

# Independent

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## PM reminds int'l community to intervene; implement solution to Palestine issue

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar, during his participation in the Joint Arab Islamic Extraordinary Summit in the Saudi Capital of Riyadh on Saturday, has reminded the international community to promptly intervene and implement a durable solution to Palestine issue as the five-week ceaseless Israeli's military aggression led to genocide and stoked fears of engulfing the region into wider conflict.

He underscored the urgency of bringing an end to Israel's aggression and brutality with an immedi-

ate and unconditional ceasefire, lifting of the siege of Gaza, and rapid and unhindered humanitarian and relief assistance.

The prime minister of Pakistan was among the prominent leaders of the Muslim world that vociferously and very candidly highlighted the root causes leading to the current humanitarian crisis with over 11,000 deaths in Gaza due to Israel's indiscriminate aerial and ground blitz after October 7. The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia hosted the Joint Arab Islamic Extraordinary Summit considering the human catastrophe that

befell upon the Palestinian territories with Israel's belligerent military invasion.

The summit assumed significance as it brought the Muslims leaders from across the globe and continents together on one platform, expressing a unifying stance and forging a spirit of brotherhood and affinities for the unfortunate civilians of Gaza undergoing horrors of usage of globally banned arsenal and weapons by Israel occupation forces.

Caretaker Prime Minister Kakar, in his remarks, reaffirmed that a permanent solution to the conflict was

in the establishment of a secure, viable, contiguous and sovereign state of Palestine on the basis of pre-June 1967 borders with Al-Quds Al-Sharif as its Capital.

He stressed that the Israeli occupation forces were acting in clear violation of the international humanitarian and human rights laws, and their indiscriminate and disproportionate use of force amounted to war crimes and crimes against humanity.

He also reiterated Pakistan's solidarity and support for the Palestinian people and their right to self-determination.



KARACHI: A large number of people participating in the solidarity conference for the people of Palestine organized by Pakistan Markazi Muslim League at Shahra e Quaid.



RIYADH: Caretaker Prime Minister, Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar seeing off by high diplomatic officials of Pakistan and Saudi Arabia after completing his three day official visit of Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

## Solangi assures regional journalists of solving their problems



LAHORE (APP): Caretaker Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Murtaza Solangi Sunday assured the regional journalists of solving their problems on priority.

He was addressing as the chief guest at the oath-taking ceremony of All Pakistan Newspersons Alliance

(APNA) at a local hotel. The Alliance has representation of all the regional journalists from small cities, tehsils and towns of all the four provinces. The APNA aimed at securing the rights of these journalists working at grass root level. The APNA Central President Mian Ghaffar, Central General Secretary Muzammil Soharwardi, KPK President Malik Muhammad Javed Mohmand, Sindh President Fiaz Hussain, Balochistan President Fahad Tariq, and Punjab President Shehbaz Khan also spoke on the occasion.

## PM Kakar felicitates Justice @ Arshad Hussain took oath as caretaker CM KPK

PESHAWAR (Online): Caretaker Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) Justice retired Arshad

former caretaker provincial cabinet members, Chief Secretary Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Nadeem



Hussain Shah took oath of office.

The swearing-in ceremony was held at Governor House Peshawar where Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Ghulam Ali administered oath to Justice Retired Arshad Hussain Shah.

Chief Justice Peshawar High Court, Advocate General, Mayor Peshawar Haji Zubair Ali,

Aslam Chaudhry, IG Police Akhtar Hayat Gandapur, Commissioner Peshawar and administrative heads of provincial departments participated in the ceremony.

Governor Haji Ghulam Ali congratulated Caretaker Chief Minister Justice @ Syed Arshad Hussain Shah on assuming new responsibilities and expressed his best wishes.

## Over 217,000 illegal Afghans returned home

ISLAMABAD (INP): Repatriation of illegal foreigners including Afghans to their homeland continues on Sunday amidst the crackdown against illegal immigrants. Thousands of unregistered Afghan citizens are returning to their homeland through Torkham and Chaman border daily. Transit camps for illegal foreigners have been established in various districts of KP and Balochistan, which have all the daily facilities.

2,957 illegal Afghans returned to Afghanistan on Saturday (November 11). So far 217,355 illegal Afghans have returned to their home. The caretaker government of Pakistan has made foolproof arrangements for the safe return of illegal immigrants. On October 3, an apex committee of the National Action Plan (NAP) meeting chaired by Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaarul Haq Kakar gave all foreign nationals living illegally in the country.

## Caretaker PM arrives after concluding official visit to KSA

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Sunday arrived here after completing his three-day official visit to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia where he attended the Arab-Islamic Extraordinary Summit in Riyadh over the Gaza situation.

Earlier, at the King Khalid International Airport, the prime minister was seen off by the high diplomatic officials of Pakistan and Saudi Arabia.

During his visit, the prime minister addressed the summit besides, held meetings with the Arab and Islamic countries leaders on the sidelines of the main event.

## Governor Sindh felicitates Hindu community on Diwali

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Governor Mohammed Kamran Khan Tessori while congratulating the Hindu community on festival of lights, Diwali on Sunday, has said that the Hindu community was playing their role in the development of the country. He said that their role especially, in the fields of agriculture, industry and medicine of the province was significant.

Tessori said that the minority communities in Pakistan had complete protection and they had freedom to perform their religious rituals.

## Train crushes Sindh minister's brother to death in Karachi

KARACHI (INP): A train crushed to death brother of Sindh Caretaker Minister for Mines and Minerals Development Mir Khuda Bakhsh Marri in Karachi on Sunday.

The incident was reported within the limits of Steel Town Police Station in Karachi. The deceased was identified as Muhammad Hassan Marri, brother of the Sindh interim minister, said Rescue officials. The police said the dead body has been shifted to a hospital for further legal action. The police said Hassan Marri was roaming around in the area with ear plugs when he met the accident.

## Asif Zardari, Bilawal wish Hindu Community on 'Diwali'

KARACHI (APP): Former President Asif Ali Zardari and Chairman of Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Bilawal Bhutto Zardari have extended their heartfelt greetings to Pakistan's Hindu community on "Diwali", the festival of lights, and expressed their best wishes for them.

The former President and PPP Chairman, in their separate messages on the occasion of Diwali, said that this festival was a symbol of light and joy as well as a message of victory of light over darkness and good over evil. They said that PPP believed in inter-faith tolerance and harmony as well

as brotherhood and unity. Equal rights had been given to minorities in the Constitution-1973 given by the former Prime Minister Shaheed Zulfikar Ali Bhutto.

Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto fought throughout her life for the protection and development of the rights of the minorities.

Former President Asif Ali Zardari as the President of the country started celebrating National Day of Minorities on August 11 every year. He started celebrating 11<sup>th</sup> August every year as National Day of Minorities.



KARACHI: Muttahida Qaumi Movement (MQM-P) Senior Deputy Convener, Dr. Farooq Sattar along with leaders of Muslim League (PML-N) addressing to media persons during press conference after meeting held at t Bahadurabad Markaz in Karachi.

## SC fixes plea against census results for hearing

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Supreme Court has fixed the hearing of an application challenging the results of the census 2023.

A three-member bench, led by Justice Ijazul Ahsan, will conduct the hearing today November 13. The petitioner, Hasan Kamran, initially contested the census

results in Balochistan at the Balochistan High Court (BHC) and moved to the Supreme Court after the BHC rejected the petition, says in media reports.

The petitioner pleaded to the apex court to declare the Balochistan High Court's August 29 decision as void. According to the petition, the population of Balochistan was reported to be around 21.7 million till the final phase of the

census process.

