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FM Aurangzeb announces major tax, economic reforms, restrictions on non-filers

Terms meetings with stakeholders in US successful; says none would be harassed for taxes

WASHINGTON (INP): Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb Sunday outlined significant economic reforms and tax policies aimed at increasing transparency and sustainability in Pakistan's economy.

Speaking at a press conference after concluding his visit to Washington, where he participated in the World Bank (WB) and International Monetary Fund (IMF) Annual Meetings from October 21 to 26, the Finance Minister said that his meetings with stakeholders in the United States remained positive, adding that the stakeholders appreciated the scaling down of inflation in Pakistan.

They expressed the confidence that the economy was on the right path and would grow. "All global rating agencies have upgraded Pakistan's ratings which is an indication that the economy is going in right direction. We have to take harsh decisions for the betterment of economy,"

said the finance minister. The Pakistani Finance Minister held a series of meetings with the leaders from several international finance institutions and authorities including rating agencies, multinational banks, WB, IMF and the Asian Development Bank (ADB).

Aurangzeb said that the US business communities were willing to invest in Pakistan as all rating agencies stated the economy was moving in the right direction.

He also apprised media that the WB would give Pakistan a grant instead of loan. Whereas, he said, the government would try not to take a loan from the IMF anymore.

He expressed the hope that the current IMF programme would be the last programme. "Our foreign reserves have increased to \$11 billion. We have reduced reliance on foreign loans. All banks are ready to cooperate with the government," he concluded.

Aurangzeb emphasized that no one will be harassed for taxes, with data-driven assessments now central to tax collection efforts. He also announced new restrictions for non-filers, stating they will be unable to open bank accounts or purchase property, pending legislative approval.

"We need a legal cover for non-filers, we are erasing the term non-filer" itself. We will raise the tax-to-GDP ratio from nine to 13 percent," reaffirmed the finance minister.

Aurangzeb highlighted upcoming reforms in the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR), aimed at boosting transparency and fostering sustainable development. "We are taking difficult decisions to improve the economy. Our focus includes reducing imports, increasing exports in sectors like IT and agriculture, and transitioning government-owned enterprises to private management where feasible," he said.



LAHORE: A delegation of Pakistan People's Party led by Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari calls on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif.

PM lauds Bilawal's role in passage of constitutional amend.

PPP supported govt's every step aimed at bringing economic stability in country: Shahbaz Sharif

LAHORE (INP): Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari held a detailed meeting with Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif at Model Town Lahore which lasted more than one hour.

During the meeting, the Prime Minister lauded role played by Bilawal Bhutto for the passage of 26th constitutional amendments from the Parliament.

Prime Minister said that credit of 26th constitutional amendments goes to all the allies of the current government.

The PM said that he will use all available resources to provide relief to

common man. He said due to effective economic policies of the current government, remarkable decline has been witnessed in inflation.

PPP Chairman that "we will jointly move forward for strengthening of the parliament. He further said that these constitutional amendments will play key role to halt interference of undemocratic forces".

NA Speaker Ayaz Sadiq, Governor Punjab Saleem Haider, Rana Sanaullah Khan, Maryam Aurangzeb, Azam Nazeer Tarar and Raja Pervez Ashraf were also present on the occasion.

NDMA dispatches two more consignments for war affected people of Gaza, Lebanon

ISLAMABAD (APP): National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) has scaled up humanitarian aid to the war-affected people of Gaza and Lebanon on the directives of the Prime Minister.

The NDMA on Sunday dispatched 15th and 16th humanitarian relief assistance through two NLC road convoys carrying 100 tons each of winterized tents and blankets from Islamabad to Amman (Jordan) for people of Gaza and Beirut for people of Lebanon.

In total 1,598 tons of relief items have been dispatched to affected people of Gaza and Lebanon, a news release said.

The send-off ceremony held at Islamabad International Airport was attended by the Parliamentarians MNA Malik Ibrar and MNA Raja Qamar ul

Islam, H.E Mr. Zuhair M. H. Darzaid, Palestinian Ambassador to Pakistan, H.E Mr. Ghassan Khatib, Lebanese Ambassador to Pakistan, representatives from NDMA, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Armed Forces.

During the ceremony, the Parliamentarians emphasized the urgent need to provide relief to the war-affected populations of Palestine and Lebanon, considering the ongoing conflict and the needs of the affected communities.

They reaffirmed the Government of Pakistan's commitment to supporting their brothers and sisters in distress and stressed the importance of collaboration by welfare organizations and the Pakistani public in strengthening these efforts.

Both Ambassadors extended the profound gratitude to the Govern-

ment and people of Pakistan for their unwavering humanitarian assistance during our times of need. Palestinian Ambassador remarked that the generosity and compassion demonstrated by Pakistan serve as a beacon of hope and a testament to our shared commitment to peace and justice for people of Gaza.

The Lebanese Ambassador highlighted that the humanitarian assistance from Pakistan has been instrumental in providing much-needed relief items among war affected people.

Government of Pakistan has also established a special account called the "Prime Minister's Relief Fund for Gaza and Lebanon". This fund aims to collect public donations to support those in Gaza and Lebanon who are facing war emergencies.



ISLAMABAD: MNA, Engineer Qamar-ul-Islam Raja addressing during ceremony, On instructions of Prime Minister, Pak NDMA Dispatched 15th & 16th Consignment of 200 tons of relief items for people of Lebanon & Gaza through NLC convoy from NDMA's Warehouse.

DPM Dar says: Lasting peace in S. Asia hinges upon just, peaceful resolution of Kashmir issue

ISLAMABAD (APP): Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Muhammad Ishaq Dar on Sunday said that Pakistan remained committed to promoting peace in South Asia and sought constructive relations with all neighbors, however, lasting peace in the region could not be realized without a just and peaceful settlement of the Jammu and Kashmir dispute, in line with the UNSC resolutions and the aspirations of Kashmiri people.

"Pakistan stands in unwavering solidarity with

the Kashmiri people in their struggle and will continue to provide its full political, moral and diplomatic support to the realization of their inalienable right to self-determination," the deputy prime minister/foreign minister said on the observance of Kashmir Black Day. He said October 27 marked a somber turning point in the history of Jammu and Kashmir. On this day, seventy-seven years ago, the Indian forces landed in Srinagar, marking the beginning of a prolonged and painful chapter for the region.

CJP Yahya summons Full Court session today

ISLAMABAD (INP): Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Justice Yahya Afridi has summoned a full court meeting on October 28 (Monday-tomorrow).

The CJP will also preside over a session of the Supreme Judicial Council (SJC) on November 08.

The chief justice of Pakistan has summoned a meeting of the administrative judges of the anti-terrorism courts on November 07. Moreover, the Supreme Court's Practice and Procedure Committee was reconstituted earlier on Saturday.

Ch. Shujaat decides to revive PML-Q politically

LAHORE (APP): Pakistan Muslim League Quaid (PM-Q) President Chaudhry Shujaat Hussain has decided to revive the party politically.

He appointed Dr. Muhammad Amjad as party chief organiser and a notification has also been issued in this regard.

