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dailyindisb@gmail.com Chief Editor: Syed Farooq Shah www.dailyindependent.com.pk Islamabad

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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.

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 Cooperation (OIC), UN General Assembly, UN Security Council, the International Court of Justice (ICJ), and the international community.



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

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 National Assembly of Pakistan in its session held on 2nd August 2024, as well as other relevant resolutions adopted by the Parliament of Pakistan, the All Parties Conference expressed its unequivocal condemnation in the strongest possible terms of Israel's genocidal campaign that has resulted in the loss of over 42,000 lives, mostly women and children, as well as grievous injury to over 96,000 Palestinians, in addition to the widespread destruction and displacement of nearly the

entire population of Gaza; 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-

ice (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 re-

alization 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.

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

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

Apparently the injunction was issued by the lower court against the demolishing of illegal structure in defying the top court's order, he said. The court referred the case of the judge who issued a stay order against the demolition of illegal structures in Margalla Hills to the Islamabad High Court (IHC). The top court asked the IHC to view if there is any need to take any action on this matter.

The Supreme Court's

bench headed by Chief Justice of Pakistan Qazi Faez Isa heard the aforesaid case.

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

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

On the occasion the chief justice expressed an-

noyance over issuance of a stay order by the lower court against demolishing of illegal structure and remarked that it is so strange that Civil Judge is stopping the implementation of the orders of the Supreme Court.

The CJP questioned that if the civil judge has committed contempt of court by granting a stay order. He remarked that legal actions should be taken against such judges.

Justice Shahid Bilal noted that civil court issued an injunction on a writ petition against which the court fee was even not paid.

The CJP asked that how did the said civil judge come to know that the petitioner Ajab Gul is a grade A contractor.

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

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

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

"Instead of lecturing a

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

She said the AIG should also deliver on the commitments given to the international community by denying space to terror groups which were seriously threatening peace and security in the neighbouring countries; and by preventing Afghanistan from becoming once again the centre of global terrorism.

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.

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.

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

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

Meanwhile Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Monday visited the Chinese Em-



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

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

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

He assured that after identifying those responsible, they will be

brought to justice without delay.

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

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

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

All roads, motorway links in Islamabad open for traffic

ISLAMABAD (INP): Traffic in Islamabad is flowing smoothly, with all major roads and intersections now fully open, according to a police spokesperson.

The city's senior superintendent of police (traffic) is personally overseeing the situation on the ground to ensure the uninterrupted flow of vehicles.

In a series of updates, the police confirmed that several key routes, including Rawat T Cross, Koral

Chowk, Khanna Bridge, Faizabad, Murree Road, and the

Express Highway, are now open for traffic in both directions. Peshawar Morr, Golra Morr, and Chungi No 26 have also been cleared for vehicular movement.

Murree Road has been opened for traffic in both directions from near the traffic police office, the spokesperson said.

Additionally, the

Motorway Link Road, Colonel Sher Khan Shaheed Road, and Iran Avenue have been opened from both sides, while G-14 Srinagar Highway, 17 Mile

Toll Plaza, and Bhara Kahu are fully accessible. Traffic has also resumed on Kati Pahari GT Road, Zero Point, and Khayaban Chowk on both sides, ensuring that all key transit points across Islamabad are now operational.



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

SCO Summit:

Public holidays announced in twin cities from Oct 14 to 16

ISLAMABAD (INP): The federal government has announced three public holidays in twin cities of Islamabad and Rawalpindi on the occasion of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) summit.

The notification issued on Monday stated that there would be public holidays in Islamabad and Rawalpindi from October 14 to 16. The public holidays have been declared in connection with the SCO summit going to be held in Islamabad on October 15 and 16, the notification stated. As per notification, all educational institutions including schools and government offices will remain closed from October 14 to 16.

The representatives of member countries including

Indian Foreign Minister Jay Shankar will be attending the summit. Besides, the leaders from China, Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, and Iran would also attend the summit.

