

Independent

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Ph: 2841470/2841473 Vol: XIX No. 22, Rajab 25, 1445 AH Tuesday February 06, 2024, Pages 04, Price Rs.15

India a terrorist state, committing worst atrocities against Kashmiris: PM Kakar

MUZAFFARABAD (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Monday said that India was a terrorist state, which had been committing the worst atrocities and brutalities against the innocent people of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu & Kashmir for decades. The world was, however, silently watching the Indian state terrorism against the Kashmiris, he regretted while addressing the Azad Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly on the occasion of Kashmir Solidarity Day. The prime minister said for last many years, India was presenting a false narrative and trying to weaken the indigenous movement of the Kashmiris for freedom by wrongly labeling them as

terrorists. There was a clear difference between terrorism and the people's struggle for independence, he added. PM Kakar said that the Indian leadership was also claiming that Gilgit-Baltistan and Azad Jammu & Kashmir were part of their country.



"On this day, I make it clear that that India should not have any such illusions. We believe in peace and are showing maximum patience and tolerance, but any misadventure in this regard will be forcefully responded." He reaffirmed that Pakistan did not want any con-

flikt in the region, however, it was fully capable of strongly retaliating any attack on its soil. India, he said, had for many times tested Pakistan's capacity, and if still had any desire in that regard then "we are fully ready to show our might". He said if India was a true democracy then it should give the people of Kashmir their just right to self-determination, besides restoring all the basic human rights in the IIOJK. PM Kakar said India was also stop the gross violations of human rights in the region along with releasing all the political prisoners. It should also abrogate all the strict emergency laws, besides removing its heavy military presence from the villages and towns of Kashmir.



RAWALPINDI: General Syed Asim Munir, NI (M), Chief of Army Staff (COAS) talking with soldiers during his visit to the front lines along Line of Control (LOC) in Sarian Sector.



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Federal Minister for Information & Broadcasting, Murtaza Solangi launched Media Helpline app at Press Information Department.

10 policemen martyred in terrorist attack on DI Khan police station

Six policemen were also injured when terrorists targeted the police station in Tehsil Daraban

DERA ISMAIL KHAN (APP): At least 10 policemen were martyred and six others got injured as a group of unidentified militants attacked Chaudhwan police station here in Daraban tehsil in the wee hours on Monday. According to the police spokesman, the terrorists employing heavy weapons attacked the Chaudhwan police station at around 03:00 a.m. The police retaliated and an exchange of gunfire continued for around two and a half hours. However, the attackers managed to escape the scene. In the attack, 10 policemen were martyred and nine others got injured. The martyrs included

Muhammad Aslam, Ghulam Farid, Muhammad Javed, Muhammad Idrees, Muhammad Imran, Safdar, ASI Kausar, Ehtram Syed, Rafi Ullah and Hameed ul Haq while the injured policemen included Ahmad Hasan, Akbar Zaman, Inayat Ullah, Shehrab Khan, Ibrahim and Naqeeb Khan. The injured were immediately shifted to District Headquarters hospital Dera Ismail Khan. RPO Nasir Mehmood Satti and DPO Abdul Rauf Babar Qaisrani along with a heavy contingent of police and security forces reached the site and launched a search operation to arrest the perpetrators. Later, the funeral prayers of the martyred

Solangi says: Media helpline launched for quick redressal of journalist's complaints

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Federal Minister of Information, Broadcasting and Parliamentary Affairs Murtaza Solangi said on Monday that the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (MOIB) has launched a media helpline to redress complaints of both local and foreign journalists during elections. Addressing the launching ceremony of the media helpline, he said, in the present era of digital media it was imperative to upgrade and improve working. The media-complaint application will be accessible through any browser, Murtaza Solangi remarked. He said the application was launched for the convenience of local and international journalists and

Any aggression to be responded with full military might: COAS

RAWALPINDI (APP): Army Chief General Syed Asim Munir has reaffirmed that any aggression or violation of the territorial sovereignty of Pakistan will be responded with full national resolve and military might. He was addressing the troops deployed on the front lines along the Line of Control in the Sarian sector near Muzaffarabad today. The Army Chief said the Pakistan Army is well-versed in the full threat spectrum and is perpetually ready to respond effectively. He mentioned that Indian state-sponsored terrorism in Pakistan has now extended to the heinous targeting of individual Pakistani citizens on our soil. Such a callous disregard for international law and norms of the international system is becoming a routine occurrence, and India is now be-

