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dailyindish@gmail.com Chief Editor: Syed Farooq Shah www.dailyindependent.com.pk Gwadar

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All Parties Conference held Pakistan calls for end to Israeli atrocities in Gaza on war footing

ISLAMABAD (APP): Political parties from across Pakistan came together on Monday at the All Parties Conference (APC) at the President House, and passed a forceful declaration condemning Israel's ongoing aggression in Gaza and expressing unwavering support for the Palestinian people.

Representatives from all major political parties, reflecting a wide cross-section of Pakistani society, raised their voices in solidarity with Palestine, calling for an immediate ceasefire and urgent international action.

The APC was also attended by President Asif Ali Zardari and Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif.

The declaration issued at the end of the Conference said "We, the representatives of the political parties of Pakistan, representing a cross-section of Pakistani society, met today to express the following with one voice".

The parties stated their deep concern at the continuing brutal aggression and genocide being committed by Israel against the Palestinians, despite repeated calls for ceasefire from the Organization of Islamic Conference (OIC), UN General Assembly, UN Security Council, the International Court of Justice (ICJ), and the international community.

Furthermore, the parties also expressed their profound alarm at the impunity with which Israel is expanding the war theatre and threatening regional peace and security, and its continuing violations of international law and the UN Charter, including its recent aggression against Lebanon, attacks in the West Bank, the assassinations of leader of Hamas in Tehran and the Secretary General of Hezbollah in Lebanon, which constitutes a threat to regional peace and security.

"We express our unwavering support for the inalienable right of the people of Palestine and Kashmir to self-determination; and for the relevant OIC and UN resolutions on Palestine that call for the withdrawal of Israeli forces from the occupied Palestinian territories, and for a peaceful and negotiated solution to the conflict," the declaration added.

Recalling the resolution titled "Condemnation of Israeli oppression and Brutality against people of Palestine" adopted by the National Assembly of Pakistan in its session held on 2nd August 2024, as well as other relevant resolutions adopted by the Parliament of Pakistan, the All Parties Conference expressed its unequivocal condemnation in the strongest possible terms of Israel's genocidal campaign that has resulted in the loss of over 42,000 lives, mostly women and children, as well as grievous injury to over 96,000 Palestinians, in addition to the widespread destruction and displacement of nearly the entire population of Gaza;

The APC also condemned Israeli attacks against schools, hospitals, places of worship, shelters and refugee camps and its killing of aid workers and journalists in unprecedented numbers and in complete violation of international humanitarian law;

It also demanded an immediate and unconditional ceasefire and end to brutalities against the Palestinian people; lifting of the siege of Gaza; provision of unimpeded humanitarian, and medical aid; and to hold Israel accountable for its violations of international law, war crimes and acts of genocide;



ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, PML-N Quaid Nawaz Sharif and PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari attending All Parties Conference (APC) on Palestine and Gaza held at Aiwan-e-Sadr

Visits Chinese embassy to condole over Karachi incident Perpetrators of Karachi attack sworn enemies of Pakistan: PM

ISLAMABAD (APP): The prime minister, in a statement on his X timeline, also prayed for the early recovery of the injured.

He said that an immediate investigation was underway to identify the perpetrators and bring them to justice.

Meanwhile Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Monday

visited the Chinese Embassy, where he met the Chinese Ambassador Jiang Zaidong to offer his heartfelt condolences over the loss of Chinese citizens' lives in a terrorist attack in Karachi.

The prime minister expressed deep sorrow and anger over the loss of Chinese citizens in the terrorist attack.

"The government is fully mobilized to swiftly identify those responsible for this incident," the prime minister said.

He assured that after identifying those responsible, they will be brought to justice without delay.

"The protection of the lives and property of our Chinese brothers in Pakistan is our top priority," he added.

The prime minister emphasized the government will not tolerate this heinous conspiracy aimed at damaging Pakistan-China relations.

He said he will personally monitor the investigation of this incident assuring that security arrangements for foreign nationals would be further strengthened.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif visiting the Chinese Embassy in Islamabad to offer his heartfelt condolences over the loss of Chinese citizens' lives in a terrorist attack in Karachi.

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He on the occasion directed to ensure merit in the Youth Skills Development Programme at every level.

He said that the future of Balochistan depends on provision of livelihood to the youth by utilizing their positive capabilities.

He said that the required resources would be provided for implementation on the CM Youth Skills Development Programme as surely thousands of youngsters would get the opportunities of respectable livelihood abroad.



QUETTA: Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfaraz Ahmed Bugti presiding over a meeting to review progress of Chief Minister Youth Skills Development Programme

Visits Chinese Consulate Karachi: Complete protection of Chinese nationals to be ensured, assures Governor

We wouldn't let harm mutual pleasant relations between Pak & China: Mandokhail

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Asif Ali Zardari on Monday condemned the blast took place near Karachi airport on Sunday night in which two Chinese nationals were killed.

He expressed his deep grief over the killing of Chinese nationals and conveyed condolence to the bereaved families.

He said that the anti-state elements were poised to damage Pakistan's progress and prosperity.

Sympathizing with the victim families, President Zardari emphasised the effective action against the perpetrators of the attack.

