

# Independent

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ISLAMABAD: Attorney General Mansoor Usman speaking before a full court reference held at Supreme Court in honour of outgoing Chief Justice of Pakistan Justice Qazi Faez Isa.

## PM greets nation as Pakistan Stock Exchange surpasses historic 90,000 points

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Friday felicitated the nation as the Pakistan Stock Exchange's 100-index exceeded the historic mark of 90,000 points.

In a statement issued by the PM Office, the prime minister said that gradual increase in the stock market since March 2024 reflected growing investor confidence in the government policies.

"Such a swift surge in Pakistan's stock market after 14 years is a result of untiring efforts of the economic team," PM Shehbaz said.

He attributed the 36% increase in the stock market since March 2024, a significant reduction in the

inflation rate and overall economic stability in the country to the efforts of the economic team.

He said the inflation rate had eased down from 38% to 6.9% while the current account had also been in surplus for last two months.

During the previous quarter, he said the Overseas Pakistanis dispatched record remittances worth US\$8.8 billion.

Similarly, the prime minister emphasized that the process of revising the contracts made with the Independent Power Producers (IPPs) had also been initiated to provide maximum facilitation to the power consumers.

Furthermore, he said that the long-term \$7 bil-

lion facility from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) would also improve the country's economy.

"Dreams of those wishing Pakistan fell into default have been broken," he said adding that he had pledged with the people that he would not let the country, obtained through millions of sacrifices, fall victim to the consequences of the negligence of those who were incompetent.

He said, "We saved the country by sacrificing our politics."

The prime minister hoped that more good news regarding the improvement of the economy would come in the coming days.

## No intention of joining govt, says Fazal

CHINIOT (INP) - Jamiat Ulama-e-Islam (F) chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman says pitting one province against another reflects a non-political mindset.

Talking to media in Chiniot on Friday, he said that 56 clauses in the amendment were reduced to 22, with five added back, highlighting the accomplishments of this change.

"I have no intention of joining the government. I am unaware of any such proposal; strong resistance will be made against the 27th constitutional amendment," he added.

Fazl noted that the 27th constitutional amendment is not simple. He refrained from commenting on Sheikh Rashid's remarks, stating that he fundamentally does not believe in retaliatory politics, filing cases against politicians, or banning political protests.

## Nawaz Sharif leaves for Dubai

LAHORE (INP): Pakistan Muslim League (PML-N) President and former three-time prime minister Mian Nawaz Sharif left Lahore for Dubai on Friday.

Nawaz Sharif travelled to Dubai by Emirates flight EK-625 which took off at 9.04 am. He will land in Dubai at 11:25 am local time.

After one-day stay in Dubai, the PML-N president will proceed to London, where he is expected to hold important meetings. On October 29, Nawaz Sharif will depart London for a four-day visit of the United States.

According to sources, Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz will also travel to London in the first week of November. After a few days' stay in London, both Nawaz Sharif and Maryam will tour different European countries. The former prime minister will also undergo medical check-up in London.



QUETTA: MPA Shahida Rauf meeting with Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfaraz Ahmed Bugti during Assembly session.

## Governor emphasizes importance of promoting awareness about Balochistan's beauty

**Independent Report**

QUETTA: Governor Balochistan, Jafar Khan Mandokhail, praised the publication of "Balochistan: Air Panoramas & Landscapes" at a ceremony, calling it a vital step in showcasing the province's natural beauty.

The book, authored by Pilot Tahir Khan Kiani and Aziz Jamali, captures Balochistan's breathtaking landscapes and cultural heritage through stunning photography.

Governor Mandokhail emphasized the importance of promoting awareness about Balochistan's beauty

## Full court reference held in honor of outgoing CJP May have made wrong decisions but Allah knows truth, admits Justice Isa

Six judges skip full court reference; Justice Yahya Afridi, AGP Mansoor Awan pay tribute to Qazi Faez Isa

ISLAMABAD (INP): Outgoing Chief Justice Qazi Faez Isa said on Friday he may have made many wrong decisions but Allah knows the truth.

Justice Isa was addressing a full court reference held in his honour in Courtroom No 1 of the Supreme Court.

Justice Isa shared his experiences and feelings with those who attended the reference. He thanked all his staff, including his guard Fayyaz and the registrar, for their support during his stay in the office.

He referred to the practice of taking notes on pieces of papers during hearing of cases. He said the notes helped him decide a

case according to the facts. "We have to adjudge who is right and who is wrong. The paper may favour a contestant (party) and go against the other," he added.

"It is our duty to give justice," Justice Isa said.

Chief Justice-designate Yahya Afridi paid Justice Isa tribute and said he learnt a lot from him. He said he was sad that he (Justice Isa) was leaving but glad that "you get time to spend with your family."

Justice Afridi said Justice Isa was an excellent human being. He disagreed with Justice Isa on many benches but "we played our role judiciously."

APP adds: A full court reference was held in the

Supreme Court on Friday in honor of the outgoing Chief Justice of Pakistan Justice Qazi Faez Isa.

Chief Justice designate Yahya Afridi, Supreme Court judges, ad hoc judges, Shariat Appellate Court judges, bar association representatives and senior lawyers participated in the full court reference.

Speaking at the full court reference, Chief Justice Qazi Faez Isa thanked Allah Almighty for considering him worthy of the high position and said that he learned a lot during his tenure. He said that the role of lawyers is important in ensuring the delivery of justice.

## 10 FC soldiers martyred in DI Khan check post attack

President, PM strongly condemn terror attack

ISLAMABAD (APP): In a tragic incident, 10 soldiers of the Frontier Constabulary (FC) laid down their lives in defense of their nation when Khawarij terrorists launched a fierce attack on an FC checkpoint in Darazinda, Dera Ismail Khan.

The assault, executed under the cover of darkness, was a well-coordinated effort by militants who targeted the Zam FC checkpoint using heavy weaponry.

According to a spokesperson from the Ministry of Interior, the FC soldiers stood firm and courageously fought back, ultimately sacrificing their lives to protect the checkpoint and thwart the terrorists' assault.

The Ministry of Interior spokesperson confirmed that ten FC soldiers were martyred in the confrontation, and three others sustained injuries. Despite the overwhelming threat posed by the heavily armed attackers, the soldiers' bravery prevented the terrorists from advancing further. "The martyred soldiers thwarted the terrorists' attack on the checkpoint by laying down their lives," the spokesperson said, honoring the soldiers' ultimate sacrifice.

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## Writ of state to be established at all costs: Info Minister

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Information, Broadcasting, National Heritage and Culture Attaullah Tarar on Friday said the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) had orchestrated an armed attack on prison vans near Sangjani Toll Plaza.

"Armed workers of the PTI including a son of the MPA of the PTI from KPK Liaquat Sahib attacked the prison vans which were carrying 83

detainees, and slowed down near the Sangjani Toll Plaza," said the minister while talking to the media.

He said upto 30 persons in four cars attacked the vans to help the detainees to escape from the custody of the police which had successfully repulsed the attack. Two police personnel got injured, but all those who tried to flee had been arrested.

## 4 cops injured as convoy of prison vans attacked near Sangjani: police

All escaped prisoners including PTI MPs have been recaptured, according to police statement



ISLAMABAD (Agencies): Armed suspects on Friday attacked a convoy of three police vans near Sangjani Toll Plaza outside Islamabad, police said.

According to a statement from the Islamabad Police spokesperson, the vans were transferring 82 prisoners to Attock Jail after an appearance before the district magistrate earlier today. The 82 prisoners included two PTI lawmakers and four party workers.

"About 20 suspects riding in four vehicles attacked the prisoner vans near Sangjani Toll Plaza," the statement read, adding that the suspected assailants were armed with weapons, sticks and stones.