ing openly called out by many countries worldwide, exposing its sham credentials. General Syed Asim Munir said Pakistan would continue to expose all such attempts and ensure the security of its citizens. During the occasion, the Army Chief was briefed about the latest situation along the Line of Control. He appreciated the operational readiness, high morale, and effective response of troops to Indian ceasefire violations. Earlier, upon arrival at the Jammu and Kashmir Monument in Muzaffarabad, Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar, Prime Minister Azad Kashmir, and the Army Chief laid floral wreaths at the Martyrs' Monument and paid rich tribute to the supreme sacrifices of Shuhada. They acknowledged that the fortitude, resilience, and unwavering faith of Kashmiris in the face of unabated brutality of Indian occupation forces in IIOJK are exemplary. They said the brewing humanitarian and security crises in the IIOJK seriously threaten regional peace and stability. Pakistan would always stand with Kashmiris in their just struggle for the inalienable right to self-determination in light of UN Security Council resolutions. They noted that India is attempting to change the demography of IIOJK through illegal administrative and unilateral imposed draconian laws and security clampdowns. Such machinations cannot suppress the will of the Kashmiri people to attain their legitimate objectives.

Nawaz asks Murree constituents to vote wisely for a new dawn

MURREE (INP): Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz (PML-N) supremo Nawaz Sharif and party chief organizer Maryam Nawaz on Monday pledged to redevelop the country after coming to power.



During the power show in Murree just days before the general elections, Nawaz reiterated that the cost of essentials was much less when he was the prime minister than the present prices. He said he rid the people of the menace of loadshedding. During his last stint in power, Nawaz claimed that the economy was flourishing and businesses were thriving. He urged the people to vote responsibly as "vote can change the destiny of their generations." He asked the constituents to stamp on the "tiger" (electoral symbol of PML-N) on Feb 8 and become part of development and progress. He criticised the judges who disqualified him. He said the country was devastated after his removal from office and today they (a reference to judges) were tendering resignations.

Protests, calls for freedom echo across Pakistan, AJK

ISLAMABAD: On Kashmir Solidarity Day, being observed on February 5, the passion for Kashmiri self-determination burned bright across Pakistan and Azad Jammu and Kashmir. Large-scale demonstrations, symbolic gestures, and passionate speeches marked the day, highlighting the ongoing struggle and demanding international intervention. In Muzaffarabad, the capital of Azad Kashmir, a grand ceremony unfolded at Azadi Chowk. Participants waved flags, chanted slogans, and formed a chain of human hands connect-

Visit Muzaffarabad Monument PM, COAS pay tribute to sacrifices of martyrs

RAWALPINDI (APP): Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar, Azad Jammu & Kashmir (AJK) Prime Minister Ch. Anwar ul Haq and Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Syed Asim Munir on Monday visited the Muzaffarabad Jammu and Kashmir Monument to lay wreaths and pay rich tribute to the supreme sacrifices of the martyrs. According to an Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) news release, the leadership acknowledged that the fortitude, resilience and unwavering faith of the Kashmiris in the face of unabated brutality of Indian occupation forces in the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu & Kashmir (IIOJK) had been exemplary. They observed that brewing humanitarian and security crises in the IIOJK seriously threatened regional peace and stability.

Nawaz Sharif pressuring administration, elections must be fair: Bilawal

ISLAMABAD (INP): Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari has addressed various issues ahead of the upcoming general elections and accused former prime minister Nawaz Sharif of pressuring the administration to influence the decision. In an interview with VOA Urdu, he emphasized his party's focus on contesting the polls independently, warned against alleged political pressure, and stressed the need for fair and transparent elections. Bilawal reiterated that

the PPP was not forming alliances with other parties and will fight the elections based on its own manifesto. "I am contesting the elections and trying to ensure that the People's Party wins and forms a government," he told the news outlet. He accused former prime minister Nawaz Sharif of the PML-N of pressuring the administration, warning him against any interference in the electoral process. He expressed confidence that the administration will resist such pressure.



KARACHI: Chairman Pakistan People's Party Bilawal Bhutto Zardari addressing the election rally.

Peace of region linked with solution to Kashmir issue, says Mir Zubair Jamali

QUETTA: The caretaker Provincial Minister for Home, Captain (Retd) Mir Muhammad Zubair Jamali has stated that the peace of region is linked with the solution to Kashmir issue. He said that independence from the clutches of India is basic right of the people of Occupied Kashmir. Therefore, this issue must be resolved so as to ensure peace in the region. In an official statement

1651 polling stations declared most sensitive: All set to hold elections in Balochistan; preparations finalized, maintains PEC