President condemns Karachi blast, killing Chinese nationals

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Seven terrorists killed in Mianwali CTD operation

MIANWALI (INP): Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) police on Sunday night claimed to have eliminated seven terrorists near Makarwal.

According to CTD sources, an intelligence-based operation (IBO) was conducted in the area.

In an exchange of fire between the militants and the CTD personnel, seven Khawarij terrorists were sent to hell whereas their eight accomplices escaped under the cover darkness, the sources said. Read more: Two terrorist attacks repulsed in Mianwali Six hand-grenades, seven Kalashnikovs, bullets and explosives were seized from the possession of the outlaws.

A search operation was launched to arrest the fleeing militants. Dead bodies were shifted to hospital for autopsy. The terrorists had a plan to carry out massive destruction in Punjab.

No corruption, commission and safarish tolerable: CM directs to finalize Youth Skills Development Programme; send 1st batch to abroad by end October

QUETTA: The Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Sarfaraz Bugti has directed to the concerned authorities to finalize the CM Youth Skills Development Programme at the earliest and send first batch of youngsters to abroad by end of this (October) month.

The Chief Minister was presiding over a meeting to review progress of the CM Youth Skills Development Programme here on Monday.

Those who were present in the meeting were included: Chief Secretary, Shakeel Qadir Khan, besides other concerned high ups.

The meeting reviewed in detail the progress on the CM Youth Skills Development Programme.

Addressing the meeting, Chief Minister mentioned that CM Youth Skills Development Programme is the very big project of history of the province and adding asserted that no corruption, commission and safarish is tolerable in its implementation.

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PTI founder banned from meeting family, lawyers

RAWAPINDI (INP): Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder Imran Khan has been banned from meeting his family, lawyers, and party leaders at Adiala Jail, where he is currently incarcerated. According to media reports, jail authorities have cited security concerns as the reason for this ban.

It revealed that the ban on meetings imposed by the Punjab government will be in place until October 18 and will also apply to other prisoners at Adiala Jail.

Earlier, Security agencies expanded investigations and arrested six more members of the jail staff over aiding PTI founder.

The detained staff members of the jail also included three women, sources said. "The detained jail employees have been included a sweeper, two lady wardens and three CCTV monitoring personnel," sources said.

Security officials taken mobile phones of the employees in their custody. "Women staffers were exchanging messages between Bushra Bibi and the PTI's founder," sources said.

Former Adiala jail deputy superintendent Zafar Iqbal recently returned home after his arrest on charges of aiding former prime minister Imran Khan, sources said.

Executive, judiciary bound to obey top court's orders under constitution: CJP

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chief Justice of Pakistan Qazi Faez Isa on Monday remarked that executive and judiciary are bound to obey the orders of Supreme Court under the constitution.

The top court withdrew the contempt of court notice against Luqman Ali Afzal, the owner of a private restaurant in margalla hills national park.

During hearing, the lawyer of Monal Restaurant's owner pleaded that private restaurant building in Margalla Hills was demolished. We had offered that the building should be used by the government, he said. The CJP questioned that what will animals do with the building in the national park.

Apparently the injunction was issued by the lower court against the demolishing of illegal structure in defying the top court's order, he said.

The court referred the case of the judge who issued a stay order against the demolition of illegal structures in Margalla Hills to the Islamabad High Court (IHC). The top court asked the IHC to view if there is any need to take any action on this matter.



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of the Russian Federation, Albert P. Khorev calls on Federal Minister for Defence, Defence Production and Aviation, Khawaja Muhammad Asif.



KARACHI: A view of the cordoned-off area where the wreckage of destroyed vehicles lies following a deadly explosion near Karachi Airport occurred late Sunday night.

Romina for working together with provinces to tackle climate challenges

QUETTA (APP): Coordinator to Prime Minister for Climate Change and Environment Romina Khurshid Alam on Monday said that she was striving to work together with all provinces to tackle the climate challenges, forests and wildlife in country.

She said that Federal government was also paying special attention on durable development of Balochistan.

She expressed these views while chairing a meeting held on the occasion of a visit to the office of the Department of Forests and Wildlife in Quetta.

Secretary Forests and Wildlife Dostain Jamaludin, Chief Conservator North Muhammad Aslam, Chief Conservator Masroor Jamal Kakar, Chief Conservator Shariuddin Baloch, Wildlife Project Director Niaz Muhammad Kakar, Forestry Project Director Imran Khan and others were also present on the occasion. Addressing the meeting, she said that there is a need to strengthen linkages at the federation and inter-provincial levels.

We should work on the best projects for the interest of our country and people, she said.

Romina Khurshid Alam said that Balochistan has always been her priority since the Department of Climate Change has taken over the charge and the environment is working as a team.



QUETTA: Coordinator of Prime Minister for Climate Change and Environment Romina Khurshid Alam presiding over a meeting during her visit to Forest and Wildlife Department

To avoid the country spiraling into chaos. Achakzai demands immediate release of all political prisoners

By Sardar Khondai QILLA SAIFULLAH: Chairman of Pashtunkhwa Milli Awami Party and head of the Movement for the Protection of Pakistan's Constitution, Mahmood Khan Achakzai, has issued a stark warning that the country could head toward civil war if political prisoners, including former Prime Minister Imran Khan, are not released immediately.

