

# Independent

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## PPP delegation praises Government's economic policies during meeting with PM Shehbaz

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

ISLAMABAD (INP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Sunday held an important meeting with the delegation of the Pakistan People's Party led by its Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari.

The country's overall political situation came under discussion during the meeting, a press release issued by the PM House said.

Former Prime Minister Raja Pervaiz Ashraf, Governor Punjab Sardar Saleem Haider, MNA Syed Naveed Qamar, and Mayer Karachi Murtaza Wahab were included in the PPP's delegation. Representing Pakistan Muslim League (N), Federal Minister for Law and Justice Azam Nazeer Tarar and senior leader Rana Sana Ullah also attended the meeting.

PM Shehbaz Sharif acknowledged that PPP was an important ally of the government. He said the Pakistan Peoples Party supported the government's every step aimed at bringing economic stability in the country.

The PPP delegation lauded the government's prudent economic policies that helped stabilize the country's economy.

The PPP delegation expressed full confidence in the government's policies and initiatives, which the prime minister welcomed warmly.



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

## 'Civilized nations must show seriousness on IIOJK issue'; says CM Murad

KARACHI (APP): The Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah has said that the civilized nations must show their seriousness on the issue of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK).

Murad said, "Today is the darkest day in the history of the world."

On the occasion of Kashmir Black Day, he said that 77 years of atrocities of Indian occupation and aggression had gone by.

The CM said, "We stand with the Kashmiri people and will continue to support the Kashmiri people against Indian atrocities."

Indian aggression had shed the blood of many innocent Kashmiris, he said.

The CM further said that India declared herself as a secular state but shy away from recognizing the IIOJK people's right to self-determination.

He was of the view that India was omitting atrocities on the people of IIOJK.

IIOJK was a beautiful valley but India had stained it with blood, he said adding that India, through conspiracy, established her oppressive control over IIOJK and massacred Muslims.

## October 27 darkest day in history of South Asia: Tessori

KARACHI (APP): Governor of Sindh Mohammed Kamran Khan Tessori on Sunday said that October 27, 1947, was one of the darkest days in the history of South Asia.

In his message on Occupied Kashmir's Black Day, today, said that India entered its forces into Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) on this day in 1947.

Tessori said that India's brutal tactics had not weakened the resolve of IIOJK people to date.

The Kashmiri people had been patiently fighting the oppression of the Indian forces for decades, he said, adding that thousands of sacrifices were strengthening their resolve for freedom.

He said that Indian oppression had failed to stop the struggle for self-determination.

He said that the United Nations and the international community should take immediate notice of the serious violations of human rights in IIOJK.

## President pays tribute to security forces for successful operations against terrorists

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Asif Ali Zardari on Sunday paid tribute to security forces for launching two successful operations against terrorists in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

The president, in a statement, commended the bravery of security forces for conducting successful operations against Khawarij terrorists.

He expressed resolve to continue operations against terrorists until the complete elimination of Fitna al-Khawarij. "The entire nation stands with its security forces in the fight against terrorism", the president said.



KARACHI: The former President and Prime Minister of Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) Sardar Mohammed Yaqoob Khan with other participants viewing pictorial exhibition on the occasion of Kashmir Black Day at Arts Council of Pakistan.

## Pictorial exhibition on Indian barbarism in IIOJK held

KARACHI (APP): A pictorial exhibition regarding the Indian barbarism in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) in connection with Kashmir Black Day was held at the Arts Council of Pakistan - Karachi on Sunday.

The former President and Prime Minister of Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) Sardar Mohammed Yaqoob Khan and Convener of All Parties Hurriyat Conference Ghulam Mohammed Safi as well as MQM-Pakistan MNA Aminul Haq visited the pictorial exhibition and viewed different pictures put on display showing barbarism and atrocities in IIOJK being committed by Indian forces.

Later, talking to media persons, AJK's former President and Prime Minister Sardar Mohammed Yaqoob Khan said that the Modi-led government was committing crimes in IIOJK but their morale was high.

He said that the people of Pakistan and their government were standing shoulder to shoulder with IIOJK people. MQM-Pakistan MNA Aminul Haq while paying tribute for organizing the exhibition, he said that the picture showed how Indian forces were committing crimes in IIOJK.



