

Independent

dailyindisb@gmail.com

Chief Editor: Syed Farooq Shah

www.dailyindependent.com.pk Hub

Ph: 284 1470/2841473 Vol: XIX No. 219, Rabi-us-Sani 04, 1446 AH Tuesday October 08, Pages 04, Price Rs. 15

All Parties Conference held

Pakistan calls for end to Israeli atrocities in Gaza on war footing

APC urges Islamic unity against Israeli aggression in Palestine; President Zardari vows to continue raising Tel Aviv's human rights violations at every forum; PM Shehbaz urges world to act swiftly in stopping Israel from further bloodshed; Bilawal proposes high-power committee to raise voice for oppressed Palestinians; JUI-F does not support two-state solution of Palestine issue; Fazal; Calling for two-state solution tantamount to reversing principled stance: JI chief; MQM-P demands sponsoring Palestinian children in Pakistani universities

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.



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

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 continued 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 Na-

tional 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;

The APC urged the international community to take urgent measures to prevent Israel from further undermining regional peace and stability, including the prevention of Israeli aggression against Lebanon and other regional countries.

In addition it also expressed full support for the ongoing political and diplomatic efforts by the OIC, the League of Arab States, the United Nations, and other brotherly countries in addressing the prevailing situation in Occupied Palestine, as well as for the peace and stability of the broader region.

It called on the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) to convene an Emergency Summit to discuss the situation in Palestine, Israel's brutal aggression in the region and its implications for regional peace and security and underscores the need for unity of the Islamic Ummah.

The APC called for full implementation of the UN General Assembly resolution ES-10/24 of 18 September 2024, which, inter alia, demands an end to Israeli occupation; the provisional measures by the International Court of Jus-

tice (ICJ) that call for preventing Israel from committing further acts of genocide against the Palestinian people; as well as ICJ's Advisory Opinion of 19 July 2024 that reaffirms the illegality of the Israeli occupation;

It also recalled the Joint Communiqué of the Arab-Islamic summit of 11th of November 2023 that called for all countries to stop exporting weapons and ammunition to the Israeli occupation authorities;

Expressing its support to the role of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Refugees (UNRWA) in providing relief to the Palestinian people, the APC affirmed Pakistan's determination to redouble its efforts for all possible political, diplomatic, moral and humanitarian support for the brotherly people of Palestine. APC appreciated the dispatch of 10 consignments of humanitarian aid from Pakistan for the people of Gaza, and medical relief assistance for the people of Lebanon; and urges continued humanitarian aid to the brotherly people of Palestine, including educational opportunities for Palestinian students and medical treatment of wounded Palestinian children in Pakistan;

It also declared unwavering support for the realization of the right to self-determination and other fundamental rights of the Palestinian people, as well as for the establishment of a viable, secure, contiguous, and sovereign State of Palestine, with Al-Quds Al-Sharif as its capital, as well as for the State of Palestine's full UN membership.

The Conference called on the government of Pakistan to continue extending political, diplomatic and humanitarian support to the brotherly people of Palestine and to support diplomatic efforts for bringing an end to the genocide in Gaza.

It also decided to observe, with special fervor, 29 November 2024 as a Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People.

The APC strongly reaffirmed the right of the people of Kashmir to self-determination and call for the settlement of the Jammu and Kashmir Dispute in accordance with the wishes of Kashmiri people and the relevant resolutions of UNSC.

President Asif Ali Zardari on Monday expressing deep concerns over the growing Israeli adventurism in the region and escalation of tension, called for the international community's role to take swift action to restore peace and prevent conflict from spilling over.

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

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Monday strongly condemning the attack took place in Karachi on Sunday night killing two Chinese nationals and injuring another, said the perpetrators of this dastardly incident could not be Pakistanis but were the sworn enemies of Pakistan.

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



expressing his deep shock and sadness over the incident, the prime minister offered his heartfelt condolences to the leadership and the people of China, particularly the families of the victims.

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.

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

Issues a stark warning that country could head toward civil war if political prisoners not released immediately

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 reforms, 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. Achakzai also criticized the recent general elections, accusing the authorities of rigging the results through manipulation, coercion, and bribes. He claimed that the true will of the people was ignored and that PTI emerged as the most popular party, despite official results indicating otherwise.

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.