"Four police officers were injured in the attack, while four attackers were arrested," the statement added. "Two vehicles and weapons belonging to the suspects were seized."

## CM expresses resent on delay of Quetta's beautification work

QUETTA (APP): Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfaraz Bugti on Friday expressed his anger over delay of work on the beauty of Quetta city and especially on Airport Road as directed the concerned authorities to speed up the work.

He shared these views while chairing a meeting regarding progress to the Quetta development package and the measures taken about the beauty of Quetta city.

The meeting beautification of Quetta City and other ongoing development project were reviewed. In the meeting, Chief Secretary Balochistan Shakeel Qadir Khan, Secretary Communications and Work Lal Jan Jafar, Commissioner Quetta Division Hamza Shaqat, Project Director Quetta Development Package Rafiq Ahmed, DG QDA Askar Khan and Special Secretary Finance Aurangzeb Khan Kasi and other concerned officials attended.

Project Director Quetta Development Package Rafiq Ahmed and Commissioner Quetta Division Hamza Shaqat briefed the meeting on the progress on Quetta Development Package and the steps taken to beautify Quetta city.

In the meeting, Secretary C&W Lal Jan Jafar while giving a briefing said that the restoration of roads in Quetta inner city is going on and carpeting of all roads would be completed very soon.

In the briefing given by the Commissioner Quetta Division, it was informed that steps are being taken to beautify including Airport Road and Quetta. He said that in this regard, according to the directives of Chief Minister Balochistan, all related issues are being implemented.

The Chief Minister directed that various historical statues and parks planted for the purpose of beauty in Quetta city are damaged due to drug addicts saying that for which it is

necessary to make drug rehabilitation centers functional.

He directed that the Social Welfare Department should take special measures in this regard, the co-operation of private voluntary workers should also be obtained.

The CM said that there is no problem of lack of funding for the respective projects but it is important to ensure that the specified for completion of related work in time.

He instructed that the waste generated in the city should be disposed of in a timely manner and special attention should be paid to cleanliness.

Sarfraz Bugti said that Quetta is the provincial capital and the beauty of the city should suggest that it is really a metropolitan city. In the meeting, various proposed projects related to the establishment of walking street in Quetta city were also considered and it was agreed to take early steps in this regard.

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## Govt taking concrete steps to end polio in Balochistan: CS

QUETTA (APP): Balochistan Chief Secretary (CS) Shakeel Qadir Khan on Friday said that the provincial government is taking concrete steps to eradicate polio form the province.

He said this while presiding over a high-level meeting regarding anti-polio campaign in the province.

The progress of the previous anti-polio campaign and the preparations for the upcoming campaign were reviewed in the meeting.

Addressing the meeting, the Chief Secretary said that eradicating polio from the province is a common responsibility of all of us.

He said that scholars,

parents, civil society and people associated with the media should play their role in the national anti-polio campaign because this is a common problem of all and we all have to play a vanguard role to end this deadly virus.

He said that by giving two drops of polio vaccine, we have to protect our children from permanent disability.

Children are our future and we will protect our future.

The Secretary said that the polio campaign must be made successful for a healthy Pakistan and for the success of the polio campaign, the public should fully cooperate with the teams.

## Cadet martyred in Lakki Marwat mosque attack: ISPR

RAWALPINDI (PR): A 19-year-old army cadet was martyred when armed terrorists opened fire on a mosque during evening prayers in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Lakki Marwat district on Friday, the military's media wing said. According to a press release from the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), Gentleman Cadet Arif Ullah was offering prayers in the mosque when the attack took place.

"As soon as Khawarij started firing, he (Arif Ullah) immediately responded and fought the khawarij bravely," the press release stated. However, during the incident, Gentleman Cadet Arif Ullah embraced Shahadat (martyrdom), sacrificing his life, while saving many innocent lives of worshippers."



ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Police Crackdown on Aid Hamas March under the auspices of Save Gaza Campaign, police arrested the protestors heading towards US Embassy in the Federal Capital.

## Punjab police kill 10 terrorists in Mianwali

MIANWALI (NNI): In a major operation in the hilly area of Makarwal, the Punjab Police reportedly killed 10 terrorists during an intense exchange of fire.

The operation was launched following intelligence reports of the presence of 10 to 15 terrorists in the region.

According to Counter-Terrorism Department (CTD) spokesman, the provincial Punjab CDA has carried a joint operation in the hilly area of Makarwal in the Mianwali district in which 10 terrorists were killed.

During the operation, the terrorists opened indis-

criminate fire on the CTD team, forcing officials to return the fire and killing them on the spot, while several other terrorists managed to escape from the scene, the officials said, adding that a search operation has been launched for the arrest of the fleeing terrorists.

"All officers and men of the CTD and the Elite police remained safe in the firing," he said.

"A search continued in the area, while efforts were afoot to identify the deceased terrorists," he added. Punjab police chief congratulated the Mianwali police on the successful operation against terrorists.



QUETTA: Provincial Ministers, Parliamentary Secretaries and MPs expressing their views on resolutions presented in Balochistan Assembly session



Daily Voice of Masses  
**Independent**

**Yearly trouble**

It is that time of year again. Cities in Pakistan, in particular Lahore, are once more suffocating under the blanket of heavy smog, making it painfully evident that we must move past reactive measures and temporary fixes. With Lahore hitting an Air Quality Index of 394 — nearly four times above healthy levels — and again being ranked the world's most polluted city, air pollution in Pakistan has become a public health crisis begging urgent intervention. Similar conditions prevail across the border in India, where the onset of winter traps pollutants in the air, pushing Delhi into the 'very poor' AQI category. The sources of this persistent problem are well-documented: vehicular emissions, industrial pollutants, and most critically, the widespread burning of crop residue.

Both India and Pakistan have struggled to address the latter, despite the well-established link between stubble burning and deteriorating air quality. In both countries, farmers continue this practice due to expediency and the lack of viable alternatives for clearing fields. Recent reports indicate that farmers in both Haryana, India, and Punjab, Pakistan, are being arrested and fined for burning crop stubble, yet these punitive measures barely scratch the surface of a much larger problem.

In Pakistan, efforts to mitigate smog have intensified, with the government issuing new school timings and banning fireworks to reduce pollutants. India has similarly implemented emergency actions such as water sprinkling on roads and increasing public transport. However, these are akin to putting band-aids on gaping wounds. The long-term strategies needed to combat this environmental crisis remain elusive. The core issue lies in the inadequacy of agricultural policies that leave farmers with little choice but to resort to environmentally harmful practices. While Pakistan has introduced 'Anti-Smog Squads' to monitor and educate farmers about the dangers of stubble burning, these initiatives are only beginning to take root and are not yet widespread. In India, attempts to promote alternatives, such as subsidising machinery for residue management, have faced significant barriers, including high costs and inadequate outreach. What is missing from both countries' approaches is a strategy that not only penalises harmful practices but also provides long-term solutions. While climate diplomacy between India and Pakistan has been proposed, real collaboration on this issue remains sparse. Both nations could benefit from joint initiatives focused on sharing technological advancements, including affordable super-seeders, and coordinating to monitor and control air quality. Moreover, there is a need to realise that smog is not caused by agriculture alone. Both must invest in renewable energy and modernise industrial processes. Encouraging the use of electric vehicles and enhancing public transport systems are also essential steps that both countries must accelerate. Without a paradigm shift in how air pollution is addressed both Pakistan and India will continue to choke every winter.

**Divine 'amanat'**

Amin Valliani

With regards to Pakistan, nature has been very kind and generous. It has endowed Pakistan — a beautiful country — with vast natural resources. It is blessed with all four seasons of the year; it gets sunlight all through the year; it has beautiful landscapes, majestic mountains, glaciers, rivers and a long coastal belt — all with distinct geographical features. We are blessed with fertile lands and a good canal system but internationally, we lag behind in many aspects.