HYDERABAD: Awam Pakistan Party (APP) Secretary General, Miftah Ismail addresses to media persons during press conference, at Hyderabad press club.



KARACHI: On instructions of Prime Minister, Pak NDMA Dispatched 14th Consignment of 17 tons for people of Lebanon from Jinnah International Airport to Beirut, Lebanon.

## New Yellow Line BRT Project: Sharjeel Inam Memon unveils Yellow Line BRT project with World Bank support

**Says Karachi's 100 billion rupee Yellow Line BRT project kicks off amid political controversy; Raises concerns over Imran Khan's alleged foreign ties**

Independent Report KARACHI: Senior Provincial Minister for Information, Transport, Mass Transit, Excise and Taxation Sharjeel Inam Memon has said that the yellow line BRT project worth 100 billion rupees has been started for the citizens of Karachi with the support of the World Bank, which will be completed in 18 months.

He said this while talking to the media after reviewing the development work of yellow line BRT. He said that he would try and talk to the World Bank that EV buses should be run on this route as well, the contractor assured to complete the project in 18 months.

Sharjeel Inam Memon said that the track of yellow line will be 21 kilometers, a new bridge is being built with Jam Sadiq Bridge.

Sharjeel Inam Memon said that the Sindh government will run double-decker buses, eco-friendly buses in Pakistan are also being started by the PPP Sindh government.

In response to a question, he said that the Israeli lobby is active all over the world in support of Imran Khan, the Goldsmith Group is active all over the world. We are against the fact that someone's mother, sister, daughter-in-law should be arrested, the fabric seems that Imran Khan is getting relief.

Sharjeel Inam Memon said that Imran Khan's ex-wife and brother-in-law Goldsmith is behind all this.

He said that Dr Israr Khan's words are proving true that Imran Khan was imposed on us by Israel. Sharjeel Inam Memon said that Maulana Fazlur Rehman's quality is that he never closes the door of dialogue, Dr. Israr, Hakim Saeed had told years ago that Imran Khan is a Jewish agent.

## Manzoor Wasan says Imran Khan to spend winter in jail

KHAIROPUR (INP): Senior Vice President of Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Sindh and former provincial home minister Manzoor Hussain Wasan has said.

Imran Khan is in big trouble, and it seems that after spending the summer in jail he will also spend the winter in jail.

Talking to the media during the visit of the newly constructed Pakistan Law College in Khairpur, Manzoor Wasan said the provisions of the 18th constitutional amendment are also included in the 26th constitutional amendment.

Manzoor Hussain Wasan said the 26th constitutional amendment does not harm anyone, including the judiciary and the people.

The accusation of being with the establishment on PPP is wrong, Manzoor Hussain Wasan said.

He said the Sindh government is active in maintaining peace and order in the province.

We do not support the construction of six new canals from the Indus River in the areas of Punjab, Manzoor Hussain Wasan said.

Manzoor Wasan said by establishing new educational institutions, education will flourish, and education-loving people should pay attention to opening educational institutions. He said the history of the past tells us that Khairpur has been a masterpiece of a scientific and literary city since ancient times.

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The accusation of being with the establishment on PPP is wrong, Manzoor Hussain Wasan said.

## Cylinder blast claims two lives in Karachi

KARACHI (INP): Two persons were burnt alive during a cylinder blast that occurred in a liquid petroleum gas (LPG) cylinder shop located in Sagheer Centre Federal B Area, Karachi. Police sources said that the blast occurred due to leakage of gas from a cylinder. Eyewitnesses said that the shop was established six months ago.

Residents of the area filed many petitions against the owners of this cylinder shop.

## PMD forecasts day of hot weather in Karachi

KARACHI (INP): Karachiites are bracing for another day of intense heat, with the Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD) forecasting temperatures to reach a scorching 39°C.

According to the PMD, the weather will remain hot and dry throughout the day. The current temperature is 27°C, but the maximum is expected to climb to 39°C, while the minimum temperature recorded was 25°C. Humidity levels are currently at 87%, and sea breezes remain completely absent.

A north-easterly wind is blowing at a speed of 6 kilometers per hour.