However, in the final report Pakistan Bureau of Statistic (PBS) approved by the Council of Common Interests (CCI) in its meeting, the population of Balochistan was reduced to 14.89 million. Petitioner said that the bureau of statistics from its official accounts regularly issued contradictory statements. BHC had given the decision, which was contradictory to facts, petitioner argued.

A petition of the Supreme Court Bar has been pending against the Council of Common Interests. The Balochistan High Court dismissed our petition on the basis of the pending plea of the SC Bar, according to the petition. "The Supreme Court Bar Association's plea has been entirely different from our petition".



KARACHI: Consul General of UAE Bakhait Atiq Al-Romiti, Maulana Bashir Farooqui, Atif Bajwa, Salman Rafique and others visiting National Stadium during mega IT entry test organized by Sailani Welfare International.

## Minus anyone is not part of our agenda: Saad Rafique

KARACHI (Online): Leader of Muslim League (N) and former Federal Minister Khawaja Saad Rafique has said that "minus" anyone is not included in the agenda of PML-N.

He said he will correct the mistakes that have been made in the past and socio-politically relationship will be promote

In the culture that PTI had instilled, they even distanced themselves from talking to each other. Saad Rafique

While holding a press conference with Ayaz Sadiq and other PML-N leaders at the Karachi Press Club, Khawaja Saad Rafiq said that we are honored to be

in the big press club of Asia.

Members of Karachi Press Club have made great sacrifices for democracy.

He said that we are making political and social contacts in Karachi.

We went to meet Pir Sahib Pagara where we had a positive discussion which will go ahead, we will also go to MQM, if the government is formed he will make constitutional amendments, he added.

Khawaja Saad Rafique said that the biggest city of Pakistan has become ruins, it is the biggest city of Asia which has been neglected in every government, we have made a map of the future. He said that in the cul-

ture that PTI had practiced, they had distanced themselves from talking to each other.

"Minusing" anyone is not included in the agenda of PML-N, we are grateful to all those people who have believed that Nawaz Sharif will become the prime minister, Saad Rafique

He said Karachi city has been ignored for decades, social connection should not be broken and connections should be maintained.

Saad Rafiq said that political differences should remain in their place but also dialogue, PTI has made the politics of Pakistan dirty.

## Siraj meets Ismail Haniyeh in Qatar, expressed solidarity with Palestinians

LAHORE (Online): Jamaat-e-Islami Amir Sirajul Haque met Hamas chief Ismail Hania in Qatar. On this occasion, the central leadership of Hamas and Director of Foreign Affairs of Jamaat-e-Islami Asif Luqman Qazi were also present.

Ismail Haniyeh, head of Hamas, gave a full briefing to Jamaat-e-Islami leader Sirajul Haq on the current situation in Gaza.

Ismail Haniyeh said in the meeting of Sirajul Haque that we are grateful to Jamaat-e-Islami and the Pakistani nation for expressing solidarity with the people of Gaza and Palestine.

Jamaat-e-Islami Amir Sirajul Haque while talking to Ismail Hania said that the whole Pakistan nation and Muslim Ummah stands

with you. Sirajul Haque invited Ismail Haniyeh to address the historic Gaza March in Lahore on November 19.

Meanwhile, Amir Jamaat-e-Islami Sirajul Haque has returned to Pakistan after a six-day visit. He visited Iran, Turkey and Qatar during his six-day visit.

Amir of Jamaat-e-Islami Sirajul Haque met with Iranian leader Ayatollah Agha Qumi and other leaders in Tehran.

Amir Jamaat-e-Islami Sirajul Haque met the Speaker of the Turkish Parliament Numan Kurtulmush and discussed the situation in Gaza.

Siraj-ul-Haq emphasized the joint role of the governments of Muslim countries, including Turkey, to save Gaza.



DOHA: Ameer Jamaat-e-Islami Sirajul Haq meeting with Chief of Hamas Ismail Hania.

## 14 killed, 10 injured in different accidents

Zig-zagging cars collide in Lahore's Defence, kill six of family; Five die 10 injured after bus crashes into car in Faisalabad; At least three dead in Karachi bus-rickshaw collision

LAHORE (INP): Six members of the same family, travelling in two cars, were killed when they met with an accident at Lahore's Defence Housing Society (DHA) early Sunday morning.

Police said the accident took place because of fast speed of the vehicles as well as negligence on the part of drivers who were zig-zagging on the road. The drivers lost control of their vehicles which collided

with each other. As a result of the accident, six people were seriously injured who were rushed to a nearby hospital but they succumbed to their injuries.

Giving further details, the police informed that Rafaqat Ali, a resident of Shadab Colony, Ferozepur Road, Lahore, was heading to Phase-7 of the DHA along with members of his family to meet his daughter's in-laws.

## Daily Voice of Masses Independent

### Constant threat of polio

As far as Balochistan is concerned, it is a good sign that no fresh polio case has been reported in the province since January 2021. The Emergency Operation Center (EOC) for Polio Eradication had recorded last case of polio from Killa Abdullah district of Balochistan in January two years ago. This means Balochistan is free of the polio virus for around two years. But, it is equally matter of great concern that five cases of polio have been reported from rest of the country. The official reports suggested that the wild Poliovirus 1 has crippled another child in Pakistan as a 31-month-old male child has been found affected by polio in UC-4 Gujro, Gadap Town, in District East Karachi.

According to the EOC Sindh, a 31-month-old boy has been affected by Wild Poliovirus 1 in the notorious UC-4 Gujro, Gadap Town in District East Karachi. It is the 5th polio case of 2023 in Pakistan and the 2nd case in Karachi. The official of EOC maintained that the latest polio case had been reported from the same area in the Gadap Town where the 4th polio case of the year was reported last month. Needless to mention here is that the fifth child who has been affected by the polio is an Afghan national. As per the official reports, this child had received three doses of Oral Polio Vaccine (OPV) as per routine immunisation, two shots of intravenous polio vaccine (IPV) while the child has also received OPV doses on more than seven occasions. He maintained that genetic sequencing of the isolated virus was under way but no travel history of the child had emerged. He added that an intensive investigation had been launched to ascertain the circumstances that led to resurgence of the poliovirus in Karachi.

It is also worth mentioning here that most of the polio cases in Karachi have been reported from the same UC-4 Gujro, Gadap Town, which has been a hub of Afghan nationals who regularly travel to their native areas in Afghanistan from there. The UC is also known for resurgence of polio vaccination during anti-polio campaigns. A day earlier on Thursday, it emerged that Type-1 Wild Poliovirus (WPV1) was detected in nine environmental samples that were collected in October. Four of those samples were collected from Karachi, two from Chaman and one each from Peshawar, Kohat and Nowshera. According to officials, the total number of polio cases in Pakistan in 2023 has reached five while the new detections have taken the total number of positive environmental (sewage) samples in the country in 2023 to 64. The matter of concern is that the polio virus has also been detected in the environmental samples in Quetta, Pishin, Killa Abdullah and Hub districts in spite of the fact that no new case of the crippling disease has been reported yet since January 2021.

Surely the credit of this particularly achievement goes to the provincial government, health department, EOC Balochistan and, above all, the health workers who have served the cause with utmost dedication and extra passion. But, still there is a need to go extra mile to achieve the goal of polio-free province and the country. For the purpose, joint efforts are needed on part of all the stakeholders including the parents and community besides the health officials engaged in the task of polio eradication.

