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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 for-



QUETTA: Balochistan Governor Jaffar Khan Mandokhail in a group photo with PML-N Balochistan Lawyers Wing.

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

ISLAMABAD (APP): Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Mohammad 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. Over the past seven decades, India has employed various strategies to strengthen its control over Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK), he added. However, since August 5, 2019, they had witnessed an accelerated effort to undermine the internationally recognized disputed status of IIOJK.



QUETTA: Chairman PkMAP Mehmood Khan Achakzai addressing a Press Conference.

Mehmood Achakzai says: PkMAP to hold Jirgas on issue of law & order with 1st on Nov 9, 10 in Loralai

Party would adopt strict course of action after consulting issues with people in Jirgas

Independent Report QUETTA: The Chairman, Pashtoonkhaw Milli Awami Party (PkMAP), Mehmood Khan Achakzai has announced to hold Jirga on the issue of law and order in Loralai Division on November 9 and 10, 2024. He said that the people from different districts of the Pashtoon divisions would be called in the Jirga seeking their opinion on the issue. He said that Jirgahs would also be held in other divisions including Quetta afterwards. The Chairman PkMAP was addressing a hurriedly called press conference here on Sunday evening. He said that the decision regarding convening Jirga was made after the incidents of Musakhail, Duki and Hamat. He said that the law and order situation has deteriorated in the province with killing of innocent people is continued. In view of the situation, we decided to go to the people, he added. He said that the Party would adopt strict course of action after consulting the issue with people in Jirgahs. He said that the law enforcement agencies are getting taxes on the resources, but protection is not provided.

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 organizer 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.

Security forces arrest alleged terrorist from Mastung

MASTUNG (INP): The security forces on Sunday conducted a successful operation and arrested an alleged terrorist from Mastung, a town in the Balochistan province. Sources close to the development disclosed that the security forces arrested a terrorist while conducting an operation in the Splanji Bazaar area of Mustang district. During the operation, the security officials recovered weapons, ammunition, and binoculars from the possession of the arrested terrorist. Security sources further revealed that the arrested individual had been involved in the murder of two individuals in the Splanji Bazaar area.



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

Good economy creates good politics Government determined to fully protect national & International investors, maintains Governor

Independent Report QUETTA: The Governor Balochistan, Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail has stated that it is an undeniable fact that good economy can create good politics. He said that we can build an emerging economy by benefiting from the profitable opportunities of investment in the province, which may benefit other provinces. The Governor said that our very focus should be on promoting border trade, creating consensus for materializing dream of establishing border markets, ensuring provision of cheaper electricity and seeking guidance of the economic experts. He said that present government is determined to fully protect the national and international investors and provide facilities to the industrialists in the province. Sheik Jaffar Khan Mandokhail was speaking to the office bearers and representatives of the Federation of Pakistan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI) and Quetta Chamber of Commerce and Industry (QCCI) here on Sunday. The delegation was led by S.M Tanveer. Speaking on the occasion, Governor said that FPCCI is the biggest business forum of the country. He said that arrival of leading traders and industrialists from all over the country is very welcoming, which would yield constructive and positive results. He said that the country's economy would be strengthened by establishing industrial zones in different divisions of the province. He urged the leaders of FPCCI to help and guide us in creating vast opportunities of economic growth, ending unemployment and ensuring access to the trade markets of the neighbouring countries including Central Asian States. The Governor said that promotion of economic activities, identifying problems and hardships facing the business community and protect interests of private sector is our mission. He also said that the people associated with the commerce and industry can play important role in improving the agriculture and irrigation system besides creating opportunities of livelihood in Balochistan. He urged the leaders of FPCCI to benefit from the knowledge and experience of the scientists and researchers of our public sector universities in research.



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.

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 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.

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. Meanwhile, 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



QUETTA: Activists of Jamat-e-Islami (JI) 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, in Quetta.

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.



KHARAN: Provincial Finance Minister Mir Shoaib Noshervani inaugurates anti-polio campaign in Balochistan by administering polio drops to child.

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

20 British MPs seek UK govt's intervention in securing Imran's release

LONDON (INP): As many as 20 British parliamentarians from cross-party have urged UK's Foreign Secretary David Lammy MP to call for Imran Khan's release from Adiala Jail and engage with the Pakistan government. The letter has been written by Kim Johnson, MP for Liverpool Riverside, on Imran Khan's adviser on International Affairs Zulf Bukhari's request and signed by members of both the Commons and the Lords, from all parties. The signatories are: Kim Johnson MP, Paula Barker MP, Apsana Begum MP, Liam Byrne MP, Rosie Duffield MP, Gill Furniss MP, Paultette Hamilton MP, Peter Lamb MP, Andy McDonald MP, Abtissan Mohamed MP, Bell Ribeiro-Addy MP, Zarah Sultana MP, Steve Witherden MP, Nadia Whittome MP, Baroness Joan Bakewell, Baroness Christine Blower, Lord Peter Hain, Lord John Hender and Lord Todenanfel.



