Middle East.

Writer is (Student of National Defense University (NDU), Pursuing A Degree In Peace And Conflict Studies (PCS), Islamabad, Pakistan.)

## Kashmir Black Day: The ongoing struggle for peace and justice

By M. Azlan Khan

On the 27th of October each year, Pakistan observes "Kashmir Black Day," to commemorate the day when India first illegally occupied the Kashmir, initiating the strife that has been hanging fire for more than seven decades. This annual observance serves as a poignant reminder of the protracted dispute over Kashmir, a region whose complex history has been marred by conflict and the suffering of its people, a region that has been at the heart of a decades-long dispute between India and Pakistan. Beyond the geopolitical complexities, at its core, the Kashmir issue is about the rights and aspirations of the people who have endured immense hardships for decades.

The Kashmir conflict started back in 1947 when the state of Jammu and Kashmir, led by Maharaj Hari Singh, was faced with a difficult choice to accede to either India or Pakistan. Despite a predominantly Muslim population, the Maharaja chose to accede to India, which led to tensions and ultimately the first Indo-Pak war in 1947-48. The United Nations intervened, and a ceasefire was declared, leading to the establishment of Line of Control (LOC).

Kashmir has been in political turmoil for decades, with a huge portion of the people demanding either autonomy or unification with Pakistan. The Kashmiri people have suffered a lot during this conflict. Human Rights violations, communication blackouts, curfews, and mobility restrictions have all been a part of this. One recent example of such a curfew was the lockdown on Jammu and Kashmir from 2019 to 2021 after India unilaterally revoked

Article 370 which gave Kashmir its special status. This curfew was implemented throughout the Indian-occupied territory of Jammu and Kashmir with the intention of averting unrest, violence, and protests.

The Kashmir issue has not only the potential to destabilize relations between Pakistan and India, but if it remains unresolved, this conflict threatens South-Asian regional peace in the long term, affecting the larger geopolitical landscape. It is a complicated issue that needs diplomatic attention and international cooperation. The world community has repeatedly urged Pakistan and India to reach a peaceful settlement via conversation and diplomacy. The United Nations, in particular, has approved resolutions calling for a plebiscite on Kashmir's future status under the The

United Nations Security Council Resolution 47, adopted on April 21st 1948. This was the first of many similar resolutions which followed over the course of time.

Pakistan has continuously backed the right of the Kashmiri people to self-determination. Prime Minister Anwar-ul-Haq Kakar raised the issue on multiple occasions. In his address to the 78th session of the United Nations General Assembly in New York, Prime Minister Kakar reiterated Pakistan's unshakable stance on Kashmir. He emphasized that India is entirely to be blamed for human rights violations in Indian-occupied Jammu and Kashmir. In this quest Pakistan is dynamically analyzing all possible channels which leads to the peaceful resolution of this conflict.

Kashmir is more than just a piece of territory; it is home to millions of people who have yearned for peace, security, and the ability to shape their own fate for decades. Their voices, often unheard are an important part of the Kashmir story. People have been forced to bear the consequences of decisions made by forces beyond their control. Kashmir Black Day is not just a symbolic observance; it is a cry for recognition and compassion. It serves to express solidarity with the people of Indian-occupied Kashmir, acknowledging their suffering and their aspirations.

At its core, it is a call for justice, peace, and the right to self-determination, principles enshrined in several United Nations resolutions. In conclusion, a long-term solution to the Kashmir dispute is critical for the region's peace and stability. It is critical not just for the individuals directly affected, but also for the whole region and the worldwide community. Diplomacy, dialogue, and commitment must take precedence over conflict in order to chart a course ahead. The interests and ambitions of the Kashmiri people should be central to any resolution. Their voices must be heard, their rights must be upheld, and their safety must be guaranteed. The only way to achieve long-term peace is to pass a resolution that genuinely reflect their will. As the world watches, and the international community plays a vital role in fostering dialogue and understanding, the hope remains that a compassionate, equitable, and lasting resolution can be found, one that respects the rights and aspirations of the people who have endured so much in Kashmir.

While October 27, 1947, stands as a dark and enduring day in Kashmiri history, the hope for a brighter future endures. This hope is nurtured by the unyielding determination of the Kashmiri people in their ongoing struggle for self-determination and peace. As the world grapples with shifting power dynamics, the fate of Kashmir continues to hang in the balance, transcending borders and resonating with all who champion justice and human rights. The enduring struggle for Kashmiri freedom serves as a stark reminder of the enduring yearning for self-determination and justice in an ever-evolving global landscape.

## A dark day in Kashmiri history: October 27, 1947

By Abdullah Malik

In the annals of Kashmir's turbulent history, October 27, 1947, stands as a somber and fateful day. It marks the moment when India deployed its troops to seize control of Kashmir, sparking a chain of events with deep and enduring consequences.

This delves into the historical context, the ongoing struggle for freedom in Occupied Kashmir, the evolving landscape, and the intricate international dynamics that envelop this protracted conflict. The roots of the Kashmir conflict stretch back to the period leading up to India's independence in August 1947. During this pivotal time, the Maha-

raja of Kashmir entered into an agreement with the Government of Pakistan, pledging that the same arrangements existing under British rule would continue with Pakistan. Regrettably, these promises were broken, setting the stage for enduring disputes.

The pursuit of Kashmiri freedom has endured for over seven decades. Despite facing decades of Indian oppression, the resilient people of Kashmir have never relinquished their aspiration for self-determination. However, as time has passed, the situation has grown increasingly intricate.

The year 2019

marked a turning point when India unilaterally altered the constitutional status of the disputed region to fortify its illegal occupation of the valley. Following this move, India issued 5.41 lakh domicile certificates, primarily to Hindus, raising concerns about demographic shifts in the region. The human rights situation in Kashmir remains dire. The presence of 900,000 Indian soldiers in the region since 1991 has led to widespread violence and repression. Recent estimates reveal a stark reality: 96,000 Kashmiris have fallen victim to extrajudicial killings, 162,000 individuals have been unlawfully detained, over 25,000 have

been wounded by pellet guns, and thousands of women have been widowed, leaving children orphaned.

The Indian government's strategy includes stifling information and communication. Since 2017, major social media platforms have banned content related to the Kashmiri freedom movement. India is a global leader in internet shutdowns, leading to significant hardships for the local population. The Kashmir conflict often receives limited international attention due to several factors.

Geopolitical tensions between major powers, especially the United States and China,

play a pivotal role. The U.S. views India as a crucial ally in countering China's ascent, resulting in diplomatic and political support for India. In the complex landscape of international relations, interests often take precedence. The Western world regards India as both an economic market and a strategic partner in countering China's growing influence.

This selective approach shapes responses to issues involving India, even when they pertain to human rights. In conclusion, the quest for Kashmiri freedom is a protracted narrative marked by hardships, sacrifices, and unwavering resolve.

While October 27, 1947, stands as a dark and enduring day in Kashmiri history, the hope for a brighter future endures. This hope is nurtured by the unyielding determination of the Kashmiri people in their ongoing struggle for self-determination and peace. As the world grapples with shifting power dynamics, the fate of Kashmir continues to hang in the balance, transcending borders and resonating with all who champion justice and human rights. The enduring struggle for Kashmiri freedom serves as a stark reminder of the enduring yearning for self-determination and justice in an ever-evolving global landscape.

## Syed Ali Shah Geelani:

### A life dedicated to Kashmir and its people

By Shehnaz Nawaz

Syed Ali Shah Geelani was symbol of Kashmir resistance. Geelani spearheaded Kashmir's movement for right to self-determination and was a staunch proponent of merging Indian occupied Kashmir with Pakistan.

As soon as news of his death began to make the rounds in the disputed Himalayan region, authorities blocked the internet and deployed hundreds of troops in the main city of Srinagar to prevent a mass funeral procession or protests against the Indian rule. India had reasons to be apprehensive obviously. For decades, Geelani was the symbol of popular resistance for the Kashmiris who either

want to carve an independent country out of the Himalayan territory or merge with neighboring Pakistan.

Geelani headed the All Parties Hurriyat Conference (APHC), an umbrella group of various Kashmiri political and religious groups formed in 1993 to spearhead a movement for the region's right to self-determination.