### We cannot forget



Muna Khan

We were in Lebanon following Israel's 'longest war in the Middle East' in 2006 where Hezbollah fought back for 34 days. Wars shouldn't have winners but Hasan Nasrallah topped popularity polls across the region then, irrespective of faith.

So, here we were face to face with members of an organisation once famed as suicide bombers but who were now a dominant political player as elected members of the government. These young men walked us through this exhibit, talking in broken/basic English, Arabic, French about Israel's war crimes in Lebanon. There was no whataboutery, nothing was lost in translation. The men even gifted us memorabilia when we left — stickers, notebooks, literature and CDs, and a better perspective on armed resistance, sans hyperbole.

My friend wanted to visit Qana, a village in southern Lebanon, 12 kilometres north of the border with Israel, the site of devastating Israeli air strikes in 1996 and 2006 that killed hundreds, many of them children. We managed, without Google maps, to find a site which villagers

had chosen to memorialise by placing schoolbags, shoes and other paraphernalia. I hope you won't think I was participating in disaster tourism; the few villagers who helped us find this place said they were happy that Pakistanis hadn't forgotten.

I understood why Hezbollah had memorialised the gruesome images outside one of the country's most popular tourist destinations and why villagers came together to place objects around trees. It is easy to use 'never forget' hashtags on social media but quite something else to stand still and witness the impact of war. Many friends slam this as 'war porn' but having taken many guests to the War Remnants Museum in Saigon when I was living in Vietnam, I assure you there is no 'viewing for emotional gratification'. Many American friends said they did not have the full picture about their country's role in Vietnam until they visited this museum.

After switching to a market economy five years following the end of the American war in 1975, Vietnam's growth has been remarkable; it has emerged as the fastest-growing economy in Southeast Asia and is expected to emerge as one of the top 10 consumer markets by 2030. The largest demographic in Vietnam has no connection to a war that ravaged its country, but every day, hundreds of school-

children visit that War Museum to remember the price it has paid to be where it is today. There is no doubt about the aggressor.

Are these museums commemorating hyper-nationalism? I leave that to people far smarter than I to answer as I can only speak about the impact visiting such places had on me. I am not Hezbollah, Hamas or Viet Cong or sitting far away waiting to hear if my entire family has been wiped out in Gaza or if one person was spared in an attack that will be blamed on a group that is defending its territories.

Palestine is an open-war museum. The demonstrations across the world are a testament to how people get it now. It is also a reminder about today's demographics: younger people have no connect to testimonies about the Holocaust. They only know who the oppressor is right now: Israel.

In his interview to Democracy Now, the American writer Tan-Nehisi Coates spoke about his visit to Palestine, and how uncomplicated the issue is.

"You don't need a PhD in Middle Eastern studies to understand the basic morality of holding a people in a situation where they don't have basic rights," he said.

You understood on the first day, he told another gathering. That's something we should never forget. -- Courtesy Dawn

### Rising terrorism



Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry

Since the dawn of this century, terrorism has been the principal threat to the people of Pakistan. By 2015, Pakistani law-enforcement authorities had succeeded in crushing terrorist forces, through military operations in Swat, South Waziristan and North Waziristan. A National Action Plan was adopted in 2015 to flush out the remaining terrorist holdouts through intelligence operations. The strategy worked well till 2019, with few terrorist incidents.

However, since 2020, the terrorists have become active again. This year alone, there have been dozens of terrorist attacks, mostly against the security establishment. This upsurge has put at risk the success Pakistan had achieved against terrorism. With the TTP having launched a full-fledged war against Pakistan's people, we need to introspect over what went wrong, and what can remedy deteriorating law and order.

Since the Taliban takeover of Kabul in 2021, there has been a 60 per cent increase in terrorist incidents in Pakistan. This is not to suggest that the Taliban government is responsible. However, the TTP continues to have space in Afghanistan to plan and carry out attacks in Pakistan. Ostensibly, the objective is to dislodge the government of Pakistan from the Pakhtun tribal belt in former Fata, and enforce the Taliban's interpretation of Sharia.

Pakistanis are often puzzled why our western

neighbour is working against us after all we did for the liberation of Afghans from Soviet occupation and the humanitarian support rendered during the US-led 'war on terror'. Pakistan hosted millions of Afghan refugees, many of whom were undocumented for decades, with some suspected of unlawful activities.

Regrettably, Indian-sponsored terrorism is the other dynamic underlying heightened terrorist activity in Pakistan. Last year, the government announced that a dossier containing details and evidence of New Delhi's role in a deadly 2021 car bombing in Lahore had been prepared which was to be shared with the UN. In 2020, Pakistan had unveiled a dossier documenting evidence of how New Delhi had used terrorism to destabilise Pakistan. From Kashmir Singh (apprehended in 1973) to Surjeet Singh (1982) and Sarabjit Singh (1990), India used a series of intelligence agents to organise and bankroll terrorism in Pakistan. India has also used the Balochistan Liberation Army (BLA) between 2002 and 2012 to create civil unrest in Balochistan. In 2016, Kulbhushan Jadhav, a serving Indian officer, was apprehended in Balochistan, carrying a passport bearing the name of Hussain Mubarak Patel. He confessed to committing terrorism and spying for Indian intelligence.

Some domestic factors have also contributed to the rise of terrorism here, including vertical inequalities (gap between rich and poor) and horizontal inequities (gap between the various regions of Pakistan). Poverty levels have risen sharply, which makes it easy for detractors to recruit potential terrorists.

Identifying reasons for the rise of terrorism in Pakistan is easy. The real challenge is how to address them. The first policy option is to stay closely engaged with the Taliban government on issues of effective border management, the rights of those living on both sides of the border, bilateral and transit trade, the return of undocumented refugees, and the need to shrink the space given to the TTP. Unilateral actions on any of these issues should be the last option.

Meanwhile, it is clear that the Modi government does not want to normalise ties with Pakistan. Any initiative by Pakistan at this time is not likely to be reciprocated. After the 2024 elections, there might be some space for diplomacy to lower tensions and India's hostility towards Pakistan. Mean-while, Pakistan needs to effectively counter India's propaganda of 'cross-border terrorism', and also watch closely the growing Indian interest in regaining lost space in Afghanistan.

Addressing the root causes of poverty, social inequalities and underdevelopment in Balochistan is a pressing need. The recent demonstration by the people of Gwadar for their rights and basic facilities is a case in point. Balochistan is central to CPEC and overall national development. The people of Balochistan must have full ownership of the development programmes in their province. Setting up effective local governments is the answer to meeting the demands of local population and countering BLA propaganda.

Political instability, living beyond means, resurgence of terrorism, bad governance, unemployed youth, extremist outfits, and a mindset of 'might is right' are an explosive mix. No wonder, our people feel despondent. Their hopes and belief in Pakistan can be revived by creating a justice system that ensures equal rights for every citizen. -- Courtesy Dawn

## Commerce News

### Rs 46 bln recovered from power pilferers in anti power theft drive

ISLAMABAD (APP): Secretary Power Division Rashid Langrial on Sunday said that an amount of Rs 46 billion has been recovered from the power pilferers from September 7 to October 31 during the ongoing anti-power theft campaign.

"Today as the results for the first two months (53 days to be exact) are out, I must put things in perspective.

Our estimated annual losses across the national grid for the current year are Rs 589 billion. Of total Rs 589, roughly Rs 199 billion come from ex-FATA, Balochistan tube-wells and AJK," he revealed on a social media handle.

These areas are not the focus of this campaign because of their own peculiarities, he said and added that AJK collects its own bills but does not pay us at the same rate because it sees it as a contractually disputed payment; ex-FATA because they are exempted from meters due to a policy of appeasement in the wake of integration and Balochistan tube-wells on account of various factors, least of which is not the enforcement challenge.