QUETTA: BNP-Mengal Leaders Ghulam Nabi Marri, Musa Baloch, Haji Basit Lehri, Malik Naseer Ahmed Shahwani, Shakeela Naveed and others sitting in front of Quetta Press Club during a protest.

Over 2.65 million kids to be vaccinated: Anti-polio campaign to be kicked off in Balochistan from today

Independent Report QUETTA: The anti-polio campaign is scheduled to be started in Balochistan from today (Monday). According to the sources of Emergency Operation Center (EOC) for polio Eradication, all the necessary arrangements have been finalized for the polio immunisation campaign being launched all over the province. During the campaign, 2.65 million children below five years of age would be administered the anti-polio vaccine for more than 11,000 teams have been formed. The EOC sources said that it is being ensured that the Mobile polio teams visit each and every home to get every child administered the anti-polio vaccine in the province. In this regard, all segments of the society particularly parents have been urged to extend wholehearted cooperation to ensure 100 percent immunization against polio virus. A meeting chaired by the Chief Secretary Shakeel Qadir Khan a couple of days back also stressed on immunization of each and every child against the crippling disease. The Chief Secretary urged all to play their effective role for achieving the target of immunization in province.

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 Zahir 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. István GRAFJÓDI, 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.

He has made a heartfelt plea for international support on Kashmir Black Day, which is being observed Sunday (October 27).

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

vene in the Kashmir dispute and support the Kashmiri people's right to self-determination.

Sardar highlighted the egregious human rights abuses perpetrated by Indian forces, including extrajudicial killings, torture and arbitrary arrests.

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.

IG Rizvi says: Redressal of public grievances top priority

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



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: 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.



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 mea-

sures 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.

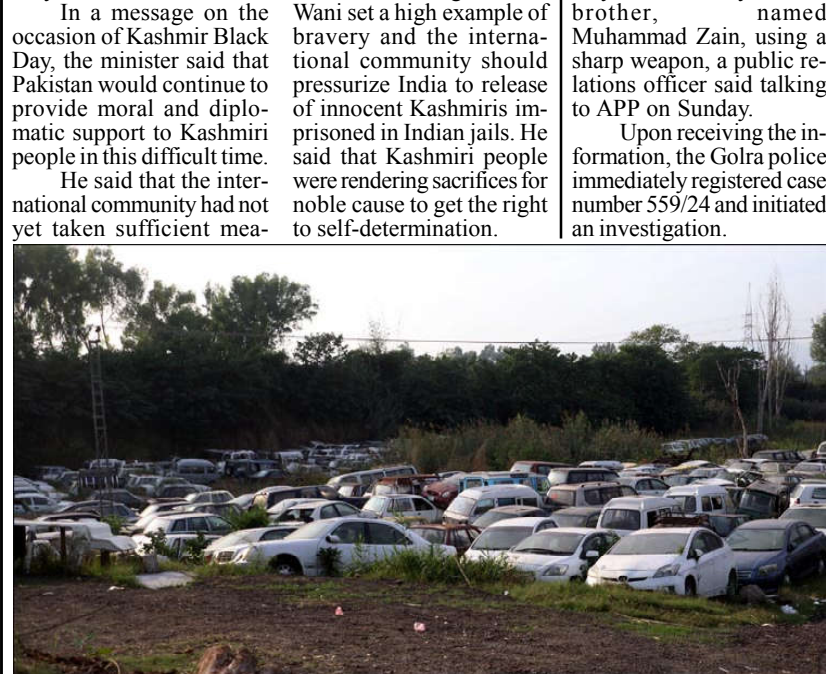
Qaiser Sheikh said that all the martyrs of IIOJK including Burhan Wani set a high example of bravery and the international community should pressurize India to release of innocent Kashmiris imprisoned in Indian jails. He said that Kashmiri people were rendering sacrifices for noble cause to get the right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

Uzbek election chief welcomes Pak senators, emphasizes growing coop.

ISLAMABAD (APP): Senate Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs Chairman, Senator Irfan Siddiqui has met with Chief of the Central Election Commission of Uzbekistan, Zayniddin Nizamkhodzhev during an official visit.