One of the core principles of Syed Ali Shah Geelani's political ideology was the right to self-determination for the people of Kashmir. He firmly believed that the Kashmiri people should have the right to decide their own destiny through a free and fair plebiscite. Geelani's ad-

vocacy for self-determination aligned with international norms and the United Nations resolutions on Kashmir, which call for a plebiscite to determine the future of the region. Throughout his life, Syed Ali Shah Geelani has been an ardent critic of Indian rule in Kashmir.

He has consistently opposed what he viewed as the Indian government's oppressive policies and military presence in the region. His unwavering stance had made him a symbol of resistance against what he and many Kashmiris saw as an occupation. Geelani had been a vocal advocate for human rights in Kashmir. He had brought attention to the alleged

human rights abuses, including extrajudicial killings, arbitrary detentions, and torture, carried out by Indian security forces in the region. His efforts to shed light on these issues earned him respect from human rights organizations and activists worldwide.

Despite his staunch opposition to Indian rule, Syed Ali Shah Geelani had in his life consistently advocated for non-violence and peaceful resistance. He believed in the power of dialogue and diplomacy to resolve the Kashmir issue. Throughout his career, he had called for meaningful negotiations between India, Pakistan, and the Kashmiri leadership to

find a peaceful and just solution to the conflict.

Syed Ali Shah Geelani's dedication to the Kashmiri cause had not gone unnoticed on the global stage. He received international recognition for his efforts to highlight the plight of the Kashmiri people. His speeches and writings have resonated with audiences worldwide, garnering support for the Kashmiri struggle for self-determination.

Geelani's path had been fraught with challenges and personal sacrifices. He faced numerous periods of house arrest and detention by the Indian authorities. Despite these hardships, he remained steadfast in his

commitment to the Kashmiri people's cause, inspiring many with his resilience.

Syed Ali Shah Geelani's life and struggle had been defined by his unwavering commitment to the rights and self-determination of the Kashmiri people. His advocacy for non-violence, human rights, and peaceful resistance earned him respect both within Kashmir and on the global stage. As the world continues to grapple with the complex Kashmir issue, Syed Ali Shah Geelani remains a symbol of hope and determination for the Kashmiri people and their quest for self-determination.

## Punjab, Sindh CMs mull strategy to fight katcha dacoits

**Independent Report**  
KARACHI: Punjab Chief Minister Syed Mohsin Naqvi and Sindh Chief Minister Justice Maqbool Baqir attended a meeting at the CM House in Karachi on Thursday and reviewed the progress made in crackdown against dacoits of the katcha area launched jointly by the Punjab and Sindh police. Inspector General of Police (IGP) Sindh Rifat Mukhtar, IGP Punjab Dr. Usman Anwar, Chief Secretary Sindh Dr. Fikr Alam, Chief Secretary Punjab Zahid Akhtar Zaman and other officials were also in attendance. A strategy was chalked out at the meeting to make crackdown on the bandits more effective. The meeting decided the locations where police

pickets would be set up to keep an eye on dacoits. Briefing the meeting on the occasion, Punjab IGP said that Ghotki and Kashmore districts in Sindh and parts of Ranipur and Rahim Yar Khan in Punjab were included in the katcha area. The meeting was told that Sindh's katcha area was 176 kilometers long and 25 kilometers wide. The IGP further said there were seven islands in the Ranipur area of Punjab. Speaking on the occasion, CM Naqvi said that 56,000 to 66,500 acres of land had been retrieved from outlaws in Punjab. "There are 11 gangs of dacoits in the province, and their total number stands at 600," he informed. The chief minister went on to say that nine

police camps and 53 pickets had been set up in the province for the purpose. In his briefing, Sindh IGP said that 210 police pickets were set up in katcha area of the province. "Sindh Rangers is also ready for the operation," he said. Sindh chief minister informed that he was going to order a police operation in Ghotki. It was decided at the meeting to weaken mobile signals in the katcha area. It was disclosed that all means of supply of weapons to robbers had been choked. Participants of the meeting agreed that they would meet again soon to give finishing touches to the operation against the outlaws.



HYDERABAD: Sindh Caretaker Local Government Minister, Muhammad Mubeen Jumani along with Kashif Ali Shoro, Mayor Hyderabad addressing a press conference, at Shahbaz Hall in Hyderabad.

## KP finalizes programme for repatriation of illegal foreign nationals

**Independent Report**  
PESHAWAR: Caretaker Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Muhammad Azam Khan has said that repatriation programme of foreign nationals illegally living in the province has been finalized. In a statement issued here on Thursday, the chief minister said that all illegal foreigners can go back to their homelands voluntarily till the 1<sup>st</sup> of next month; and the government will extend every possible support to them for this purpose. He said that so far, around 60,000 such foreign nationals have gone back to their homeland via Torkham boarder. Muhammad Azam Khan said that action against foreigners illegally living in the province would be initiated from 1<sup>st</sup> of November under which repatriation of such persons would be carried out from the designated

points in the province. "concerned administration will arrange temporary points where food would be provided; and women, children and old people would be accorded special treatment as per the traditions of the land. He said that currently, three temporary centers/spots are being arranged at Peshawar, Haripur and Landi Kotal. Under this temporary arrangement, doctors, medicines and other health facilities would also be extended. He further said that a programme has also been chalked out for the easy repatriation of those foreign nationals coming from other provinces. The government is hopeful that the entire repatriation process of all such foreigners will be completed amicably; and action would be taken against those creating hurdles in the repatriation

## PHA utilizing all available resources to uplift city parks

RAWALPINDI (APP): Director General (DG), Parks and Horticulture Authority (PHA) Rawalpindi, Ahmad Hassan Ranjha here on Thursday said that the authority was utilizing all available resources to make the city clean and green and uplift the parks. Talking to APP he informed that the authorities concerned had been directed to complete ongoing renovation and beautification work of all the parks within the shortest possible time frame. The DG said that efforts were also being made to repair faulty lights, swings and walking tracks besides improving the security of the parks. The PHA officers had also been instructed to utilize all available resources to ensure the provision of the best recreational facilities to the public in all the parks of the town, he added.

## Formation of new merged districts transformed status of tribal people: Dr. Aamir

**Independent Report**  
PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Caretaker Minister for Industries, Technical Education and Merged Districts Affairs, Dr. Aamir Abdullah has said that the status of tribal people has been changed from subjects to respectable citizens after merger of Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA) into Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province. He expressed these views in Pakhtunkhwa Radio's programme Pakhtunkhawa online here on Thursday. He said that "Now tribal people have become equal citizens and joined national mainstream of development". He maintained that provincial government is fully implementing the ten-

year development action plan of merged districts. Dr. Aamir Abdullah said that process of balanced development has been started in all 25 tehsils of the seven tribal districts. He said that new schools and hospitals are being built and security and administrative matters are being improved in merged districts. Answering to a question, the Minister urged the youth to be attracted towards modern technical education to develop the country and nation. He said that to large industrial sector, it has been decided to establish new industrial estates at the district level in which priority will be given to industries based on local raw materials.



RAWALPINDI: Students of different schools are participating in the rally of All Pakistan Private School Management Association, to show solidarity with oppressed Muslims of Palestinian people.

## ANF seizes 46 kg drugs in six operations; arrests four accused

RAWALPINDI (APP): Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) while conducting six operations across the country managed to recover over 46 kg of drugs and arrested four accused, said an ANF Headquarters spokesman here on Thursday. He informed that 20.4 kg hashish and 3.6 kg opium were recovered from a vehicle intercepted near Maweshi Mandi Rawalpindi. During the operation, an accused, a resident of Mardan, was arrested. In another operation at a courier office in Rawalpindi, ANF recovered 44 grams of weed from a parcel sent from America. In the third operation, 2 kg heroin and 2 kg Ice drug were recovered from the possession of two women resident of Karachi.



LAHORE: Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman cutting cake during a ceremony held in connection with 31st Republic Day of Kazakhstan.