In a statement issued here, the PML-Q president directed Dr. Amjad to reconstitute the party by persuading disgruntled members, re-activating the wings and restructuring the party abroad.



ISLAMABAD: Minister for Kashmir Affairs Engineer Amir Maqam leading a rally on the occasion of Kashmir Black Day to express solidarity with the people of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir.

Maqam leads rally on Kashmir Black Day, urges UN to fulfill promise

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for States and Frontier Regions, Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit-Baltistan, Engr Amir Maqam, reaffirmed on Sunday that there would be no compromise on the Kashmir cause.

Speaking to a private news channel, he said that every Pakistani was feeling deep connection with the people of Kashmir and the idea of compromising on Kashmir was unthinkable. He reiterated the

Pakistan's unwavering support for the Kashmiris in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK), stressing that the entire Pakistani nation would stand united with their Kashmiri brethren in their rightful struggle for freedom.

"India's hope to bury this issue is a false dream. The struggle for freedom will continue until Kashmiris are granted their rightful autonomy," he added.

Speaker of Russian Federation Council arrives in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Speaker of the Federation Council of the Russian Federation, Ms. Valentina Matviyenko, arrived in Pakistan on Sunday at the special invitation of Senate Chairman Syed Yousaf Raza Gillani. Ms. Valentina Matviyenko is leading a high-level Russian delegation, including Federation Council of the Federal Assembly members.

The delegation was warmly welcomed at Noor Khan Airbase by Senate Deputy Chairman Syedaal Khan Nasar and Senator Bushra Anjum Butt.

During the visit, she and her delegation are scheduled to meet with key Pakistani leaders.

Rana says: Speculations about 27th amendment premature

ISLAMABAD (APP): Advisor to the Prime Minister on Political Affairs, Rana Sanaullah on Sunday said that the speculations on the 27th constitutional amendment were premature.

Speaking to a private news channel, he dismissed rumors about unilateral constitutional changes, labeling them as baseless speculation.

Kashmiris dream of freedom will become a reality soon': Atta Tarar

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Federal Minister for Information, Broadcasting, National Heritage, and Culture, Attaullah Tarar, on Sunday said that October 27, 1947, was the darkest day in the history of the subcontinent, as on that day India illegally occupied the state of Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK).

In his message on October 27, Black Day of Kashmir, he said on that day, India illegally annexed Jammu and Kashmir by

landing its troops against the wishes of Kashmiris, the federal minister for information said.

"Despite the atrocities and brutal policies of the Indian fascist government, the valiant Kashmiri people are fighting bravely for their freedom," said the minister.

Attaullah Tarar expressed his belief that Kashmiris would soon reach their destination and their dream of freedom would become a reality.



KARACHI: Policemen arresting Fixit Chief and former PTI MNA Alamgir outside the Karachi Purse Club in the Provincial Capital.

CEC Pak, Uzbek election chief discuss electoral insights

TASHKENT (APP): Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Sikandar Sultan Raja on Sunday discussed cooperation and shared insights on the electoral process with the Chairman of the Central Election Commission of Uzbekistan, Zainuddin Nizamkhajev Makhmatovich.

CEC Raja is currently in Tashkent as a special observer for the ongoing par-

liamentary elections in Uzbekistan.

Both officials agreed to enhance mutual cooperation, with the meeting focusing on the exchange of electoral experiences between the two countries.

The Chief Election Commissioner visited several polling stations in Tashkent, where he closely monitored the electoral process.



RAWALPINDI: The Combat Teams from Special Services Group, Pakistan Army and Republic of South Africa Special Forces in a group photo during closing ceremony of Pakistan-South Africa Joint Exercise Iqbal-I.

Security forces kill five Khawarij in two separate operations

RAWALPINDI (APP): Four Khawarij were killed by the security forces in two separate operations in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

According to ISPR, the operations were conducted between yesterday and today. The first intelligence-based operation was conducted in North Waziristan District and after intense exchange of fire, two Khawarij, including Khawarij Insaf Ullah, were sent to hell.

In another encounter in Khyber District, own

troops effectively engaged the Khawarij location and resultantly two Khawarij were killed, while three got injured. Weapons and ammunition were also recovered from the killed Khawarij, who remained actively involved in numerous terrorist activities against the law enforcement agencies as well as the innocent civilians.

Sanitization of the area is being carried out to eliminate any other Khawarij found in the area as security forces of Pakistan.

Daily Voice of Masses Independent

Region on edge

The latest exchange between Israel and Iran — a shadow war that came into the open after the Oct 7 events last year — came early on Saturday, when Tel Aviv's forces hit Iranian military facilities in Tehran, as well as the provinces of Ilam and Khuzestan, which border Iraq.

Iran has downplayed Israel's aggression, saying it caused "limited damage", with reportedly four Iranian troops killed. It appears that the warmongers in Tel Aviv have listened to American calls to avoid hitting Iranian oil and nuclear facilities; an attack on such installations would have had horrific consequences for the entire region.

Yet this does not take away from the fact that Israel indulged in a highly condemnable act of violating another country's sovereignty — sadly, it has been displaying such behaviour for decades. The attack, unlike previous ones, has been acknowledged by Israel, and was meant as retribution for Iran's missile barrage targeting the Zionist state on Oct 2. That Iranian attack had been triggered by the killings of Ismail Haniyeh and Hassan Nasrallah, as well as the Israeli invasion of Lebanon.

The Israeli aggression has been followed by global calls for de-escalation. The US and UK have sanctimoniously lectured Iran not to target Israel further. Iran's Arab neighbours have condemned the attacks, as has Pakistan, with the Foreign Office saying "Israel bears full responsibility for the current cycle of escalation". The Pentagon has also reaffirmed America's "ironclad" commitment to Israel's security.

Yet Iran feels that it cannot leave its allies in the 'Axis of Resistance' alone at a time when they are confronting Israel. Moreover, it should be remembered that Israel has been killing Iranian generals and scientists long before the Hamas operations last year. And the Iranian missile strikes targeting Israel in mid-April — the first time Tehran directly hit Israel — were prompted by the devastating bombing of an Iranian diplomatic facility in Damascus, widely believed to be the handiwork of Israel.

The next phase of this geopolitical tussle will depend on the Iranian reaction to the Israeli provocation. Tehran's foreign ministry has issued an ambiguous statement, observing that while the Islamic Republic wanted "regional peace", the country was "entitled ... to defend itself". Israel's Western friends, primarily the US and UK, have justified their ally's atrocities by saying that Israel has a right to self-defence. By that logic, Iran, Lebanon, Syria and Yemen also have a right to defend themselves from Israeli aggression. Most importantly, the Palestinian people have a right not to be slaughtered by Israel.

If the global community is serious about de-escalation in the region, it must call for an immediate, unconditional ceasefire in Gaza, and an end to Israel's aggression in Lebanon. Without this, the regional war underway will only intensify.