The Pakistani delegation, led by Senator Irfan Siddiqui and comprising Senator Sarmad Ali and Senator Amir Chishti, is in Uzbekistan at the invitation of the Uzbek Election Commission, serving as international observers for the parliamentary elections.

Nizamkhodzhev warmly welcomed the delegation and expressed ap-

preciation for their participation as observers. He highlighted the strong bilateral ties between Pakistan and Uzbekistan, emphasizing the importance of collaboration across multiple sectors.

The delegation visited various polling stations, where they observed a well-organized electoral process.

The delegation leader, Senator Irfan Siddiqui praised Uzbekistan's hospitality, and arrangements. He conveyed their deep sense of connection with Uzbekistan, with some members expressing that "Uzbekistan feels like our second home."

Powerful cylinder explosion claims 2 lives

ISLAMABAD (APP): At least 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 on early Sunday.

According to detail, police sources informed that the blast occurred due to leakage of gas from a cylinder, private news channels reported.

Rescue teams brought the fire under control after three hours of cooling operations. Four fire brigade vehicles were used in this operation. Rescue teams said that all the victims were safely shifted to a local hospital.

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 Daanish 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-Rozgaar 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.

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, Mushaq Ghani, along with members Ahmed Kundi 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.

The resolution concluded with a strong message of support for the Kashmiri people, reaffirming the commitment to standing with them in their just struggle for rights of self-determination. Meanwhile, the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Assembly organized a walk at the Flag Point to observe Black Day for Kashmir, with Deputy Speaker Suraya Bibi in chair, ministers, and assembly members in attendance.

Participants raised their voices in solidarity with the Kashmiri people, demanding that their rights be upheld in accordance with United Nations resolutions.



KARACHI: Sindh Minister for Excise and Taxation, Transport and Mass Transit Sharjeel Inam Memon review the progress of the Yellow Line BRT Project, in Karachi.

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, including the 13th amendment, have historically granted similar powers. He expressed concern over the concentration of power in the Prime Minister's office, arguing, "I voted to make you the Prime Minister, not to make you the Amirul Momineen."

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 Occupied Jammu and 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 Sadder 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.

The ADCR said that India was crossing all boundaries of violation of human rights. It was deploying goons in Occupied Kashmir valley to brutally crushing the move of freedom and self-determination. But it should remember that Kashmir was an integral part of Pakistan.



KARACHI: Members of Fixit Organization are holding protest demonstration against Israeli cruel and inhumane acts and expressing unity with the innocent people of Palestine, at Karachi 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.

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.

He urged all Pakistanis to contribute to improving the country's international image, especially through intellectual exchanges at the university level, which he deemed essential for building an informed and educated society.

Environmental squads demolish four industrial units

LAHORE (APP): Senior Provincial Minister Maryam 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.

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

Pakistan incomplete without Kashmir: Sahibzada Qasmi

FAISALABAD (APP): Central Chairman Ulema Council Pakistan Sahibzada Zahid Mahmood Qasmi has said Kashmir is an integral part of Pakistan and the country is incomplete without Kashmir.

Addressing a seminar, organized at Khatm-e-Nabuwat Islamic Research Centre to mark the Kashmir Black Day here on Sunday, he said India was tyrannizing innocent Kashmiris only because of they were raising voice for their fundamental right of self-determination.

He said that entire Pakistani nation was standing with Kashmiri brethren and their moral, political and diplomatic support would continue till freedom of Kashmir.

Experts calls for immediate implementation of UN resolutions to resolve Kashmir dispute

LAHORE (APP): In connection with Kashmir Black Day, the experts on Sunday, emphasised the urgent need for implementation of UN Security Council resolutions to resolve the Kashmir dispute.

Talking to APP, they said that on the occasion of Kashmir Black Day being observed worldwide Sunday, the experts stressed that the global body must exercise its authority to implement Security Council resolutions on Kashmir.

Furthermore, the experts demanded of the world community while appealing to the reinforcement of the UN peacekeeping and peace-building framework in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK).

Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed, Chairman Senate Standing Committee on Defence told APP that bridging the Middle East, many African countries, Europe, and Asia-Pakistan's superior geo-strategic location comes with a range of challenges, most formidable of which is the Kashmir dispute.

Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK), is an important flashpoint in the global security landscape,

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).

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."

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.

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

The decision of IIOJK based on the resolutions of the United Nations Security Council was the only solution to the problems of the Kashmiri people.

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 said, "We will always continue to support the right of the IIOJK people to achieve their legal right to self-determination."