Despite being blessed with considerable gifts of nature, our country finds itself in a chaotic situation. There is no dearth of natural wealth in the country nor do we lack talent. Yet we are unable to tap these resources for our development. Therefore, our currency is weak, our economy is aid-based, and we cannot run our country without IMF bailout packages. Our green passport is currently ranked amongst the lowest worldwide, while millions of Pakistanis live in abject poverty and hunger.

Though we are the trustees of this beautiful land, we have failed to adequately manage the trust. No individual can be charged for this unfortunate condition. However, many attribute this situation to our collective failure to treat Pakistan as a divine trust or amanat. We do not value Pakistan as a divine gift; we have developed a laidback and unconcerned attitude towards its progress and integrity. We live beyond our means and espouse the culture of extravagance; misuse and mismanagement of resources are the main reasons for our difficulties.

This is a time of self-reflection and course correction. A resuscitation process is

the need of the hour. If we want our country to shine internationally, then we should reflect on Quranic verses, especially wherein Allah says, "... Indeed, Allah will not change the condition of a people until they change what is in themselves. ... (13:11)".

There is no doubt that most Pakistanis are sincere, hardworking and God-fearing. They love their country and are ready to make sacrifices for it. But they have not been lucky enough to get an upright and honest leadership in politics, economics, business, trade, and other societal affairs. They deserve a competent, devoted and honest leadership, whose lifestyle reflects the inner and outer aspects of their existence.

The leadership should respect the taxpayer and hold human dignity as sacred. They need to rekindle the national spirit and consider Pakistan as a divine gift, an amanat.

Every inch of Pakistan and its natural resources are part of the divine trust. Therefore, it is necessary to use its resources with utmost care and responsibly, thoughtfully, scrupulously and conscientiously. Allah enjoins believers to "...not betray Allah and the Messenger [PBUH] or betray your trusts while you know [the consequence] (8:27)".

The absence of the notion of amanat has led many to unethical practices.

It has made common people lose their faith in state institutions. The development of Pakistan rests on the strength of its institutions. Unless these are effective and trusted by the people, achieving development and prosperity will become near impossible.

There are numer-

ous examples of failure within institutions. For example, it is very unfortunate that we see state employees drawing their salaries, but these individuals are insincere in the performance of their duties. We, as a nation, utterly lack a national spirit, and as a result, we habitually remain negligent of our duties. For instance, in spite of having sufficient stocks of wheat in the country, the essential food grain was imported recently, causing the state losses in billions of rupees. It was a highly irresponsible act on the part of the authorities concerned.

We see corruption and lawlessness in most departments. The politicians use foul language to embarrass others, they submit fake degrees to stand in elections, police parties kill innocent people in fake encounters, businessmen evade taxes, builders openly violate approved plans of construction to mint more money and use low-quality material, teachers skip classwork in order to privately tutor students while doctors recommend certain drugs for a commission from pharmaceutical firms.

In all these examples, the national spirit is violated. In short, Pakistan suffers from an insincere leadership which cares very little for the people.

We cannot change our present conditions overnight, as we do not have a magic wand. Yet we must strive to forge a national spirit, treating Pakistan as a divine gift. It requires hard work, sacrifice, blood and sweat. Together we can strengthen the foundations of Pakistan and ensure that the country serves as a beacon of hope and progress for future generations. -- Courtesy Dawn

**America's president**

Aasim Sajjad Akhtar

Not so long ago, America's president effectively enjoyed the mantle of world leadership. The collapse of the Soviet Union in 1992 had elevated the US to the status of sole global superpower, a position it enjoyed for the best part of two decades.

Today, as China and many other countries openly challenge US-led Western hegemony, the US presidential election reads like a cautionary tale about the deep crisis of liberal politics and the so-called 'rules-based international order'.

Four years ago, Joe Biden's defeat of Donald Trump was hailed as a return to 'normal' and the terminal demise of the far right. In 2024, Trumpism is not only alive and well but the man himself is poised to make yet another victorious bid for the White House.

Trump may still lose, of course, but only someone living in a fool's paradise can argue that the liberal order is thriving. Whilst global capitalism continues to generate huge inequalities, ecological devastation and imperialist wars, the liberal centre protects the elephant in the room, thus creating the conditions for the far right to thrive by directing the rage of disillusioned masses towards paper tigers.

estine and Lebanon will not determine the election, it is already clear that large numbers of traditionally Democratic voters will either abstain or even cast their vote for Trump to punish Biden and Harris.

On the domestic front, America's economy, like most so-called advanced capitalist countries, continues to be mired in a low-growth trap, which can be traced back to the global financial crisis of 2007-09, and even further to the 1970s. Those at the top of the tree, especially Wall Street, munitions, agribusiness and a host of other global monopolies, continue to make a killing, but the majority of working people have been seeing their living standards stagnate or drop for decades.

Trump explains all of this by blaming immigrants and all sorts of governmental welfare programmes. His contemporaries across the Western world do the same. But even as the far right spews relentless hate, Harris and mainstream liberals in the US and beyond will not cut big capital down to size.

The downward spiral will intensify no matter who wins the upcoming US presidential election, mainstream politics in many countries effectively reduced to a battle between the liberal centre (read: centre right) and far right. This crisis of liberal politics is indeed global, and while there is some distinctiveness to what is happening in non-Western postcolonial countries like ours, the broad trajectories are quite similar.

Here also entrenched bourgeois parties like the PML-N and PPP have demonstrated time and again that they are unwilling to break with the establishment-dominated status quo.

The PTI too acquired power at the behest of the establishment but it is telling that so many young people continued to support it even after things soured between Imran Khan and the army top brass. The PML-N, PPP and other usual suspects offer no respite from the ravages of the system, and in fact, are reinforcing Pakistan's militarised political economy. The PTI possesses only a mythical hero with a notional magic wand, but for many, this is much better than accepting the mediocrity and collaborationism of the Sharifs and Bhuttos.

In America, Pakistan and beyond, there is only one way out of this cul de sac — to acknowledge that global capitalism and various related manifestations of (liberal) imperialism are exacerbating material deprivations and hateful ideologies. Only a left-wing politics with a genuinely popular social base can break the cycle. It is cruel irony that Trump (and prominent supporters of his like Elon Musk) call Harris and the Democrats 'radical leftists', even though the latter are anything but.

Around the time that Trump first came to prominence, mainstream politicians with a genuinely leftist pedigree like Bernie Sanders were also contending to win over the support of working people. In a similar vein, Jeremy Corbyn was staking a claim to moving the British Labour Party meaningfully towards the left. The Sanders-Corbyn wave, and many others like it, was decisively defeated.

Both in the Western world and here at home, left-progressive forces must regroup and try again. Else we will remain at the mercy of military establishments, plutocrats and the far right. -- Courtesy Dawn

**Commerce News**

**Finance minister highlights positive economic trends at investors' fora**

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb attended a series of investor fora organized by Citibank, Standard Chartered and JP Morgan and highlighted positive trends of economy.

The minister, who is leading Pakistan delegation to the Annual Meetings WB and IMF, being held in Washington DC from 21-26 October 2024, briefed investors about the positive performance of the economy during the last fiscal year (2023-24) and expressed satisfaction that all economic indicators were moving in the right

direction. According to press release issued by finance ministry here, the minister highlighted important reforms in the taxation, energy, SOEs, privatization and right-sizing of the government and especially talked about the role of the provincial governments in increasing tax-to-GDP ratio and the National Fiscal Pact signed by the Federal Government.

He also talked about reforms being carried out in the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR), the statement added. Aurangzeb in a meeting with President Islamic Development Bank, Dr. Muhammad Sulaiman Al

Jasser, acknowledged bank's role as a reliable partner in Pakistan's progress and appreciated its financing in diverse sectors such as energy, transportation, education and health.