He said, "We are working on the remaining problem space of Rs 390 billion of which we are able to recover Rs 46 billion in 53 days i.e. PKR 867

million per day. If the same level of state support and field effort can be maintained (and that is a big if, I must admit), 80 per cent of the problem space gets resolved."

The secretary said they were conscious of the challenge of sustaining the drive beyond the campaign but they have demonstrated beyond doubt that there was nothing that could not be resolved with the right mix of state's will and field effort.

"That day, we promised that no one will be spared, high or mighty; sacred or not-so-sacred," he said.

He went on to say that

we have reshuffled, suspended, prosecuted even arrested our staff at a scale never seen before; put thieves behind bars at a rate never observed before i.e. roughly 470 persons per day; have shunned extraneous influence with full support of the Prime Minister, the Minister-in-Charge and other quadrants of state power.

In the process we have erred, learnt and corrected our course where needed, he said.

He said officers and staff have suffered at the hands of the little mafias and they were thrashed, injured, made hostage and fired upon.



LAHORE: Caretaker Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Murtaza Solangi is cutting the ribbon to inaugurate Longi Solar's at Gulberg.



LAHORE: A large numbers of people is busy in buying shoes and warm clothes in a Landa Bazaar at Hajji Camp in Provincial Capital.

### Real Estate president No more tax on construction sector due to IMF pressure

ISLAMABAD (Online): President Islamabad Estate Agents Association Sardar Tahir Mehmood and General Secretary Chaudhry Zahid Rafique have rejected the terms of imposing more taxes by the IMF and said that the construction sector is under IMF pressure but more taxes are not approved by increasing the tax.

This will cause the

storm of inflation, he added. He said that many sectors, including the construction sector, will face difficulties by increasing the tax, so the government should not avoid such decisions and give maximum relief to the business community, especially the export industry, so that Income can increase.

### Rs.453.8m fine imposed on 3694 power pilferers

FAISALABAD (APP): The Faisalabad Electric Supply Company (FESCO) caught 3,694 power pilferers during the last 65 days and imposed Rs. 453.8 million fine for stealing electricity in various areas of the company during the ongoing special anti-power theft drive.

Spokesman Tahir Sheikh said here on Sunday that over 9.813 million detection units were charged.

### Railways to introduce TDAS for improved track visibility in foggy conditions

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan Railways is set to introduce the 'Train Driver Assistant System' (TDAS) to help train drivers a clear view of the railway tracks up to an impressive distance of 700 meters.

"The technology aims to enhance the safety and efficiency of train operations during adverse weather conditions, particularly in the presence of dense smog and fog," an official in the Ministry told APP.

The system, he said the TDAS is set to

### ICCI, MCI collaborate to enhance Islamabad's business environment

ISLAMABAD (APP): As part of an ongoing effort to enhance the business environment in Islamabad, a collaborative meeting was held between the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) and the Metropolitan Corporation Islamabad (MCI), led by Chief Officer Rana Waqas Anwar. The meeting, held

at the invitation of ICCI President Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, brought together key stakeholders from both organizations to discuss pressing concerns and explore potential solutions. During the meeting, a comprehensive range of issues affecting the business community was addressed.

### FBR crackdown on Non-Duty paid cigarettes with 429 raids

ISLAMABAD (APP): In an unprecedented effort to tackle the issue of Non-Duty Paid/Counterfeit cigarettes, the teams of the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) have recently carried out a remarkable 429 raids across the country.

The dedicated efforts resulted in the seizure of approximately 16 million Non-Duty paid/counterfeit cigarette sticks, according to a news release issued here on Sunday.

On the direction of Chairman FBR, Malik Amjed Zubair Tiwana, Member Inland Revenue Operations, Mir Badshah Khan Wazir supervised the whole exercise.

According to him, the success of this exercise would convey an unequivocal message to the duty evaders to forthwith halt their illicit practices.

He also reiterated to continually fight the issue till its logical conclusion. It was further resolved that in the next phase of the drive, criminal proceedings would be initiated against such culprits.

### PKI calls for an end to farmers' exploitation, urges immediate relief

MULTAN (APP): Chairman of Pakistan Kissan Ittehad (PKI), Khalid Khokar, vehemently called upon the government to address the alarming exploitation of farmers, emphasizing the urgent need for immediate relief. In a news conference and demonstration held on Sunday, Khokar highlighted the distressing situation faced by farmers who are grappling with a manifold increase in input

prices while not receiving adequate compensation for their produce. Khokar drew attention to the fact that cotton was not being purchased at the recommended price of Rs 8,500, leading to significant financial setbacks for farmers.

The maize crop, in particular, is causing farmers to incur losses of Rs 100,000 per acre. This grim scenario extends to other crops as well.

### Elections will result in a stable economy: Atif

ISLAMABAD: FPCCI's presidential candidate, Atif Ikram Sheikh, said on Sunday that elections will result in a stable economy as the elected government can implement tough reforms to strengthen the country facing serious problems.

Alignment between the elected government and people will stabilize the political and economic scenario, which is necessary for development and luring international investments, he added.

Talking to the business community, Atif Ikram Sheikh, who has also served as VP of FPCCI, Chairman of PVMA, and President of ICCI, said that Pakistan was facing unparalleled economic challenges that needed to be overcome.

The business leader lauded the government for undertaking the required reforms to improve the economy but added that a lot has to be done in this regard. "The business community supports all structural reforms."

## Deadly diseases like diabetes can be controlled by healthy lifestyle, healthy food: Governor

PESHAWAR (APP): Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Haji Ghulam Ali Sunday said that by adopting a healthy lifestyle and healthy food, dangerous and deadly diseases like diabetes could be controlled. Diabetes is a silent killer, diagnosis and proper management of this disease takes time and diabetes is a serious health challenge, he added.

To deal with this, we need to change our lifestyle, he said and added that as a result of prevention of diabetes, the risk of other diseases could also be reduced and in this context philanthropists should serve humanity. "I

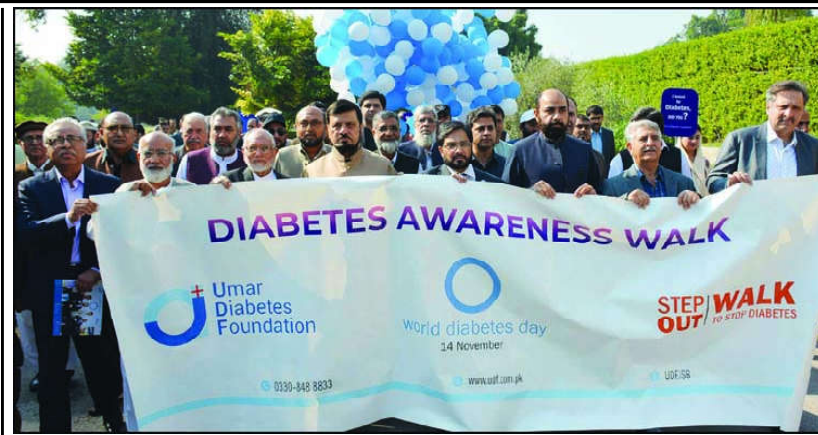
will fully cooperate with the welfare institutions engaged and serving the ailing humanity," he said while addressing a function organized by Omar Diabetes Foundation on the occasion of World Diabetes Day at Governor House here Sunday.