## KP Cabinet authorizes Rs529.118b expenditure for next four months

PESHAWAR (APP): Caretaker Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Minister for Finance, Ahmad Rasool Bangash here Thursday said that Rs529.118 billion expenditure has been authorized by the provincial cabinet with Chief Minister in a chair for the second four months i.e. (1st November to 29<sup>th</sup> February 2024), showing 14pc increase as compared to Rs462.939 billion of the first four months (July to October 2023). Addressing a press conference here, the Minister said that the total expenditure authorized for eight months is Rs992.055 billion for the financial year 2023-24, showing 12pc increase as compared to Rs888 billion of the first

eight months of the previous year's budget. He said Rs 417 billion for the current and Rs112.118 billion for development expenditures of the second four months i.e. November to February 2024 showed a 19pc increase as compared to the first four months i.e. Rs350.041 billion current expenditure, was authorized. The total current expenditure authorized for eight months is Rs767.040 billion in the current fiscal as compared to Rs609.200 billion of the last financial year. He said Rs366.298 billion current expenditure has been authorized for the second four months (Nov to Feb 2024) indicated

26pc increase compared to the first four months (July to October 2023) i.e. Rs309.498 billion for settled areas. The total authorized current expenditure for eight months is Rs675.796 billion compared to Rs526.533 billion for eight months of the last fiscal for settled areas. For merged areas, he said the total current expenditure for the second four months is Rs50.702 billion against Rs40.543 billion of the first four months, showing 10pc increase. He said the total development expenditure authorized for the second four months is Rs112.898 billion for the first four months, showing a 1pc decrease.

## CM inspects Ghora Chowk flyover project

**Independent Report**  
LAHORE: Caretaker Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi visited the Ghora Chowk Defence Morr flyover project early in the morning, accompanied by Information Minister Amir Mir and IG Police Dr Usman Anwar. During the inspection, the Chief Minister expressed his appreciation for the workers, shaking hands with those who had been laboring since dawn. He congratulated them and encouraged them to persist with diligence and enthusiasm. He inspected the ongoing tasks, focusing on the progress of the flyover pillars. He

observed the finishing touches being applied. Expressing his satisfaction, the Chief Minister commented on the continuous efforts invested in the project, noting that work was consistently progressing from night until the early hours of the morning. Highlighting the significance of expediting the project, CM Naqvi emphasized the need to accelerate the pace of work. He directed to aim for the prompt completion of this infrastructural initiative, underscoring the importance of timely progress in this key project.



SWAT: Regional Police Officer Malakand Muhammad Ali Khan presiding over a meeting with police officers of Malakand division.

## SABS University Jamshoro signs MoU with IdeaGist.com

HYDERABAD (APP): The management of Shaheed Ailah Buksh Soomro (SABS) University of Art, Design and Heritages Jamshoro and IdeaGist.com have signed the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to offer Entrepreneurship Training Programme to students from SABS University and other higher learning institutions of the country. The MoU ceremony took place on Thursday in the Vice Chancellor's secretariat, the university spokesman informed and added that IdeaGist Global Platform, connects innovators, entrepreneurs, investors, and students from 195 UN-

recognized countries and territories. Its practical entrepreneurship training programme is taken by over 20,000 students worldwide, with over 8,000 graduated in Pakistan. The IdeaGist will provide details of the training and practicum to the university, offer online classroom for self-paced learning to the students enrolled in the programme, provide online entrepreneurship lab to students enrolled in the programme and train instructors at the SABS university on how to monitor students' progress and provide supervised testing facility to the students.

## Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's push for smoke-free Communities

PESHAWAR (APP): In an effort to combat the pervasive challenge of tobacco use, Blue Veins organized a two-day capacity-strengthening workshop for the members of the Provincial Alliance for Sustainable Tobacco Control. Provincial Alliance for Sustainable Tobacco Control is a robust combination of civil society organizations, NGOs, trade bodies,

medical professionals, online social groups, and tobacco control advocates, established in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa to lead proactive anti-tobacco measures and advocacy for sustainable tobacco control in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Focusing on strengthening the role of Alliance, according to Blue Veins the workshop served to equip the tobacco control advocates with essential skills.

## Nation of Kazakhstan is a resilient and independent nation: Governor Punjab

**Independent Report**  
LAHORE: Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman attended the 31st Republic Day of Kazakhstan function as Chief Guest at Al Hamra Hall here today. Governor Punjab extended his heartfelt felicitations to the brotherly people of the Republic of Kazakhstan on the occasion of their Republic Day. Speaking on the occasion, Punjab Governor Muhammad Balighur Rehman said that the nation of Kazakhstan is a resilient and independent nation. He referred to last year and said that the two countries celebrated the 30th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations. He said that Kazakhstan's dynamic economic and regional power transformation is recognized throughout the region and beyond. He said that the people of the two countries share common historical, cultural and religious ties. He said that Kazakhstan is blessed with

the largest oil reserves in the Central Asian region and can serve as an energy hub. "It is good to know that our bilateral relations are progressing at a positive pace," he said. In this context, the role of the Kazakh ambassador in Pakistan is commendable. He further said that due to the efforts of the Kazakh Ambassador to Pakistan, Pakistan and Kazakhstan are now operating direct flights through the operations of SCAT Airlines, which will increase our trade and increase relations between the people. The idea of establishing Kazakhstan House in Lahore and the inauguration of Pakistan House in Kazakhstan is an important step towards wider links and trade. He said that it is gratifying that Kazakhstan is our largest trading partner in Central Asia, and the exchange of trade delegations between the two countries will definitely strengthen our bilateral economic relations.



ABBOTTABAD: Members of Government Employees Coordination Council are holding protest demonstration against government policies, at Abbottabad press club.

## Illegal immigrants asked to voluntarily return to their homelands till October 31<sup>st</sup>

KARACHI (APP): Caretaker Sindh Home Minister Brigadier (Rtd.) Haris Nawaz on Thursday warned the illegal immigrants to ensure their return to their respective countries by October 31<sup>st</sup>, after which the government would arrest and send them to their respective countries. Addressing a news conference at the Karachi Press Club, he said all the provincial governments, following the instructions of the federal government, were taking action against illegal immigrants. The minister said illegal foreigners who were voluntarily returning to their countries were also being given all facilities. He said all arrangements have been made to send the illegal aliens back to their homelands in a good manner but after October 31<sup>st</sup>, no illegal alien will be

allowed to stay in the country and their return will be ensured. Haris Nawaz warned that action will also be taken against those who give shelter to illegal foreigners, in this regard full support was being obtained from NADRA and other relevant institutions. He explained that all illegal aliens will be dealt with indiscriminately and effectively, regardless of the country they belong to, they will be sent back to their country. The home minister said the government had also decided to take strict action against the makers of fake identity cards and fake documents of illegal foreigners. In response to a question about the operation in riverine areas, Haris Nawaz said an effective operation was underway in Katcha Areas and good news.



KARACHI: Activates of jamat e islami woman wing hold protest rally against Israel.

## Caretaker provincial minister emphasizes for fiscal balance to give relief to people

HYDERABAD (APP): Caretaker Provincial Minister of Local Government, Housing, Town Planning and Rehabilitation Muhammad Mubeen Jumani here on Thursday said we have to increase our income as well as create a balance in expenditure and income so that we could improve the situation and give relief to the people. He made these remarks while presiding over a meeting with Local Government officials at Shahbaz Hall. Jumani said that there were ghost employees in every municipal corporation, municipal committees, towns and unions and their termination was essential. He added that this issue was not limited to Hyderabad alone, it prevails across the entire province, resulting in diverting all income and government resources towards the employees' salaries. During the

meeting, the provincial minister was briefed about the Hyderabad Municipal Corporation's progress and ongoing developmental projects and issues. He assured his full cooperation in finding solutions to these problems. The meeting was attended by Mayor Hyderabad Kashif Shoro, Commissioner Hyderabad Khalid Hyder Shah, Deputy Commissioner Tariq Qureshi, Municipal Commissioner Hyderabad Anees Dasti, Regional Director Local Government Abdullah Siddiqui, DG HDA Zahid Bashir and Project Director mega project Abdul Ghani Sheikh as well as other district officials. Later, talking to "APP" caretaker provincial minister Muhammad Mubeen Jumani mentioned that he had discussed matters related to Gulsitan-e-Sarmast with the Hyderabad Development Authority (HDA).

**Dr. Umar Saif says Govt. taking measures to facilitate IT industry**

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Federal Minister for IT & Telecommunication Dr. Umar Saif Thursday said that the government was taking various steps to provide all possible facilities to the Information Technology and Telecom industry.

"No doubt about the potential in Pakistan's IT sector, the industry is playing a significant role in the stability of the country's economy, the government is taking steps to provide all possible facilities to the IT industry," he said, while addressing the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signing ceremony for strategic partnership between HBL and Pakistan Software Houses Association (P@SHA).