Earlier, Federal Minister for Interior Mohsin Naqvi chaired a high-level meeting at the Ministry of Interior regarding the preparations of upcoming SCO Summit.

The meeting was attended by top officials, including the Federal Secretary Interior, Additional Secretary, Chief Commissioner Islamabad, IG Police Islamabad, Deputy Commissioner Islamabad, Deputy Commandant FC, Sector Commander Pakistan Rangers, and representatives from security agencies.

PTI founder banned from meeting family, lawyers

RAWALPINDI (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.

56 Pakistanis, languishing in Sri Lankan jails, return home

ISLAMABAD (INP): As many as 56 Pakistanis, 51 males and five females, who had been languishing in Sri Lankan jails for the last several years, arrived at Islamabad airport on Monday.

With tears in their eyes, they thanked the government of Pakistan for facilitating their return.

One of the aged women said she was extremely thankful to the government which enabled her to return to

Pakistan. "You have done a great favour to me and other Pakistani prisoners, which will remain etched in our memories," she said.

Another Pakistani prisoner said it was all made possible by the untiring efforts made by Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi and Federal Minister for Privatization Abdul Aleem Khan. "The condition inside the jail was pathetic. I am grateful to The Almighty Allah that finally I am home."



ISLAMABAD: Pakistani Prisoners on their return to Pakistan from Sri Lanka at Islamabad International Airport.

Ensuring law and order in capital utmost priority: IGP

Independent Report ISLAMABAD: According to the details, Inspector General of Police (IGP) Islamabad Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi, visited D-Chowk and various duty points, a public relations officer said.

He met with the officials of Islamabad Police and other law enforcement departments and boost their morale who are performing duties in order to maintain the law and order situation in the capital.

On the occasion, IGP Islamabad has instructed the officials to be highly alert and ready all the time to deal with any emerging law and order situation.

"Will shall take every possible necessary measures to protect the lives



and property of citizens as well as private and commercial property and ready to thwart adventurism from any elements" he said while addressing the officials.

He further said that, all the officials who are performing duties are putting their best efforts to main-

tain the law and order situation in the capital.

All the officers have been directed to stay vigilant in their own respective areas and brief the personnel to deal with any law and order situation and check all the duties by themselves.

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.

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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 enhanced 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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

Khamenei decorates commander for Israel attack

Monitoring Desk TEHRAN: Iran's supreme leader has decorated the Revolutionary Guards aerospace commander for the Islamic republic's missile attacks on arch-foe Israel, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei's website said on Sunday. "Ayatollah Khamenei presented the Order of Fath ("Conquest" in Farsi) to General Amirali Hajizadeh, commander of the Guards Aerospace Force," it said. Hajizadeh, 62, has headed the Guards aerospace unit since its creation in 2009.

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

Monitoring Desk WASHINGTON: With just one month left in a deadlocked US presidential election, Donald Trump headed to the battleground state of Wisconsin on Sunday, as rival Kamala Harris kicked off a week-long media blitz. Polls have the Republican and Democrat candidates neck and neck, fueling a high-cost, high-intensity scramble for each and every wavering voter in the seven key states that are likely to decide the outcome on Nov 5. Trump lost Wisconsin in 2020 and this will be his fourth visit in eight days. Harris was there earlier this week, holding a rally in Ripon, birthplace of the Republican Party, where she appealed to moderate and disgruntled conservatives. Trump's visit comes on the back of a theatrical campaign return on Saturday to the same venue in Butler, Pennsylvania, where he narrowly avoided a would-be assassin's bullet back in July.

France to host Lebanon aid conference

Monitoring Desk PARIS: France will host an international conference this month to help drum up humanitarian aid for Lebanon and strengthen security in the southern part of the country, French President Emmanuel Macron said on Saturday. "We will hold in the next few weeks a conference to provide humanitarian aid, support the international community, and support the Lebanese armed forces boost security, especially in southern Lebanon," Macron said after a meeting of French-speaking countries in Paris.