Omar Foundation Chairman Justice (Retd) Mian Muhammad Ajamal, CEO Dr. Umar Rohab, Professor Dr. Ahrar Ahmed, Dr. Sheikh Fahad Falah, members of the Board of Directors, diabetes experts, social and political personalities and representatives of the business community also

participated in the ceremony.

Chairman Umar Foundation Justice (Retd) Mian Muhammad Ajamal, Professor Dr. Ahrar Ahmed and CEO Dr. Umar Wahab while addressing the ceremony, informed the Governor and other stakeholders about the Umar Foundation were performing by serving the people in Islamabad, Muzaffarabad and Peshawar.

He said that Pakistan was the third largest country in the world in terms of the prevalence of diabetes, where there were more than 30 million diabetic patients.



PESHAWAR: Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Haji Ghulam leading the walk on the occasion of World Diabetes Day organized by Omar Diabetes Foundation at Governor House.

## CM visits Bibi Pak Daman mazar, reviews renovation work

Orders removing encroachments on 32 major roads

**Independent Report**  
LAHORE: Punjab Caretaker Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi paid a detailed visit to Mazar Bibi Pak Daman Sunday morning here and reviewed progress being made on the renovation and extension of the project.

Provincial Minister for Auqaf Azfar Ali Nasir also accompanied him. The renovation and extension project of Mazar Bibi Pak Daman is near completion. The CM ordered early completion of the project and ordered to complete the task during the current month.

Naqvi visited extended parts of the Mazar and monitored work being carried out at the central part along with renovation of the dome of Mazar. Mohsin Naqvi inspected the finishing work of other domes including the central dome and issued necessary directions to Secretary Communication and Works. CM also directed to illuminate all the domes of Mazar with elegant lights.

He offered a special prayer at the Mazar for the progress, prosperity, stability, integrity peace of the country and for the safety of oppressed Palestinian Muslims. Secretary C&W gave a briefing about the completion of renovation and extension project of the Mazar. Secretary Auqaf, Commissioner Lahore division and officials concerned were also present.

Meanwhile, the Punjab government, on special orders of Caretaker Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi of Punjab has decided to permanently remove temporary encroachments on 32 major roads of the city.

## Speakers stress inter-faith harmony at 'Building bridges' dialogue

LAHORE (APP): An inter-faith dialogue titled 'Building bridges' was organised by the Presbyterian Education Board (PEB) at Naulakha Presbyterian Church, here on Sunday. Prominent religious personalities including Pakistan Ulema Council (PUC) Chairman Hafiz Tahir Mehmood Ashrafi, Ruet-e-Hilal Committee Chairman Abdul Khabeer Azad, Kul Masalik Board Chairman Asim Makhdoom, Naulakha Presbyterian Church Senior Pastor Dr Majid Abel, Data Darbar Masjid Khateeb Mufti Ramzan Sialvi, Maulana Zubair Abid, Prof. Mehmood Ghaznavi, Prof. Sohail Raza, Head of Presbyterian Education Board Mrs. Veeda Javed, Mrs. Margy Trimble, Miss Sheryl Burke, Rev. Emmanuel Khokhar and a delegation from Board of Education Presbyterian participated in the event.

The participants discussed promotion of religious tolerance in society, and overcoming challenges and problems in this regard. All leaders expressed their determination to work hard for promotion of religious tolerance and harmony.



LAHORE: Chairman Pakistan Ulema Council Maulana Tahir Ashrafi addressing a press conference Naulakha Presbyterian Church in Provincial Capital.

## Police responds to 28,000 calls, messages on Women Safety App

LAHORE (APP): The Punjab Police and Safe Cities Authority (PSCA) jointly responded to 28,000 calls and messages from women in the province, during the on-going year.

The PSCA official sources told APP on Sunday that the Women Safety App was developed for women to ensure their safety, an application that allows users to send an alert to the police or to a family member with just one tap.

He said the Anti-Women Harassment and Violence cells had taken timely action through the App and arrested the accused in the last 10 months against whom strict legal action was taken.

The App was launched to provide immediate help to women in which various links including Cyber Crime, Rescue, National Highway, Motorway and other helpline numbers had also been provided. The App also allows its users to review different public locations in terms of safety, an official said adding that green pins indicate the location was safe for women, orange means the area was partially secure.



LAHORE: Punjab Caretaker Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi reviews progress being made on the renovation and extension of the project during his visit Mazar Bibi Pak Daman.

## KP, China Window sign MoU to promote Pak, China friendship, culture

PESHAWAR (APP): A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed on Sunday between the Provincial Department of Local Government, Elections and Rural Development (LGE&RDD) of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Pakistan and China Window, a Chinese cultural center established in Peshawar.

The MoU aims to promote Pakistan-China friendship, Chinese culture, and development in various areas of life throughout Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

The MoU signing ceremony was held in the conference room of the Local Government Department. Secretary Local Council Board Mian Shafiqur Rehman and Administrator of China Window Amjad Aziz Malik signed the memorandum. Secretary Local Government, Elections and Rural Development Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Dawood Khan, Special Secretary Establishment Local Government Muhammad Masood Khan and Director China Window Imtiaz Ahmed were also present on the occasion.

## Five drug dealers held during raid

RAWALPINDI (APP): Police have arrested five drug dealers and recovered more than 05 kg of drugs from their possession during the crackdown here on Sunday.

According to a police spokesman, Rata Amral police conducted a raid and arrested two drug dealers namely Ameen and Abdul Jawad and recovered more than 2.5 kg of drugs from their possession. Similarly, Sadiqabad police held Haider Ali and recovered 1.4 kg of drugs from his custody. While Race Course police recovered 600 gram of charas from Fazal Haq. Following the operation, Waris Khan police recovered 570 gram of charas from Adnan. Police have registered separate cases against the accused and further investigation was underway. City Police Officer (CPO) Syed Khalid Mehmood Hamdani commended police teams and said the arrested accused will be brought to justice with solid evidence. He made it clear that strict action will be taken against those involved in supplying drugs.

## AKU and UAJK jointly conduct course of health awareness communications

MUZAFFARABAD (APP): The Agha Khan University (AKU) and University of Azad Jammu and Kashmir (UAJK) jointly conducted a transformative two-day short course, titled "Accessing, Interpreting, and Reporting Health-Related Information to the Public," at UAJK on Saturday and Sunday.

This joint initiative, meticulously designed and executed by AKU, aimed at empowering media professionals and Mass Communication students with essential skills to effectively disseminate accurate health information. According to a press release of UAJK, the course was conducted by a grant from the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR), funded by the University of Warwick, and expertly organized by the Section of Non-Communicable Diseases & Mental Health, Department of Community Health Sciences (CHS) at AKU, that made a significant impact on students of Mass Communication.

## Shafay says: PML-Q to make seat adjustments with PML-N

LAHORE (APP): Pakistan Muslim League-Quaid Punjab General Secretary Chaudhry Shafay Hussain said in a statement on Sunday that the PML-Q is not merging with any other party.

However, he added, the party would reach seat adjustments with the PML-N in some constituencies. He said the Pakistan Muslim League-Quaid would maintain its individual status and its candidates would participate in elections on the tractor symbol.

# International News

## Erdogan says legal amendment could be needed to solve Turkish judicial crisis

**Monitoring Desk**  
ANKARA: President Tayyip Erdogan said on Sunday parliament may pass a legal amendment to resolve a judicial crisis involving an unprecedented clash between two of the country's top courts.

The unprecedented confrontation between the tribunals stoked a debate over the rule of law this week, when the appeals Court of Cassation refused to abide by a ruling of the Constitutional Court over a jailed parliamentarian and made a criminal complaint against judges of the top court.