Loaded questions

Muna Khan

Mine was one of the innumerable jaws that dropped watching that CBS interview of Tanehisi Coates promoting his book, *The Message* a few weeks ago. It happened when anchor Tony Dokoupil, who edged his two co-hosts out of the conversation, told Coates: "I have to say, when I read the book, I imagine if I took your name out of it, took away the awards, the acclaim, took the cover off the book, publishing house goes away, the content of that section would not be out of place in the backpack of an extremist." Coates listened and before he could answer, Dokoupil asked: "Is it because you just don't believe that Israel in any condition has a right to exist?"

Coates — who has established himself as one of America's leading intellectual thinkers on race and has turned that moral clarity to Israel's treatment of Palestine in his new book — responded calmly: the US media was dominated by Israel's viewpoint, whereas he wanted to speak for those who don't have a voice, the Palestinians. Dokoupil, a Jew, later asked why Coates was offended by the existence of a Jewish state. Coates replied: "I'm offended by the idea of a state built on ethnocracy, no matter where they are."

This exchange generated a lot of buzz and I was surprised to hear the network's bosses ordered an internal review, saying Dokoupil had "violated the network's editorial standards" when he compared the book to "extremist" writings "and challenged Coates for excluding the Israeli perspective in his book" reported CNN. Interestingly, the head of the network's parent company Shari

Redstone, a vocal supporter of Israel, criticised CBS' decision to ...err... criticise Dokoupil, saying she supported the journalist asking tough questions. Then the parent company's co-CEO spoke up, saying he stood by CBS' news leadership decision and how the episode must lead to "substantive dialogue about perceptions of inconsistent treatment". What a mess.

Since then, various thought pieces on the subject in the media and YouTube-verse have tackled whether Dokoupil was simply doing his job by asking tough questions, which, we were reminded, is the role of journalism. I don't think asking if Israel has a right to exist is a tough question; it is the typical strategy of Western media which veers from tough questions when it comes to Israel. The slightest of criticism is met with 'why are you against Israel?' or accusations of antisemitism or, in the case of this book, questioning Coates' qualifications on 'complex' foreign policy matters. By saying Coates did not include this or that Israeli point of view distracts from what the writer was reporting on: Israel's segregation of Palestinians and how it deprives Palestinians of their humanity (forget rights and lands).

Dokoupil did not challenge what Coates wrote. He did not ask Coates what he witnessed in the West Bank in 2023, ie, Israel's gruesome, xenophobic, inhumane treatment of Palestinians. He did not ask why Coates called Israel an apartheid state, why it denies Palestinians water, or has ghettoised them, or why he's calling for more Palestinian Americans in newsrooms including the Jerusalem bureau of the New York Times, but instead deflected to why

Coates doesn't want Israel to exist. Dokoupil didn't want to ask these kind of questions because I assume he supports Israel's genocide of Palestinians and it's hard to come on TV and say that outright or ask 'why are you humanising Palestinians', which is essentially what Coates has done in his formidable book.

"The Palestine I saw bore so little likeness to the stories I read, and so much resemblance to the systems I've known," writes Coates, as he unpacks the many ways Israeli narrative has dominated the media, especially in the US.

Coates has established his credentials: as a successful writer and journalist, a National Book Award recipient and a MacArthur Fellow. He can't be "cancelled" for his indictment on Israel and his country's policies towards the Zionist state, though attempts have been made to reduce him to an antisemitic terrorist sympathiser. This is not about tough questions, it is about erasure and an attempt is being made to discredit Coates as not the right man to take on this issue.

Unfortunately, and to prove Coates' point, Palestinian voices don't make it to the mainstream press. In fact, the Committee to Protect Journalists says that more journalists have been killed in the first year of Israel's war on Gaza than in any recent conflict. There is nothing complicated about who is killing them and why. Despite the attempts to silence Coates, he did not get derailed in this, or other, interviews. He has actually simplified the issue as he told CBS: "Either apartheid is right or it's wrong. It really is that simple. Either what I saw was right or wrong." -- Courtesy Dawn

Climate investment

Ajaz Ahmed

The increasing frequency and intensity of extreme weather events such as heavy rainfall, droughts, and heatwaves, result in loss of livelihood, human lives, and economic output. Furthermore, extreme weather events seriously undermine efforts to eliminate poverty and improve living standards, offsetting gains from economic development and resulting in the wastage of scarce resources. Thus, enabling adaptation to climate change and developing the resilience of key social and economic systems has become a top priority of governments worldwide.

Resource-scarce countries like Pakistan have no option, but to invest in climate change adaptation, developing climate resilience of vulnerable communities, and cushioning social and economic systems from climate-related stresses. Investment in climate resilience in the Pakistani context can protect the lives and livelihoods of vulnerable communities and shield social and economic systems, safeguarding the country's economic progress. For example, saving jobs and household incomes and avoiding and mitigating displacements can help maintain economic activity, facilitating local economies to rebound faster. Furthermore, investments in climate adaptation and resilience can increase the resource base, improve health and well-being, and reduce pollution, enabling a transition to a low-carbon economy.

There is much evidence of gains in investment in climate adaptation and resilience. A World Resources Institute study claims that for every dollar invested in climate adaptation and

resilience, the returns range from \$2 to \$10, demonstrating a clear business case for investment in climate adaptation. The study revealed that investment in early warning systems alone can help avoid losses and damages amounting to at least 10 times the value of the investment. The returns, however, depend on several social, economic, political, and institutional factors, which create conducive conditions for climate interventions and returns on such investments.

However, the latest estimates of the 2024 Climate Resiliency Report show that for every \$1 invested in climate resilience, \$6 is saved in terms of avoided losses and damages and \$7 is saved in terms of averted loss to the local economy, making the return on investments in climate change adaptation and resilience \$13. This means that billions of dollars could be saved by investing in climate change adaptation and resilience.

While the Climate Resiliency Report estimates are from the US, there are successful examples of investing in climate resilience from low-income countries as well. For example, investment in water availability and increased water food security in Kenya, typhoon-resilient housing in Vietnam, urban flood risk management and averted losses in Mozambique, and urban heat management and reduced heat-related mortality and morbidity in India are some of the pieces of evidence of gainful investment in climate adaptation and resilience in Global South.

This evidence also offers key insights into successful climate interventions. Examples of such interventions include the use of data and climate information, participatory approaches, involvement of the private

sector, strong coordination, decision-centred planning, political support, and long-term preparation. Notably, these strategies are included in key policy documents in the Pakistani context; however, their successful implementation, scaling up, and dissemination remained hurdles.

Developing climate resilience of key economic and social systems also involves climate-informed investment decisions to develop critical infrastructure, and prevent it from extreme weather events, mitigating the losses and damages and thus wastage of limited resources. However, among other things, limited climate change knowledge and institutional capacity and the absence of appropriate data and information impede climate-informed decisions to support adaptation and resilience building.