Coordinator to Prime Minister on Climate Change, Romina Khurshid Alam addressing a seminar on World Habitat Day in Islamabad.

Ahsan for empowering youth with science, technology

ISLAMABAD (APP): Highlighting the importance of professional education, Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives, Professor Ahsan said here on Monday that the government's focus was on promoting science and technology in the country. Addressing the 'World Space Week' function at Islamabad Model College, the minister asserted that the future of the Muslim Ummah lies in the revival of science and technology. It is pertinent to mention here that International Space Week is being celebrated globally from October 4 to 10. The planning minister said that when Muslims

abandoned knowledge and research, they became victims of decline, citing the example of Israel, a population of 10 million dominating two Arab countries. He was of the view that Muslims' honor has been affected due to their distance from knowledge and research adding Muslims today were plagued by intellectual decline and polluted thinking. Ahsan Iqbal quoted the Quran's encouragement to unravel the mysteries of the universe and reminded that Allah has commanded humans to conquer the moon and stars, but Muslim countries have failed to do so. Ahsan Iqbal urged returning to science and re-

search in accordance with Quranic teachings.

He regretted Muslims' weak role in unraveling the universe's mysteries. He said, Allama Iqbal called youth 'Shaheen' and encouraged them to move forward. The minister said the current era is driven by technology and artificial intelligence adding the Fourth Industrial Revolution and Big Data were changing human leadership and predicted that future progress belongs to nations that excel in science and technology. Ahsan Iqbal said that the Ministries of Planning and Education plan to utilize Space Week as a platform for youth and stressed the importance of increasing young people's interest.

SC seeks details regarding housing society in Margalla Hills

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Supreme Court of Pakistan on Monday sought details from Capital Development Authority (CDA) and Chief Commissioner ICT regarding the North Range Housing Society in Margalla Hills National Park. The court instructed the respondents to present ownership details and building approval on next date of hearing.

A top court's bench, headed by Chief Justice of Pakistan, heard the case regarding the residential activities in Margalla Hills.

During the course of proceeding, lawyer Umar Gillani contended that the CDA had stated in its report that this housing society was illegal.

front of public transport vehicles.

Furthermore, vehicles were required to complete their assigned routes as per the route permit. Any failure to do so would result in legal action against the relevant transport coordinator (Adda Munshi).

Meanwhile, the vehicles equipped with CNG cylinders must obtain a Cylinder Pass Certificate from stations approved by OGRA to ensure safe operations. And the drivers must adhere to the proper road lanes and designated routes while operating their vehicles.

The spokesman said that overcharging passengers and overloading vehicles were strictly prohibited.

Pressure horns and playing music inside the vehicle are not allowed, he added.



ISLAMABAD: Pakistani Prisoners on their return to Pakistan from Sri Lanka at Islamabad International Airport.

ICT admin issues guideline for public transportation vehicles

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Islamabad Transport Authority has issued guidelines for public transport vehicles in the Federal Capital to ensure safe and fair services.

These new guidelines focussed on passenger safety, prioritization of vulnerable commuters, and curbing overcharging and violations, said the spokesman of ICT administration here.

These guidelines were included that all the public transport vehicles must have their fitness certificates and route permits displayed clearly on the front glass.

While, both the front and back glass of rental cars must clearly show signage indicating their status as rental vehicles.

Similarly, women and senior citizens should be given priority seating at the

PTI failed to unleash violence, bloodshed in capital despite massive attempt: Muqam

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for State and Frontier Region, Kashmir and Gilgit-Baltistan Affairs, Engineer Amir Muqam on Monday said that the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) protest had failed to unleash violence and bloodshed in the federal capital despite massive attempts.

Addressing a press conference, the Minister appreciated the positive role of security forces and police in showing patience.