Speaking at a public gathering commemorating the October 7 "Martyrs of Democracy" and the October 11 "Martyrs of the Nation," Achakzai condemned the government's treatment of political detainees, drawing parallels to the execution of former Prime Minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto.

Achakzai emphasized that political instability and uncertainty in Pakistan will persist as long as the military remains involved in politics. He stated that he will firmly resist any attempts to amend the Constitution under the guise of reform, cautioning against undermining democratic principles.

Achakzai expresses concern for Imran Khan's safety, warning that his fate may mirror that of Bhutto's if the current trajectory continues.

He further demanded the immediate release of all political prisoners, including PTI members, to avoid the country spiraling into chaos.

Health Minister condemns tragic blast near Karachi Airport

QUETTA (APP): Balochistan Health Minister Bakht Muhammad Kakar on Monday strongly condemned the tragic explosion near Karachi Airport. Expressing deep sorrow and regret over this tragedy, he said that such cowardly acts could not affect long-standing friendly relations between Pakistan and China.

Provincial Health Minister Bakht Muhammad Kakar said that the Pakistan government and the people of Balochistan expressed sympathy and condolences with the families of the victims.



QUETTA: Provincial Ministers Mir Sadiq Umrani, Nawabzada Tariq Magsi and MPA Mir Zabid Reki meeting with Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfaraz Ahmed Bugti

'Don't lecture us, fix your own domestic problems,' Pakistan to Afghanistan

ISLAMABAD (INP): Pakistan on Monday categorically rejected a statement by the Afghan foreign ministry regarding the political situation in the country, asking the Afghan interim government (AIG) to focus on fixing its own domestic problems instead of lecturing a democratic country.

In a statement today, Foreign Office spokesperson Muntaz Zahra Baloch rejected the "frivolous" statement made by the spokesperson of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Afghanistan on Sunday calling it an "unacceptable" and "deplorable" interference in the domestic affairs of Pakistan.

"Instead of lecturing a democratic country, the AIG should focus on fixing its own domestic problems; prioritize inclusivity; and be responsive to needs and aspirations of its own people including the right to education for women and girls rather than curtailing their rights through misguided interpretation of religion," the spokesperson said.

Maryam inaugurates transport program for women in girls' colleges

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif inaugurated Chief Minister Transport Programme for Women with 76 buses for girls' colleges across Punjab.

Nineteen buses were given to women's colleges under the programme in phase-1. The CM on Monday during a ceremony met the students of women's colleges, who presented her a bouquet. The CM called the girls students on stage while inaugurating the transport programme. She handed over keys of buses to the principals of 19 women's colleges. Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz inspected the buses, and evaluated a proposal to provide air-conditioned buses for girls' colleges. She was briefed in detail by Secretary Higher Education Dr. Farrukh Naved about the Program. The CM was apprised that buses would be provided to 76 colleges in Punjab in three phases.

In the first phase, buses have been given to 19 tehsils deprived of transport. These tehsils include: Bhakkar, Sialkot, Chiniot Kamalia, Hasilpur, Malakwal, Ferozewala, Shorekot, Jatoi, Fateh Jang, Hasan Abdal, Kot Momin, Jalalpur Pirwala, Kallar Syedan, Pindi Ghep, Manchanabad and Sharqpur. In the second phase, girls colleges of Nowshera Virkan, Dina, Yazman, Pindi Bhattian, Lalian, Bhawana, Kot Addu, Taxila, Sarai Alamgir and Pellaan would get buses.



LAHORE: Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif along with students of Girls College inaugurate Chief Minister Transport Program for Women.

Punjab Governor says: Pakistan attaches great importance to bilateral relations with Australia

LAHORE (APP): Australian High Commissioner Neil Hawkins on Monday called on Punjab Governor Sardar Saleem Haider Khan and discussed climate change, education, agriculture, dairy sector and promotion of bilateral relations in the field of sports during a meeting at the Governor's House.

The Governor Punjab said that Pakistan attaches great importance to bilateral relations with Australia, adding that Pakistan wants to collaborate with Australia to develop agriculture sector on modern lines.

He said Pakistan wants to enhance bilateral relations with Australia in education, livestock, agriculture, science and technology.

He said that a large number of Pakistani students are studying in Australian universities.

The Governor Punjab hailed the Australian government's initiative of giving scholarships to Pakistani students.

Sardar Saleem Haider further said climate change is a big problem and underscored the need that Australia and Pakistan should work together to deal with it.



LAHORE: Chairman Prime Minister Youth Program Rana Mashood Ahmad Khan addressing the Annual Voluntary Congress Seminar of Ali Institute of Education.

Constable shot dead over marriage dispute

FAISALABAD (APP): A police constable was shot dead over marriage dispute in the area of Chak Jhumra police station, here on Monday.

Police spokesman said that one constable Shahid Haleem r/o Chak No. 191-RB Malloani Harlan was purchasing daily use items from a shop when his rivals opened fire at him. As a result, the constable received serious bullet injuries and was rushed to hospital but in vain as he breathed his last amid intensive care treatment.

LDA seals 60 properties for illegal commercial use

LAHORE (APP): The Lahore Development Authority (LDA) on Monday sealed 60 properties in its ongoing operation against illegal commercial use and non-payment of commercial fees.