QUETTA: The Provincial Election Commissioner Balochistan, Muhammad Farid Afridi has stated that all the preparations have been finalized for the general elections to be conducted on February 8 in the province. He said that we are determined to conduct the elections in peaceful manner. The Provincial Election Commissioner was addressing press conference at his office on Monday. He said that the elections would be held on 16 and 51 seats of National Assembly and Balochistan Assembly from the province. He said that 429 can-



didates are in competition run for 16 seats of the National Assembly from the province. Similarly, 1267 candidates are contesting elections on 51 seats of the Provincial Assembly. He said that the security arrangements have also been finalized for the elections in the province. He

ing them to their brethren across the Line of Control. A special session of the Azad Jammu and Kashmir Assembly was also held, with speeches reiterating support for the Kashmiri cause. Meanwhile, thousands marched on Constitution Avenue in Islamabad, led by Foreign Ministry officials. Children, politicians, and citizens alike joined the rally, paying homage to Kashmiri martyrs and chanting "Kashmir Banega Pakistan." Caretaker Federal Minister for Religious Affairs Aneeq Ahmed also participated, delivering a strong message against the Indian occupation.

PM Kakar says: Entire nation stands with Kashmiris to support their right to self-determination

MUZAFFARABAD (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwar-ul-Haq Kakar on Monday said the entire Pakistani nation stood shoulder to shoulder with its Kashmiri brothers and sisters to support their struggle for the right to self-determination. "Pakistan will continue to provide moral, political and diplomatic support to its Kashmiri brothers and sisters until they realise their right to self-determination as per the UNSC resolutions", the prime minister said during his visit to Muzaffarabad, Azad Kashmir on the

occasion of Kashmir Solidarity Day. Talking to the Prime Minister of Azad Jammu and Kashmir Chaudhry Anwarul Haque and Speaker Azad Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly Chaudhry Latif Akbar here, PM Kakar said the final and just solution of the Kashmir issue was possible only under the free and impartial referendum according to the resolutions of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC). He said the Indian atrocities in Jammu and Kashmir under the illegal rule of India were

not hidden from anyone and the silence of the international community on Indian atrocities on innocent Kashmiris was alarming and reprehensible. The speaker of the Legislative Assembly and the prime minister of Azad Jammu and Kashmir welcomed the prime minister's visit to Muzaffarabad. They said the PM Kakar's visit to Muzaffarabad on the occasion of Kashmir Solidarity Day had sent a clear message to India that the hearts of Pakistani and Kashmiri brothers and sisters beat together.



LAHORE: Governor of Punjab Muhammad Baligh Ur Rehman addressing during ceremony in connection with Kashmir Solidarity Day at Al-Hamra Hall in Provincial Capital.

Pakistan always keeps Kashmir issue alive at global forums: Governor

Independent Report LAHORE: Punjab Governor Muhammad Balighur Rehman said on Monday that Pakistan has always played its role in keeping the issue of Kashmir alive at all forums of the world including the United Nations Organization (UNO) and Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC). He was addressing the ceremony in connection with Kashmir Solidarity Day organized by Punjab

Department of Information and Culture here at Al-Hamra Arts Council where Secretary Information Danyal Saleem Gilani, Director General Public Relations Punjab, Rubina Afzal, Kashmiri Hurriyat leader Mushtaq Mehmood and a large number of people from different walks of life were present. The Governor said that today Pakistanis and millions of Kashmiris living around the world, are

observing Kashmir Solidarity Day against India's invasion and illegal occupation of the state of Jammu and Kashmir. He added that the purpose of observing this day is to draw the attention of the international community towards the Indian usurpation and oppression of the occupied state of Jammu and Kashmir so that the oppressed Kashmiris get their right to self-determination.

CM Punjab inaugurates upgraded BVH, safe city project in Bahawalpur

Independent Report BAHAWALPUR: Caretaker Chief Minister of Punjab Mohsin Naqvi arrived in Bahawalpur on Sunday for the inauguration of the OPD, Surgical Ward Upgradation Project at Victoria Hospital.

He also inaugurated the Safe City project in Bahawalpur. He inaugurated the upgraded building of the Civil Lines Police Station. Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi also virtually inaugurated other model police stations of Bahawalpur. He visited the wards of Bahawal Victoria Hospital. He also inspected the Medical Emergency, Plastic Surgery, and ENT wards. He talked



MUZAFFARABAD: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwar-ul-Haq Kakar being presented guard of honor upon his arrival at AJK Legislative Assembly.

Two more children succumb to pneumonia in Punjab

LAHORE (INP): Pneumonia claimed two more lives of children during the past 24 hours in Punjab. According to Punjab Health Department, a total of 605 new cases of pneumonia were reported during the last 24 hours.

The health authorities said Lahore logged 177 fresh cases of pneumonia during the last 24 hours. Punjab has reported 318 pneumonia-related deaths, while over 20,872 cases have been reported in the province whereas Lahore only reported 58 deaths and 4,050 cases. Health experts attribute the rapid increase in cases and deaths in Punjab to the environmental pollution caused by smog during the winter season. Pneumonia is an infection in the lungs, often caused by viruses. It can manifest after symptoms of a cold or flu and can range from mild to severe. Typically, pneumonia is more common in children aged five or younger.