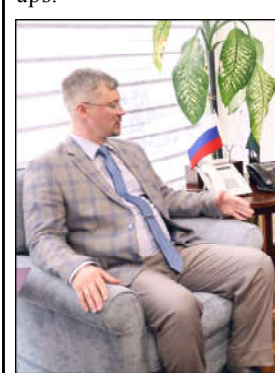
No corruption, commission and safarish tolerable: CM directs to finalize Youth Skills Development Programme; send 1st batch to abroad by end October

Independent Report QUETTA: The Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Sarfraz 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 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.

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.



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

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 Jamalini, Chief Conservator North Muhammad Aslam, Chief Conservator

Masroor Jamal Kakar, Chief Conservator Sharifuddin 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 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: Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti presiding over a meeting to review progress of Chief Minister Youth Skills Development Program

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.

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

Independent Report QUETTA: The Governor Balochistan, Jaffar Khan Mandokhail visited the Chinese Consulate in Karachi on Monday.

During the visit, Governor expressed grief and solidarity with the Chinese Consul General, Mr. Yang Yundong over death of the Chinese nationals in the suicide bomb blast near the Karachi airport.

Speaking on the occasion, Governor said that the elements involved in the tragic incident wouldn't be spared at all and strict action would be taken against the terrorists involved in the incident, he added.

The Governor also said that complete protection of the Chinese nationals serving all over the country would be ensured.

Later, he also wrote the comments in the condolence book placed in the Chinese consulate.

Meanwhile the Governor Balochistan, Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail has condemned the tragic bomb blast occurred near Airport in Karachi.

In a condemnation statement issued here on Monday, the Governor expressed deep grief and sorrow over the loss of precious lives of three persons including two Chinese nationals and injuries caused to others.

He said that the longstanding relations exist between Pakistan and China for decades and we wouldn't let harm the existing pleasant mutual relations between the two countries by such cowardly acts of terrorism.



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

Daily Voice of Masses Independent

A bloody year

A year after Hamas and other Palestinian fighters launched an unprecedented attack on Israel, the Middle East stands at the precipice of a wider, and potentially catastrophic war.

The Oct 7, 2023, events were a watershed moment in this region's turbulent history, comparable to the two intifadas or the various Arab-Israeli wars. Many in the West have pushed the simplistic and dangerous narrative blaming the Palestinian side for sparking the violence, and attracting the barbaric Israeli backlash that has few parallels in modern history.

But they forget that the suffering and humiliation of the Palestinian people predates Oct 7, and can be traced back to the Nakba in 1948, and the earlier Zionist colonisation of historical Palestine. Over the decades, the Israelis have killed and pillaged the Palestinian people with reckless abandon, and what happened in October last year was akin to an explosion of volcanic anger from a population that had been brought to its knees through a cruel siege. Using the Oct 7 attacks as an excuse to wage endless aggression on the region, Israel has crossed all red lines — not that it greatly respected the laws of war in earlier conflicts. It has turned Gaza into a graveyard, slaughtering nearly 42,000 people to date. Hospitals, schools and refugee camps have all been turned into a grim mix of blood and rubble, as Israel applies medieval methods of violence to this small strip of land.

The apparent goal at the start of the conflict was the elimination of Hamas and the repatriation of Israeli hostages; one of the world's best-armed militaries — amply supported by the US and many European states — has miserably failed on both these counts.

Along with Gaza, Tel Aviv has set its sights on Lebanon, again supposedly to destroy Hezbollah. But while the Lebanese armed group has been severely pounded, its fighters continue to resist the Israeli invaders. Meanwhile, Lebanon has said that over 2,000 people have been killed in Israeli violence over the last year. Going by UN official Francesca Albanese's sharp observation, for Israel "there are no civilians" in Palestine and Lebanon.

Along with highlighting Israeli barbarity, the post-Oct 7 scenario has exposed the hypocrisy of the Western bloc, and the paralysis of Muslim states. The West loves to hold forth on protecting human rights, but perhaps to these states the people of Gaza and Lebanon are sub-human.

The Islamic 'fraternity', meanwhile, has refused to take any meaningful action against Israel and its supporters as the Zionist state continues its genocidal campaigns.

Today, thanks to Israeli aggression, and Western appeasement, the Middle East could be consumed by an immense conflagration, especially if Tel Aviv strikes Iran. Meanwhile, the core issue of Palestinian freedom has been all but eclipsed in the fog of war.