The minister said there was a need to be Brand Pakistan and marketed globally in the desired manner. Dr. Umar Saif further said, "I am delighted to be part of the event and hope that this collaboration will play a vital role and fostering the growth and development of the IT sector domestically and internationally."

**PTCL transforms its optical ultra long-haul network**

ISLAMABAD: PTCL Group, a leading telecommunications service provider in Pakistan, has announced its collaboration with nationwide transport traffic, followed by successful demonstration of 1 Tera per lambda in its Metro network.



With the emergence of more bandwidth-hungry applications in recent years, PTCL Group is now preparing to introduce Pakistan's first 'commercial deployment' of 400G per lambda on its ultra-long-haul network, using Nokia's latest CDC-F (Colorless, Directionless, Contentionless, Flex-grid) technology and 1 Tera in metro layer using newer chipsets. Adoption of CDC-F technology will enable to transmit any of the components of optical signal in any colour, in any direction, at any time, guaranteeing the highest capacity and lowest latency. The technology will efficiently scale up PTCL Group's transport network capacity, serving the evolving needs of corporate, consumer and carrier customers.

Moreover, Group Chief Technology & Information Officer of PTCL & Ufone 4G Jafar Khalid and Senior Vice President of Network Infrastructure, Nokia MEA Roque Lozano jointly announced further strengthening of the two companies' long-term strategic collaboration at a grand handshake ceremony during GITEX Technology Week 2023 in Dubai.

During previous years, PTCL Group had deployed Nokia's cutting-edge CD-F (Colorless, Directionless, Flex-grid) technology on its network to efficiently manage



**PESHAWAR: All-Pakistan CNG Station is protesting in favor of their demands in Assembly Chowk.**

**Irish delegation keen to explore investment prospects in Pakistan's Dairy Sector**

ISLAMABAD (APP): A delegation of the dairy sector of Ireland Thursday visited Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) and showed interest to explore investment opportunities in Pakistan's dairy sector.

The representatives of the Board of Investment of Pakistan also accompanied the delegation.

Addressing the delegation, Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, President, ICCI said that Pakistan's dairy sector played an important role in the national economy as its value was more than the combined value of major wheat and cotton cash-crops.

He said that Pakistan was the 5<sup>th</sup> top milk producer in the world as it produced over 65 million tonnes of milk every year. However, due to lack of modern technology and best practices, over 95



ISLAMABAD: Senator Khalida Ateeb, Chairperson Senate Standing Committee on Industries and Production presiding over a meeting of the committee at Parliament House.



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Federal Minister for Privatisation Fawad Hasan Fawad and Caretaker Federal Minister for Energy Muhammad Ali jointly chaired a meeting with representatives of IFC/World Bank regarding restructuring of DISCOs.

**Beijing assists Pakistan in enhancing exports to China**

BEIJING (APP): Caretaker Minister of Commerce Dr. Gohar Ejaz signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on Pakistan's behalf with the Chinese Minister of Commerce Wang Wentao during his recent visit to China. Under the MoU, China will assist Pakistan in enhancing its exports to China.

The MoU will go a long way in increasing Pakistan's exports to China and will contribute to job creation, in addition to balancing bilateral trade, said the Commerce Minister who attended the Belt and Road Forum along with the Caretaker Prime

Minister last week, Beijing Review reported on Thursday. The Minister of Commerce concluded a series of highly productive meetings with prominent Chinese business leaders and investment groups on the sidelines of the Third Belt and Road Forum in Beijing. The meetings were aimed at strengthening economic ties between Pakistan and China and exploring various investment opportunities in Pakistan.

According to the Ministry's official statement, Dr. Gohar Ejaz met with Wang Zihai, Director of China-Pakistan

(Qingdao) International Cooperation Hub.

The discussions centered on investment opportunities in Pakistan, including areas such as civilian and defense equipment, EV lithium batteries, solar panels, and semiconductors.

The role of the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) in facilitating these opportunities was a key point of conversation.

In a meeting with Li Yiman, Chairperson of Eman Logistics, the focus was on expanding Pakistan's presence on Chinese digital platforms. Eman Logistics plans

**Rupee sheds 21 paisa against Dollar**

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistani Rupee on Thursday witnessed a 21-paisa depreciation against US Dollar in the interbank trading and closed at Rs280.09 against the previous day's closing of Rs 279.88.

However, according to the Forex Association of Pakistan (FAP), the buying and selling rates of the Dollar in the open market stood at Rs 280.25 and Rs 282.9 respectively.

The price of the Euro decreased by Rs1.04 to close at Rs 295.52 against the last day's closing of Rs 296.56, according to the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP).

The Japanese Yen remained unchanged to close at Rs 1.86, whereas a decrease of Rs 1.26 was witnessed in the exchange rate of the British Pound, which traded at Rs 338.72 as compared to the last closing of Rs 339.98.

The exchange rates of the Emirates Dirham and the Saudi Riyal increased by 06 and 05 paisa to close at Rs 76.25 and Rs 74.65 respectively.

**PSX gains 8.15 points**

ISLAMABAD (APP): The 100-index of Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) on Thursday gained 8.15 points, a nominal change of 0.02 percent, closing at 51,185.28 points against 51,177.13 points the previous day.

A total of 364,039,493 shares valuing Rs 10.928 billion were traded during the day as compared to 427,393,948 shares valuing Rs 15,509 billion the previous day.

As many as 355 companies transacted their shares in the stock market; 139 of them recorded gains and 196 sustained losses, whereas the share price of 20 companies remained unchanged.

The three top-trading companies were WorldCall Telecom with 57,470,968 shares at Rs.1.36 per share, Bank of Punjab with 46,166,578 shares at Rs.4.83 per share and K-Electric Ltd with 20,802,432 shares at Rs.3.23 per share.

Service Ind. Ltd witnessed a maximum increase of Rs.28.74 per share price, closing at Rs.412.00, whereas the runner-up was Al-Ghazi Tractors with a Rs.23.56 rise in its per share price to Rs 337.74.

Sapphire Fiber XD witnessed a maximum decrease of Rs 88.44 per share closing at Rs 1090.75.



ISLAMABAD: Dr. Shamshad Akhtar, Federal Minister for Finance, Revenue & Economic Affairs recently convened a productive meeting with the Governor of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KPK). The high-level discussion centered on key strategies and initiatives aimed at bolstering the economic development and revenue generation within the KPK region.

**Kausar Abdullah vowed to utilize available resources for agric. sector development**

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Minister for National Food Security and Research Dr Kousar Abdullah Malik on Thursday vowed to utilize all available means and resources to facilitate and expedite the investment projects for the benefit of the nation and its people.

The minister held a meeting with key figures from the world of investment and technology, including the Chief Investment Officer of Tri-Ri Asset Management (TRAM), Asad Ali and the Chief Executive Officer of Tingo Group, Dozy Mmbousi led by Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Minister for Science and Technology Dr Najibullah, Chairman Pakistan Science Foundation Dr Shahid Mahmood Baig, said a

press release. This gathering comes at a pivotal time, with Tri-Ri Asset Management committing a substantial \$100 million investment in the startup industry, while Tingo Group announced a \$10 million investment.

**Descon Engineering, Engro Polymers sign MoU**

ISLAMABAD (APP): Descon Engineering Limited (DEL) and Engro Polymer & Chemicals Limited (EPLC) Thursday signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to further enhance their more than three decade-long partnership.

This significant milestone marks a renewed commitment to mutual collaboration in the field of plant maintenance, shutdowns, reliability, and asset performance management to ensure sustainable operations.

The MoU was officially signed by the Chief Executive Officer of Descon Engineering Taimur Saeed, and Chief Executive Officer of Engro Polymer Jahangir Piracha, solidifying the intent of both organizations to work together for the long-term benefit of their valued clients.

On the occasion, Taimur Saeed stated, "this Memorandum of Understanding is a testament to the enduring partnership between Descon Engineering Limited and Engro Polymer & Chemicals Limited. We are committed to bring our overseas experience in our collaboration with Engro Polymer to provide top-notch services and unmatched value to our clients. Together, we will continue to raise the bar in the industry."

CEO Engro Polymer & Chemicals Limited Jahangir Piracha said, "our commitment to delivering excellence in plant maintenance and asset management has been unwavering. This MoU reinforces our dedication to sustainable and reliable operations."