Muqam said Ali Amin Gandapur's role has been that of a film actor from day one and that too of a villain. "Thankfully, the 'Imrani agenda' has not been completed. However, despite Article 144 in Islamabad, the deployment of the Army, and many hurdles, PTI's purpose of bringing the innocent Pashtuns to create bloodshed could not be achieved.

These anti-state elements were expecting severe reaction and bloodshed but their aim was not fulfilled," he said.

Engineer Amir Muqam while appreciating the role of the security and law enforcement agencies said that the security agencies worked in the best interest of the country and worked patiently.

"However, the martyrdom of one constable and the injuries of many are deeply regretted," he added.

How the resources, machinery, and manpower of a poor province were used recklessly would have to be accounted for, he said.

Engineer Amir Muqam warned and said that he would also ask the government officials of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa not to be part of the work against the country's interest, otherwise, they too would be held accountable.

Pak assures to apprehend perpetrators of Karachi attack killing Chinese engineers

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan on Monday strongly condemned the heinous terrorist attack near Karachi airport took place on Sunday night killing two Chinese engineers and injuring another, and assured to bring the perpetrators to justice. "This deplorable act of terrorism is an attack not only on Pakistan but also on the enduring friendship between Pakistan and China. We remain resolute in bringing to justice those responsible for this cowardly attack, including the

Majeed Brigade." Foreign Office spokesperson Mumtaz Zahra Baloch said in a statement. She said that Pakistan's security and law enforcement agencies would spare no effort in apprehending the perpetrators and their facilitators.

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



ISLAMABAD: Jamaat Islami Women Wing hold a protest demonstration against Zionist regime on the occasion of the first anniversary of Operation Tufan Al-Aqsa in the Federal Capital.

Ayaz flays blast near Chinese vehicle in Karachi

ISLAMABAD (APP): Speaker of the National Assembly, Sardar Ayaz Sadiq, on Monday strongly condemned the tragic blast near a vehicle carrying Chinese nationals in Karachi, expressing profound sorrow over the loss of two Chinese lives and the injuries sustained by several others.

In his statement, he conveyed his deep condolences to the bereaved families of the victims, calling the loss of Chinese nationals "profoundly saddening." He expressed sympathy and solidarity with the families affected by the tragedy.

He said that such heinous acts of terrorism cannot weaken the strong and time-tested bond between Pakistan and China. "The malicious intentions of our enemies cannot sabotage the strong bond of Pak-China friendship," he said reaffirming that the friendship between the two nations remains as high as the Himalayas and as deep as the ocean.

Condemning the enemy's attempts to create unrest in the country, he urged law enforcement agencies to act swiftly in apprehending the perpetrators and bringing them to justice. He also directed authorities to ensure that the injured receive the best possible medical care.

KSRelief to ink MoUs for aid, humanitarian projects with various organizations today

ISLAMABAD (APP): The King Salman Humanitarian Aid and Relief Center (KSRelief) is set to sign several agreements and memorandums of understanding (MoUs) with various organizations in the Federal Capital on Tuesday. According to the Saudi Press Attaché, Dr. Naif Al-Otaibi, the event will be attended by the Ambassador of Saudi Arabia to Pakistan, Nawaf bin Said Al-Malki along with government officials and representatives from international and local humanitarian organizations.

These agreements will encompass aid and construction projects in multiple underprivileged regions of Pakistan, in alignment with KSRelief's comprehensive aid plans, he added. Briefing on the KSRelief, Dr. Naif said it was an international organization dedicated to relief

and humanitarian work. It was launched in May 2015 under the direction and patronage of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud. This organization is based on high humanitarian goals in its operations, which aim to provide assistance to the needy and disaster victims anywhere in the world. These tasks are carried out under right monitoring procedures and modern methods of rapid transition, which are carried out by United Nations organizations and international and local non-profit organizations. The plans and programmes offered by the KSRelief vary according to the needs of the beneficiaries and their circumstances. These aid projects cover all areas of relief and humanitarian work, including food security, camp management, shelter, initial rehabilitation, conservation.