Genocide in Gaza

Muhammad Ali Siddiqi

The motto of the Israeli Defence (IDF), according to its website, is: "Defence is our mission, security is our goal." One wonders what the connotations of the original in Hebrew are.

Israel is the one country in the world where rivers of civilian blood do not stir the rulers' conscience. There is a reason why. It wants the world to know what matters is Israel's survival. It will pursue this aim fanatically. If in the process people, communities and countries enter a vegetative state, that is not Israel's concern. Astonishingly, the world has surrendered to Israel's 'right' to target non-combatants as its official policy. Visualise, for a minute, the horrific number of civilian casualties when the Likud government attacked Khan Yunis on Dec 1 using air power, destroying 50 apartment buildings bustling with life.

Defending one's country is the right of every state, but this right is exercised within the framework of accepted international laws and usage. Israel has no concept of such restraint in theory or practice. That is one reason why we do not hear formal regrets from Tel Aviv even when civilians are killed by Israeli fire.

In fact, IDF unleashes its fire on hospitals, schools and temporary shelters notified in advance, and gets away with these crimes. The only condemnation comes from UN Secretary General António Guterres and occasionally the International Court of Justice, as well as organisations such as Reporters without Borders, Human Rights Watch, etc.

Collectively, the Jewish people haven't forgotten the trauma of

their nearly 2,000 years in Europe. Despite the relief provided by modern age, their persecution continued well into the 20th century — Russian pogroms and Nazi gas chambers. These memories, besides their expulsion from Palestine in AD 70, made them cling to one idea — never again! Israeli policies are guided by this raison d'être.

A list of the civilian targets IDF has chosen to attack since the Hamas offensive of Oct 7 last year will be incomplete. Less than a fortnight after the Hamas offensive on Oct 7, 2023, Israeli bombing hit the Church of Saint Porphyrius, where 500 people were sheltering. On Nov 8, Israel flattened a Khan Yunis mosque named after the great Muslim general Khalid bin Walid. The number of mosques destroyed in November was 60, while December 2023 saw Gaza's Great Mosque pulverised. Other mosques hit included the Great Omari Mosque in Gaza City, Sayed al-Hashim, Othman bin Qashqar, Katib al-Wilaya, Al-Bukhari, Khalil Al-Rahman, Al-Ansar, Ahmed Yassin (at Al-Shati refugee camp in Gaza City) and the Al Amin Muhammad mosque at Khan Yunis. The list is endless.

Among the churches hit were the Holy Family Church, the Byzantine Church of Jabalia and St Hilarion Monastery.

Throughout history, the Jewish people have lived in peace and prosperity in the Muslim world. In his remarkable book *My People*, one-time Israeli foreign minister and scholar of Arabic and Hebrew Abba Eban, calls the Jewish people's stay in the Arab-Turkish world their golden period. Today, the Zionist gratitude to the Muslim world is seen in the Gaza Strip. — Courtesy Dawn

Obviously, the purpose behind exhibiting the carnage was to give a clear message to the world: 'this is what we do to our enemies. Is there anyone who can stop us?' There is no one.

There is a long list of Muslim and Christian religious sites destroyed by Israel; the minimum number of mosques destroyed is 378. The BBC has confirmed 72 incidents of mosques being damaged or destroyed.

Less than a fortnight after the Hamas offensive on Oct 7, 2023, Israeli bombing hit the Church of Saint Porphyrius, where 500 people were sheltering. On Nov 8, Israel flattened a Khan Yunis mosque named after the great Muslim general Khalid bin Walid. The number of mosques destroyed in November was 60, while December 2023 saw Gaza's Great Mosque pulverised.

Other mosques hit included the Great Omari Mosque in Gaza City, Sayed al-Hashim, Othman bin Qashqar, Katib al-Wilaya, Al-Bukhari, Khalil Al-Rahman, Al-Ansar, Ahmed Yassin (at Al-Shati refugee camp in Gaza City) and the Al Amin Muhammad mosque at Khan Yunis. The list is endless.

Among the churches hit were the Holy Family Church, the Byzantine Church of Jabalia and St Hilarion Monastery.