Importantly, investment in climate resilience is profitable even if there are no extreme weather events. For example, investment in agriculture resilience can improve crops and thus the food security and performance of the agriculture sector. Similarly, better infrastructure can improve population access to basic services such as clean drinkable water, transport, and health, resulting in improving human capital, employment and economic opportunities, social equity, and economic uplift of marginalised segments. Pakistan is not only in desperate need of developing climate resilience, but it also urgently needs to improve its human capital. Both aims can be achieved by aligning climate and development policies and interventions and integrating climate action in development programmes and projects. -- Courtesy Dawn

Commerce News

Aurangzeb appreciates diaspora for bolstering Pak-US economic ties

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb appreciated Pakistani diaspora community on their valuable contributions in bolstering economic, business and investment ties between Pakistan and the United States.

During an interaction with diaspora leaders, the minister briefed them on the socio-economic developments in Pakistan and shared details of his week-long engagements in Washington DC, according to press release issued by finance ministry here Sunday.

The minister, during an interaction with Pakistani-American tech entrepreneurs, identified IT as one of the burgeoning sectors of the economy and informed that Pakistan ranked among top 5 countries in terms of freelancing.

He highlighted the contribution of IT sector to the rising exports of the country and informed that digital ecosystem was being enabled through a broad range of legislative, policy, regulatory and operational initiatives. He expressed satisfaction over the outcome of his engagements with different stakeholders on the

sidelines of the Annual Meetings 2024 and underlined the importance of staying the course on reforms.

The minister also met with the President of AIIIB, Jin Liqun and acknowledged the Bank's support to Pakistan, particularly in dealing with the aftermath of the devastating floods of 2022.

He recalled his previous visit to China where he interacted with the management of Peoples Bank of China (PBOC). He indicated that government wanted to diversify its financing base and explore the possibility of issuing a panda bond with partial

credit guarantee of AIIIB. He added that engaging AIIIB as an anchor to support the process would send out a strong signal to the market.

The option of a no-deal roadshow first followed by a deal roadshow was also discussed. He expressed satisfaction over the progress of portfolio of AIIIB projects in Pakistan and further efforts to improve the disbursement of ongoing projects.

On the infrastructure side, he invited AIIIB to invest in N-5 (GT Road) reconstruction project and also provide support in terms of program loan.



QUETTA: United Business Group (UBG) Patron-in-Chief, S. M. Tanveer along with Ghulam Farooq Khilji, leading entrepreneur of Pakistan Business Community alongwith others addressing a Press conference, at Ariya Hospital in Quetta.



QUETTA: Warm clothes are being selling at a roadside stall as the demand of warm clothes increased in city on the arrival of winter season, at a weekly bazar in Quetta.

Parliamentary secretary highlights Sargodha local industries' potential

SARGODHA (APP): Having a long history of pink salt, citrus, stone-crushing, handicraft and agricultural production, the Sargodha region could be turned into treasure trove of opportunities for businesses, especially small industries, with its diverse sectors ready to boost the region's economic growth.

This was stated by Parliamentary Secretary for Trade & Chamber of Commerce & Industry and Member National Assembly (MNA) from Pakistan Muslim League-

N (PML-N) Zulfikar Ali Bhatti, while talking to industrialists of Sargodha region here on Saturday.

He said that from agriculture to handicrafts and the cottage industry, the region was teeming with potential for development and offers an array of business avenues for value addition that could uplift local communities and contribute to country's economic progress.

At the heart of the opportunity is the region's agricultural strength, he said adding that agro-based

businesses such as fruit and vegetable processing, citrus research institute and spice grinding mills are particularly viable. These industries could capitalise on Sargodha region's rich produce and help reduce post-harvest losses that currently affect farmers due to lack of processing facilities. "Huge quantities of vegetables and fruits perish due to their short shelf life.

Their proper preservation and value addition can help earn substantial revenue," said Zulfikar Bhatti.

Rising prices, other violations in ICT stir public outcry

ISLAMABAD (APP): The ilsooiters are suffering arbitrary rates and also compromised on quality of daily use adibles by the hoarders mafia in the Federal Capital.

A citizen namely Sail Hussain resident of the Bari Imam area, while talking to APP complained that in our area every shop keeper have their own rates of daily use edibles like vegetables, fruits, milk and meat. "In our area, every shop has its own rates," he

said. "A shopkeeper selling milk at Rs 250 per liter claims it's pure, while others sell at Rs 200, which they say includes water or other substances." This confusion around "pure" and "impure" goods leaves consumers at the mercy of vendors.

In Aabpara Market, one meat seller defended higher prices by explaining that rents in Aabpara are higher. "We sell fresh meat," he said, "while others sell older meat or

add water to stretch the weight." Such statements add to public concerns that some sellers exploit customers by marking up prices with claims of superior quality.

To address these issues, the ICT administration has been active in enforcing price control. In a recent operation, Assistant Commissioner (AC) Pothohar Aneeq Anwar conducted raids in a local vegetable market, leading

to the arrest of 20 shopkeepers for charging prices above the official rate list. The district administration, led by Deputy Commissioner (DC) Irfan Memon, has emphasized the importance of following these rates. "Pay the set prices for urban food items," he stated, adding that an official rate list is released daily. Some citizens, caught in the crossfire of these operations, have faced unintended consequences.

A family of a laborer, Muhammad Sharafat, reported that he was detained while sitting near a shop during one of these raids. Talking to APP, his family said he has been in custody for two days, causing them both financial and emotional distress. As the family's sole breadwinner, his absence has left them struggling. This ongoing situation highlights both the public's demand for fair pricing and the challenges in enforcing it.

Condemn HR violations in IIOJK KP Assembly passes joint resolution expressing complete solidarity with Kashmiris

PESHAWAR (APP): The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Assembly passed a joint resolution unanimously on Sunday by expressing complete solidarity with the people of Kashmir and condemned human rights violations at IIOJK.

The house through the resolution highlighted ongoing human rights violations by Indian occupied forces at IIOJK.

The resolution was presented by Law Minister Aftab Alam Afridi, Mushtaq Ghani, along with members Ahmed Kundli of PPP, Abdul Salam Afridi PTI, and others.

The assembly strongly condemned mass killing in occupied Kashmir, saying that over the past 75 years, more than 100,000 Kashmiris were killed by Indian occupied forces at IIOJK.

The resolution pointed out that around 25,000 women were made widows, and millions of children have been orphaned at IIOJK.

India had illegally occupied Kashmir, the resolution said, asserting that no political process or election can serve as a substitute for the right to self-determination.

The assembly also denounced the deployment

of over 900,000 Indian troops in occupied Kashmir and the imposition of oppressive black laws.

In a tribute to the martyrs of Kashmir, the assembly expressed respect for their sacrifice and called upon the international community to take notice of these HR violations and atrocities.

It urged India to revoke its illegal actions taken on August 5, 2019 and reaffirmed the need for the Kashmiris to be allowed to determine their future in accordance with United Nations Security Council resolutions.



KARACHI: Participants of the All Parties Hurriyat Conference participate in rally and chant slogans against Indian atrocities in IIOJK on Kashmir Black Day.

KP governor calls for peace, unity, harmony

LAHORE (APP): Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa Governor Faisal Karim Kundi declared that there is no place for terrorism in Islam, emphasizing the importance of peace and harmony at the seventh two-day International World Religions Conference held at Minhaj-ul-Quran University, here on Sunday.