According to a spokesman for the authority, the town planning wing had successfully sealed over five dozen properties of the provincial capital.

LDA teams focused their efforts on Johar Town, Khayaban-e-Firdousi and surrounding regions, sealing two dozen illegal commercial properties, including well-known restaurants, food outlets, showrooms, bakeries, and cafes.

The operation was conducted under the supervision of Chief Town Planner-II Azhar Ali and directed by Ali Nurat, the Director of Town Planning Zone IV.

Previously, LDA teams had targeted properties on Multan Road and in Gulberg, sealing approximately three dozen properties in total. On Multan Road alone, a dozen illegal commercial properties were sealed. Additionally, teams from Town Planning Zone III took action in Gulberg, sealing two dozen properties involved in illegal commercial use and outstanding commercial fees.

2 killed over land dispute in Lakki Marwat

LAKKI MARWAT (APP): A father and son were gunned down on Monday in the Wanda Zarif area of Lakki Marwat.

The police reached the spot immediately after the incident was reported. The police officials said that the first information report (FIR) was lodged against the killers and further investigation is underway.

No one can stop Pak from progress: Rana Mashood

LAHORE (APP): Prime Minister's Youth Program (PMYP) Chairman Rana Mashood Ahmad Khan has said that Pakistan is destined to progress and no force can derail it from the path of progress and prosperity.

Addressing the prize distribution ceremony of the Annual Volunteers Congress (VCON) at the Ali Auditorium, Ferozepur Road here on Monday, he said, "Our forefathers made innumerable sacrifices for the creation of Pakistan and it is the responsibility of the youth to preserve this land from all challenges in all sectors including health."

Rana Mashood Khan said Pakistan's detractors have made efforts to turn Pakistan into a failed state, adding that their efforts will end in smoke.

He said the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) summit is going to be held in Pakistan next week in Islamabad.

PPP KP Assembly demands removal of CM

PESHAWAR (APP): Parliamentary leader of Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP), in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Assembly Ahmad Karim Kundi on Monday calls for Chief Minister's resignation.

Addressing press conference, outside KP Assembly Hall, Ahmad Karim Kundi said that the chief minister is mentally retarded and not suitable for this post.

He described the Chief Minister as a "self-imposed absentee" and accused him of evading accountability during a crucial time for the province. Kundi emphasized the urgency of convening a meeting of the Council of Common Interests within the next 90 days, which he claimed had not been called, further undermining governance.

He pointed out the deteriorating law and order situation in the southern districts, saying that the Chief Minister failed to communicate with anyone during his periods of absence. "He talks about traversing 12 districts, but that is simply unbelievable," Kundi asserted, insisting that the sensitive province needs a serious and engaged leader not a film star.

ATC sends 129 PTI workers to jail on judicial remand

LAHORE (APP): An anti-terrorism court (ATC) on Monday sent 129 Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) workers, involved in the October 5 violence, to jail on a 14-day judicial remand. Earlier, the police produced the accused workers before ATC Judge Irfan Haider and sought their physical remand. The police submitted that the custody of the accused was required for recovery and investigations.

In response, the counsel for the accused opposed the remand plea and requested the court to discharge their clients.

"Act on emergency basis" health minister directs for anti dengue measures

RAWALPINDI (APP): Punjab Health Minister, Khawaja Salman Rafique has directed the district administration to utilize all resources in the fight against dengue issues which has hit with accelerated momentum.

"Act on an emergency basis as our top priority is to reduce the dengue outbreak in Rawalpindi," said the minister while charging a meeting to review the recent dengue situation. He directed the administration to further accelerate and widen the outgoing awareness campaigns along with strict surveillance and monitoring.

Salman Rafique urged the public representatives to consistently visit their constituencies for a regular eye on the situational developments of dengue.

He said that CM Maryam Nawaz has been reviewing the dengue situation in the district and has directed the public representatives to play their due role in the dengue eradication. He further observed that the dengue issue could be completely defeated by the support of citizens.

International News

Israeli strikes batter Beirut in heaviest bombardment so far

Monitoring Desk

BEIRUT: Israeli air attacks battered Beirut's southern suburbs overnight in the most intense bombardment of the Lebanese capital since Israel sharply escalated its campaign against Iran-backed group Hezbollah last month. During the night, the blasts sent booms across Beirut and sparked flashes of red and white for nearly 30 minutes visible from several kilometres away. It was the single biggest attack of Israel's assault on Beirut so far, witnesses and military analysts on local TV channels said.