Throughout history, the Jewish people have lived in peace and prosperity in the Muslim world. In his remarkable book *My People*, one-time Israeli foreign minister and scholar of Arabic and Hebrew Abba Eban, calls the Jewish people's stay in the Arab-Turkish world their golden period. Today, the Zionist gratitude to the Muslim world is seen in the Gaza Strip. — Courtesy Dawn

Dangerous trap

Zarrar Khuhro

Last week an unusual press conference took place at the National Press Club in Islamabad. Held by the parents and relatives of youth who are languishing in jail on charges of having posted and/or shared blasphemous content online, the speakers called for the federal government to constitute an inquiry commission to probe into the activities of the 'blasphemy business group,' that they claim had entrapped their loved ones in false cases.

The existence of such a group isn't a figment of their imagination or an attempt to shield their loved ones from consequences; the term originates from a report prepared by the special branch of the Punjab Police.

In it, the special branch accuses this group of "trapping" young people in blasphemy cases in an "organised manner". This gang is, as per the special branch, the complainant in about 90 per cent of such cases reported to and registered by the FIA and the vast majority of those entrapped are Muslim boys and girls in their 20s or even younger, and who invariably hail from poor or lower-middle class families.

Several hundreds of these young people are languishing in jails across Pakistan.

Typically, the process starts by setting up Facebook accounts and WhatsApp groups which purport to be discussion forums for religious affairs. Invitations to join such groups are then sent to the targeted youth, with the invite usually coming from the account of a female gang member.

Up until here it all sounds innocent enough, but what fol-

lows is anything but: in one case, related by the father of one of the victims, his son was contacted by a woman who started an online relationship with him before sending him some objectionable content. When he questioned her, she claimed her phone had been hacked and asked him to send her the material she had posted so she would know what he was talking about. Once he did so, his father reports, the FIA showed up to arrest him a few hours later on the charge of disseminating blasphemous content.

Similar stories could be heard from all the 40 or so families who participated in the press conference, almost all of whom point out that the FIA was ready to swing into action against their loved ones in record time, which speaks to the possible complicity of at least some of its officials in this entire case of entrapment.

As for what motivates this group, the report points to extortion and blackmail as possible objectives and recommends that the FIA launch a probe against this gang and conduct forensic examinations of the mobile phones of the complainants.

Disturbingly but perhaps unsurprisingly, the press conference got little attention in our national media (I have seen no reports on TV and only one in print) and even the original special branch report was only covered by the independent media outlet FactFocus.

More disturbingly, though unsurprisingly, even though the report was sent to the FIA, the chief secretary Punjab and also the chief minister Punjab's secretary in January this year, no action at all has been taken.

In just the last few

months we have seen no less than four killings in the name of blasphemy. In May, Nazir Masih of Sargodha was accused of blasphemy and badly beaten by a mob. While he was rescued by police, he later succumbed to his injuries.

In June, Muhammad Ismail, a tourist in Swat, was accused of desecrating holy verses and lynched by a mob who broke into the police station to get to their target. In September, Abdul Ali was accused of blasphemy in Quet-ta and, after a violent mob tried to storm the police station in which he was being held, he was shifted to a more secure location where he was gunned down by a police officer who was then lauded as a hero by local clerics and activists and leaders of religio-political parties.

Then was the case of Dr Shahnawaz Kunbhar of Umerkot who was accused of blasphemy and then killed by police in a staged encounter. Following this, the local DIG and police officers were feted and garlanded by jubilant clerics.

But in a marked difference from the Quetta and Swat cases, where the families of the victims forgave the killers, the family of Dr Kunbhar demanded justice and their cries were amplified by the thousands who rallied in Umerkot in a public protest the likes of which we have never before seen in these cases.

Now, of course, the pushback is underway and the very parties who incited his murder are rallying to defend the police and justify their actions. After all, power and the impunity that power affords, is worth preserving even if it comes at such a terrible cost. — Courtesy Dawn

Commerce News

Jam calls for boosting rice exports, meeting EU food safety standards

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Commerce Jam Kamal Khan on Monday emphasized the need to increase Pakistan's rice exports and ensure compliance with European food safety standards, citing the country's 25 per cent share of the European rice export market.

He said during a meeting with the representative of the Rice Exporters Association of Pakistan (REAP), a news release issued here.

Pakistan holds 25 per cent of the European rice export market compared to India's 16 per cent. To maintain this competitive edge, Jam Kamal highlighted the necessity of collaboration between the government and exporters.