"It is not difficult to make legal arrangements regarding individual applications (to the Constitutional Court)," Erdogan told reporters on a flight back from Saudi Arabia, according to a text published by his office on Sunday.

"But the work is not done after completing the legal amendments on individual applications," he added, signalling that more legal changes on the matter could be considered.

At issue is a ruling by the Constitutional Court last month that jailed parliamentarian Can Atalay should be released.

Atalay, 47, was sentenced to 18 years in prison

last year after being convicted of trying to overthrow the government by organising nationwide protests in 2013, along with Turkish philanthropist Osman Kavala and six others.

All defendants denied the charges regarding the protests, which they said developed spontaneously, in the biggest popular challenge to Erdogan in his more than two decades in power.

In response to the Constitutional Court ruling, the Court of Cassation said the Constitutional Court's ruling was unconstitutional.



Turkey's President Tayyip Erdogan attends Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) summit in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.

## 300,000 attend London's pro-Palestinian rally

**Monitoring Desk**  
LONDON: More than 100,000 pro-Palestinian protesters marched through central London on Saturday, with police making more than 80 arrests as they sought to avert clashes between the marchers and groups opposed to the rally.

The pro-Palestinian march drew counter-protesters from far-right groups on Armistice Day, the anniversary of the end of World War One, involving commemorations of Britain's war dead.

Prime Minister Rishi Sunak said it was disrespectful to hold the rally on Armistice Day, and ministers had called for the cancellation of the march—the biggest so far in a series to show support for the Palestinians and call for a ceasefire in the Gaza Strip.

Police said there were "significant numbers" of counter-protesters present in central London, and skirmishes broke out between them and police near the Cenotaph war memorial, close to the Houses of Parliament and in Westminster.

Some of the right-wing protesters threw bottles at officers, and police vehicles sped around the city to respond to reports of tensions in the streets. London's Met Police said later it had made 82 arrests of counter-protesters in a move designed to keep the peace, as far-right groups had tried to get close to the pro-Palestinian rally.

"We will continue to take action to avoid the disorder that would likely take place if that happened," the force said in a statement on social media.

## After two-month hiatus, Moscow hits Kyiv again

**Monitoring Desk**  
KYIV: Ending nearly two months of relative calm in the Ukrainian capital, a missile targeted Kyiv on Saturday without causing casualties, as frontline regions fended off waves of drone attacks overnight.

"Just between yesterday evening and this morning, (Russia launched) almost 40 drones and rockets..."

Ballistic attacks against Kyiv, drones, and rockets against Odesa, the Kharkiv region," said Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky.

A missile targeted Kyiv "after a long pause of 52 days," said the head of the Kyiv city military administration Sergiy Popko.

AFP journalists in central Kyiv had heard two strong explosions and saw trails in the sky at dawn. Air sirens sounded soon after that.

The air force said it destroyed a missile approaching Kyiv — either an Iskander ballistic missile or an S-400 anti-aircraft missile — without reporting casualties.

Air defences last downed a missile in Kyiv on September 21.

The falling debris wounded seven people, including a child.



The leading candidate of the Dutch Labour Party, Frans Timmermans attends The March for Climate and Justice to demand political change before the elections in Amsterdam, Netherlands.

## House Republicans split over aid for Ukraine, casting doubt on war effort

**Monitoring Desk**  
WASHINGTON: When President Joe Biden gave his State of the Union address in March 2022, five days after Russian forces invaded Ukraine, the Republicans and Democrats who filled the chamber showed nearly unanimous support for Kyiv's defense.

Twenty months later, that tone has changed. While most members of Congress still voice support for Ukrainians, a rift among the Republicans who control the House of Representatives has emerged and cast doubt on the prospects of passing even a fraction of the \$61 billion of additional aid Biden requested for Ukraine in October. Cracks had started to emerge in the House GOP by the time Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky made a surprise trip to the Capitol to address a joint session of Congress in December 2022. Rep. Russ Fulcher, a Republican who represents the western half of Idaho, said at the time he was "not comfortable with burdening the American taxpayer" with more aid without proof that the money was being well spent.



Britain's King Charles III, William, Prince of Wales, Prince Edward, Duke of Edinburgh, and Anne, Princess Royal, attend the National Service of Remembrance at The Cenotaph in Whitehall in London, Britain.

## King Charles, UK PM lead remembrance services overshadowed

**Monitoring Desk**  
LONDON: King Charles and Prime Minister Rishi Sunak led Britain in remembering the country's war dead on Sunday, seeking to unify communities a day after a large pro-Palestinian march was marked by skirmishes between far-right counter-protesters and police.

At a solemn ceremony at the Cenotaph war memorial on Whitehall in central London, Charles, Sunak, other politicians and senior members of the royal family held a two-minute silence and then laid wreaths to honour those killed in war.

Sunday's events were overshadowed by scenes of violence on Saturday, when far right protesters against a pro-Palestinian march skirmished with police, and accusations that Britain's interior minister had fuelled the tensions. Suella Braverman, whom opposition politicians and some in the governing Conservative Party have called on to step down, praised the police for their handling of Saturday's events.

## "Enough" conflict, says Pope Francis as he calls for more aid to Gaza

**Monitoring Desk**  
VATICAN CITY: Pope Francis on Sunday reiterated his plea for an end to hostilities between Israelis and Palestinians, and called for "much more" humanitarian aid for Gaza.

"Enough, enough brothers, enough", Francis said, adding the wounded in the Gaza Strip needed to be taken care of immediately and the protection of civilians assured. He also said hostages held by Hamas must be freed.

Addressing the crowds in St Peter's Square after his weekly Angelus prayers, Francis said arms would never bring peace and that the conflict must not widen.

"I am close to all those who suffer, Palestinians and Israelis," he said, adding he was praying for them. Israel said on Sunday it was ready to evacuate babies from Gaza's largest hospital, but Palestinian officials said people inside were still trapped as intense fighting rages nearby.

## EU 'appalled' by reports of 1,000 killed in Darfur

**Monitoring Desk**  
The European Union (EU) said on Sunday it was "appalled" by reports of more than 1,000 people killed this month in Sudan's West Darfur in an apparent "ethnic cleansing campaign" by the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF).

"These latest atrocities are seemingly part of a wider ethnic cleansing campaign conducted by the RSF with the aim to eradicate the non-Arab Masalit community from West Darfur, and comes on top of the first wave of large violence in June," EU foreign policy chief Josep Borrell said in a statement.

Since April, forces loyal to army chief Abdel Fattah el-Burhan — Sudan's de facto head of state — have been at war with the RSF commanded by his former deputy, Mohamed Hamdan Daglo. The EU statement said there were "credible eyewitness reports [that] more than a thousand members of the Masalit community were killed in Ardama."

## UK lawmakers urge govt to proscribe Iran's Revolutionary Guard

**Monitoring Desk**  
LONDON: British lawmakers and members of the upper house of parliament have called on the government to proscribe Iran's Revolutionary Guard Corps as a terrorist organisation, saying it would be a step towards restoring stability to the Middle East.

Proscribing the IRGC as a terrorist group would mean it would become a criminal offence in Britain to belong to the group.

## Ashrafi emphasizes urgency of implementing 'Joint Declarations on Palestine'

ISLAMABAD (APP): Special Representative to the Prime Minister on Religious Harmony and the Pakistani Diaspora in Middle East and Islamic Countries, Hafiz Muhammad Tahir Mehmood Ashrafi on Sunday said Saudi Arabia, a key regional player in the Middle East, continued to play a crucial role in addressing the ongoing conflict between Palestine and Israel.