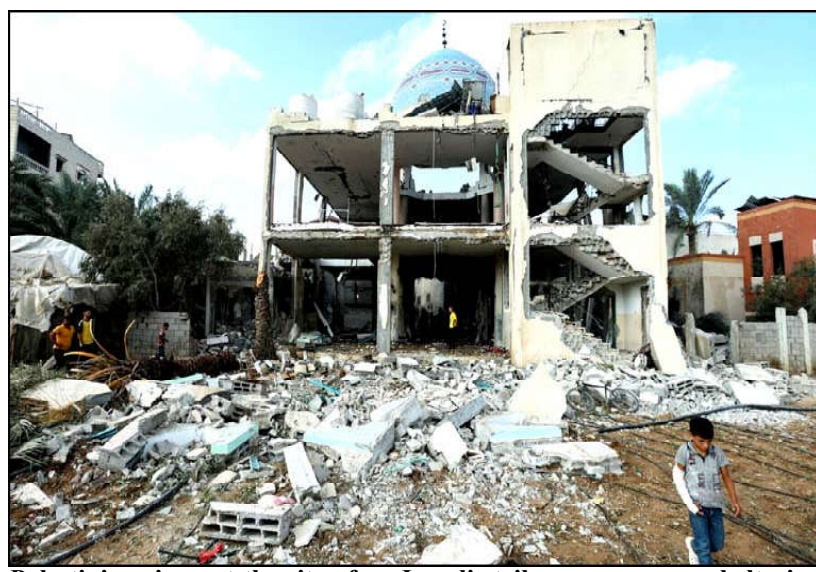
On Sunday a grey haze hung over the city and rubble was strewn across streets in the southern suburbs, while smoke columns rose over the area. "Last night was the most violence of all the previous nights. Buildings were shaking around us and at first I thought it was an earthquake. There were dozens of strikes - we couldn't count them all - and the sounds were deafening," said Hanan Abdullah, a resident of the Burj al-Barajneh area in Beirut's southern suburbs.

Videos posted on social media, which Reuters could not immediately verify, showed fresh damage to the highway that runs from Beirut airport through its southern suburbs into downtown.

Israel said its air force had "conducted a series of targeted strikes on a number of weapons storage facilities and terrorist infrastructure sites belonging to the Hezbollah terrorist organization in the area of Beirut". Lebanese authorities did not immediately say what the missiles had hit or what damage they caused.

This weekend's intense bombardment came just ahead of the anniversary of the October 7 attack by Palestinian militant group Hamas on southern Israel in which some 1,200 people were killed and more than 250 taken hostage, according to Israeli figures.

The target of Israel's airstrikes across Lebanon and its ground invasion in the south of the country is the Lebanese armed group Hezbollah, Iran's chief ally in the region. More than 2,000 people have been killed in nearly a year of fighting, most of them in the past two weeks, according to the Lebanese health ministry. The ministry said on Sunday that 23 people had been killed on Saturday. The United Nations' refugee chief said on Sunday that there were "many instances" where Israeli airstrikes had violated international law by hitting civilian infrastructure and killing civilians in Lebanon.



Palestinians inspect the site of an Israeli strike on a mosque sheltering displaced people, in Deir Al-Balah, in the central Gaza Strip.

26 killed in Israeli strike on Gaza mosque, school

Monitoring Desk

GAZA/CAIRO: At least 26 people were killed and 93 others wounded when Israeli airstrikes hit a mosque and a school sheltering displaced people in the Gaza Strip early on Sunday, the Gaza government media office said.

Palestinian health officials said at least another 20 people had been killed since Saturday night in northern Gaza.

The Israeli military alleged there were command and control centres of Hamas in Ibn Rushd School and the Shuhada al-Aqsa Mosque, in the area of Deir al-Balah in central Gaza.

The mosque has been here for 20 years, and the neighbourhood has displaced people. "imam Ahmed Fleet said.

The Hamas-run Gaza government media office said Israel had struck 27 houses, schools and displacement shelters across Gaza in the past 48 hours.

Medics said an Israeli airstrike killed three Palestinians in Rafah, near the border with Egypt, where Israeli forces have been operating since May. The Israeli army on Saturday issued new evacuation orders in parts of Nuseirat camp in the central Gaza Strip forcing families to flee.

Palestinian and UN officials say no place in the enclave is safe, including the humanitarian zones.

Cash-strapped Maldives president in India to repair frail ties

Monitoring Desk

NEW DELHI: Maldives President Mohamed Muizzu was given a red carpet welcome on his first state visit to India Monday, as Prime Minister Narendra Modi marked a "new chapter" to reset troubled ties.

Pro-China Muizzu came to power a year ago on a promise to evict dozens of Indian troops deployed in his small but strategically located archipelago.

Most South Asian leaders are invited to New Delhi soon after they assume office, but it has taken almost a year for India to accord Muizzu a state visit.

India however on Monday rolled out financial support to bolster Male's struggling economy, with Muizzu and Modi discussing "energy, trade, financial linkages and defence cooperation", India's foreign ministry said.

Khamenei decorates commander for Israel attack

Monitoring Desk

TEHRAN: Iran's supreme leader has decorated the Revolutionary Guards aerospace commander for the Islamic republic's missile attacks on arch-foe Israel, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei's website said on Sunday.

"Ayatollah Khamenei presented the Order of Fath ("Conquest" in Farsi) to General Amirali Hajizadeh, commander of the Guards Aerospace Force," it said.

Hajizadeh, 62, has headed the Guards aerospace unit since its creation in 2009.

US scientist duo win Nobel for gene regulation breakthrough

Monitoring Desk

WASHINGTON: US scientists Victor Ambros and Gary Ruvkun won the Nobel Prize in Medicine on Monday for their discovery of microRNA and its role in how genes are regulated.