Rice exports play a vital role in Pakistan's economy, ranking second in export value after

cotton. Rice exporters are a primary source of revenue and employment, with the government aiming to increase exports from \$4 billion to \$6-7 billion in the near future.

"We are focusing on improving our standards to meet international food safety requirements, especially in Europe," Jam Kamal added.

Recent diplomatic developments include discussions with Malaysian Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim on expanding rice and meat exports to Malaysia. A Pakistani business delegation, led by Jam Kamal, will visit Malaysia in November to explore new opportunities.

Malik Faisal Jahangir, Chairman of the Rice Exporters Association of Pakistan (REAP), said that Pakistan's rice exports face fewer regulatory

challenges, with only 74 Rapid Alerts for pesticides were issued last year, compared to 264 for India.

Pakistan remains one of the lowest-risk countries concerning food safety standards. However, Jahangir expressed concern over potential harm to Pakistan's export reputation from negative campaigns.

Jam Kamal stressed educating farmers to improve rice production quality and reduce alerts. Balochistan, despite producing a small quantity of rice, cultivates some of Pakistan's best organic rice.

He called for a joint effort by stakeholders to develop a five-year strategy enhancing Pakistan's rice export capacity and compliance with international standards.

SNGPL cut 179 gas connections

LAHORE (APP): The Sui Northern Gas Pipelines Limited (SNGPL), in its on-going campaign against gas theft and illegal usage, disconnected 179 gas connections across Punjab, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, and Islamabad, imposing fines exceeding 4.8 million rupees.

According to a spokesman for the SNGPL, in Multan and Sahiwal, 38 connections were severed due to illegal gas usage, resulting in fines totaling 210,000 rupees. Meanwhile, Lahore and Faisalabad saw 44 connections cut, with fines amounting to over 2 million rupees. In Sheikhupura, Gujranwala, and Gujrat, 17 connections were disconnected for illegal gas use, incurring fines of 1.55 million rupees. Additionally, 21 connections were dismantled in Bahawalpur and Rawalpindi for similar violations.



PESHAWAR: Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi visits Daudsons Army at Industrial Estate.

Governor praises industries for enhancing Pakistan's global standing

PESHAWAR (APP): Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi on Monday commended industries for their hard work, dedication, and capabilities that have heightened and enhancing Pakistan's reputation internationally.

He expressed these views during his visit to Dawood Sons Arms Industry here where he was welcomed by CEO Hakeemuddin Dawood and Ali.

The event was attended by senior

officials, including Maulana Abdul Jalil Jan Senior Vice President of the Sarhad Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Waheed Arif Awan President of the Small Industry Chamber, businessman Muqem Khan, and other political and business figures.

During the visit, business leaders raised their problems.

Governor Kundi assured them that he would liaise with relevant authorities to ensure

proper electricity supply and gas pressure, emphasizing that meeting the industry's energy needs would enhance productivity and contribute to economic development in the province.

He highlighted that Dawood Sons Arms Industry holds a significant position not only within the province but also nationally and internationally, deserving commendation for its contributions.

Jazz brings iPhone 16 to Pakistan for its customers

ISLAMABAD (APP): Jazz, Pakistan's leading digital operator, has announced a partnership with Mercantile, the authorized Apple distributor for Pakistan and South Asia, to officially introduce the iPhone 16 series phones to the Pakistani market.

According to news release, this collaboration marks a pivotal moment in

delivering world-class technology to local consumers, further cementing Jazz's position as the country's foremost digital leader. The iPhone 16 will be available at all Jazz Business Centers nationwide, ensuring a seamless purchasing experience for customers, complete with PTA approval and a limited Apple warranty claimable through Apple-authorized sellers.

Rupee sheds 13 paise against dollar

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistani rupee on Monday depreciated by 13 paise against the US dollar in the interbank trading and closed at Rs277.64 against the previous day's closing of Rs277.51.

However, according to the Forex Association of Pakistan (FAP), the buying and selling rates of the dollar in the open market stood at Rs278.25 and Rs279.75 respectively.

FBR poised to bring 2.8m households into in tax net

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) is all set to bring around 2.8 million potential households into the tax net that would contribute approximately Rs1.6 trillion to the national economy.

"There are around 3.5 million top households liable to pay taxes to the government, however out of which 2.8 million are not paying taxes," Spokesperson FBR, Bakhtiar Muhammad told APP here.