**Gold rates up by Rs.2,900 to Rs.211,350 per tola**

ISLAMABAD (APP): The per tola price of 24 karat gold increased by Rs.2,900 and was sold at Rs.211,350 on Thursday compared to its sale at Rs.208,450 the previous day of trading.

The price of 10 grams of 24 karat gold also increased by Rs.2,486 to Rs.181,198 from Rs.178,712 whereas the prices of 10 gram 22 karat gold went up to Rs.166,098 from Rs.163,820, the All Sindh Sarafa Jewellers Association reported.

The price of per tola and ten gram silver remained constant at Rs.2,550 and Rs.2,186.21 respectively.

The price of gold in the international market increased by \$20 to \$2010 from \$1,990, the Association reported.

**CNG stations in Hazara division closed in protest against gas price hike**

ABBOTTABAD (APP): In response to a call from the Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) Stations Association on Thursday, all CNG stations in the Hazara division were closed as a protest against the recent 200 percent increase in gas prices.

The CNG station owners' association decided to shut down all CNG stations across the province, expressing their concerns about the significant price hike, which they believed would negatively impact their businesses and the livelihoods of thousands of families.

In the three districts of the Hazara division including Haripur, Mansehra, and Abbottabad, approximately 70 percent of public transport and other vehicles rely on CNG as a fuel source. With the gas stations closed, people are now facing a severe shortage of transportation options. The CNG owners' association, in a press statement.

**Senate Committee directs MoI&P to present plans for future of PSM**

**Independent Report**

ISLAMABAD: A meeting of the Senate Standing Committee on Industries and Production was convened at the Parliament House in Islamabad, with Senator Khalida Ateeb presiding as the Chair. The committee members expressed displeasure about the absence of the Minister for Industries and Production in the committee and urged the officials to ensure the minister's presence, as it would help clarify the way forward.

During the session, the Senate Committee discussed the current status of the privatization of Pakistan Steel Mills. Jawad Paul, Secretary of the Privatization Division, briefed the committee members on the progress. He informed them that Pakistan Steel Mills was included in the Privatization list on June 17, 2019. Initially, four Chinese companies expressed interest in the bidding process. However, due to the global decline in steel demand and adverse economic conditions, three of these companies withdrew their interest. Consequently, in a meeting held on October 6, 2023, the Privatization Commission Board decided to halt the privatization process. This decision was made because having only one bidder raised concerns about transparency. Furthermore, a Technical Due Diligence report indicated that an investment of approximately US \$584 billion would be necessary to restore the Steel Mills Plant to its original capacity of 1.1 million metric tons per annum.



LAHORE: Ambassador of Poland in Pakistan Maciej Pisarski speaks during 7th Pak Water Energy Conference at Expo Center.

**Finance Minister discusses economic development strategies with KPK Governor**

**ISLAMABAD (APP):**

KPK Region. Caretaker Federal Minister for Economic Affairs, Dr. Shamshad Akhtar in a meeting with the Governor of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KPK), Haji Ghulam Ali discussed the key strategies to bolster economic development in

**Turkish furniture manufacturers delegation to visit Pak**

**ISLAMABAD (APP):**

Chief Executive Officer Pakistan Furniture Council Mian Kashif Ashfaq Thursday said a high level Turkish furniture manufacturers delegation would visit Pakistan to further explore the possibilities of collaboration for joint ventures and investment.

Talking to a delegation of furniture manufacturers led by Arabi Arain here, he said series of fruitful meetings with Turkish furniture manufacturers through zoom had been arranged to invite them to Pakistan. He said both the Turkish and Pakistani furniture industries were significant players in the global market.

The chief executive said collaboration between the Turkish and Pakistani furniture industries could



QUETTA: Balochistan Tandoor Association Chairman Muhammad Naeem Khilji addressing a press conference.

**OICCI to organize 2<sup>nd</sup> PCC to propose solutions for Pak climate emergency**

**ISLAMABAD (APP):**

The Overseas Investors Chamber of Commerce and Industry (OICCI) will organize Pakistan Climate Conference (PCC) on November 1.

This is the second consecutive year that the OICCI is organizing a multi-stakeholder dialogue to propose collective solutions for Pakistan's climate emergency, said a news release issued here on Thursday.

Starting from 2022, the Pakistan Climate Conference brings together national and international experts to identify and implement efforts needed to promote positive climate actions and reduce climate change impact in Pakistan. The PCC will also address the mitigating efforts needed to prevent the recurrence of natural disasters such as the devastating floods of 2022. The floods alone caused a significant devastation in the country, affecting at least 33 million people, displacing nearly eight million people, and resulting in 1,700 casualties. The PCC 2023 will bring together global climate experts, policy makers and corporate decision-makers to share learning's and best practices to help Pakistan develop necessary policy and climate interventions.

## Putin warns Israel-Hamas conflict could spread beyond Middle East, condemns Gaza bombing

**Monitoring Desk**  
MOSCOW: President Vladimir Putin warned on Wednesday that Israel's conflict with Hamas could spread well beyond the Middle East and said it was wrong that innocent women, children and old people in Gaza were being punished for other people's crimes.

Putin, who made the comments in a Kremlin meeting with Russian religious leaders of different faiths, said bloodshed in the region had to stop. He said he told other world leaders in phone calls that if it did not, there was a risk of a much wider conflagration.

"Our task today, our main task, is to stop the bloodshed and violence," said Putin, according to a Kremlin transcript of the meeting.

"Otherwise, further escalation of the crisis is fraught with grave and extremely dangerous and destructive consequences. And not only for the Middle East region. It could spill over far beyond the borders of the Middle East."

In remarks that criticised the West, he said that certain unnamed forces were seeking to provoke further escalation and to draw as many other countries and peoples into the conflict as possible.

The aim, he said, was to "launch a real wave of chaos and mutual hatred not only in the Middle East but also far beyond its borders. For this purpose, among other things, they are trying to play on the national and religious feelings of millions of people."

Putin conveyed his condolences to the families of Israelis and citizens of other countries who were killed or wounded by Hamas in its bloody Oct. 7 attack.

Moscow, he said, continued to advocate for a two-state solution to the Palestinian-Israeli issue, something he said was the only way to reach a long-term settlement.

He made it clear though that he thought Israel was wrong to keep bombing Gaza in retaliation for the slaughter and hostage-taking of Israeli citizens by Hamas.

"It is also clear to us that innocent people should not be held responsible for crimes committed by others," said Putin.

"The fight against terrorism cannot be conducted according to the notorious principle of collective responsibility when old people, women, children, entire families and hundreds of thousands of people are left without shelter, food, water, electricity and medical care."



Slovakia's newly appointed Prime Minister Robert Fico attends the new cabinet's inauguration, at the Presidential Palace in Bratislava, Slovakia.

## Moscow trains forces for 'massive' retaliatory N-strike

**Monitoring Desk**  
MOSCOW: Russia is training its forces for a "massive" nuclear strike in response to an "enemy nuclear strike," Moscow's defence minister Sergei Shoigu said on Wednesday as the country fired test ballistic missiles.

According to the Russian press agency Interfax, Shoigu said they will also be practising "delivering a massive nuclear strike by strategic offensive forces in response to an enemy nuclear strike."

President Vladimir Putin on Wednesday over-awarded ballistic missile drills remotely, the Kremlin said, hours after Russia moved to revoke its ratification of a landmark nuclear test ban treaty. The drills came 20 months into Moscow's Ukraine offensive—which has raised some fears of nuclear war—and hours after Russia moved to revoke a key nuclear arms control treaty.

"Under the leadership of the Supreme Commander-in-Chief of the Russian Armed Forces, Vladimir Putin, a training exercise was conducted with the forces and equipment of ground, sea, and air components of nuclear deterrent forces," the Kremlin said in a statement.

"During the training, practical launches of ballistic and cruise missiles took place."

It said one of the missiles was fired from the Plesetsk cosmodrome in the Russian north and that another missile was fired from a nuclear-powered submarine in the Barents Sea. Moscow said "long-range Tu-95MS planes" took part in the training.

## Family of Al Jazeera journalist killed in Gaza strike

**Monitoring Desk**  
GAZA: The family of an Al Jazeera journalist have been killed in an Israeli strike on Gaza, the Qatar-based network said in a statement on Wednesday as the conflict between Israel and Hamas continues to rage on.