Understanding the regulation of gene activity has been an important goal for decades, the Nobel jury said.

If gene regulation goes awry, it can lead to serious diseases such as cancer, diabetes, or autoimmunity.

Their groundbreaking discovery revealed a completely new principle of gene regulation that turned out to be essential for multicellular organisms, including humans," the jury said.

Collaborating but working separately, the pair conducted research on a 1-millimetre roundworm, *C. elegans*, to determine why cell mutations occurred and when.

They discovered microRNA, a new class of tiny RNA molecules that play a crucial role in gene regulation, which in turn allows each cell to select only relevant instructions.

Their findings were published in two articles in 1993. "The seminal discovery of microRNA has introduced a new and unexpected mechanism of gene regulation," Thomas Perlmann, secretary general of the Nobel Assembly, told reporters.

"MicroRNAs are important for our understanding of embryological development, normal cell physiology and diseases such as cancer," he said. Ambros, 70, is a professor at the University of Massachusetts medical school while Ruvkun, 72, is a professor at Harvard Medical School.

The pair will receive their Nobel prize, consisting of a diploma, a gold medal and a \$1 million cheque, from King Carl XVI Gustaf in Stockholm on December 10, the anniversary of the 1896 death of scientist Alfred Nobel who created the prizes in his last will and testament. Last year, the medicine prize went to Katalin Kariko and Drew Weissman for work on messenger RNA (mRNA) technology that paved the way for Covid-19 vaccines.

Saudi king to undergo medical tests for lung infection: royal court

Monitoring Desk

RIYADH: Saudi Arabia's King Salman has a lung infection and was set to undergo medical tests on Sunday night, the Royal Court said in the latest update on the ageing monarch's health.

King Salman "will undergo some medical tests this evening, ...based on the recommendations of the royal clinics, due to a lung infection," said the statement carried by the official Saudi Press Agency.

The 88-year-old king has been on the throne since 2015, though his son, Mohammed bin Salman, 39, was named crown prince in 2017 and acts as day-to-day ruler.

Saudi Arabia, the world's biggest crude oil exporter, has for years sought to quell speculation over King Salman's health. The monarch's well-being is rarely discussed, but the Royal Court disclosed in May that he was undergoing a treatment programme involving antibiotics after he was admitted to hospital for tests. Soon after it announced he had recovered.

The previous month he was admitted for "routine examinations" and left later the same day.

Prior to that, he was hospitalised in May 2022, when he went in for a colonoscopy and stayed for just over a week for other tests and "some time to rest", the official Saudi Press Agency reported at the time.

He was also admitted to hospital in March 2022 to undergo what state media described as "successful medical tests" and to change the battery of his pacemaker.

Italian prosecutors accuse 7 people, 2 firms over flawed Boeing plane parts

Monitoring Desk

MILAN: Italian prosecutors on Saturday accused seven people and two sub-contractors of crimes including fraud and breaching airplane safety rules following an investigation into suspected flawed parts produced by an Italian company for Boeing.

The prosecutors launched their investigation in late 2021, opens new tab after Boeing said some parts for its 787 Dreamliner plane supplied by a company working for Italian aerospace group Leonardo (LDOF.MI), opens new tab had been improperly manufactured. Investigators found that two Italian sub-contractors used cheaper and non-compliant forms of titanium and aluminium to make certain parts, saving significant sums of money on their raw material costs.

Trump on the stump, Harris hits airwaves in razor-edge US election

Monitoring Desk

WASHINGTON: With just one month left in a deadlocked US presidential election, Donald Trump headed to the battleground state of Wisconsin on Sunday, as rival Kamala Harris kicked off a week-long media blitz.

Polls have the Republican and Democrat candidates neck and neck, fueling a high-cost, high-intensity scramble for each and every wavering voter in the seven key states that are likely to decide the outcome on Nov 5.

Trump lost Wisconsin in 2020 and this will be his fourth visit in eight days. Harris was there earlier this week, holding a rally in Ripon, birthplace of the Republican Party, where she appealed to moderate and disgruntled conservatives.

Trump's visit comes on the back of a theatrical campaign return on Saturday to the same venue in Butler, Pennsylvania, where he narrowly avoided a would-be assassin's bullet back in July.

France to host Lebanon aid conference

Monitoring Desk

PARIS: France will host an international conference this month to help drum up humanitarian aid for Lebanon and strengthen security in the southern part of the country, French President Emmanuel Macron said on Saturday.

"We will hold in the next few weeks a conference to provide humanitarian aid, support the international community, and support the Lebanese armed forces boost security, especially in southern Lebanon," Macron said after a meeting of French-speaking countries in Paris.

Govt to dissolve two authorities of Health Ministry

ISLAMABAD (INP): The government has announced plans to dissolve two authorities under the Health Ministry, sources said on Monday. According to source, the decision will be taken to ensure cost-cutting measures and streamlining healthcare services.

Sources said that the Islamabad Blood Transfusion Authority and the Human Organ Transplant Authority will be merged with the Islamabad Healthcare Regulatory Authority, resulting in a significant reduction in staff.

Earlier today, the Pakistan government decided to dissolve the Ministry of States and Frontier Regions (SAFRON).