The incumbent government had embarked upon a comprehensive plan to enhance tax-to-GDP ratio and resultantly the

number of tax filers as well as tax collection went up during the current fiscal year (2024-25).

Bakhtiar said the filing of tax returns witnessed an impressive increase of 105 percent by going up from last year's 1.8 million to 3.7 million owing to prudent policies adopted by the government.

The board has decided to impose 15 restrictions on non-filers within two to three months through a finance bill, he said adding the non-filers would not be allowed to purchase of properties and vehicles and would not also travel abroad or open current account in any bank.



HYDERABAD: Laborers prepare bangles at a workshop as demand of bangles increased in Hyderabad.

Dr Sajid-ur-Rehman says: Cotton has significant role in national development

FAISALABAD (APP): Cotton has a significant role in national development by stabilizing national economy, therefore, a comprehensive program has been launched for revival of this most precious crop on war-footing, said Dr Sajid-ur-Rehman Director General Research Punjab. Addressing a function arranged at Ayub Agricultural Research Institute (AARI) to mark the World Cotton Day here on Monday, he said that Pakistan was the fifth major

cotton producing country and its economy mostly depended on this crop. He said that cotton was playing an important role in national development in addition to creating employment opportunities for a large number of people while southern Punjab had a lion's share in the production of this crop.

He expressed concern over decline in cotton production and said that use of latest technology was imperative for increasing production.

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-I. 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 Naveed 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, Jatoti, 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 Mashhood 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 Nusrat, 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. According to the private news channels, the incident happened over a land dispute. 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 Ahmad 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.



LAHORE: Australian High Commissioner Neil Hawkins meeting with Punjab Governor Sardar Saleem Haider Khan.

"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.

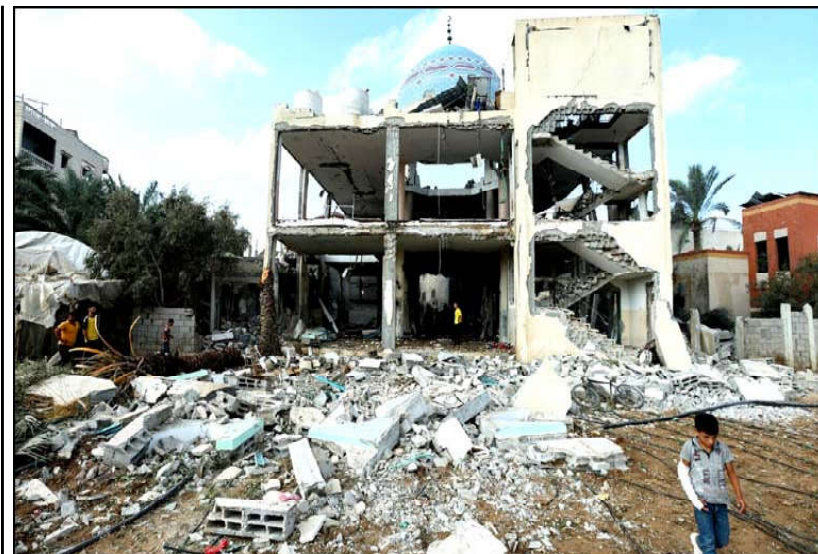
ATC sends 129 PTI workers to jail on judicial remand

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.

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, a top Prime Minister Narendra Modi said 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.

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 interview 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.



QUETTA: MPA Maulana Hidayat ur Rehman and others meeting with Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfaraz 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-



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 main-



Rind on his marvelous victory in the Karate Combat Championship and maintaining the world record. He also expressed best wishes for his next international fight to be held in Miami. The Chief Minister was speaking to Shahzaib Rind who called on him here at the CM secretariat on Monday.

Democratic Panel expresses concern over non-payment of salaries to UoB employees

Independent Report
QUETTA: The Democratic Panel has expressed deep concern over the non-payment of salaries to University of Balochistan teachers and employees for the past two months. Despite clear orders from the Supreme Court of Pakistan, the university’s staff has been denied their fundamental right to receive their salaries. The panel stated that the respected teachers have become psychologically distressed due to the recurring financial struggles. For the past five years, they have been forced to protest every two to three months, disrupting the academic activities. The university’s employees are struggling to make ends meet amidst soaring inflation. The Democratic Panel attributed the crisis to the provincial government’s failure to establish its own Higher Education Commission.