As the chief guest, Governor Kundi commended the role of the university for guiding the youth in a direction aligned with Islamic values of peace and unity.

Highlighting the strategic significance of KP, which shares a border with Afghanistan, he noted that while two global powers have attempted to control the region, neither succeeded. He acknowledged the province's ongoing struggle against extremism and terrorism and expressed his desire to organize a similar conference in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa to engage the local community in promoting peace.

In a media briefed later, Kundi underscored the critical role of the judicial system, stating that an improved justice system could address many societal issues — an objective in line with the Pakistan People's Party's vision. He reiterated the government's commitment to overcoming political differences to ensure peace and progress in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. He also pledged support for initiatives aimed at providing employment for the youth and endorsed any efforts that promote positive development in the region.



LAHORE: Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi addressing 7th International Conference on World Religions at Minhaj University.

Kashmir Black Day observed in Faisalabad

Faisalabad (APP): The Kashmir Black Day was observed in Faisalabad here on Sunday to strongly condemn the Indian atrocities in illegally Indian Occupied Jammu & Kashmir (IIOJK).

In this connection, a protest rally was held here by the district administration. Additional Deputy Commissioner Revenue (ADCR) Usman Ali led the rally which started from Zila Council Chowk. Assistant Commissioner (AC) City Ateeq Ullah, AC Saddar Aurangzaib Goraya and other officers of local administration were also present in the rally in addition to a large number of representatives of civil society.

The participants were holding banners and placard inscribed with the slogans against Indian aggression, tyranny and barbarism in the Occupied Kashmir valley.

The participants marched on various city roads and the rally was culminated after reaching at Katchery Bazaar Chowk.

Governor offers Fateha for ex-MNA Humair Rokri

LAHORE (APP): Governor Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi visited the Kundi House in Lahore to offer Fateha at the chehlum ceremony of former MNA Humair Hayat Khan Rokri.

During his visit, he met Adil Abdullah Khan Rokri, a former Member of the Provincial Assembly from Mianwali district. They paid tribute to the deceased for his contributions, recalling his role in local governance and his efforts to uplift the region.

CM seeks report on kite-string injury

LAHORE (APP): Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif sought a report from Inspector General of Police (IGP) while expressing her indignation over injury to a motorcyclist with a kite string at Muslim Town Mor. She directed the authorities concerned to take strict legal action against those responsible for the incident.

World Polio day rally in Mirpur Mathelo raises awareness and encourages vaccination for children

Independent Report
MIRPUR MATHELO: On the occasion of World Polio Day, a rally was held from DHO office to Bhattai Chowk under the leadership of Deputy Commissioner Ghotki Dr. Syed Muhammad Ali, in which Assistant Commissioner Mirpur Mathelo Babar Ali, DHO Dr. Rao Aftab, N-Stop Officer Dr. Zaheer Domki, Dr. Niaz of WHO, Dr. Rahim Gadani of UNICEF and a large number of lady health workers and citizens participated. On this occasion, the Deputy Commissioner said that the purpose of the rally is to raise awareness about polio in the public so that people should give polio drops to their children. He said that the polio virus is no less than a problem, the affected children not only become disabled for life but their parents also continue to face severe problems, so the parents and the civil society are appealed to from October 28.

Father, son killed by unknown motorcyclist

PESHAWAR (APP): A father and son were brutally killed by unknown persons riding on a bike near Angaar village in Rajar Tehsil. The victims have been identified as Azaan Sajid and his son Ukasha.

Emergency services, Rescue 1122, shifted the bodies to Charsadda District Headquarters Hospital. The attackers managed to escape from the crime spot after committing the crime. Rajar Police reached the spot, collected evidence and initiated an investigation into the incident killing.

Environmental squads demolish four industrial units

LAHORE (APP): Senior Provincial Minister Marriyum Aurangzeb said on Sunday that following Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif's directives, the Environment Protection Department's squads have demolished four industrial units in Lahore for contributing to pollution.

These factories had repeatedly ignored notices to install emission control systems.

Additionally, 941 vehicles were inspected, with fines issued to 234 smoke-emitting vehicles, 72 vehicles impounded, and total fines amounting to 503,000 rupees. In other actions, six kilns in Layyah, one in Sheikhupura, and four in Rawalpindi were shut down for failing to convert to zigzag technology.

Marriyum Aurangzeb stated that Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif had directed the Environment Protection Department to act against smog without any compromise. She urged Lahore's residents to actively support the anti-smog action plan and avoid contributing to pollution.



KARACHI: Members of religious organization are holding rally to express solidarity with Kashmiri people and condemn brutality of Indian Army in Kashmir on the occasion of Black Day of Kashmir, at Karachi press club.

Javed Hashmi calls for fresh General elections

MULTAN (INP): Senior politician Javed Hashmi has voiced concerns about the ongoing political crisis in Pakistan, asserting that the only solution is the holding of general elections.

In a recent appearance in a private TV Channel, Hashmi indicated that the current government's tenure is limited to another one and a half to two months, suggesting that even Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif's position could be uncertain in the near future.

Hashmi highlighted the challenges facing Imran Khan, who may remain incarcerated for an additional month and a half. He emphasized the significant pressure on Khan's leadership and stated, "There is no way to end the crisis except through general elections." Addressing the implications of the 26th constitutional amendment, Hashmi criticized its impact on Pakistan's judicial system, claiming it has stripped away more than it has contributed.

He noted that the Supreme Court appears divided, describing it as having both a constitutional and an unconstitutional faction, complicating the judicial landscape. Reflecting on the current political dynamics, Hashmi remarked that the power dynamics within Parliament are not new and that previous amendments.

International News

Israeli strikes on Gaza kill 22, officials say, while truck ramming near Tel Aviv hurts dozens

Monitoring Desk
RAMAT HASHARON: Israeli strikes on northern Gaza have killed at least 22 people, mostly women and children, Palestinian officials said, as the Israeli offensive in the hard-hit and isolated north entered a third week and aid groups described a humanitarian catastrophe. Israel said it targeted militants.

In a separate development, a truck rammed into a bus stop near the Israeli city of Tel Aviv, wounding 35 people, according to first responders. Israeli police described it as an attack and said the assailant was an Arab citizen of Israel. The ramming occurred near the headquarters of Israel's Mossad spy agency.

Iran's supreme leader, meanwhile, said Israeli strikes on the country over the weekend "should not be exaggerated nor downplayed," while stopping short of calling for retaliation, suggesting Iran is carefully weighing its response to the attack.

On Saturday, Israeli warplanes attacked military targets in Iran in response to an Iranian ballistic missile attack earlier this month.

The exchange of fire has raised fears of an all-out regional war pitting Israel and the United States against Iran and its militant proxies, which include Hamas and the Hezbollah militant group in Lebanon, where Israel launched a ground invasion earlier this month after nearly a year of lower-level conflict.