Addressing the media after the Joint Arab-Islamic Extraordinary Summit in Riyadh, he underscored the imperative of executing the declarations articulated during this significant gathering of Muslim world leaders regarding the Palestine issue.

Ashrafi who is also the Chairman of Pakistan Ulama Council, necessitated mutual understanding and collaborative endeavors to realize shared objectives. He said as the situation in the region remains tense, the Kingdom's diplomatic efforts, humanitarian support, and commitment to a just resolution had garnered global attention.

He noted that the participation of Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas, Egyptian President Abdel-Fattah El-Sisi, Jordanian King Abdullah, Amir of Qatar Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, Pakistani Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar, and other dignitaries at the summit was a testament to their collective determination to pursue both temporary and permanent resolutions to the Palestine issue in the current circumstances.

Ashrafi said Saudi Arabia had been actively engaged in diplomatic efforts for an immediate ceasefire and to seek a peaceful resolution to the conflict mentioning that the Kingdom's leadership had conducted high-level discussions with various international counterparts.



KARACHI: Pakistan Hindu devotees light the oil lamps during Diwali in Provincial Capital. Diwali the festival of lights, is celebrated with jubilation and enthusiasm as one of the biggest Hindu festivals.

## PTI accuses ECP of planning to rig elections

ABBOTTABAD (INP): Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) General Secretary Umar Ayub has accused the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) of planning to rig the upcoming general elections.

In a statement on social media, Ayub alleged that the ECP is planning to appoint District Returning Officers (DROs) and Assistant District Returning Officers (ADROs) of grade 17 and 18 who have less than one year of retirement. He claimed that these officers will be specially rewarded if they follow the instructions of rigging, and will be shown the retirement stick if they fail.

Ayub said that this is a clear attempt to rig the elections, and that it is pushing Pakistan towards a path where there will be no way to restore democracy.

"The rigging plan before the general elections makes it clear that we are entering dark days," he said.

The PTI spokesperson has also condemned the negative propaganda campaign carried out against the party, and said that PTI is the only political party that fully believes in the observance of the constitution and the law.

"In its 27-year political history, Tehreek-e-Insaf struggled in the light of its leader's teachings, always within the framework of the constitution and law," the statement said.

## Students take Mega IT entry test

KARACHI (APP): As many as 20 thousand male and female students took the mega Information Technology (IT) entry test conducted by Saylani Welfare International Trust at National Stadium here on Sunday. The test was conducted under the Saylani Mass IT Training Programme. The Consul General of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) Bakheet Ateeq Al-Remeithi was the special guest on the occasion.

While addressing the entry test ceremony, the Consul General of United Arab Emirates (UAE) Bakheet Ateeq Al-Remeithi said that today was the important day for Pakistan and her nation.

He said that the future of the children was significant. He said that Pakistan had talent and UAE would support her endeavours.

The CG said that he would support, whoever desired to go to UAE. He said that Saylani Welfare was doing a good job for the country.

Remeithi said that the students could play their part to change Pakistan's current situation into prosperity.

He suggested the students to foil and not share any propaganda against Pakistan on social media.



KARACHI: Students are solving paper of Entry Test for Information Technology (IT) Courses under the supervision of Saylani Welfare International Trust held at National Bank Stadium in Karachi

## HDA asks builders to fulfill Revenue Dept's documentary requirements

HYDERABAD (APP): The Hyderabad Development Authority (HDA) has directed the builders and developers to submit Settlement Surgery and Field Books, Survey Reports, Ghat Wadh Form and Form II. The spokesman of HDA Nadeem Yousuf informed here on Sunday that the builders and developers had been given 7 days to submit those documents. According to him, the directives had been issued in the light of circulars dated March 3, 2016, and June 13, 2022, of Settlement Survey and Land Record Sindh and Deputy Commissioner Hyderabad's office order of November 1. He said the builders and developers would also have to submit a Demarcation Plan and applications for extension of No Objection Certificates (NOCs) if their NOCs had expired. The spokesman warned that the HDA and its Planning and Development Control wing would take action against those who did not comply.



KARACHI: Leaders and members of Pakistan Markazi Muslim League (PMML) are holding protest demonstration against Israeli cruel and inhumane acts and express unity with the innocent people of Palestine, held at Shahrah-e-Quaideen road in Karachi.

## PTI releases a white paper on country's unimaginable economic destruction during last 20 months

ISLAMABAD (Online): The economic team of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) has issued a white paper on the unimaginable destruction of the country's economy during the past 20 months. According to PTI spokesperson, in the white paper, the details of PDM's incompetent and incompetent government's serious playing with the economy have been placed before the nation with data.

In fiscal year 2018, the current account deficit was 19.2 billion dollars and the foreign exchange reserves were at the level of 9.4 billion dollars, spokesperson said.

He said that Pakistan needed immediate funding of 32 billion dollars to pay its external debt in 2018. The economy was under the worst crisis in history.

PM Imran Khan made every effort to reduce the current account deficit and obtain foreign loans from friendly countries to pay the external debt, spokesperson said white paper.

It is said in the white paper that the World Bank has included Pakistan in the top three countries that are fighting the best against the Corona epidemic due to Prime Minister Imran Khan's commendable handling of the Corona epidemic. Imran Khan also ensured the investment agriculture, construction and industry.

Spokesperson said that Imran Khan limited the inflation rate to 12.7% while protecting the nation from the effects of the highest global inflation due to the commodity super cycle.

PTI achieved 6% growth rate in the third and fourth year of the government after 2007 which has grown at a speed of 6% for 2 consecutive years, in fiscal year 22.

## PPP to start election campaign from KP next week

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) is likely to start an election campaign next week from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) for general polls to be conducted on February 8, 2024, by the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP).

"Chairman PPP, Bilawal Bhutto Zardari will lead the election campaign and address the public during the corner meetings and public gatherings in different cities of the province," official sources of PPP told APP. The local leadership and workers of KP have been directed to finalize all the necessary arrangements regarding the election campaign by the party chief in the province. The election strategy of PPP has entered into the final stage with reference to general elections after consultation of Chairman PPP with Central Executive Committee (CEC).

## Multan-Sukkur Motorway M-5 closure due to fog

ISLAMABAD (APP): In a precautionary measure to ensure the safety of commuters, the entry of all kinds of traffic from RYK Toll Plaza (559 SB) has been restricted due to fog in patches and decreased visibility in the area of Beat- 27 of Motorway Zone MW (C-II) MULTAN, Sector-II, M-5. The diversion is being established at 579 rukan pur to 525 Azampur. All precautionary measures have been adopted while FWO has also been informed for closures of Toll Plaza public relations officer told APP on Sunday.

The motorists are advised to plan their journeys accordingly and to use alternative routes if possible. They should also drive with caution and at a reduced speed, and to use their headlights even during the day. The Pakistan Meteorological Department has issued a dense fog advisory for the region, and the fog is expected to persist for the next few hours. The motorists are urged to exercise extreme caution and to avoid unnecessary travel. NHMP authorities advised that for more information, please contact the National Highway and Motorway Authority at 130 helpline.

## Millat Express narrowly escapes major accident

MULTAN (APP): The Lala Musa bound Millat Express narrowly escaped a major accident after it smashed into a tractor which was passing at Qutubpur railway crossing near Jahania on Sunday.

Pakistan Railways sources informed that the tractor was smashed into pieces when the train hit it.

No loss of life was reported in the accident, they said and added that after being altered, Railway Police reached the spot and arrested the tractor driver.

DS Railways Multan Division, Mehmood Rehman Lakho said crossing a railway track carelessly puts the lives of the people and crew at stake.