KARACHI: PPP leader Sharmila Farooqui along with other participants of the All Parties Hurriyat Conference participate in rally and chant slogans against Indian atrocities in IIOJK on Kashmir Black Day.

## Security forces kill Five Khawarij in two separate operations

**President, PM pay tribute to security forces for successful operations against terrorists**

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 Insaful 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 are determined to wipe out the menace of terrorism from the country.



KARACHI: Activists of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) hold a protest for release of their party's chairman and 26 constitutional amendment outside Karachi Press Club.

## Walk in Solidarity with Kashmiris on Black Day at Mazar-e-Quadi Karachi

KARACHI (INP): To mark October 27 as Black Day in solidarity with the Kashmiri people, a walk was organized at Mazar-e-Quadi in Karachi.

Deputy Commissioner Shahzad Fazal Abbasi, Assistant Commissioner Dr Esa Khan, and Aurangzaib, a legendary figure in sports, joined with notable leaders from the All Parties Hurriyat Conference (APHC) - General Secretary Advocate Parviat Ahmed, Senior Leader Syed Ajaz Ahmed, and Shaikh Abdul Majid - to express unwavering support for the Kashmiri people's right to self-determination.

Addressing the gathering, Deputy Commissioner Shahzad Fazal Abbasi emphasized that

"Kashmir is our pride, and it is our responsibility to support our Kashmiri brothers and sisters at every level." His remarks underscored Pakistan's long-standing commitment to the Kashmir cause, reaffirming that the struggle of the Kashmiri people resonates deeply with the people of Pakistan.

Assistant Commissioner Dr Esa Khan also spoke on this occasion, highlighting that the right to self-determination is a universally recognized principle. "The international community must raise its voice for the fundamental rights of Kashmiris," Dr. Khan stated, urging global leaders to acknowledge and support the Kashmiri

people's legitimate aspirations for freedom.

All Parties Hurriyat Conference Azad Jammu and Kashmir (APHC-AJK) chapter General Secretary Advocate Parviat Ahmed expressed profound gratitude to the Deputy Commissioner, Assistant Commissioner, and all participants for their solidarity with Kashmir. He remarked, "India has deployed all means to suppress the spirit of the Kashmiri people, yet Kashmiris have demonstrated an unbreakable resolve for their rightful cause. Their uncountable sacrifices will not be in vain, and they will not yield until they achieve independence from India and unite with Pakistan."

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**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 action 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 Tanehsis 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 this 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) Zufiqar 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 Zufiqar 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.

**Digital divide could hinder economic growth, youth empowerment, Experts warn**

ISLAMABAD (APP): Experts have warned that the digital divide is endangering economic growth and youth empowerment.

With millions lacking access to technology, they stress the need for urgent action to bridge this gap; otherwise, we risk leaving an entire generation behind. In Pakistan, where digital technology plays a crucial role in driving economic growth and providing access to essential services, the digital divide presents a significant challenge that

limits the nation's potential. Coined by Larry Irving in the 1990s, the term "digital divide" refers to the gap between those who have access to the internet and digital technologies—and those who do not (Hadi, S. A., 2021).

Muhammad Saad, an IT expert based in Islamabad, in response to few queries by APP emphasizes that bridging this widening digital divide is the country's most pressing challenge. He

further states, "The rapid advancement of technology is leaving many behind, particularly in rural areas and lower-income communities. It's essential that we invest in infrastructure and education to ensure equal access to digital tools for everyone."

The recently released UNDP's inaugural Digital Development Index (DDI) report reveals that over half of the population lacks internet access, with 54.3 percent of people cut off from this vital resource.

## 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, emphasising 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.

LAHORE (APP): Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa Governor 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.

## 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 Bhatia 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 partici-

ated. 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 re-

taliation, 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



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

## 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-

hit Bicol region have recorded 38 deaths, most due to drowning.

"We are still receiving many calls and we are trying to save as many people as we can," Bicol regional police director Andre Dizon told AFP.

"Hopefully, there will be no more deaths."

Dizon added that "many residents" in the region's Camarines Sur province are still trapped on roofs and the upper floors of their homes.

The death toll in Batangas, south of Manila, has risen to 55, provincial police chief Jacinto Malinao told AFP.

## 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

## 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.

## 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.