He especially talked about the visit of Saudi Minister for Investment to Pakistan for business-to-business (B2B) engagements with the private sector.

He lauded IsDB's investment in Mohmand dam, along with other members of the Arab Coordination Group, which could serve as the template for co-financing of similar and even bigger projects in future.

**Rupee gains 20 paise against dollar**

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistani rupee on Friday appreciated by 20 paise against the US dollar in the interbank trading and closed at Rs277.64 against the previous day's closing of Rs277.84.

However, according to the Forex Association of Pakistan (FAP), the buying and selling rates of the dollar in the open market stood at Rs277.20 and Rs278.70 respectively.

The price of Euro increased by 50 paise to close at Rs300.58 against the last day's closing of Rs300.08, according to the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP).

The Japanese yen remained unchanged and closed at Rs1.82, whereas a decrease of 21 paise was witnessed in the exchange rate of the British Pound, which traded at Rs360.19 as compared to the last day's closing of Rs360.40.

The exchange rate of the Emirates Dirham and the Saudi Riyal decreased by 05 paise and 07 paise to close at Rs 75.59 and Rs73.91 respectively.



WASHINGTON DC: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb, accompanied by Governor SBP, held a meeting with the lead team of JP Morgan Bank.

**Governor SBP highlights promising outlook, improvements in Pakistan's economy**

KARACHI (APP): Governor State Bank of Pakistan, Jameel Ahmad, highlighting significant improvement in the national economy and its promising outlook said that the economy is headed in the right direction with recovery of economic activity and expectation of further real GDP growth in FY25.

He expressed the views during meetings with delegates from international rating agencies and key glo-

bal investors during the events hosted by leading financial institutions, including Standard Chartered, JP Morgan, Bank of America, and Jefferies, on the sidelines of the 2024 IMF-World Bank annual meetings in Washington, DC, said a statement issued here on Friday.

The SBP governor provided an overview of Pakistan's significantly improved economic indicators over the past year and

pointed out that SBP's prudent monetary policy stance and the government's fiscal consolidation have played a crucial role in restoring macroeconomic stability in the country.

Governor acknowledging challenges faced by the global and emerging economies including Pakistan emphasized the necessity of tough yet essential policy responses to address the macroeconomic challenges.

**SSCI chief presents proposals to ease Pak, Afghan transit trade**

PESHAWAR (APP): Sarhad Chamber of Commerce and Industry, President Fazal Moqem Khan on Friday presented comprehensive proposals to remove hurdles in Pak-Afghan bilateral and transit trade.

The SCCI chief, headed a delegation of traders, gave proposals during a meeting with Chief Collector Custom Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Peshawar Jamil Nasir held at Model Custom House here.

The meeting agreed to establish

coordination and relations between SCCI and Customs Office to speed up the consignments' clearance process at Azakel dry port, making Peshawar dry port functional and issues, allied with cross border trade.

Senior vice president of the SCCI Abdul Jalil Jan, former president Faiz Muhammad Faizi, members of executive committee of the chamber Ziaul Haq Sarhadi, Aftab Iqbal, Ashfaq Ahmad, along with traders were present on the occasion.

**SBP injects over Rs4.25trl in the market**

KARACHI (APP): The State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) injected Rs4,255.9 billion in the market through reverse repo purchase and Shariah Compliant Mudarabah based Open Market Operation (OMO) on Friday.

According to OMO results issued here, the SBP conducted Open Market Operation, Reverse Repo Purchase (Injection) on October 25, 2024 for 7-day and 28-day tenors and accepted total 27 bids cumulatively amounting to Rs4,232.9 billion.

**Dubai's Aviation sector contributes 27% to GDP in 2023, expected to rise to 32% by 2030**

KARACHI (INP): Emirates Group and Dubai Airports have released an economic impact study reaffirming aviation's pivotal role in Dubai's economy.

The study, compiled by global research firm Oxford Economics, provides insights into the sector's current and projected contributions, assessing direct, indirect, and induced economic activity as well as the catalytic impact of aviation-driven tourism, a press release said here Friday.

In 2023, the aviation sector, including Emirates Group, Dubai Airports (covering Dubai International and Dubai World Central - Al Maktoum airports), and other avia-

tion entities, contributed AED 137 billion (USD 37.3 billion) to Dubai's GDP, accounting for 27% of the total.

This figure includes the core impact of AED 94 billion from aviation operations and AED 43 billion from aviation-facilitated tourism. By 2030, this contribution is expected to rise to AED 196 billion, representing 32% of Dubai's GDP.

The sector also played a significant role in employment, supporting 631,000 jobs in 2023, equivalent to one in five jobs in Dubai. With projected growth, an additional 185,000 jobs will be created by 2030, bringing the total to 816,000 jobs.



Ambassador of Pakistan to China H.E. Mr. Khalil Hashmi inaugurated Pakistan Pavilion at 31st China Yangling Agricultural Hi-Tech Fair.

**Bank of Khyber to support CPEC projects: MD**

PESHAWAR (APP): Acting Managing Director, Bank of Khyber (BoK) Irfan Saleem Awan has that BoK is ready to provide full support and assistance to investors involved in China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) projects.

The bank has opened branches in key locations like Rashakai Economic Zone and Jalozai, specifically to cater to the needs of businessmen and investors, ensuring ongoing contributions to CPEC's development. Awan shared these remarks while speaking to the media during his visit to China Window, a Chinese cultural

and information center. He praised the strong and enduring friendship between China and Pakistan, calling it a global model of cooperation.

He noted that China's significant investments in Pakistan, particularly in KP are propelling the province into a new era of development and prosperity.

During his visit, Irfan Saleem Awan toured the various galleries, signed the friendship wall, and left his comments in the guest book. He remarked that being at China Window felt like stepping into a Chinese city.



ISLAMABAD: Famous Economist Kaiser Bengali addressing during a seminar at National Press Club in the Federal Capital.

**German market possessed potential for Pakistani entrepreneurs**

ISLAMABAD (APP): The German Emirati Joint Council for Industry & Commerce (AHK) representative, Florian Walther on Friday said Pakistani entrepreneurs had the potential to grow in German market.

Talking to private news channel, he said that the trade relationship between Pakistan and Germany is important for development of both the countries.

He further said that

all the stakeholders should play their positive role to boost the trade relationship between the two countries.

He said that the role of media, political leadership and Civil society at all cultural level was important in this regard.

"I believe this is an important part of my role, that I am not only presenting German business here, but also representing Pakistan when I go to Germany," he added.



# CM Punjab approves more funds for police martyrs' families

LAHORE (APP): Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif has taken another commendable step for the welfare of police martyrs' families by approving an increase in funds for home purchases.

Through the dedicated efforts of IG Punjab, Dr. Usman Anwar, funding for housing purchases for police martyrs' families has been raised, ranging from Rs. 5 million to Rs. 20 million. Under this new

initiative, the fund for purchasing homes for the families of martyred constables and head constables has been increased by Rs. 5 million, bringing the total to Rs. 18.5 million. Similarly, families of martyred ASIs and sub-inspectors will now receive a total of Rs. 24.5 million, reflecting an increase of Rs. 7 million. For the families of martyred inspectors and DSPs, the fund has been increased by Rs. 10

million, while families of SPs and SSPs will see an increase of Rs. 12 million. Families of DIGs and officers of higher ranks will now receive an increase of Rs. 20 million for home purchases. IG Punjab expressed gratitude to Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif, noting that the increase in funds will ease the challenges in purchasing suitable housing and offer improved living conditions for the families of martyrs.



KARACHI: View of road leads towards CM House and red zone area seen closed while police officials stand alert to avoid untoward incident due to rally of Tehreek-e-Labbaik (TLP), in Karachi.