ISLAMABAD: Officials of Capital Development Authority (CDA) leaving Khyber Pakhtunkhwa House after sealed, in the Federal Capital.

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 af-

orestation 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 Emergencies 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."



ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Army is standing upside down in D Chowk for peace and order in the country.

IHC orders SSP, RWP, IBD to appear with progress report in 4 missing brothers case

ISLAMABAD (Online): Islamabad High Court (IHC) has summoned police officers of twin cities of Rawalpindi and Islamabad in recovery of 4 missing brothers case.

The police officers who have been summoned include SSP Rawalpindi and SSP Islamabad.

The court while giving warning has remarked both the SSPs should appear with progress report otherwise arrest warrants will be issued.

The court has called report from ministry of interior and ministry of defence about the kidnapped persons.

The Chief Justice (CJ) IHC Aamer Farooq remarked such impression is being given that police is colliding. Where are the abducted persons. Should I issue arrest warrants of SP. Ask him to appear in the court.

He expressed annoyance over police.

The case for recovery

of 4 brothers who went missing from limits of Khanna police came up for hearing in IHC Monday.

Mufeed Khan advocate appeared in the court on behalf of petitioner who is mother of the missing citizens.

The counsel for missing brothers said Rawalpindi police lifted the four brothers from Khanna area of Islamabad. Now police authorities say they have not lifted them.

The CJ IHC expressed displeasure over non recovery of missing brothers.

The CJ IHC Aamer Farooq inquired what is pay of an SHO.

Police officer replied maximum it comes to Rs 150000.

The CJ IHC inquired can home be built in F-6 or F-7 within the salary of Rs 150000.

Police officer replied No. My lord it is impossible.

The CJ IHC inquired

then how the homes are being built therein. Are the angels giving the money.

The CJ IHC inquired why SP Rawalpindi has not come. Where is he.

Police officer replied he is on the way. Ways are closed.

The CJ IHC Aamer Farooq remarked he will always remain on the way.

CH IHC remarked such impression is being given as if police is colliding. Where are abducted persons. Should I issue arrest warrants of SP. Ask him to appear in the court.

The CJ IHC remarked it has been alleged Rawalpindi police lifted the four brothers in January.

The court while directing SSP Rawalpindi and SSP Islamabad to appear in person on Thursday summoned report about the abducted persons from ministry of interior and ministry of defence too on Thursday.

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.



ISLAMABAD: Special Secretary Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training, Mohyuddin Ahmad Wani, addressing a seminar organized by National Commission for Human Development Ministry of Federal Education & Professional Training in collaboration with UNESCO, AIOU and BECS on WORLD TEACHERS' DAY.

Pak strengthens global efforts to establish Snow Leopard as symbol of climate adaptation

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Ministry of Climate Change and Environmental Coordination (MoCCEC) has accelerated efforts, in collaboration with the 12 member countries of the Global Snow Leopard and Ecosystem Protection Program (GSLEP) to propose that the snow leopard be designated as an international symbol of climate adaptation at the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA).

During a high-level meeting at the Ministry of Climate Change and Environmental Coordination, Prime Minister's Coordinator for Climate Change Romina Khurshid Alam outlined the steps of this initiative. The plan includes sending formal communications to the UNGA, the countries where snow leopards thrive, and key wildlife

conservation organizations, said a press release on Monday. Pakistan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs will also be closely involved to ensure a unified national approach. Global diplomatic efforts will be launched in coordination with snow leopard range states and institutions. Pakistan intends to present a strong case at the upcoming COP 29 conference in Baku, Azerbaijan, in November. Speaking at the meeting, Romina Khurshid emphasized Pakistan's longstanding commitment to wildlife conservation. She remarked, "The snow leopard is more than just a symbol of natural beauty, it is a critical indicator of climate change. Pakistan is among the nations most affected by climate change, and we stand ready to take every necessary action to raise awareness and support efforts.