## Govt fails to make progress on World Bank funded projects

ISLAMABAD (Online): The progress on more than half of the federal projects worth 6.7 billion dollars sponsored by the World Bank is unsatisfactory, while the World Bank has expressed serious concerns about these projects in its report.

The progress on the projects has been described as unsatisfactory.

The World Bank, together with the Ministry of Economic Affairs, has reviewed 20 projects worth \$6.7 billion.

Progress on projects worth \$3.4 billion has been found to be partially satisfactory, while projects worth \$453 million have been identified as problematic. The worst irregularities have been found in the WAPDA department, which has been ruled by retired generals for decades.

Apart from this, projects related to National Transmission and Dispatch Company, FBR, Ministry of Planning, Ministry of Finance and State Bank are also facing problems, due to which benefits from these projects have been delayed.

According to the review report, Pakistan took a loan of 21.3 million dollars from the World Bank for the rehabilitation of flood victims in Balochistan in July this year, but still the project management unit is inactive and no bank account has been opened to receive the funds. Due to which not even a penny has been received from the World Bank yet.



HYDERABAD: Peoples Party (PPP) Leader, Aajiz Dhamra addresses to media persons during press conference, at Hyderabad press club

## APHC expresses concern over surge in Indian state terrorism in IIOJK

SRINAGAR (INP): The All Parties Hurriyat Conference (APHC) has expressed serious concern over the surge in Indian state terrorism and atrocities in Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir.

According to Kashmir Media Service, the APHC spokesman in a statement issued in Srinagar said innocent people are being harassed and humiliated during cordon and search operations, whereas confiscation of civilians' properties are being used by India as a war tactic to suppress Kashmiris' struggle for right to self-determination.

He said the Modi regime is crafting false narratives of investment and development to justify its illegal actions of 5 August 2019 and intending to paint the picture that all is well in IIOJK but the fact is that all is against normal there. Ground situation negates India's false narrative of return of normalcy in IIOJK, he said adding even so-called pro-India Kashmiri politicians are questioning Modi's normalcy narrative in IIOJK.

He said the United Nations has passed several resolutions on Kashmir but the lingering dispute is yet to be resolved.

He said the Indian forces have detained thousands of Kashmiri youth under black laws, including Public Safety Act (PSA) and Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) and conduct raids on the residences of the people but they will never succeed in suppressing the Kashmiri freedom movement.

The spokesman said the Kashmiri people reject the illegal and unilateral actions of August 05, 2019.



RAWALPINDI: President Pakistan Ex-Servicemen Society Abdul Qayyum Malik posing for a group photograph along with participants after the meeting at a local hotel in the city.

## President should represent all political parties: Solangi

LAHORE (APP): Caretaker Minister for Information and Broadcasting and Parliamentary Affairs Murtaza Solangi here on Sunday said President Dr. Arif Alvi should represent all political parties in accordance with the law and the Constitution for fostering unity in the country.

Talking to media, Solangi said that the President's role was not limited to one party, urging him to speak on behalf of all the political parties.

He said if President Alvi continued to speak for one political party, it would undermine his own credibility.

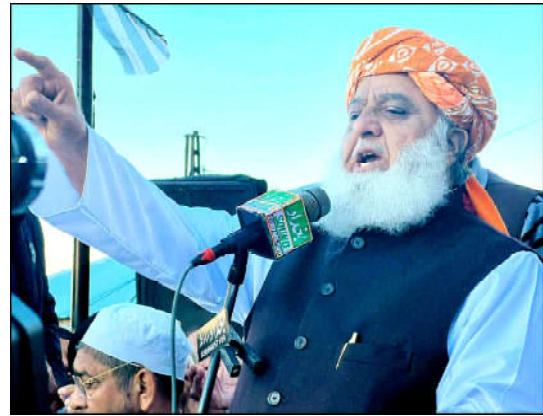
To a query, he said the country would be governed by the elected representatives, adding adherence to the Constitution should be a collective commitment.

Highlighting the essence of democracy as a platform for dialogue, Solangi dismissed concerns over complaints and grievances, stating that every party and individual had the right to voice their concerns at appropriate forums including courts and the election commission.

As regards the upcoming elections, Solangi pledged the caretaker government's full cooperation and assistance to the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP), in accordance with the law and the Constitution.

He commended the competence and the sense of responsibility showed by the current ECP management, noting that they were adhered to the action plan outlined for the elections.

To another query, the minister said that every crisis had a solution.



MURREE: Amir Jamiat Ulema Islam Maulana Fazlur Rehman addressing Tofan Al-Aqsa Conference

## Federal Health Minister says Govt to provide necessary resources for clean, transparent conduct of MDCAT test

PESHAWAR (APP): Caretaker Federal Minister for Health Dr. Nadeem Jan has said that Khyber Medical University (KMU) Peshawar has brought together all the health sectors under one umbrella and the government will provide necessary resources for clean and transparent conduct of MDCAT test.

In the past, the concept of medical education was limited only to MBBS and BDS, but now under KMU, the education and training that is being given in dozens of innovative fields from BS to PhD level is the most need of the time. It is a demand but it is also providing quality knowledge and research opportunities to our students in different fields of health in their own province, he said. Talking as the chief guest at the inaugural ceremony of Biosafety and Bio Risk Management (BRM) training lab at KMU and distribution of scholarship certificates to deserving students here Sunday, the minister said that the protection of the healthcare providers in Pakistan would be ensured and all necessary facilities would be provided and the policy of the proposed act of ICRC for prevention of violence and damage to property will be strictly implemented.

## PML-N to 'sweep' Punjab in general elections 2024: Raja

LAHORE (INP): Former opposition leader Raja Riaz on Sunday said Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) does not need to ally with anyone in Punjab.

Speaking to reporters in Lahore on Sunday, Riaz said he was "thankful to God" that the PTI chairman is no more prime minister.

Raja Riaz also said the Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz will 'sweep' Punjab in the upcoming elections. He added that the PML-N does not have space to adjust more people from other parties and the party does not need to ally with anyone.

However, the PML-N leader said that work was underway for seat adjustments in the province.

Raja Riaz said it seemed unlikely that the Istehkam-e-Pakistan party would make major inroads into Punjab. He added that the IPP does not have an alliance with PML-N.



ISLAMABAD: Irtaza Hussain receiving the winner's trophy from Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Naveed Ashraf at the closing ceremony of 16th Chief of the Naval Staff Amateurs Golf Cup 2023.

## Mehmood, Durrani's chosen caretaker chief minister not accept: PTI

PESHAWAR (Online): Leader of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Zahir Shah Turo said that the caretaker chief minister elected by Mahmood Khan and Akram Durrani will not be accepted under any circumstances.

Talking to the media in Peshawar, Zahir Shah Turo said that Mehmood Khan is not Chief Minister and Akram Durrani is not opposition leader.

If he chooses caretaker chief minister, we will go to court, he added.

He said that under what law has the Governor of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa written a letter to Mahmood Khan and Akram Durrani, this matter should be resolved according to the constitutional method, the Governor should not make his own formulas.

Zahir Shah Turo said that the caretaker chief minister chosen by Governor Ghulam Ali, Mehmood Khan and Akram Durrani will be political only, they do not expect a level playing field from their chosen caretaker chief minister.

Earlier in a statement, Akram Durrani said that I will talk about the appointment of caretaker chief minister with full preparation, I will also convince Mahmood Khan, no one denies my words.

He said that the expected names for the caretaker chief minister could be politicians and bureaucrats, no one could put a finger on the role of Azam Khan, he was chosen because he was a good person.