The SAFRON ministry will be merged into the Ministry of Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit-Baltistan (GB), following recommendations from the Rightsizing Committee.



QUETTA: MPA Maulana Hidayat ur Rehman and others meeting with Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti

GoB appoints 150 religious leaders, 290 FWW to create awareness

QUETTA (APP): Balochistan govt appoints 150 religious leaders including 290 family welfare workers in order to create awareness regarding family planning and to make the delivery service smooth at the union council level.

“Due to the province’s scattered population, the Population Welfare Department is integrating services with the health sector to improve outreach.

The Population Welfare Department has limited resources to expand FP/RH services in rural areas, but it is working closely with the Balochistan Human Capital Investment Program (BHCIP), WHO, and UNFPA to provide services,” said Abdullah Khan, Balochistan Secretary population welfare department.

The rapid population growth increases challenges for the province. Balochistan accounts for 43% of Pakistan’s land area and faces significant challenges, including providing health and education to children, developing infrastruc-

Efficient coordination, development of contingency plans critical for national resilience: PM

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has said that efficient and effective coordination, development of contingency plans and risk communication to farthest communities was critical for national resilience.

“National Resilience Day” is a motivation for us to embrace the best practices and implement policies and strategies aimed at fortifying our nation’s resilience, the prime minister said in a message on the occasion of National Resilience Day. He said the government’s policy initiatives should encompass various sectors, including safe development of infrastructure, improved disaster preparedness, poverty alleviation, safer spatial land use planning, adherence to building codes, efficient water resource management, sound agricultural practices, and increased afforestation nationwide, including coastal areas.

“The 8th of October reminds us of the devastating earthquake of 2005 – a great tragedy that befell upon Pakistan and Azad Jammu & Kashmir. Our heartfelt prayers go to all those who endured loss of lives and properties,” he added. After the devastating 2005 earthquake, the floods of 2022 were a mega disaster surpassing all past records, he said adding that the people and institutions of Pakistan had always shown immense resolve and demonstrated ability to re-surface amidst catastrophes and national crises, induced by climate change and environmental hazards.

He said Pakistan was facing an immense impact of climate change despite not being responsible for it. Frequent recurrence of un-



QUETTA: Advisor on Climate Change and Environment Balochistan, Naseem-Ur-Rehman addresses during the protest demonstration against Israeli cruel and inhumane acts and expressing unity with the innocent people of Palestine, at Assembly Chowk in Quetta.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Interior Mohsin Naqvi in a meeting with Chinese Ambassador Jiang Zaidong in Federal Capital.

Pak assures to apprehend perpetrators of Karachi attack killing Chinese engineers

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan on Monday strongly condemned the heinous terrorist attack near Karachi airport took place on Sunday night killing two Chinese engineers and injuring another, and assured to bring the perpetrators to justice.

“This deplorable act of terrorism is an attack not only on Pakistan but also on the enduring friendship between Pakistan and China... We remain resolute in bringing to justice those responsible for this cowardly attack, including the Majeed Brigade,” Foreign Office spokesperson

Mumtaz Zahra Baloch said in a statement. She said that Pakistan’s security and law enforcement agencies would spare no effort in apprehending the perpetrators and their facilitators.

“This barbaric act will not go unpunished,” she assured. The spokesperson extended deepest condolences and sympathies to the families of the victims, both Chinese and Pakistani, and prayed for the swift recovery of the injured.

She said that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs was in close contact with the Chinese Embassy for coordination and facilitation.



QUETTA: Provincial Education Minister Raheela Hameed Khan Durrani addressing concluding ceremony of All Quetta School Drama Festival

World Karate Combat Champion meets CM: Shahzaib Rind beacon of light for youngsters of Balochistan, maintains Mir Sarfraz Bugti

Chief Minister prays for success of Shahzaib Rind in international karate event to be held in Miami; assures every possible cooperation

Independent Report QUETTA: The Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Sarfraz Bugti has congratulated the world karate combat champion, Shahzaib



Rind on his marvelous victory in the Karate Combat Championship and maintaining the world record.

Pak raising effective voice against Israel’s barbarism: Jan

ISLAMABAD (APP): Secretary General National Party, Senator Jan Muhammad Buledi on Monday said that Pakistan was raising its effective voice on all international forums against Israel’s barbarism and atrocities to impede the genocide of Palestinians. Addressing the All-Parties Conference to express solidarity with Palestinians, the senator said that the main purpose of calling the APC to form a joint strategy.

Ghazala Gola flays Israeli brutalities against Palestinians

Independent Report QUETTA: The Deputy Speaker of Balochistan Assembly, Ms. Ghazala Gola has strongly condemned the Israeli aggression against brutalities unleashed against innocent Palestinians.

In a statement issued here on Monday, the Deputy Speaker expressed sympathy with the aggrieved families of Palestinians and said that we stand by the Palestinians for justice and equality in their hard time and appeal to the world community to cope with the human crisis in Ghaza and Palestine.

She also urged the federal government to make coordinated diplomatic efforts for supporting the Palestine cause.

2 killed, 5 injured as tractor crashes into hotel

Independent Report QUETTA: A tragic incident occurred on Quetta’s Kasi Road, near Khudaidad Chowk, when a speeding tractor lost control and crashed into a hotel, resulting in the deaths of two individuals and injuring five others.