The Israeli military said Sunday that four soldiers, including a military rabbi, were killed in fighting in southern Lebanon, without providing details about the circumstances.

It said five other personnel were severely wounded. An explosive

drone and a projectile fired from Lebanon wounded five people in Israel on Sunday, authorities said.

Netanyahu says strikes on Iran achieved Israel's goals.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said Sunday that the strikes "severely harmed" Iran and achieved all of Israel's goals.

"The air force struck throughout Iran. We severely harmed Iran's defense capabilities and its ability to produce missiles that are aimed toward us," Netanyahu said in his first public comments on the strikes.

Satellite images showed damage to two secretive Iranian military bases, one linked to work on nuclear weapons that Western intelligence agencies and nuclear inspectors say was discontinued in 2003 and another linked to Iran's ballistic missile program.



Palestinian civil defence members rescue a child, following Israeli bombardment on a house in Gaza City.

British lawmakers accuse Starmer of 'colonial mindset' in slavery reparations debate

Monitoring Desk
LONDON: Some British Labour lawmakers on Sunday accused Prime Minister Keir Starmer of having a "colonial mindset" and trying to silence nations pushing for discussions on reparations for transatlantic slavery at this month's Commonwealth summit in Samoa.

Britain has so far rejected calls for reparations but some campaigners hoped Starmer's new Labour government would be more open to it.

However, ahead of the Commonwealth heads of government summit in Samoa, where Caribbean and African nations wished to discuss the topic, Starmer said the issue was not on the agenda and that he would like to "look forward" rather than have "very long, endless discus-

Israeli army blows up houses in Lebanon's border village

Monitoring Desk
BEIRUT: Lebanese state media said the Israeli army dynamited houses in Lebanese border villages on Saturday, as Israel said it used 400 tonnes of explosives to destroy a Hezbollah tunnel, more than a month into an all-out war. The official National News Agency said "the army of the Israeli enemy has since dawn blown up and destroyed houses" in the border village of Adaiseh.

The NNA also reported "large explosions" in the border village of Kfar Kila, saying the blasts were heard across the south as columns of smoke rose above the area. Israeli military spokesman Avichay Adraee said 400 tonnes of explosives were used to blow up.

Putin says Moscow will respond if West helps Ukraine to strike deep into Russia

Monitoring Desk
MOSCOW: President Vladimir Putin said on Sunday that Russia's defence ministry was working on different ways to respond if the United States and its NATO allies help Ukraine to strike deep into Russia with long-range Western missiles.

The 2-1/2-year-old Ukraine war has triggered the biggest confrontation between Russia and the West since the depths of the Cold War, and Russian officials say the war is now entering its most dangerous phase.

Russia has been signalling to the United States and its allies for weeks that if they give permission to Ukraine to strike deep into Russian territory with Western-supplied missiles, then Moscow will consider it a major escalation.

10 cops killed in 'terror attack' in Iran's southeast

Monitoring Desk
TEHRAN: At least 10 police officers were killed in a "terrorist attack" in an area of southeastern Iran long plagued by unrest, local media reported on Saturday.

They were killed during an attack on "police vehicles" in Sistan-Baluchistan province's Taftan county, the Mehr and Tasnim news agencies reported, without saying how it was carried out. No group immediately claimed responsibility for the attack, which occurred some 1,200 kilometres southeast of the capital Tehran.

Death toll in Philippine storm rises to 100

Monitoring Desk
MANILA: Rescuers in the Philippines were diving into a lake and scouring isolated villages on Sunday to locate dozens of missing people as the death toll from Tropical Storm Trami hit 100.

Trami, which rammed into the Philippines on October 24, was among the deadliest storms to hit the Southeast Asian country this year.

According to the national disaster agency, it forced more than half a million people to flee their homes and at least 36 people remain missing.

Police in the hardest-

Bolivia's Morales says vehicle fired upon amid rising political tension

Monitoring Desk
LA PAZ: Bolivian ex-president Evo Morales said on Sunday his vehicle was fired upon amid rising political tensions in the South American country between a faction around the iconic former leader and the government of his former ally, President Luis Arce. Morales posted a video on his Facebook account taken inside a moving car, showing him sitting in the front passenger seat and at least two bullet holes in the windshield. The driver appeared to have been injured.

WHO chief says situation in Gaza 'catastrophic'

Monitoring Desk
GENEVA: The World Health Organisation chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus has termed the situation in northern Gaza "catastrophic" with "intensive military operations unfolding around and within healthcare facilities".

"The situation in northern Gaza is catastrophic," Tedros wrote on X, warning that "a critical shortage of medical supplies, compounded by severely limited access, are depriving people of life saving care".

His statement came a day after Israeli forces raided the last functioning hospital in northern Gaza and detained hundreds of staff, patients and displaced people during the raid, while the death toll in the territory rose to 42,924, most of them women and children.

Tedros lamented that the whole health system in Gaza has been under attack for over a year. "WHO cannot stress loudly enough that hospitals must be shielded from conflict at all times," he said, stressing that "any attack of healthcare facilities is a violation of international humanitarian law".

"The only path to safeguarding what remains of Gaza's collapsing health care system is an immediate and unconditional ceasefire."

Satellite images show damage from Israeli attack at 2 secretive Iranian military bases

Monitoring Desk
DUBAI: An Israeli attack on Iran damaged facilities at a secretive military base southeast of the Iranian capital that experts in the past have linked to Tehran's onetime nuclear weapons program and at another base tied to its ballistic missile program, satellite photos analyzed Sunday by The Associated Press show.

Some of the buildings damaged sat in Iran's Parchin military base, where the International Atomic Energy Agency suspects Iran in the past conducted tests of high explosives that could trigger a nuclear weapon. Iran long has insisted its nuclear program is peaceful, though the IAEA, Western intelligence agencies and others say Tehran had an active weapons program up until 2003.

The other damage could be seen at the nearby Khojir military base, which analysts believe hides an underground tunnel system and missile production sites. Iran's military has not acknowledged damage at either Khojir or Parchin from Israel's attack early Saturday, though it has said the assault killed four Iranian soldiers working in the country's air defense systems. Iran's mission to the United Nations did not immediately respond to a request for comment. The Israeli military declined to comment.

However, Iranian Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei on Sunday told an audience that the Israeli attack "should not be exaggerated nor downplayed," while stopping short of calling for an immediate retaliatory strike. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu separately said Sunday that Israel's strikes "severely harmed" Iran and that the barrage "achieved all its goals." It remains unclear how many sites in total were targeted in the Israeli attack. There have been no images of damage so far released by Iran's military.

Romina Khurshid for regional Climate Action Data Bank for evidence-based climate response

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister's Coordinator on Climate Change, Romina Khurshid Alam has reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to boost regional collaboration among the Vulnerable Twenty (V20) Group, representing 70 countries from the most climate-vulnerable regions and pledged her all-out support to set up V20 Climate Action Data Bank she proposed during a recent high-level meeting with representatives of the V20 member countries.