Al Jazeera said the wife and two children of its Arabic-language channel's Gaza correspondent Wael Al-Dahdouh were killed in a strike on the Nuseirat refugee camp in the Gaza strip.

"The Al Jazeera Media Network extends its sincere condolences and sympathy to our colleague Wael Al-Dahdouh on the loss of his family in an Israeli airstrike," it said.

## India 'exploring all legal options' after Qatari court sentences 8 Indians to death for spying

**Monitoring Desk**  
NEW DELHI: The Indian government on Thursday vowed to explore "all legal options" after a Qatari court handed death sentences to eight Indian employees of a Qatari company on spying charges.

According to Indian media reports, the eight men are retired Indian naval officers who worked for the consulting company Al Dahra, advising the Qatari government on the acquisition of submarines.

India's External Affairs Ministry said in a statement it was awaiting the detailed judgment in the case.

"We are in touch with the family members and the legal team, and we are exploring all legal options," it said. "We attach high importance to this case and have been following it closely. We will continue to extend all consular and legal assistance. We will also take up the verdict with Qatari authorities."



People arrive at a school in Khan Yunis that has been converted into a shelter for displaced families.



Palestinian Foreign Minister Riyad al-Maliki attends a meeting of the Security Council on the conflict between Israel and the Palestinian Islamist group Hamas at U.N. headquarters in New York, U.S.

## S. Korea, Japan, US condemn North Korea's supply of arms to Russia

**Monitoring Desk**  
SEOUL: South Korea, Japan and the United States strongly condemned the supply of arms and military equipment by North Korea to Russia and said they had confirmed "several" deliveries of such weapons, a joint statement issued on Thursday.

Russia and North Korea have denied the transfer of arms for the North for use in Russia's war against Ukraine amid reports that Washington and researchers said showed movement of vessels carrying containers likely with weapons between the two countries' ports.

While it was not possible to confirm the contents of the shipments, reports said containers from the North were later seen delivered to a Russian munitions storage facility near the border with Ukraine.

"The Republic of Korea, United States, and Japan strongly condemn the provision of military equipment and munitions by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) to the Russian Federation for use against the government and people of Ukraine," the statement said.

The Democratic People's Republic of Korea is North Korea's official name. "Such weapons deliveries, several of which we now confirm have been completed, will significantly increase the human toll of Russia's war of aggression," the statement issued by the foreign ministers of the three countries said. North Korea is seeking military assistance from Russia to advance its own military capabilities in return for its arms support for Moscow, it said.

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## Qatar court hands down death penalty verdict for eight Indians

**Monitoring Desk**  
DOHA: A Qatar court has announced the death penalty for eight Indians arrested in the country last year, the Indian government said on Thursday, adding it was "deeply shocked" by the verdict.

New Delhi said in a statement that it attaches "high importance to this case" and will "take up the verdict with Qatari authorities". Local media has reported that the eight men, who worked with a private company in Qatar, were arrested for spying in August 2022, but Reuters could not independently confirm the charges.

Neither the Indian government nor the Qatari authorities have made the charges against the men, who are all former Indian navy officials, public.

A spokesperson for India's foreign ministry did not respond to a request seeking comment. Thursday's government statement said that it would "not be appropriate to make any further comments at this stage" due to the "confidential nature of the proceedings".

## Israel attacks two Syrian cities, kills eight soldiers

**Monitoring Desk**  
DAMASCUS: An Israeli attack on military positions in southwest Syria on Wednesday killed eight soldiers and wounded seven more, the Syrian state news agency (SANA) reported.

Citing a military source, SANA said Israel's "aerial aggression" targeted a number of military positions near the southwestern city of Deraa. The strike also caused material damage, it reported. The attack took place at around 1:45am on Wednesday.



Chinese astronauts Tang Hongbo, Tang Shengjie and Jiang Xinlin attend a ceremony before the launch of the Long March-2F carrier rocket, carrying the Shenzhou-17 spacecraft for a crewed mission to China's Tiangong space station, at Jiuquan Satellite Launch Center near Jiuquan, Gansu province, China.

## China launches new mission to space station

**Monitoring Desk**  
JIUQUAN: China sent a fresh crew to its Tiangong space station on Thursday, in the latest mission for a growing space programme that plans to send people to the Moon by 2030.

The Shenzhou-17 blasted off from the Jiuquan launch site in northwest China at 11:14 am (0314 GMT), carrying a three-astronaut team with the youngest average age since the space station's construction.

At a farewell ceremony, hundreds of supporters waving the Chinese national flag and clutching yellow flowers cheered on the three astronauts—wearing white and blue spacesuits—as they were introduced to the crowds.

The patriotic song "Ode to the Motherland" was sung as the space travellers walked slowly down a short pathway between the crowds, smiling and waving goodbye before boarding a bus to the launch site.

Captaining the crew is Tang Hongbo, who is on his first return mission to the space station.

Accompanying him are Tang Shengjie and Jiang Xinlin, both in their thirties and each making maiden space voyages.

## European Commission confirms requests for information on harmful content

**Monitoring Desk**  
LONDON: The European Commission said on Thursday that it had not launched formal investigations into efforts by Meta (META.O), TikTok and X to remove harmful content from their platforms, confirming it had so far sent them requests for information. "There is no new development. The Commission sent formal requests for information to X, Meta and TikTok."

## France sends helicopter carrier to support Gaza's hospitals

**Monitoring Desk**  
PARIS: The French assault vessel Tonnerre was on Thursday heading to the eastern Mediterranean to support hospitals in Gaza that are struggling to cope with the high number of victims of Israeli air strikes as fuel and medical supplies run low.

President Emmanuel Macron said he was sending a helicopter carrier to help Gazans get access to medicines and care.

Israel has been bombarding the Gaza Strip since Hamas attacked Israeli communities on Oct. 7, which it says killed some 1,400 people. Gaza's health ministry says more than 7,000 Palestinians have been killed in the air strikes and thousands more wounded.

France's Defence Ministry on Thursday described the 199-metre warship's role as one of humanitarian support but it was not immediately clear if that meant delivering medical supplies to the Gaza Strip or also treating wounded Palestinians on board.

"The conditions [for providing humanitarian support] have not yet been established."

## US Senate panel advances nomination of Jack Lew for ambassador to Israel

**Monitoring Desk**  
WASHINGTON: The US Senate Foreign Relations Committee on Wednesday backed President Joe Biden's nomination of former Treasury Secretary Jack Lew to be ambassador to Israel, paving the way for his expected confirmation by the full Senate.

With Biden's fellow Democrats pushing to fill the position quickly in the aftermath of the Oct 7 attack on Israel from Gaza by Palestinian militants, the committee backed the nomination by a 12-9 vote, mostly along party lines.

## US police launch huge manhunt for shooter who killed at least 22

**Monitoring Desk**  
WASHINGTON: A massive manhunt was under way on Thursday for a gunman who a local official said killed at least 22 people and wounded "many" more in mass shootings in the US state of Maine, the deadliest such incident this year.

Police said Robert Card—seen in surveillance footage pointing a semi-automatic weapon with an extended clip as he walked into a bowling alley in the town of Lewiston—"should be considered armed and dangerous."

Card is a certified firearms instructor and a member of the US Army Reserve, CNN reported, citing law enforcement sources.

Lewiston city councillor Robert McCarthy told

## Turkish President slams EU on for failing to call cease-fire in Gaza

**Monitoring Desk**  
ANKARA: Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan slammed the European Union on Thursday for failing to call for a cease-fire in Gaza and accused the West of indifference toward the suffering of Muslims.

"How many more children must die before the EU Commission calls for a cease-fire," he said in a televised speech. "How many more tons of bombs must fall on Gaza before the United Nations Security Council can take action?"

Erdogan accused the West of failing to see the violence unfolding in Gaza "because the blood being shed is Muslim blood."

In his speech, Erdogan also said Turkey has so far dispatched 10 plane loads to Egypt carrying humanitarian aid, including generators, destined for Gaza. Twenty five Turkish medical personnel have also left for Egypt, he said.

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan discussed the Israeli-Hamas war with Pope Francis on Thursday, telling the head of the Catholic Church that Israel's attacks on Gaza have "reached the level of a massacre" and that the international community's silence was a "shame for humanity."