MUZAFFARABAD: Students hold placards showing solidarity with the people of Kashmiri, during protest rally to mark the Kashmir Solidarity Day.

KP Governor says: India breaks all records of atrocities, human rights violations in IIOJK

PESHAWAR (APP): Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor, Haji Ghulam Ali here Monday said that India has broken all records of oppression and brutalities after illegally invaded the Occupied Kashmir and demanded international community take notice of it. He also demanded dignity and respect for the people of the held valley.

Addressing the Kashmir Solidarity Day rally, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor said that hundreds of thousands of Kashmiris were martyred, children orphaned and women were sexually abused at IIOJK. He said that India's involvement in state terrorism and human rights abuses were serious threats to the world and regional peace. Paying rich tributes to sacrifices, bravery and courage of the oppressed Kashmiris of IIOJK for right of self-determination, the Governor said that Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Government.

Gas leakage leaves 2 dead in Havelian

ABBOTTABAD (INP): Two more people on Monday lost their lives in a gas leakage incident in Haavalian village, during the current season death tolls caused by the gas leakage crossed 12. According to the Rescue 1122 sources, dead persons were identified as Yasar and Mehtab, hailed from the village Tatrila an area of Rajoi Police Station. Responding to the incident, the rescue medical team shifted the bodies of Yasar and Mehtab to Type-D Hospital Havelian. Despite the issuance of guidelines for the use of gas heaters during the winter season by Rescue 1122, district administration, and Sui Northern Gas Pipelines Limited (SNGPL), it is disheartening that people continue to neglect these guidelines, leading to the loss of precious human lives. This was the fifth incident of gas leakage in the district of Abbottabad where 12 people lost their lives.

Children-plants WHO's 'Own a Tree' initiative fosters strong bond of attachment

PESHAWAR (APP): The unique idea of involving school children in the promotion of green cover by launching an 'Own a Tree' plantation programme has shown an encouraging response of fostering a strong bond of attachment between minors and the plants planted with their nameplates. The plantation drive was carried out by the World Health Organization (WHO) with the

cooperation of the Health Department of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa by involving school children in planting saplings within the premises of four Basic Health Units (BHUs) in Charsadda district. "The activity was held on April 7, 2023, in connection with the observance of World Health Day (WHD) April which also marks the anniversary of the founding of the World Health Organization (WHO) in 1948."

Kashmir Solidarity Exhibition starts in Bahawalpur BAHAWALPUR (APP): A three-day Kashmir Solidarity Exhibition has started at the art gallery of Bahawalpur Arts Council here. President, Board of Management, Bahawalpur Arts Council, Prof-Dr. Aslam Adeb along with Director, Bahawalpur Arts Council, Sajjad Hussain inaugurated the Kashmir Solidarity Exhibition at the Arts Council premises. It was a pictorial exhibition displaying pictures and photos of Kashmiris who were victimized by Indian forces.

International News

127 more Palestinians killed as fighting rages in Gaza

GAZA (INP): Battles raged in Gaza's south Sunday ahead of another visit to the region by US Secretary of State Antony Blinken in a bid to secure a new truce as the Israel-Hamas war approaches its fifth month. Blinken set off Sunday on what is his fifth Mideast trip since the October 7 attack by Hamas that set off the crisis. He is expected to begin his trip on Monday in Saudi Arabia before visits to Israel, Egypt and Qatar. The health ministry in Hamas-ruled Gaza said at least 127 people were killed in Israeli strikes in the previous 24 hours in the territory. The Hamas government media office said a kindergarten where families were sheltering was hit in the southern border city of Rafah, which is teeming with Palestinians displaced by the war.

"There is no safe place in the Gaza Strip, from north to south," displaced man Mohammed Kloub told foreign media in Rafah, which according to UN figures now hosts more than half of Gaza's population. Israel has warned its ground forces could advance on Rafah as part of its campaign to eliminate Hamas. Israel's army said its forces had raided a Hamas training facility in Khan Yunis where militants prepared for the October 7 attack. The Al-Qadisiya

compound contained models of Israeli military bases, armoured vehicles, as well as entry points to kibbutzim, the army said in a statement. During the raid, the army "neutralised" several militants, it said. The Palestine Red Crescent Society said that at the nearby Al-Amal hospital there were "alarming signs (of) a humanitarian disaster... after 14 days of continuous siege". Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said the army had "destroyed 17 of 24 (Hamas) battalions. Most of the remaining battalions are in the southern Strip and in Rafah, and we will deal with them."