"Establishing the proposed data bank would be indeed a groundbreaking initiative to consolidate data on climate risks, economic losses and financial resilience-building needs of the V20 group member countries," the PM's climate aide said in a press statement issued here on Sunday. She offered her country's willingness to play the lead role in mobilising V20 group member countries to set up the crucial data bank.

Romina Khurshid Alam said further that this centralised platform would aim to empower V20 na-

tions to effectively cope with adverse fallouts of climate change by providing the critical evidence-based information needed for informed decision-making and resource mobilization from available climate regional and international funding channels for the result-oriented climate actions through adaptation and mitigation efforts.

The Vulnerable Twenty (V20) Group is a coalition of finance ministers from countries highly susceptible to climate change impacts. Established in October 2015 in Lima, Peru, the V20 aims to promote greater investment in climate resilience and low-emission development. As of October 2024, the V20 comprises 70 member countries from Africa, Asia, the Caribbean, Latin America and the Pacific, collectively representing over 1.7 billion people and accounting for just 5% share in the total heat-trapping global carbon emissions.

The PM's climate aide said that today the V20 countries, comprising more than 1.7 billion people, are

disproportionately affected by climate change. Many of these nations grapple with rising sea levels, extreme weather events and rapid environmental degradation that threaten their economies, essential infrastructures, populations and livelihoods.

Given the V20 country's heightened climate vulnerability, the new data bank is inevitable to enhance access to reliable data to strengthen climate resilience strategies and leverage international funding," she underlined.

"Indeed, the proposed V20 Data Bank would be a major step forward in our collective efforts to safeguard our vulnerable communities, economies and critical infrastructure from the devastating impacts of climate change," the PM's climate aide Romina Khurshid Alam emphasised, "By centralizing data and making it widely accessible for decision-makers, policymakers and planners, we can ensure that every dollar is well spent and every action is informed by the best available evidence."



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif posing for a group along with Mohsin Jameel Baig family during wedding ceremony of his son Noman, at his residence, in the Federal Capital.

Diplomatic Business Club marks Int'l Day of Diplomats; celebrates global unity

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Diplomatic Business Club has celebrated the 8th Annual International Day of Diplomats in the federal capital, gathering diplomats from around the world to honor their dedication to fostering global unity and cooperation. With the theme "Diplomats - Defuse Crises and Shape Peace," the event highlighted the vital role of diplomacy in maintaining international stability.

Diplomatic Business Club Chairman Muhammad Umar Shah and Secretary General Ali Vazir warmly received guests and presented bouquets to the foreign diplomats. The event was graced by a diverse array of foreign dignitaries, including Mohamed Toha, High Commissioner of Maldives; Dr. Istvan GRAFJODI, Dy Head of Mission, Hungary; Nasser Al Sulaimani, Dy Ambassador of Oman; Abdullaheem Hasan, Dy Head of Mission, Jordan; Soita Khwatenge, Minister Counselor, Kenya; along with diplomats from France, Kyrgyz Republic, Iran, and Honorary Consuls from Morocco and Tunisia, as well as representative from the UN World Food Program.

Special Assistant to the Prime Minister and Minister of State who was the Chief Guest on the occasion, Fahd Haroon informed that the role of diplomacy is evolving in the era of digital media and technology. "Digital media platforms offer new avenues for dialogue and engagement allowing us to reach broader audiences, and foster greater understanding amongst diverse groups," he stated. He expressed his openness to support the business community and academic sectors, providing access to data vital for research and development.

Former PM AJK strongly flay India's occupation of Kashmir

ISLAMABAD (APP): The former prime minister of Azad Kashmir Sardar Attique Ahmed Khan Sunday vehemently denounced October 27 as Black Day and urged the global community to uphold the rights of the Kashmiri people as enshrined in UN resolutions.

Khan praised the resilience and determination of the Kashmiri people in their struggle for freedom and self-determination.

He urged the international community to take concrete steps to end India's occupation and support Kashmir's right to self-determination.

In his video message aired on PTV News, he emphasized the need for the global community to inter-

IG Rizvi says: Redressal of public grievances top priority

Independent Report
ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) Police's Inspector General (IG) Police Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi held a Khuli Katchery (open court) at the Central

"Resolving citizens' issues on merit is our foremost priority, negligence and carelessness in duties will not be tolerated," IG stated.

"Citizens facing any



Police Office, emphasizing that addressing public grievances was a top priority.

A public relation told APP that, during the Khuli Katchery, IG Rizvi listened to the concerns of citizens and police officers, issuing on-the-spot directives to senior police officials for timely resolution of issues.

issue related to the police can come to the Khuli Katchery, my office is always open for my citizens," the IG Rizvi said.

IG ICT further directed the relevant officers to resolve the citizen grievances on merit within the stipulated time frame and report back to the Central Police Office.

Chairman KC demands justice for Kashmiris, calls for global action

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairman Kashmir Committee (KC), Rana Qasim Noon, Sunday urged the global institutions to uphold UN resolutions and initiate dialogue with Kashmiris, reiterating that India's Independence Day is observed as Black Day in Kashmir as a symbol of resistance. Addressing to Kashmir solidarity rally participants, he underscored Pakistan's commitment to supporting Kashmir's right to self-determination and appealed for international intervention.

"Today, Pakistan observes Black Day across the country, standing in solidarity with Kashmiris," he said, condemning countries that claim to champion human rights but remain silent on Kashmir's suffering. He highlighted Kashmir's essential place in the fulfillment of Pakistan's vision.

Former National Assembly member and head of Pakistan Sweet Home, Zamurd Khan addressed the crowd, emphasizing Pakistan's unwavering support for the Kashmiri people. "This is a message of solidarity from the people of Pakistan," he declared. He praised the sacrifices of elderly Kashmiris who have endured decades of conflict, adding, "Kashmir will one day become part of Pakistan."

Deputy Convener of the All Parties Hurriyat Conference, Farooq Rehmani spoke, condemning the long-standing violence and human rights abuses in Kashmir. He questioned India's legal basis for occupying Kashmir and highlighted recent election irregularities where foreign diplomats were presented as "media." Rehmani held India responsible for violating United Nations resolutions, noting the continued imprisonment of thousands of Kashmiris, including youth and women, in jails across Srinagar, Agra,



ISLAMABAD: Kashmiris peoples participate in a rally organized by Hurriyat Conference on the occasion of 77 years of Indian occupation of Occupied Kashmir on the occasion of Black Day.

Massive trees removed across Murree Road for development schemes irks environmentalists

ISLAMABAD (APP): The home of Margalla Hills National Park nestling a plethora of wildlife species and unique biodiversity the federal capital's green area across Murree Road near the Lake View Park has been denuded by felling a large number of trees for two new development initiatives.

Shagufta Parveen, a young student of Quaid-e-Azam University who commutes daily to her varsity through that road regretted the recent brazen tree-cutting event in the vicinity.

She said that this patch of the major thoroughfare was lush green that reflected a grandiose view of massive foliage resembling to a forest that used to provide a nice ambience due to the concentration of fresh oxygen generated by the plants in the morning.