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, Suhbatpur, Jafarabad, Dera Allah-yar, Usta Muhammad, Jhal Magi and Kachehi, while from Sindh, Jacobabad and Kashmir were included.

On this occasion, Chairperson Dr. Muhammad Hayat Jamali, Program Manager, Noor Mengal, Business Development Officer, Izhar Jakharani, Administration Manager, Sajjad Rind said that all courses were being conducted and free of cost with 70 percent guaranteed jobs in Pakistan and overseas.

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.

The administrative wing of the Ministry of SAFRON will be dissolved, and a special committee will be formed to decide the future of Jammu & Kashmir State Properties.

As per sources, the sale of state properties will occur as needed, and the revenue generated will be spent on the welfare of Azad Kashmir and GB.

Additionally, the Directorate of Health Services (DHS) of Kashmir and GB will undergo a review, with plans to transfer control to the Azad Kashmir government. DHS funding for GB will be managed in consultation with the Ministry of Health, the sources said.

The Jammu and Kashmir Refugee Rehabilitation Organization is also set to be dissolved, and staff reductions will take place in the Azad Kashmir and Gilgit-Baltistan Councils, as well as in the CC Office.



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 heinous 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 Murtaz 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 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.

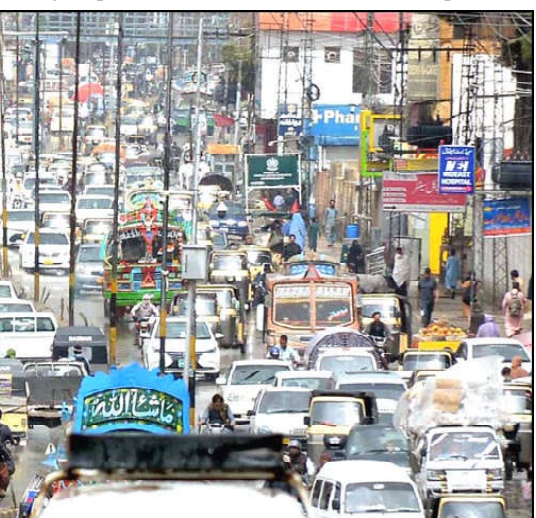
The case, filed at Tarnol police station, names prominent PTI figures such as party Founder Imran Khan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur, Chairman Barrister Gohar, opposition leader Omar Ayub, Azam Swati, Amir Mughal, Barrister Saif, and 350 unidentified activists.

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 Gandapur is accused of misusing government resources, while Azam Swati allegedly provided financial backing to the demonstrators.

Investigations revealed that the arrested individuals claimed they were instructed by PTI Founder Imran Khan to gather at D-Chowk in Islamabad.

Imran Khan is also named in the FIR for inciting party workers to carry out acts of violence against the state. Law enforcement agencies have intensified their efforts to apprehend the remaining accused, as further investigations continue.

On Saturday, normal life in Islamabad and Rawalpindi was severely disrupted for the second consecutive day as the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf’s (PTI) protests continued to paralyse the twin cities. Major highways and mobile services were suspended.



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



QUETTA: Advisor on Climate Change and Environment Balochistan, Naseemur-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.

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 resurface 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 unpredictable extreme events have given devastating blow to our struggling economy.

He commended the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) of Pakistan for its hard work to have evolved a tested mechanism as a national response towards such natural calamities.

Key components of our national response include proactively working at reducing vulnerability to disasters and providing coping mechanisms and framework for effective disaster management. He expressed his satisfaction that NDMA’s National Emergency Operation Center (NEOC) had the best capacities in management of national disasters. “NEOC is founded on high-end technology inputs to create disasters’ early warnings much ahead of time – saving lives and infrastructure.”

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 Gaza and Palestine.

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

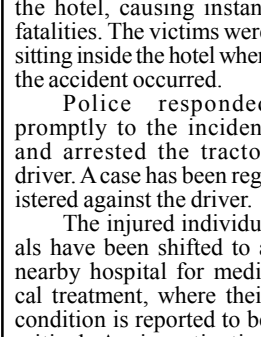
2 killed, 5 injured as tractor crashes into hotel

Independent Report
QUETTA: A tragic incident occurred on Quetta’s Kasi Road, near Khudaiddad 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.



QUETTA: Provincial Minister Mir Zahoar 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 Zahoar 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, Province 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 Zahoar 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.