## Sardar Saleem says: Responsibility of the govt to protect the life and property of people

**Independent Report**  
LAHORE: Chief Secretary Punjab, Zahid Akhtar Zaman called on Punjab Governor, Sardar Saleem Haider Khan at Governor House Lahore. In the meeting, progress on ongoing development projects in the province and administrative issues were discussed. Speaking on this occasion, Governor Punjab Sardar Saleem Haider Khan said that it is the responsibility of the government to protect the life and property of the people and provide them facilities. Governor Punjab said that the success or failure of the

government policies depends on the implementation of these policies and bureaucracy plays a key role in this regard. Governor Punjab further said that the ongoing development projects in the province should be completed soon to make it easier for the people. He emphasized that there is a need to improve public service delivery in the government departments. Later, Governor Punjab Sardar Saleem Haider Khan attended the IT Forum organized by Innovation Labs at Governor House Lahore as Chief Guest.

## ANF recovers over 81 kg drugs in 13 operations

RAWALPINDI (APP): Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) while conducting 13 operations across the country managed to recover over 81 kg drugs worth more than Rs 10 million and arrested 12 suspects, said an ANF Headquarters spokesman here on Friday.

He informed that 4 kg hashish was recovered from an accused rounded up near a university in Hyderabad.

## Three killed, two injured as truck hits two bikes

SARGODHA (APP): Three people were killed and two others sustained injuries as a speeding truck hit two motorcycles here at Sahiwal Shahpur Road near Mouza Chakrala in the jurisdiction of Sahiwal Police Station, on Friday.

Rescue-1122 District Emergency Officer (DEO) Mazhar Shah told APP that Ayesha (10) Haani (12) Hamza (2) Zamab (8), Khurshid Bibi (14), all residents of Jora Jaeger were heading to Sargodha on two motorcycles when a speeding truck hit them.



KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister, Syed Murad Ali Shah exchanging views with Imtiaz Ahmed Shaikh, Member of Provincial Assembly (MPA) during meeting held at CM House in Karachi.

## Health minister stresses research, transparency in medical universities

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Health Minister Khawaja Salman Rafique underscored the Punjab government's commitment to fostering quality research and maintaining transparency in the financial management of medical universities across the province. He was presiding over the 16th Syndicate Meeting of Rawalpindi Medical University at the Department of Specialized Healthcare and Medical Education on Friday.

During the meeting, the minister highlighted the Punjab government's ongoing support for quality education within

government medical institutions. He confirmed all resolutions made in the previous, 15th Syndicate meeting, and announced that the revised budget for the financial year 2023-24, as well as the budget for 2024-25, had been approved. Key decisions made included the allocation of funds from the Higher Education Commission (HEC) for the 2023-24 fiscal year, approval of expenses from the previous year, and authorization for the procurement of medicines and medical equipment for affiliated hospitals including Holy Family Hospital, Rawalpindi Teaching Hospital.

## SFA seizes 10,000 kilograms of substandard spices during major raid in Surjani Town

**Independent Report**  
KARACHI: In a significant operation, the Sindh Food Authority's Vigilance team conducted a raid on a large spice manufacturing factory located in Surjani Town, seizing 10,000 kilograms of substandard and hazardous spices. Spokesperson for the Sindh Food Authority stated that over 400 bags of contaminated spices were found during the inspection, indicating severe violations of hygiene and food safety standards. The inspection was

led by Food Safety Officer Mehboob Ali Bhatti, who, along with his team, carefully examined various sections of the factory. During the inspection, it was revealed that insects, cone flour, and choker had been mixed with spices, leading to the immediate sealing of the factory. The spokesperson added that cockroaches, cats, and spider webs were found in the production area of the factory, highlighting the extremely poor sanitary conditions.

## SIU arrests four of robbers gang

KARACHI (APP): The Special Investigation Unit (SIU) of the Crime Investigation Agency (CIA) in an action in Khwaja Ajmer Nagri area arrested four alleged members of a gang that robbed citizens coming from abroad and robbed banks/money changers inside Pakistan at gunpoint.

According to SSP SIU Muhammad Shoaib on Friday, the unit also recovered three 30 bore pistols and two stolen motorcycles. The motorcycles were stolen from the limits of Joharabad police station by the arrested accused.

## Several flights called off at Karachi Airport

KARACHI (INP): Several flights from Karachi Airport have been cancelled due to technical and operational reasons. According to flight schedule, AirBlue flight PA-807 from Karachi to Multan has been cancelled while SereneAir flight ER-524 from Karachi to Lahore has also been called off. Moreover, Karachi to Lahore AirSial flight PF-143 has been cancelled and Karachi to Islamabad AirSial flight PF-125 was also suspended. Similarly, PIA flight PK-368 from Karachi to Islamabad has been called off while PIA flight PK-310 from Karachi to Quetta was cancelled and Karachi to Sukkur PIA flight PK-536 was cancelled as well.

## APHC-AJK delegation meets United Kashmir Welfare Alliance Karachi

KARACHI (INP): The delegation of All Parties Hurriyat Conference led by APHC-AJK Chapter Convener Ghulam Muhammad Safi met the officials and workers of United Kashmir Welfare Alliance Karachi.

They discussed the ongoing human rights situation prevalent in Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) and ongoing suppression by India occupation forces.

The visiting Hurriyat delegation highlighted the ongoing killings, forced disappearances and human rights violations of Kashmiris by the Indian troops in the occupied ter-

ritory and strongly condemned the atrocities inflicted on innocent Kashmiris.

Ghulam Muhammad Safi emphasized on highlighting the long-standing dispute of Kashmir at the global level, saying that India is committing serious violations of human rights in Kashmir, which cannot be ignored anymore and will be raised on international forums. Safi highlighted the difficulties faced by the people of IIOJK, saying that the voice should be raised for the rights of Kashmiris not only in Azad Jammu and Kashmir but in the whole world.



KARACHI: Artists perform traditional folk dances on the closing day of the 5th International Textile and Leather Exhibition, TEXPO 2024, at the Expo Center.

## One in 9 women suffering from breast cancer: Speaker

KARACHI (INP): To facilitate early detection of breast cancer, the Naimat Begum Hamdard University Hospital has decreased the charges for mammography by 50 per cent.

According to a press release Friday, the charges for ultrasound of women facing the risk of having the disease have also been reduced appreciably.

This was announced during an awareness seminar held in connection with the Pinktober activities at the Hamdard University's College of Medicine and Dentistry.

The chief guest on the occasion was vice principal of the college Prof Dr

Muhammad Mubeen. A large number of faculty members and students attended the function.

Speakers on the occasion explained why every woman should examine her breasts using her own eyes and hands. They also explained in detail how the self-examination process should be carried out.

Regular self-examination by women would drastically reduce the incidence of breast cancer in the country, they added. It was revealed recently that a 22-year-old woman had breast cancer, said Dr Rabia Yasmeen of the Naimat Begum hospital.

# International News

## Israeli strikes kill 38 people in Gaza's Khan Younis and 3 journalists in southern Lebanon

**Monitoring Desk**  
BEIRUT: Israeli strikes killed 38 people in Gaza and three journalists in Lebanon on Friday as growing worries about supply shortages in Gaza and international pressure for a cease-fire mounted.

The deaths reported by Gaza health officials were the latest in the southern Gaza city of Khan Younis, where people have in recent days lined up for bread outside the city's only bakery in operation. They come a day after United States Secretary of State Antony Blinken said that Israel had accomplished its objective of "effectively dismantling" Hamas and implored both sides to revive negotiations.

Also on Friday, an Israeli airstrike on guesthouses where journalists were staying in southeast Lebanon killed three media staffers working for news outlets that are seen

as aligned with Lebanon's Hezbollah group and its patron, Iran.