U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken is welcomed upon arriving at King Khalid International Airport, in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.

US intends further strikes on Iran-backed groups

WASHINGTON (INP): The United States intends to launch further strikes against Iran-backed groups in the Middle East, the White House national security adviser said on Sunday, after hitting Tehran-aligned factions in Iraq, Syria and Yemen over the last two days. The United States and Britain unleashed attacks against 36 Houthi targets in Yemen, a day after the U.S. military hit Tehran-backed groups in Iraq and Syria in retaliation for a deadly attack on U.S. troops in Jordan.

"We intend to take additional strikes, and additional action, to continue to send a clear message that the United States will respond when our forces are attacked, when our people are killed," White House National Security Adviser Jake Sullivan told NBC's "Meet the Press" program on Sunday. The strikes are the latest blows in a conflict that has spread into the Middle East since Oct. 7, when the Iran-backed Palestinian militant group Hamas stormed Israel from the Gaza Strip, igniting war.

Turkey completes new homes in area hit by devastating earthquake

ANKARA (Internews): Turkey on Saturday handed over keys to newly-completed homes to some of those left homeless after last year's devastating earthquake, one year after the country's deadliest disaster in its modern history. Powerful quakes on Feb. 6, 2023 in southern Turkey killed more than 50,000 people in 11 provinces and left millions homeless.

Australia PM says government 'examining' claims against UN Palestinian agency

Monitoring Desk SYDNEY: Australia's Prime Minister Anthony Albanese said on Sunday his government was probing claims that some staff of the U.N. Palestinian refugee agency (UNRWA) were involved in the Oct. 7 Hamas attacks on Israel, after Australia paused funding to the aid agency last month. Australia is one of several countries to have halted funding for UNRWA, a critical source of support in Gaza, after Israeli claims of U.N. employees' complicity with Hamas. "We're examining it, along with other like-minded countries like Canada, the United Kingdom and the United States. We want that to be resolved," Albanese told the Australian Broadcasting Corp regarding the allegations, according to a transcript. Albanese said his government wanted to make sure the accusations were "fully examined" so that all funding was "going to the purpose for which it is given".

Russian cosmonaut sets record for most time in space

Monitoring Desk MOSCOW: Russian cosmonaut Oleg Kononenko on Sunday set a world record for total time spent in space, surpassing his compatriot Gennady Padalka who logged more than 878 days in orbit, Russia's space corporation said. At 0830 GMT Kononenko broke the record, Roscosmos said. Kononenko is expected to reach a total of 1,000 days in space on June 5 and by late September he will have clocked 1,110 days.

Maldives vows to boost defences after telling Indian troops to leave

Monitoring Desk MALE: The small but strategically placed Maldives will strengthen its military to defend its vast maritime territory, the new president vowed on Monday after ordering Indian troops to withdraw from the archipelago. Mohamed Muizzu said in his first address to parliament he would turn the modest Maldivian National Defence Force (MADF) into a modern military capable of patrolling its seas, which straddle key global shipping lanes. The pro-China leader reiterated that India will begin withdrawing its troops operating three maritime reconnaissance aircraft from March 10 and complete the process within two months. New Delhi considers the Indian Ocean archipelago to be within its sphere of influence. However, the Maldives has shifted into the orbit of China — its largest external creditor — with September's election of Muizzu, who demanded the Indian troops leave. "I believe that the modern military capability to defend the country by road, sea and air should be strengthened in the Maldives," Muizzu said. "We have started to do that now." He said the MADF will soon be able to conduct surveillance of the country's 900,000 square kilometre (347,000 square mile) Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) around the clock. The Maldives accused India's coastguard last week of entering the north of its EEZ and intimidating three Maldivian fishing vessels.

Monitoring Desk VIA MAR: Chileans on Sunday feared a rise in the death toll from wildfires blazing across the South American country that have already killed at least 51 people, leaving bodies in the street and homes gutted. Authorities warned of "complicated" conditions as they battled fires in the coastal tourist region of Valparaiso amid an intense summer heat wave, with temperatures soaring to 40 degrees Celsius over the weekend. Dense gray smoke blanketed the city of Vina del Mar on the country's central coast Saturday, forcing residents to flee. The fires are being driven by a summer heatwave and drought affecting the southern part of South America caused by the El Nino weather phenomenon, as scientists warn that a warming planet has increased the risk of natural disasters such as intense heat and fires. The rising temperatures threaten to engulf more of South America, as brigades in Argentina have been fighting a fire that has consumed more than 3,000 hectares in Los Alceres National Park, famed for its beauty and biodiversity, since January 25. Rosana Avendano, a 63-year-old kitchen assistant, was away from home when the fire began to sweep through the El Olivar neighbourhood, where she lives with her husband. "It was terrible because I couldn't get (to my house). The fire came here... we lost everything," Avendano said. "My husband was lying down and began to feel the heat of the fire coming and he ran away." She feared the worst for hours, but eventually was able to contact her spouse.