Erdogan was also quoted as telling Francis during their telephone conversation that everyone should support efforts to deliver "uninterrupted aid to innocent civilians" in Gaza. The statement from Turkey's presidential communications directorate was posted on X, formerly known as Twitter.

Erdogan also reiterated Turkey's position that a permanent solution to the conflict can only be achieved through the establishment of an independent Palestinian state.

The Vatican said Francis' phone conversation with Erdogan, which was requested by the Turkish leader, focused on "the dramatic situation in the Holy Land."

## China says US has no right to get involved in its problems with Philippines

**Monitoring Desk**  
BEIJING: The United States does not have the right to get involved in problems between China and the Philippines, the Chinese foreign ministry said on Thursday, as tensions simmer over conflicts in disputed waters of the South China Sea.

"The US is not a party to the South China Sea issue, it has no right to get involved in a problem between China and the Philippines," said ministry spokesperson Mao Ning at a regular press briefing when asked about the US saying it will defend the Philippines.

China and the Philippines have had several high-profile confrontations in the South China Sea, most notably in disputed waters around the Second Thomas Shoal, part of the Spratly Islands.

Last Sunday, a Chinese vessel collided with a Philippine boat, with Manila condemning "in the strongest degree" the "dangerous blocking manoeuvres" of the vessel.

"The US promise of defending the Philippines must not hurt China's sovereignty and maritime interests in the South China Sea, and it also must not enable and encourage the illegal claims of the Philippines," Mao said.

A spokesperson for the Philippine foreign ministry did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

US President Joe Biden said on Wednesday at the White House that America's commitment to the Philippines' defence remains "iron-clad," after accusing China of acting "dangerously and unlawfully" in the South China Sea.

"Any attack on the Filipino aircraft, vessels, or armed forces will invoke... our Mutual Defence Treaty with the Philippines," Biden said in remarks during a joint meeting with Australia's prime minister.

## Zelenskiy says Russia probably targeted nuclear plant with drones

**Monitoring Desk**  
KYIV: Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskiy said a Russian drone attack early on Wednesday in the western Khmelnytskyi region had probably targeted the area's nuclear power station.

The attack shattered windows at the plant and injured 20 people.

The International Atomic Energy Agency, the United Nations' nuclear watchdog, said blasts from the drone attack did not affect the plant's operations or its connection to the grid. Power was temporarily cut to some off-site radiation monitoring stations.

In his nightly video address, Zelenskiy said the attack provided yet more evidence that tougher sanctions were needed against Russia.

IAEA Director General Rafael Grossi, in a statement, said: "The fact that numerous windows at the site were destroyed shows just how close it was."

## President asks medical universities to increase graduate numbers

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Dr Arif Alvi on Thursday asked the medical universities to increase graduate numbers to fulfill requirement of a large number of doctors and nurses in the country.

"To enhance accessibility to healthcare facilities for the general public, there is a need to increase the number of trained individuals in health sector", he said while presiding over 6th session of the Senate of Shaheed Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto Medical University, Islamabad.

He also stressed for taking special measures to maintain the services of female doctors in the field of

health adding that creating a friendly and harassment-free environment for women at their workplaces was very important.

The president also advised the universities to enhance their performance in research fields besides hiring the services of the experts to obtain research grants from abroad.

The session of the university's senate was attended by Senator Samina Mumtaz, Vice-Chancellor Professor Tanveer Khalique of Shaheed Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto Medical University and other members of Senate.

During the session, a briefing was given on the

university's performance and future development projects.

It was highlighted in the meeting that Shaheed Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto Medical University had increased number of admissions in various fields, including nursing.

The briefing also highlighted that the university had trained 429 specialists in various fields within a short period.

The university has secured significant international research grants in various fields. It has also shown remarkable performance in medical research.

The meeting was informed that in future, the

university planned to initiate new PhD programs and complete the construction of its first teaching block.

President Alvi appreciating the university's contributions to medical education and acknowledging its overall performance, drew attention towards the need for policies related to healthcare, emphasizing the importance of focus on disease treatment and prevention.



ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi chairing the 6th Senate Meeting of the Shaheed Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto Medical University, at Aiwan-e-Sadr.



QUETTA: A delegation led by head of Program Islamic Relief Pakistan Muhammad Saddique Masood meeting with Governor Balochistan Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar

## Jan Achakzai hails restoration of Sibi-Harnai rail service; appreciates FC, PR high ups

**Independent Report**  
QUETTA: The caretaker Provincial Minister for Information, Jan Achakzai has welcomed the restoration of rail service between Sibi and Harnai after 17 years.

In a felicitation statement issued here on Thursday, the caretaker Minister Information extended heartfelt congratulation to the people and concerned authorities on restoration of the rail service.

He said that the rail service was restored successfully between Sibi-Harnai after 17 years on Wednesday. He said that there was a wave of jubilation among the local people when the train reached Harnai.

He said that the response of people over restoration of the rail service was overwhelming.

He appreciated the Pakistan railway and Frontier Corps (FC) over resumption of the rail service after a long time.

Jan Achakzai said that interim provincial government values a lot every initiative which is in larger public interest.

He said that the general public would have better travelling facilities with restoration of the Sibi-Harnai rail service. In addition to this, the initiative would also have better economic impacts on the area, the Minister Information maintained.

## Pakistan calls for immediate cessation of bombing by Israel, ending siege of Gaza

ISLAMABAD (Online): Pakistan has called for immediate cessation of bombing by Israel and ending siege of Gaza.

Pakistan stance on Palestine has never change. Pakistan wants unconditional ceasefire. Kashmir issue should be resolved as per UN resolutions. Pakistan has not supplied any arms to Ukraine, this was said by Foreign Office (FO) Spokesperson Mumtaz Zahra Baloch in weekly press briefing here Thursday.

Pakistan has hoped that the upcoming special emergency session of the UN General Assembly will play its role in bringing about an urgent and unconditional ceasefire in Gaza and condemn the plans for ethnic cleansing of the Palestinian people.

Foreign Office Spokesperson Mumtaz Zahra Baloch regretted that despite rising death toll of Palestinians and flagrant violations of international humanitarian laws, the UN Security Council failed to even call for a ceasefire and put an end to the carnage in Gaza.

## Pak Navy, Customs foil bid of narcotics smuggling via Gwadar coast

**Independent Report**  
QUETTA: The Pakistan Navy and Customs jointly foiled major bid of smuggling of narcotics through the coast of Gwadar on Thursday. According to the official sources, the raid was conducted at the west coast of Gwadar during which a total of 300 kilogram of charas was recovered.

The charas was dumbled near the coast with the design to smuggle the same

to abroad through Gwadar sea, the sources informed.

The charas, later, was handed over to the Customs officials at Directorate of Customs in Gwadar for further legal formalities and action.

The sources said that value of the seized narcotics is stated to be US\$ 3.5 million in the international drug market.

No arrest, however, has been reported in the operation.



KARACHI: Advisor of Caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan Shaina Khan presenting a shield to Caretaker Chief Minister Sindh Justice (Retd) Maqbool Baqar

## UNICEF holds awareness session on public health issues

QUETTA (APP): "A two-day training session was organized by the Lady Health Worker (LHW) program with the support of UNICEF, focusing on public health awareness messages and counseling cards under the name 'Sehat ki Dastak'.

Participants from across the province attended the session. A detailed session will be delivered to master trainers, including doctors, Lady Health Supervisors (LHSs), Assistant District Coordinators (ADCs), and provincial staff of the LHW program.

Dr. Samiullah Kakar, the Provincial Head of the LHW program, expressed gratitude to UNICEF and the federal ministry for their assistance in arranging this training for master trainers

on the latest developments.

He encouraged the trainers to absorb the training carefully and then replicate it in their respective districts for LHWs.

These key messages cover various public health issues, such as the misuse of antibiotics by the community, updated family planning methods, and awareness of non-communicable diseases like hypertension and diabetes.

The Director-General of Health Services urged the participants to take the training seriously and convey these important key messages to the community.

He also thanked UNICEF for their support and expressed hope that UNICEF will continue to support our province in various health projects."

## UAE Air Force Commander calls on Air Chief Marshal

ISLAMABAD (Online): A high level delegation, led by Major General Staff Pilot Ibrahim Nasser Mohamed Al-Alawi, Commander of the Air Force & Air Defence of the United Arab Emirates, called on Air Chief Marshal Ziauddin Khan, Chief of the Air Staff, Pakistan Air Force at Air Headquarters, Islamabad today.