Parveen noted that a naturally vacant patch existed near the Bari Imam Junction of the Murree Road that had no tree cover and also required some infrastructure development to end the deserted look of that place.

"If there has to be development schemes in the area then it should be at the green places as the capital's iconic green cover was depleting due to such poorly planned and greed-based schemes that are eating up all the green spaces left," she added. The QAU student urged the quarters concerned to take notice of the situation and review the decision of the civic agency intending to raise two new development projects on the site.

Aamir Khan, a climate activist based in the federal capital said the civic agency had an old and outdated reason for mutilating the green belts and spaces in the metropolis.

He criticised the federal capital's civic agency for its decision to establish development schemes on green belts and underscored that globally green areas are vital to ensure clean air and a healthy environment in mega urban centres. "But it was on the contrary in the case of Islamabad as its managers have their own set of knowledge and science that implies opposite to all globally established practices," he said.

Khan also emphasised the need to protect and augment the existing green spaces in the federal capital as a massively rising number of development initiatives including

India starts state terrorism against Kashmiris since Oct 27, 1947: Qaiser

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Maritime Affairs Qaiser Ahmad Sheikh Sunday said that on October 27, 1947, India started state terrorism against Kashmiris and violating human rights in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) for 77 years.

In a message on the occasion of Kashmir Black Day, the minister said that Pakistan would continue to provide moral and diplomatic support to Kashmiri people in this difficult time.

He said that the international community had not yet taken sufficient measures to protect the rights of Kashmiris, urging the United Nations and the international community to take every possible step to impede Indian atrocities against innocent people of Kashmir.

Qaiser Sheikh said that all the martyrs of IIOJK including Burhan Wani set a high example of bravery and the international community should pressurize India to release of innocent Kashmiris imprisoned in Indian jails. He said that Kashmiri people were rendering sacrifices for noble cause to get the right to self-determination.

Accused held for murdering sister

ISLAMABAD (APP): Islamabad Police Golra police station and homicide unit police teams on Sunday successfully arrested an accused who was allegedly involved in murdering his sister.

In Golra police station, a citizen filed a complaint regarding the brutal murder of his niece, allegedly carried out by her real brother, Muhammad Zain, using a sharp weapon, a public relations officer said talking to APP on Sunday.

Upon receiving the information, the Golra police immediately registered case number 559/24 and initiated an investigation.



ISLAMABAD: Due to the lack of space for the vehicles of various police stations of Islamabad, they are becoming piles of garbage standing in empty plots in Shehzad Town area. If the relevant department can collect good money by auctioning these vehicles.

Hearing-impaired children PBM facilitates over 1,100 cochlear implants at Rs. 1.183 billion

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan Bait-ul-Mal (PBM) facilitates 1,103 cochlear implant surgeries for hearing-impaired children, costing a total of Rs. 1.183 billion, from January to June 2024, a document placed in the National Assembly reveals. A cochlear implant, a tiny electronic device that stimulates the cochlear nerve, comes with a hefty price tag of approximately Rs. 2.15 million (Rs. 21,50,000). Pakistan Bait-ul-Mal (PBM) has significantly increased its contribution for cochlear implants from an initial Rs. 1 million to Rs 9.57 million demonstrating its commitment to supporting hearing-impaired children. Pakistan Bait-ul-Mal is assisting deserving children in obtaining cochlear implants through a public-private partnership.

IRSA releases 107,600 cusecs water

ISLAMABAD (APP): Indus River System Authority (IRSA) on Sunday released 107,600 cusecs water from various rim stations with inflow of 60,800 cusecs.

According to the data released by IRSA, water level in River Indus at Tabela Dam was 1532.25 feet and was 134.25 feet higher than its dead level of 1,398 feet. Water inflow and outflow in the dam was recorded as 31,900 cusecs and 50,000 cusecs respectively.



ISLAMABAD: Puppet show and photo exhibition held at PNCA to mark Kashmir Black Day, organized by PNCA and the Ministry of Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit-Baltistan.

Transforming education-a roadmap to progress

ISLAMABAD (APP): With the revolutionary changes in global education system, Pakistan is also focusing to modernize its educational landscape by improving infrastructure, access to education and fostering a culture of innovation and inclusivity.

This transformation in education sector is hoped to improve quality of education through a series of strategic initiatives and programs under implementation for reshaping education in the country to make our students compatible to international standards. Under its National Education Emergency Program, the government is equipping institutions in Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) jurisdiction with state-of-the-art computer labs, fully furnished libraries, smart classrooms, tech fellow programs, foreign language courses and mind games.

Besides, extensive renovation would be carried out at public sector schools with new gyms, dispensaries, updated washroom facilities, refreshed exterior of main buildings, school meal programs, e-Rozgar schemes, football courts, clean drinking water, boundary walls and playgrounds. "Education Ministry is initiating a range of actions like education technology, teacher education and assessment reforms and tackling foundational learning issues to transform educational sector," remarked Federal Secretary Education and Professional Training Mohyuddin Ahmad Wani.

"One of the most notable additions is providing students the latest technology and software. This facility would ensure to enhance their technical proficiency and digital literacy making our students compatible to international workforce demands," he informed.

Mentioning to establishment of IT labs in rural schools to promote digital literacy and bridge technology gap between rural and urban areas, he said, the government was upgrading curriculum to align student with modern era demands.

Since Pakistan lags behind in contemporary education curricula and skills, the government has made this subject a part of its top implementation agenda focusing not only the teaching techniques but also providing conducive and healthy environment for students and the teaching staff. Therefore numbers of projects have been initiated to bring our education system at par with international standards and prepare skillful workforce.

In this regard, the officials at the Education Ministry, besides other initiatives, mention to establishment of 11 modern Danish Schools at ICT, AJ&K, GB and Balochistan to impart education to children of underprivileged families, address illiteracy and bridge educational gaps.

Similarly, 100 Early Childhood Education (ECE) Centres being established in urban and rural areas of Islamabad would provide quality education and enhance cognitive and social development of young children in line with SDGs 4 and 5. The Prime Minister's Health and Hygiene Initiative for education, also aims at improving health and nutrition of students, teachers and community members with establishment of 100 health centers in girls' schools of ICT rural areas also hoped to go a long way in improving health and academic performance of girl students. "Software Technology Parks (STPs), e-Rozgar Centers established to support freelancers would enhance their skills in digital economy and promote entrepreneurship and innovation in digital sectors," the officials remarked. "Provision of Telescopes to 110 schools and colleges would boost students' interest in astronomy and science."

National Institute of Excellence in Teacher Education (NIETE) has been launched to train teacher through latest digital modes and AI-powered tools for improving their performance. Recruitment of Tech, Coding and Robotics Fellows would support schools in teaching coding and AI while financial literacy would equip both students and teachers for fiscal management. Provision of Foreign Language Labs to teach students Korean, German, Arabic, Japanese, and Chinese languages would also help broaden students' global outlook ensuring better career opportunities and cross-cultural competence.



ISLAMABAD: Foreigner women keenly viewing photos during an exhibition at PNCA on the occasion of Kashmir Black Day.