Outside of now-collapsed buildings rented by various media outlets, cars marked "PRESS" lay covered in dust and rubble after the strike, Associated Press photos showed.

The Israeli army did not issue a warning prior to the strike.

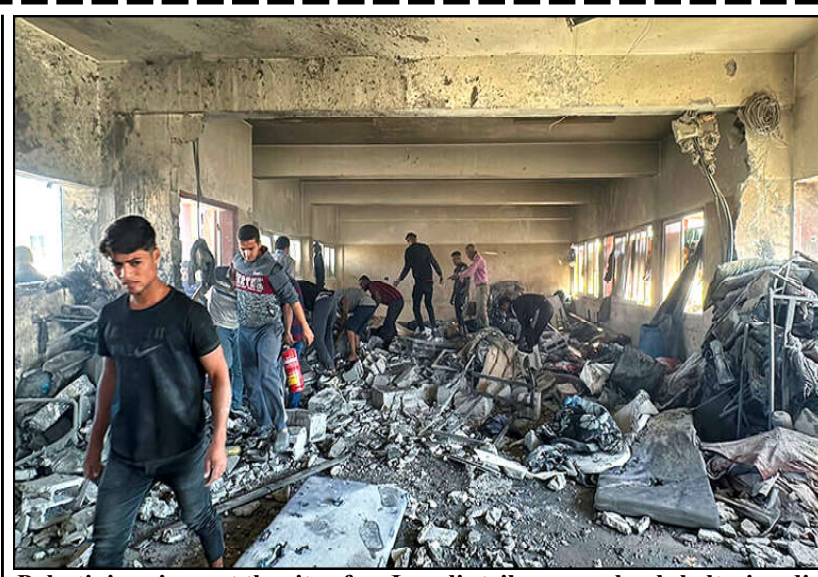
Representatives of the news networks and Lebanese politicians accused Israel of war crimes and intentionally targeting journalists. "These were just journalists that were sleeping in bed after long days of covering the conflict," said Imran Khan, a senior correspondent for Al Jazeera English who was among the journalists in the compound. In a social media post, he said he and his team were unhurt.

The Beirut-based Al-Mayadeen TV said two of its staffers — camera op-

erator Ghassan Najjar and broadcast technician Mohammed Rida — were among the journalists killed early Friday. Hezbollah's Al-Manar TV said its camera operator Wissam Qassim was also killed in the airstrike on the Hasbaya region.

Al-Mayadeen's director Ghassan bin Jiddo alleged that the Israeli strike on a compound housing journalists was intentional and directed at those covering elements of its military offensive. He vowed that the Beirut-based station, a pan-Arab broadcaster seen as aligned with Hezbollah, would continue its work.

The strike occurred hours after the Israeli military's Arabic language spokesman, Avichay Adraee, directly challenged Al-Mayadeen war correspondent Ali Mortada in online posts and referred to him as "my enemy" in English.



Palestinians inspect the site of an Israeli strike on a school sheltering displaced people, in Nuseirat in the central Gaza Strip.

## India, China begin implementing new border pact, ending Himalayan face-off

**Monitoring Desk**  
KAZAN: India and China have begun implementing an agreement to end a military standoff on their disputed Himalayan border, the two sides said on Friday, in the biggest thaw between the Asian giants since deadly clashes between their armies four years ago. Troops who were eyeball-to-eyeball at two points on the frontier in the western Himalayas had begun pulling back, an Indian government source said, heralding an end to the standoff.

The nuclear-armed neighbours struck a deal earlier this week on patrolling the frontier, which then

paved the way for the first formal talks in five years between President Xi Jinping and Prime Minister Narendra Modi on the sidelines of a regional summit in Russia. "According to the recently agreed solution between India and China ... their frontline armies are implementing relevant work, with smooth progress so far," Lin Jian, a spokesperson for China's foreign ministry, said on Friday.

In New Delhi, a government official aware of the details said troops on both sides had started withdrawing from the areas of Depsang and Demchok.

## Trump leads Harris in latest US presidential poll surveys, with economy at centre of voter concerns

**Monitoring Desk**  
WASHINGTON: As the US presidential election approaches, the most recent polls show former President Donald Trump leading Vice President Kamala Harris in the race, with the economy playing a role in voters' decisions. A poll released on Thursday by CNBC's All-America Economic Survey showed that Trump leading Harris 48 per cent to 46pc nationally, with a

margin of error of 3.1pc. In the seven battleground states — Arizona, Georgia, Michigan, Nevada, North Carolina, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin — Trump leads Harris 48pc to 47pc, with a margin of error of 4pc for that portion of the poll. This survey highlighted that many voters view the economy as the most important issue, with a significant number trusting Trump to handle it better than Harris.

## Zelenskiy rejects UN chief's plan to visit Kyiv over Russia trip

**Monitoring Desk**  
KYIV: Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskiy has rejected a plan for the UN Secretary General to visit Kyiv due to Antonio Guterres's attendance at this week's BRICS summit in Russia, a Ukrainian official said on Friday. Kyiv was enraged by Guterres's appearance at the event in the city of Kazan on Thursday and his handshake with its host, Russian President Vladimir Putin, whose forces invaded Ukraine on Feb 24, 2022. Guterres - who called for a "just peace" in Ukraine at the BRICS event and has repeatedly condemned the invasion.

## Canada cuts immigration targets sharply

**Monitoring Desk**  
OTTAWA: Canada said on Thursday it was significantly curbing immigration targets, a dramatic shift that comes as public support for new arrivals declines. This marks a big pivot for a country with a long-standing reputation as a destination for immigrants, including economic migrants from the developing world seeking better living conditions.

## Putin to look at Black Sea shipping proposals from Turkey's Erdogan

**Monitoring Desk**  
MOSCOW: Russian President Vladimir Putin said his Turkish counterpart, Tayyip Erdogan, had proposed reviving contacts on Black Sea shipping but that he had not yet had time to study the documents.

Putin told Russian state television that Erdogan had "once again renewed these proposals to continue contacts related to shipping in the Black Sea, (and) on some other issues."

Putin met Erdogan at the BRICS summit in the Russian city of Kazan as well as UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres.

"To be honest, I haven't even had time to read the materials that our Turk-

ish partners and friends have given us," Putin said. "Well, let's see. We have never refused this." Turkey and the United Nations helped mediate the Black Sea Grain Initiative, a deal struck in July 2022 that had allowed the safe Black Sea export of nearly 33 million metric tons of Ukraine grain.

Russia withdrew from the agreement in July 2023, complaining that its own food and fertiliser exports faced serious obstacles. Turkey and Guterres have repeatedly tried to get merchant shipping sailing more freely through the Black Sea, which in some areas has been turned into a naval war zone since Russia invaded Ukraine in 2022.

## US, Israeli negotiators to discuss Gaza ceasefire deal in Doha

**US warns against long Israeli campaign in Lebanon, Israeli general says "sharp" end possible**

**Monitoring Desk**  
DOHA: The United States does not want a protracted Israeli campaign in Lebanon, US Secretary of State Antony Blinken said on Thursday (Oct 24), a month into Israel's military onslaught against the Iranian-backed Lebanese group Hezbollah.

Blinken also said he hoped Iran was getting a clear message that any further attacks on Israel risked its own interests, with the region awaiting the retaliation Israel has vowed for an Iranian missile barrage on Oct 1. US and Israeli negotiators will gather in Doha to prepare the way for renewed talks on a Gaza ceasefire deal which would also entail the release of hostages in the Palestinian enclave, Qatar and Washington said.

Israel said the head of its Mossad intelligence agency would travel to

Doha on Sunday to try to restart the talks. Mossad head David Barnea will meet CIA director William Burns and Qatar's prime minister.