The meeting covered a wide array of matters pertaining to geo-strategic environment, regional security and the aspect of exploring new avenues to enhance bilateral defence cooperation.

On his arrival at Air Headquarters, a smartly turned-out contingent of Pakistan Air Force presented guard of honour to Major General Staff Pilot Ibrahim Nasser Mohamed Al-Alawi. He was also introduced to the Principal Staff Officers of Pakistan Air Force.

Later, the visiting dignitary called on Air Chief Marshal Ziauddin Khan, Chief of the Air Staff, Pakistan Air Force in his office.

## India hiding Israel-like war crimes in Kashmir through media gag: Mushaal

ISLAMABAD (APP): Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Human Rights and Women Empowerment Mushaal Husseain Mullick said on Thursday that India was committing Israel-like war crimes in Illegally Indian Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) but it had imposed military siege of the region by blocking communication and imposed gag on the media.

Addressing a press conference along with senior All Parties Hurriyat Conference leaders here, she said that horrible videos of Israeli bombing in Palestine were available on the social media, but India had hidden its war crimes in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir which could be termed world's largest prison.

"India has been using chemical weapons, lethal pellet guns in Kashmir and targeting hospitals and am-

balances and medical staff", she added.

She said during Covid-19 pandemic, when the world's attention was diverted towards that crisis, India unleashed a fresh reign of terror in IIOJK to crush Kashmiris' just freedom struggle.

Mushaal Mullick said that both Israel and India were committing genocide of Palestinians and Kashmiris with complete impunity.

She lamented the human rights champions in the world had done nothing practical to pressurise Israel and India to stop genocide of the hapless people of Palestine and Kashmir.

The special assistant to the PM said that the hapless Kashmiri nation was bravely facing the Indian atrocities for the past over seven decades.

She said that October 27, 1947 was the blackest day in the history of



ISLAMABAD: Mushaal Husseain Mullick, SAPM on Human Rights and Women Empowerment along with APHC leaders speaks during a press conference at PID.

## Pakistan to boost cooperation in diverse areas in SCO region: Jilani

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Foreign Minister Jilani Abbas Jilani on Thursday reaffirmed Pakistan's unwavering support and commitment to fostering cooperation in critical and practical areas in Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) region including enhancing connectivity and transport links, youth empowerment, investment in key sectors with high regional potential, such as agriculture, mining, minerals, energy, and information technology.

He said during Pakistan's Chair of Council of Heads of Government (CHG) Pakistan will also continue to strengthen co-

operation in the fields of education and poverty alleviation.

Addressing the meeting of SCO Council of Heads of Government (CHG) in Bishkek, the foreign minister said as the succeeding Chair of the Council, Pakistan would continue to support the existing mechanisms and welcome new initiatives.

The council is the second-highest body within the SCO and focuses on issues related to economy, finance, trade and socio-economic collaboration.

Jilani said SCO was the key platform for taking the vision of Eurasian connectivity to the next level.

## Proposed increase in gas tariff not to affect 57% consumers, help end circular debt: Energy Minister

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Energy Muhammad Ali on Thursday said the proposed increase in gas tariff would not affect 57 percent of consumers across the country rather it would help control and end the ever-increasing circular debt of the petroleum sector.

"It will be a big achievement," the minister said in a media briefing on the gas prices' revision along with Minister for Information and Broadcasting Murtaza Solangi.

The Energy Minister said the increase in gas prices had been approved by the Economic Coordination Committee (ECC) and now would be presented before the federal cabinet for the final nod.

Out of around 10 million gas consumers, he said

the commodity price for 5.7 million had not been increased. "After the proposed increase, there will be no surge in the circular debt of the energy sector, which currently stood at Rs2.1 trillion in the recent past."

The minister said the fixed rate (line rent) for the 5.7 million gas consumers had been increased from Rs10 to Rs400, adding the new tariff would marginally affect the protected gas consumers.

He was of the view that most of the people living in rural areas had no access to gas and were using Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) and wood as sources of fuel. "Approximately 30% of the country's population has access to gas facility while this commodity is not available for 70% of the population and they are

using LPG and wood as fuel," he added.

Ali further explained that in terms of consumption, 57% of households primarily use 31% of the total gas and account for 11% of payments.

He said that the upper class, which constituted 3% of gas connections, used 17% of the gas, leading to a 39% billing rate. He said the gas rate had not been increased for "Tandoor" across the country to facilitate the masses.

The minister said gas prices for the Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) and commercial connections had also been increased. However, he said gas price for the fertilizer and power sectors had not been increased as the hike in the price for this sector directly affected the farmers of the country.

## Ambassador Blome Pak-US health cooperation to be further strengthened

ISLAMABAD (APP): US Ambassador to Pakistan Donald Blome on Thursday said that exemplary cooperation in health sector between two countries would be further strengthened.

The US ambassador said this during a meeting with Caretaker Federal Minister for Health Dr. Nadeem Jan. He was accompanied by USAID Mission Director Kate Somvongsiri.

Ambassador Blome affirmed his country's commitment to support Pakistan's health sector in diverse areas, including nutrition, maternal and newborn health, control of infectious diseases and family planning.

He termed the cooperation between the Ministry of National Health Services and the US government exemplary.

Dr. Nadeem Jan expressed gratitude for the US government's support in the health sector.

"This support has been robust, uninterrupted and purpose driven," he said, mentioning the continued support of US Agency for International Development (USAID) and Centers for Disease Control.

The meeting discussed cooperation in various contexts of initial two rounds of Pak-US Health Dialogue and resolved to continue further collaboration.



ISLAMABAD: Former Prime Minister, Nawaz Sharif arrives to appear before Islamabad High Court.

## Solangi takes part in celebrations of Pak-S Korea diplomatic ties' 40th anniversary

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Minister for Information and Broadcasting Murtaza Solangi on Thursday attended an event hosted by the Embassy of the Republic of Korea for commemorating the completion of the 40 years of diplomatic relations between South Korea and Pakistan.

A cake cutting ceremony was also held to mark the 40th anniversary of the diplomatic relations between the two countries.

"Pakistan values its relationship with the Republic of Korea," he remarked on the occasion.

between the two countries.

The ceremony was attended by important personalities including Sindh Governor Kamran Tessori and foreign diplomats.

Solangi extended congratulations to the people of Pakistan and Korea on the completion of 40 years of diplomatic relations between the two countries.

"Pakistan values its relationship with the Republic of Korea," he remarked on the occasion.

## Pakistan stands firm with Palestinians Speaker BA visits Palestine Embassy; meets Ambassador

QUETTA: The Speaker Balochistan Assembly, Mir Jan Muhammad Khan Jamali visited the Palestine Embassy in Islamabad on Thursday.

**Independent Report**  
During his visit, the Speaker met the Ambassador of Palestine, Ahmed Rabi and expressed solidarity with the people of Palestine.

While representing the Balochistan province in the meeting, Speaker expressed deep concern over the human rights violations by Israel in Palestine.

He said that Pakistan stand firm in support of people of Palestine.

He said that Pakistan and Palestine are interlocked in the religious and cultural relations.

He mentioned that Pakistan has always clear stance in the issue of Palestine.

He said that Israel is bent upon destroying peace of the Middle East by openly violating the international laws.

He strongly condemned the brutalities and cruelties of Israel on the Palestinians.

The Speaker also offered feteiha for the departed souls of the martyr Palestinians.

## Special anti-polio vaccination drive planned in 14 districts of Balochistan from 30th

**Independent Report**  
QUETTA: The Emergency Operation Center (EOC) for Polio Eradication Balochistan has decided to launch special anti-polio campaign in 14 districts of the province.

The EOC sources informed that the campaign would be run in Quetta, Pishin, Chaman, Killa Abdullah, Hub, Lasbela, Awaran, Dera Bugti, Gwadar, Usta Muhammad, Naseerabad, Jaffarabad and Khuzdar.

been planned in view of the prevalence of the polio virus in the environmental samples of three polio high risk districts in the province including Quetta, Chaman and Pishin besides Hub and Dera Bugti.

According to the EOC sources, the special anti-polio vaccination campaign would be started on October 30.

Needless to mention here is that the special immunization campaign has