'Unprecedented catastrophe' in Chile as wildfires kill 51

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Palestinian children wait to receive food cooked by a charity kitchen amid shortages of food supplies, as the ongoing conflict between Israel and the Palestinian Islamist group Hamas continues, in Rafah, in the southern Gaza Strip.

2 killed in Bangladesh as fighting rages on Myanmar border: police

Monitoring Desk DHAKA: At least two people were killed in Bangladesh on Monday after mortar shells fired from Myanmar during clashes there landed in a village across the border, police said. Parts of Myanmar near the 270-kilometre border with Bangladesh have seen frequent clashes since November when rebel Arakan Army fighters ended a ceasefire that had largely held since a 2021

coup. "The two were killed at around 2:15pm (0815 GMT) in the firing at Jalpaitoli village," local police chief Abdul Mannan told AFP. Police said a Bangladeshi woman, named 48-year-old Hosne Ara, and an unnamed ethnic Rohingya man had been killed. "They were sitting in the kitchen... when a mortar hit the place," Ara's daughter-in-law said, too distraught to give her name.

Participation of youth vital to strengthen democracy, political system: PM

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Monday said youth should be engaged in the political system and their energies should be utilized for strengthening democracy in the country.

Speaking during a podcast, he said political parties should be democratic minded to fortify democracy in the country.

Political parties in government should improve their performance to gain political space in the country, he added.

The prime minister said leadership of the political parties should be elected in a democratic manner in order to take democracy forward.

He said the idea of democracy was facing many challenges in Pakistan due to different reasons and weaknesses in the structure of the civil institutions.

He said the Afghan refugees lived in Pakistan for decades, and used the health and education services and the infrastructure of Pakistan and their businessmen earned billions of dollars through the Afghan transit trade.

The prime minister asserted that Pakistan wanted a friendly government in Afghanistan as was the desire of other countries in the region.

He was of the view that the government of Taliban was formed in Afghanistan after the world

squandered its opportunities despite spending \$ 2 trillion.

He said the Taliban forcefully took over the government as the United States and NATO abandoned Afghanistan.

To a question, he said during his tenure, he interacted with the students from the educational institutions of Balochistan, Azad Kashmir, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Sindh and Balochistan, and shared his views with them and listened to their perspectives.

He said in Balochistan, armed insurgents were masquerading as civil society and speaking the language of human rights for achieving a certain goal.

Those elements never

belonged to a mainstream political party but were part of the proscribed organizations in the province, he added.

PM Kakar said some groups in Balochistan wanted to carve out a new country on the basis of identity and through armed struggle, and they had declared a war on the state of Pakistan.

The stance of those elements was against morality, and the Constitution and laws of Pakistan, he remarked.

The prime minister said most of the people left the country for better jobs and due to economic reasons, however, millions of youth saw their future in Pakistan.



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Federal Minister for Information & Broadcasting, Murtaza Solangi leading Kashmir Solidarity Day Walk from Foreign Office Gate, Constitution Avenue to D-Chowk in front of Parliament House organized by Ministry of Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit-Baltistan.



RIYADH: Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee (CJSC), General Sahir Shamshad Mirza unveiled the Fatah-II Multiple Launch Rocket System (MRLS), at World Defense Show (WDS) 2024 in Riyadh.

Solangi says

Kashmiris created new history of courage, steadfastness against Indian oppression

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Federal Minister for Information, Broadcasting and Parliamentary Affairs Murtaza Solangi Monday said that every generation of Kashmir had created a new story of courage, bravery and steadfastness by resisting illegal Indian occupation of their homeland.

Delivering his speech at Kashmir Solidarity Day rally here he said the people of Kashmir had been raising their voice against slavery since 1931 during the Dogra rule.

Paying tributes to the

sacrifices of the Kashmiri people, he said their fourth generation was waging struggle against Indian oppression and the time was not far when they will get rid of illegal Indian occupation. He said that at the time of partition of the subcontinent, India illegally annexed the state of Jammu and Kashmir.

He said, "United Nations through its several resolutions had promised to hold a free plebiscite so that they can decide whether they would join Pakistan or India."

People of IIOJ&K

were constantly raising their voice for their right to self-determination.

The minister strongly condemning Kashmiris genocide at the hands of Indian occupation forces, said, "India cannot be allowed to turn Kashmir into a graveyard."