"The parties will discuss the various options for starting negotiations for the release of the hostages from Hamas captivity, against the backdrop of the latest developments," Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu's office said. Blinken, speaking after talks with Qatar's prime minister, said it had not yet been determined whether Hamas was prepared to engage in new negotiations, but urged the group to do so. Blinken has been on his first trip to the region since Israel killed Hamas leader Yahya Sinwar, a mastermind of the group's Oct 7, 2023 attack on Israel that triggered conflict across the Middle East.





ISLAMABAD: Chairman Senate, Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani, Federal Minister for Privatisation, Abdul Aleem Khan, Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting, Atta Tarar, Ambassador of Kazakhstan to Pakistan Yerzhan Kistafin, and others cutting the cake during Kazakhstan Republic Day ceremony, at a local hotel, in the Federal Capital.

## Bugti orders to expedite anti-encroachments operation

QUETTA (APP): Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti on Friday has ordered to expedite the operation against encroachments across the province and strengthen measures to retrieve the occupied land of the government.

In a meeting presided over by the Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti, the progress of the anti-encroachment and operation against land grabbers across the province was reviewed and the complaints registered against the occupation of land in the Chief Minister's Complaint Cell were considered.

The Chief Minister of Balochistan ordered to speed up the anti-encroachment operation and directed to retrieve all the occupied lands from the land mafia.

Mir Sarfraz Bugti said that no one is above the law and action should be taken against the encroachers without any delay.

In the meeting, Commissioner Quetta Division Hamza Shafqaat, while giving a briefing, said that the land in Chashma Achozai was retrieved from the occupation mafia and all the encroachments except six mosques and four madrasas have been removed.

Members of Provincial Assembly, Chief Secretary Balochistan, Additional Chief Secretary Home, IG Police Balochistan and senior officials participated in the meeting.

## NA witnesses introduction of two bills

ISLAMABAD (APP): The National Assembly here on Friday witnessed the introduction of two bills, including the Pakistan Citizenship (Amendment) Bill, 2024.

The bills were introduced by the Federal Minister for Information, Broadcasting, National Heritage and Culture, Attaullah Tarar in the house. The other bill introduced by the minister was the Naturalization Act, of 1926 [The Naturalization (Amendment) Bill, 2024].

Additionally, the Annual Report of the Board of Directors of the State Bank of Pakistan on the state of Pakistan's economy for the year 2023-2024, along with the Governor's Annual Report 2023-2024, was laid before the House.

## AJK President calls for unified stance on Kashmir issue

MIRPUR-AJK (APP): Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) President Barrister Sultan Mehmoed Chaudhry has stressed the need for a unified stand on the Kashmir issue.

Addressing a dinner hosted in honor of heads of various political parties in the state capital on Thursday, AJK President said the leadership across the political spectrum must come together to effectively promote the Kashmir cause.

"There is a dire need for the top leadership representing different political and religious parties to rise above partisan politics and work together for the freedom movement of Kashmir," the president said.

He noted that with the main Hurriyat Conference leadership languishing in Indian jails, "it is our shared responsibility to become a voice for the voiceless Kashmiri brothers and sisters".

Referring to the growing importance of social media, the AJK president said these platforms could be used to expose India's "brutal face" and human rights violations against the Kashmiri people.

The event was attended by AJK Prime Minister Chaudhry Anwar ul Haq, Speaker Chaudhry Latif Akbar, former Prime Ministers Raja Muhammad Farooq Haider Khan and Sardar Atiq Ahmad Khan and other senior political leaders.



QUETTA: Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfraz Bugti presiding over a meeting regarding anti-encroachment and operation against land grabbers across the province

## Tarar vows strong media drive, counter narrative against drugs usage among youth

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Information and Broadcasting, Attaullah Tarar on Friday vowed to launch a comprehensive media campaign in the upcoming week to raise awareness about drug trafficking and counter the narrative against drug usage among youth.

Responding to questions from members of the National Assembly regarding the government's strategy on narcotics control and human trafficking, Tarar emphasized the stringent measures in place, including capital punishment and life imprisonment under Section 9C, to tackle drug-related crimes.

During the session, Tarar underscored the significance of mass narcotics destruction, revealing that recent operations have dismantled drug rackets valued at billions of rupees. He commended the Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) for its relentless efforts, noting the sacrifices made by its officers in the fight against drug trafficking.

"From August 2023 to October 2024, we have made substantial progress in tracking and apprehending gang leaders," Tarar stated.

He acknowledged the persistent issue of drug use in schools and urged for it to be addressed by a relevant committee, calling for collaboration among all political parties to devise effective solutions. "I would welcome the formation of a special committee to tackle this issue, ensuring that both opposition and treasury members are included," he added.

Highlighting the efforts of the previous Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) government, Tarar noted the establishment of an Inter-Agency Taskforce aimed at enhancing provincial and federal governments in anti-drug operations. He praised the Sindh government for its capacity-building initiatives and stressed the importance of ongoing collaboration with provincial authorities to strengthen anti-narcotics efforts.

He mentioned the 90s PTV drama "Dhuwan," which subtly addressed the issue of drug trafficking and the glamorization of villains in the media. He expressed hopes for future films to further counter this narrative.

The minister acknowledged the historical context of the ANF, which was first established in 1957 and reconstituted in the 1970s, and highlighted its global reputation as an effective anti-narcotics force.



QUETTA: Chairman Standing Committee Information and Broadcasting Phulain Baloch meeting with General Manager Syed Faheem Shah during his visit to PTV Quetta center

## NA passes unanimous resolution expressing solidarity with Kashmiris

ISLAMABAD (APP): The National Assembly of Pakistan on Friday unanimously passed a resolution expressing solidarity with the people of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) on "Black Day."

Federal Minister for Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit-Baltistan, Engineer Amir Muqam, presented the resolution on the 77th anniversary of the Indian invasion of Kashmir on 27th October 1947. The resolution reaffirmed Pakistan's unwavering commitment to supporting the Kashmiris in their struggle for the inalienable right to self-determination.

It said that lasting peace and stability in South Asia are contingent upon the final resolution of the Kashmir dispute, in accordance with United Nations Security Council resolutions and the aspirations of the Kashmiri people. The House reiterated its rejection of India's continued efforts to change the internationally recognized disputed status of India's illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir, its demographic structure, and its political landscape. The resolution also condemned the prolonged detention of thousands of political activists and the banning of several Kashmiri political parties.

## PM lauds Punjab Police operation to kill 10 terrorists in Mianwali

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Friday paid tribute to the Punjab Police for carrying out a successful operation in the Mullaheel area of Mianwali in which 10 terrorists were killed.

The prime minister lauded the timely and effective anti-terror action by the Punjab Police and its Counter Terrorism Department, according to a PM Office press release.

"The entire nation feels proud of its brave policemen," he said.

IK's sisters get bail from ATC

ISLAMABAD (INP): An anti-terrorism court (ATC) on Friday granted bail to Pakistan Tahreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder Imran Khan's two sisters - Aleema Khan and Uzma Khan. ATC Judge Abul Hasnat Zulfikar conducted hearing of the case and after listening to the arguments from both sides, he approved post-arrest bail plea of Aleema Khan and Uzma Khan against surety bonds worth Rs20,000 each.

## Kashmiris to observe Black Day on October 27 against Indian occupation

SRINAGAR (INP): Kashmiris on both sides of the Line of Control (LoC) and the world over will observe the 27th October, (Sunday) as Black Day to convey to the world that India has occupied their motherland illegally and against their aspirations.

According to Kashmir Media Service, it was on 27th October in 1947 when Indian troops in total violation of the spirit of the Partition Plan of the Subcontinent had militarily invaded Jammu and Kashmir and illegally occupied it against the will of the Kashmiri people.