According to police officials, the tractor veered out of control and entered the hotel, causing instant fatalities. The victims were sitting inside the hotel when the accident occurred.

Police responded promptly to the incident and arrested the tractor driver. A case has been registered against the driver.

The injured individuals have been shifted to a nearby hospital for medical treatment, where their condition is reported to be critical. An investigation into the incident is underway to determine the cause of the accident.

Information dept goes digital Secretary Information chairs first ever online meeting via Google Meet

Independent Report QUETTA: In a landmark move, Balochistan’s Information Department held its first-ever online meeting via Google Meet, chaired by Provincial Secretary Information Imran Khan, marking a significant leap towards digital transformation.

The virtual session, attended by Director General Public Relations Noor Kehtran and other officials, aimed to enhance departmental performance, efficiency, and effectiveness in promoting government initiatives.

Imran directed officials to leverage technology for seamless communication, innovative strategies, and timely information dissemination. Key discussions addressed streamlining information, media engagement, and showcasing Balochistan’s development projects, aligning with Pakistan’s Digital Pakistan Initiative and National Digital Policy 2024.

This shift towards digitalization is expected to improve governance, citizen engagement, and economic growth in the province.

District Jail DMJ Firing Incident: Officials suspended over negligence

Independent Report DERA MURAD JAMALI: An inquiry committee has submitted its report to the Inspector General of Prisons regarding the firing incident outside District Jail Dera Murad Jamali, recommending suspension and disciplinary action against officials and wardens found negligent and lax in their duties.

The incident occurred on October 2, when unidentified individuals opened fire on a van transporting prisoners to a court hearing, resulting in the death of three individuals, including a police officer and a prisoner, and injuring two police officers.

The inquiry committee, headed by DIG Ziaullah Khan Train and AIG Admin Shakil Baloch, recorded statements from officials and personnel, gathering evidence to complete the report. The full report will be submitted to the Additional Chief Secretary Home Department for further action.

This incident highlights concerns about prison security and the need for stringent measures to prevent such incidents in the future.



QUETTA: Provincial Minister Mir Zahoor Ahmed Buledi inaugurating Mir Ahmed Bakhsh Lehri Auditorium in Pakistan China Technical Vocational Institute

Buledi inaugurates Mir Ahmed Bakhsh Auditorium in PCT&VI

Independent Report QUETTA: The Provincial Minister for Planning and Development, Mir Zahoor Ahmed Buledi inaugurated the Mir Ahmed Bakhsh Lehri Auditorium in Pakistan China Technical and Vocational Institute (PCT&VI) Gwadar on Monday.

Also present on the occasion were the Chairman Gwadar Port Authority, Pasand Khan Buledi, Pro-Vice Chancellor of Gwadar University and Executive Director, Pak-China Technical and Vocational Institute, Dr. Manzoor Ahmed besides others.

He praised the cooperation of GPA in making the Institute effective.

He stressed on the need of provision of facilities for producing skilled human resource.

He said that this institute is compatible with the development vision of initiatives taken for the CPEC.

He said that Mir Ahmed Bakhsh Lehri Auditorium is equipped with modern facilities. The Auditorium has been designed for arranging educational conferences, seminars and other technical training programmes.

Meanwhile, the Provincial Minister for Planning and Development, Mir Zahoor Ahmed Buledi visited the Pak-China Friendship GDA Indus Hospital in Gwadar.

During the visit, Chief Executive of the Hospital, Dr. Affan briefed the Provincial Minister about overall functioning of the hospital. He also apprised the Minister about the issues being faced by the Hospital including the financial ones.

On non-provision of funds, the Minister P&D contacted the Secretary Finance for release of the funds.

The Secretary Finance released the requisite funds for the hospital on directives of the Minister.



QUETTA: Provincial Minister for Irrigation Mir Muhammad Sadiq Umrani and Provincial Advisor Barkat Rind talking with Provincial Minister PHE Sardar Abdul Rehman Khetran

Imran Khan, Gandapur among PTI leaders booked for vandalism, violence

ISLAMABAD (INP): A case has been registered against several senior leaders of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) for their alleged involvement in acts of vandalism and blockage of GT Road during a recent protest in Islamabad.

The case, filed at Tarnol police station, names prominent PTI figures such as party Founder Imran Khan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur, Chairman Barrister Gohar, opposition leader Omar Ayub, Azam Swati, Amir Mughal, Barrister Saif, and 350 unidentified activists.

The charges against them are severe, including terrorism, attempted murder, and other serious offences. According to the first information report (FIR), the suspects opened fire on police officers, held them hostage, and detained them during the protest. Ali Amin

Medical Technician of one-year diploma course initiated in Jafarabad

QUETTA (APP): Medical Technician series of one-year diploma courses in the fields of Tech, Assistant, Lab Assistant and Technician commenced in Jafarabad area of Nasirabad division under NAVTAC.

According to press release issued on Monday, in the first batch, which was started from July, 100 boys and girls from Naseerabad division, Subhatpur, Jafarabad, Dera Allah-yar, Usta Muhammad, Jhal



QUETTA: A view of traffic jam during 1st winter rain in provincial capital.