He reiterated, "Pakistan always stood with the Kashmiri people for their right to self-determination and it would continue its moral, diplomatic and political support for their just cause till realization of their dream of freedom from Indian clutches."

Minister lauds Pakistan Rangers' performance, professionalism

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Federal Minister for Interior, Dr Gohar Ijaz on Monday visited the Pakistan Rangers (Punjab) headquarters and appreciated the professionalism and performance of the Rangers.

Director General Pakistan Rangers Punjab Major General Atif bin Akram welcomed the interior minister, who placed the flowers on the martyrs' memorial and recited Fatiha, said

a news release issued here.

The interior minister offered a special prayer for the martyrs of Kashmir in connection with Kashmir Solidarity Day besides the Rangers Martyrs. He was briefed on the professional affairs of Pakistan Rangers Punjab.

Major General Atif bin Akram said that Pakistan Rangers Punjab will leave no stone unturned in the performance of professional duties.



JEDDAH: The OIC Secretary General, H.E. Hissein Taha graced the Kashmir Solidarity Day event as a 'Chief Guest', organized by the Permanent Mission of Pakistan to OIC at the OIC Secretariat.

Bilawal vows to change Karachi's fortune in five years if PPP elected

KARACHI (INP): Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Chairman Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari on Monday stated that if the people of Karachi elected PPP candidates from at least 20 National Assembly seats, the city's landscape will change within five years.

The Pakistan's financial capital 22 and 47 national and provincial assembly seats, respectively.

As part of his electoral campaign, Bilawal addressed the public in various areas of Karachi today, delivering speeches in the form of rallies.

Speaking at a gathering in Keamari's PT Ground, he expressed his vision for the city,

emphasising the potential changes that could occur if the people choose PPP representatives.

"If the people of Karachi elect my representatives, then like local government, the provincial government will also be in our hands, and with your votes, even the federal government will be in our hands," Bilawal declared during his speech.

"Give 20 [NA] seats to PPP, and then within five years, we will change Karachi. We will form our government at the federal level and work on historic projects in Karachi. This city will be given representation as it deserves."



ISLAMABAD: Special Assistant to Prime Minister for Human Rights and Women Empowerment, Mushaah Hussain Mullick addressing at a poster exhibition organized by National College of Arts (NCA) in connection with Kashmir Solidarity Day.

Streets of Barcelona, Paris echo with 'Free Kashmir' & 'Free Palestine' slogans

ISLAMABAD (APP): The streets of Barcelona, in a powerful display of unity, echoed with 'Free Kashmir' and 'Free Palestine' slogans as the Kashmiri diaspora and their allies gathered for the annual 'Kashmir Solidarity Day' march.

According to Kashmir Media Service, the event, organized by leaders such as Fahim Kayani of Tehreek-e-Kashmir UK, drew attention to the intertwined struggles of Kashmiris and Palestinians for self-determination.

Fahim Kayani, addressing the crowd, stressed the common goal of liberation from illegal occupations. He highlighted the historical ties between the occupied territories, where India and Israel, as occupiers and allies, have faced united resistance.

British MP Yasmin

Qureshi lent her support, affirming the right to self-determination for Kashmiris under international law. She pledged to advocate for their cause in the British Parliament and called for a ceasefire to alleviate the suffering in both Kashmir and Gaza.

Safa Chaudry, a Spanish human rights activist, passionately spoke about the shared resistance against occupation forces in Kashmir and Palestine. She confidently asserted that the oppressors would fail, as the global community stood firmly with the aspirations of both regions.

Turgay Evers, a Turkish songwriter, and various leaders, along with representatives from Pakistan and Spain, reiterated their commitment to the ongoing struggle.

PPP slams threats hurled by PML-N's Ataulah Tarar

ISLAMABAD (INP): Slamming PML-N candidate from a Lahore constituency Ataulah Tarar for hurling threats at her party's voters, PPP Senator Palwasha Khan on Monday asked the PML-N to make its stance clear on its leader's aggressive language.

Addressing a press conference in Islamabad, she appealed to the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) to take notice of the PML-N leader's language.

She said the reason why Tarar had resorted to such tactics was because he knew fully well that he would taste defeat in the elections.

She claimed that the PML-N had the habit of purchasing votes.

"Do you think that you can browbeat the PPP by hurling threats?" Palwasha asked the PML-N candidate.

It appeared, she went on to say, as if Tarar had watched an Indian movie.

"The language he is using is not expected from a civilized man," she added.

The PPP senator said that Tarar should be mindful of the fact that the people hold the PML-N accountable in the elections.

OIC reiterates call for peaceful settlement of Kashmir issue as per UNSC resolutions

JEDDAH (APP): The Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) on Monday reiterated its call for a just and peaceful settlement of the Kashmir issue in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the United Nations Security Council.