The day will be marked by a complete shutdown by the people in Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir on Sunday. Protest marches, rallies and seminars will be held in Azad Jammu and Kashmir, Pakistan and all over the world to condemn the invasion of the territory by Indian Army on 27th October, 1947 as well as revocation of special status of IIOJK by the Hindutva BJP Indian government on August 5, 2019. Call for the observance of the shutdown and Black Day has been given by the All Parties Hurriyat Conference and supported by other organizations. The APHC leaders, have called upon the Kashmiris to demonstrate to the world, on Sunday, that they would not rest till Jammu and Kashmir was to get freedom from Indian slavery. They urged the global community to come forward for the resolution of the Kashmir dispute and take notice of the gross human rights violations.



QUETTA: Provincial Minister for Communication & Works Mir Saleem Ahmed Khosa in a meeting with Provincial Health Minister Bakht Muhammad Kakar.

## PTI's approach has cost Pakistan dearly, time to move forward: Ahsan

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Planning, Development, and Special Initiatives, Ahsan Iqbal, on Friday said that political stability was needed, saying the country can no longer afford divisive and negative politics.

Speaking to a private news channel, he said that Pakistan has already paid a heavy price for the instability fueled by political discord.

He said that the current government was working toward economic recovery and improving Pakistan's global image.

He pointed to several economic indicators, stating that inflation had dropped from over 40 percent to 6.7 percent, while the stock exchange, which previously crashed to 27,000 points, has now crossed the 90,000 mark. He also noted a 44 percent increase in remittances and a reduction in the trade deficit.



QUETTA: Officers of Balochistan Civil Services Academy Quetta meeting with Commissioner Muhammad Hamza Shafqaat.

## At UN Pakistan calls for ending women's suffering in occupied Kashmir & Palestine

UNITED NATIONS (APP): Reaffirming its strong commitment to advancing the gender perspective in UN peace operations, Pakistan called for ending the suffering of women and girls under foreign occupation such as in Kashmir and Palestine.

"The most egregious violations against women and girls occur in situations of foreign occupation, since one of the objectives of the occupation is the subjugation of the occupied population, among whom women and girls are the most vulnerable," Ambassador Munir Akram told the UN Security Council on Thursday.

"This is the case in occupied Jammu and Kashmir where in 1990, over 100,000 Kashmiri men, women and children were killed," the Pakistan envoy said in a debate on "Women, Peace, and Security".

In this regard, he called on the Security Council to address "the dire and unacceptable" situation of women and girls under foreign occupation.

Over 60 speakers took part in the day long debate, calling for women's involvement in Peace Processes and participation in decision-making on equal footing with men.

On his part, Ambassador Akram said Pakistan was the first country to endorse the UN Secretary General's Declaration of shared commitments which identified Women, Peace and Security as a central priority to strengthen UN peacekeeping, pointing out that the country's political commitment was matched with practical steps in the field. As an example, he said, Pakistan dispatched in 2019 its first all-female community engagement team to Africa, which undertook several successful initiatives including vocational training for local students, teachers and women. An increasing number of Pakistani women peacekeepers in recent years have served as doctors.



HUB: Advisor to Chief Minister Balochistan on Commerce and Industry, Mir Ali Hassan Zehri presenting certificate to frontline polio worker during ceremony on the eve of World Polio Day, in Hub.

## Mufti Gulab Kakar says Black Day to be observed in Balochistan on Oct 27

QUETTA (APP): Ex Member of Provincial Assembly (MPA) Mufti Gulab Khan Kakar on Friday said that Black Day would be celebrated in Balochistan against the Indian usurpation of Kashmir on the occasion of October 27.

Talking to APP, Former, MPA of Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (JUI-F), Mufti Gulab Khan Kakar said that on October 27, India had used its forces to suppress and subjugate the innocent people of Occupied Kashmir and dropped off at Srinagar but the passion of Kashmiris for Hurriyat is still intact.

He said that we would support Kashmiri people at international level under democratic process in order to dispose of ugly face of India.

Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam wants referendum of Kashmir according to United Nations resolutions.

## Islamabad Police arrest JI leader Mushtaq

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Islamabad Police on Friday arrested former senator of Jamaat-e-Islami (JI), Mushtaq Ahmed during a march organized by the party to express solidarity with the people of Gaza, ARY News reported. As per details, Mushtaq Ahmed along with 20 workers of JI was arrested from outside the Faisal Mosque during the Save Gaza March protest. The Islamabad police said the arrests were made after the protestors tried to march to US Embassy.

## Free Media a cornerstone of democracy: German Envoy

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Embassy of Germany and the Embassy of the Netherlands, both members of the Media Freedom Coalition (MFC), hosted a panel discussion titled "Media Freedom and Democracy - Challenges and Opportunities".

This event brought together journalists, diplomats, and community members for an open dialogue about the crucial role of media in shaping democracy. Both representatives of the countries emphasized the role of a free press in strengthening democracy and fostering informed societies. Commenting on the occasion, Ambassador Alfred Grannas highlighted: "A free press is a precondition for a thriving democracy; this is why, for instance, we offer journalists additional training courses with the DW Academy, both in Germany."

## Police officer killed, driver injured in Bannu firing

BANNU (APP): A police officer was killed while the driver of the van sustained serious injuries in a firing incident that took place in Bannu area of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, tv channels quoting police reported on Friday. According to details, unknown outlaws opened fire and killed a police officer travelling by police van while the driver was also injured. Police rushed to the site and shifted the police personnel identified as Saeed Rehman to nearby hospital.

## Chairman NA body on Information visits PTV Quetta Center

QUETTA (APP) Chairman National Assembly Standing Committee on Information and Broadcasting, National Assembly, Pullain Baloch on Friday visited PTV Quetta Center.

On this occasion, General Manager PTV Quetta Syed Faheem Shah, Program Manager Gul Shah Bukhari, Bolan Incharge Jawad Ali Hazara and Heads of the Engineering, Administration, Finance, Design, News, Current Affairs and IT departments provided a detailed briefing to the chairman.

Speaking on the occasion Pullain Baloch said, "Pakistan Television is the national institution safeguarding the ideological borders of the country, and modernizing it is the need of the hour".

Pullain Baloch praised the role of PTV Quetta Center in promoting the soft image of Balochistan, stating that the Government of Pakistan will utilize all resources to resolve the issues faced by the PTV Quetta Center.

## RDMC supports re-opening of two primary schools after 13-years closure in Chagai

QUETTA (APP): After thirteen years, two primary schools in the remote villages of Bedok and Sarzay of district Chagai have reopened, with the support and efforts of the Reko Diq Mining Company (RDMC), a joint venture between Barrick and the governments of Balochistan and Pakistan.

This initiative is part of RDMC's commitment to community development while developing a world-class copper-gold mine in the Reko Diq area, a press release issued on Friday said.

RDMC's community investment portfolio is guided by the Community Development Committees (CDC), which have local stakeholders and community leaders as key members. The CDC of the Fan Sediment area of the Reko Diq project, in which these two villages are located, proposed the reopening of the primary schools so that the local communities' children can have access to quality education.

RDMC responded by hiring teachers to make the schools functional and provided free uniforms, books and stationery to the students. As the original school buildings are in dilapidated condition due to years of disuse, the process to rebuild the infrastructure of the schools will be initiated soon by RDMC. For now, classes are being held in alternative spaces offered by local communities eager for their children to begin learning.

Giving details of RDMC's educational initiatives, Community Investment Team Lead, Mohammad Essa Tahir said, "Education is one of the five pillars of sustainable development on which the company's community investment program is based, which includes access to health, water and environment, food security and local economic development.

Currently, we support seven primary schools in our project area, serving 368 children, and we aim to expand our educational initiatives throughout the Chagai district to provide more opportunities for learning and skill development."



QUETTA: Chief Secretary Balochistan Shakeel Qadir Khan presiding over a meeting regarding anti-polio campaign in the province.