OIC Secretary-General Hissein Taha said this while addressing at a photo exhibition held in the OIC premises to highlight gross human rights violations in the Indian illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IOJK).

Taha also expressed the OIC's pleasure in hosting the event organized by the Permanent Mission of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan to the OIC on the occasion of "Kashmir Solidarity Day".

He reiterated the call for the full implementation of the relevant UN resolutions, which emphasized the right to self-determination for the people of Kashmir.

The secretary-general recalled that during the 49th session of the Council of

Foreign Ministers held in March last year in Nouakchott, Islamic Republic of Mauritania, the Council urged India to reverse all illegal and unilateral measures taken on or after 5th August 2019; stop the gross, systematic and widespread human rights abuses in the Indian occupied Jammu and Kashmir; and allow unrestricted access to UN Special Procedures, international media and independent observers to visit the occupied Jammu and Kashmir.

He also reiterated the message that the OIC remained fully committed to working with all relevant stakeholders to find a peaceful and just solution that respects the rights and aspirations of the deserving people of Kashmir.

Work continues on restoration of diversion on Hub river bridge

ISLAMABAD (APP): The work has been started on restoration of the diversion built on the Hub river bridge in Hub, on war footing grounds.

According to the Assistant Commissioner Hub, Syed Samiullah Agha, the heavy machinery has been made available at the site after the flood water recedes in the area.

The Assistant Commissioner Hub visited the

site along with Deputy Director of National Highway Authority (NHA) Muhammad Sami.

Speaking on the occasion, the Assistant Commissioner said that work has been started on restoration of the diversion passage of the Hub river affected due to the recent rains.

He said that the administration is taking steps for resolving the public issues in Hub.



LAHORE: Jamat-e-Islami (JI) Chief, Siraj-ul-Haq joins hands with other leaders during demonstration rally to express solidarity with the people of Indian occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IOJK) and condemn brutality of Indian Army in Kashmir on the occasion of "Kashmir Solidarity Day", held at Mall road in Lahore.

General elections should be peaceful in country, insists Senator Allama Sajid Mir

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Ameer of Markazi Jamiat Ahle Hadith, Senator Allama Sajid Mir has stressed that the upcoming general elections should be conducted peacefully and the democratic government is need of the country.

Senator Sajid Mir was addressing a press conference here at the Quetta press club on Monday.

On the occasion, the candidate of Jamiat Ahle Hadith, Maulana Masood Madni announced to withdraw in favour of JUI Chief Maulana Fazalur Rehman on the NA-265.

Senator Sajid Mir said attempts were made to create hatred in the elections.

Referring withdrawal of candidate of his party, Sajid Mir mentioned that Maulana Madni has with-

drawn his candidature on request of Maulana Abdul Ghafoor Haideri.

Referring the Kashmiri solidarity day, Sajid Mir said that the voice of Islamic world on the Kashmir issue is just silent, which is questionable. He stressed the need to resolve the Kashmir issue in accordance with the resolutions of United Nations.

He also condemned the barbarism of Israel against the Palestinians saying that no one took action on the cruelties unleashed against the innocent Palestinians.

He also stressed the need to resolve the issue of missing persons in the province.

He urged the concerned authorities to punish those if committed crime against the state.

IPP wants a stable govt after general polls: Tareen

LODHARAN (INP): Istehkam-e-Pakistan Party (IPP) Chief Jahangir Khan Tareen has said that IPP wanted a stable government after general elections 2024 which must complete its five-year term.

Addressing an election rally in Lodhran on Monday, Jahangir Tareen wished that as a result of the general elections a strong government should be formed as a weak one always caused problems and uncertainty in the country.

He said the culture of rumors against the governments in Pakistan is not a good omen and desired a government which must complete its five years in office.

Jahangir Tareen said this time Lodhran election will be historic and the IPP will win with big margin. Elaborating his political agenda if voted into power, Tareen reaffirmed that his party would work on improving economic indicators to address unemployment as well as increase the salaries of those who are already employed.

Faculty members of Pak, China Vocational Institute to get training from China

GWADAR (INP): Pakistan China Vocational and Technical Institute (PCV&TI) has announced to send its faculty members (lecturers and instructors) to China for a 6-month training program in March this year.

Shandong Institute of Commerce and Technology, which is among the four stakeholders of the Institute will host the visiting faculty, according to a report published by Gwadar Pro on Monday. Last month the Institute had hired the services of 16 teachers in fields of Maritime Business and Port Management, Software/Information Technology, E-commerce, Tourism and Hotel Management, Electrical Engineering, Mechanical engineering, English, Mathematics, Statistics and Chinese language.