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

October 27 darkest day in history of South Asia: Tessori

KARACHI (APP): The Kashmiri people had been patiently fighting the oppression of the Indian forces for decades, the Governor of Sindh 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.

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

KP Govt takes tangible steps for prisoners' welfare

PESHAWAR (APP): The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) government has decided to take various measures for the welfare of the prisoners and in this regard, it has directed the relevant departments to take measures for the digital marketing of various handicrafts and hand-made items made by the prisoners inside the jails.

Besides, it directed to establish liaisons between the technical education department and prisons for necessary technical training courses in various fields. It was also decided to standardize the food items provided to the prisoners and improve its menu and also work on digitalization of rates.

It was assured that homework on skilled inmates who have received training in prison for employment after their release under the Ehsaas Youth Program loan scheme while arranging online classes for various technical courses for the inmates. In this connection, Special Assistant to KP CM on Prisons Humayun Khan, Provincial Minister for Higher Education.



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

Experts calls for immediate implementation of UN resolutions to resolve Kashmir dispute

Pakistan. Mushahid Hussain Sayed further said it is an open secret that India is the major source of trouble and de-stabilisation in the region using the soil of neighboring countries against Pakistan, providing training, false flag operations, funding and support to the militants for terrorist activities in Pakistan but, regrettably, the world chose to remain silent.

Paying gratitude to the resilience of Pakistan's people, the country today stands tall as a favorite and one of the world's most preferred travel destinations, as referenced in Forbes, Conde Nast Traveler, British Backpackers Society, Sehar Kamran, a National Assembly lawmaker told APP. She proudly expressed that Pakistan has served in 46 United Nations peacekeeping missions in 29 countries, around the world.

In a few years, the country successfully has eliminated terror networks, non-state rogue elements, and proxies from its territory rather than region.

Mushaal Hussein Mullick, the wife of Kashmir leader Yasin Malik and Special Assistant to Prime Minister on Human Rights.

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 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 AIBB, 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 AIBB. He added that engaging AIBB 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 AIBB projects in Pakistan and further efforts to improve the disbursement of ongoing projects.

On the infrastructure side, he invited AIBB 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 along with others addressing a Press conference, at Ariya Hospital in Quetta.



HYDERABAD: Members of Hari Committee are holding protest demonstration against building new canals to draw additional water from the Indus River, anti-people policies decisions and amending the Irsa Act, at Hyderabad press club.

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) Zuqiyar 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 Zuqiyar Bhatti. He said that government would full support to keep alive the handicraft art in Tehsil Sillawal.

While talking to stone-crushing traders, he said the government would take each and every possible step for promotion of the stone-crushing units and their welfare.

PFC chief calls for strengthening bilateral trade to reduce deficit

LAHORE (APP): Pakistan Furniture Council (PFC) Chief Executive Officer Mian Kashif Asfaq has emphasised that Pakistan needs to focus on promoting balanced bilateral trade relations with regional countries to narrow down its growing trade deficit by boosting exports.

Speaking at a seminar on "How Pakistan can narrow down its trade deficit", here on Sunday, he said a balanced trade approach would involve strengthening economic ties with neighboring countries China, India,

Afghanistan, Iran, and Central Asian states as this strategy can offer mutual benefits, leveraging each country's unique resources and industries to create a fair exchange of goods and services. By reducing reliance on any single market, Pakistan could mitigate risks and enhance its economic resilience. He said balanced bilateral trade would also promote economic growth by stimulating local industries, and increasing foreign exchange earnings besides creating ample jobs. Pakistan's trade deficit is a complex issue.



LAHORE: Citizens are busy in shopping on Sunday in the provincial capital.

Kisan Ittehad demands independent commission to decide crop prices

MULTAN (APP): The Pakistan Kisan Ittehad (PKI) has demanded the government constitute an independent agriculture commission to decide rates of different crops after evaluation of inputs' costs.

Addressing a press conference here on Sunday, PKI Chairman Khalid Khokhar said farmers always sought fair profit against their produce. He, however, lamented that they faced multiple

problems due to less prices of different crops. He said that the independent agriculture commission should consist of experts.

He expressed concerns that electricity connections of peasants were being cut and it would surely affect the agricultural productivity. He expressed dismay that farmers were unable to apply fertilisers because of high prices.

FFP to showcase entire range at Saudi Intl Halal Expo 2024

LAHORE (APP): Family Food Products, a leading Pakistani company, will showcase its entire range of international standard products at the 3-day Saudi International Halal Expo 2024 commencing from October 28.

Prior to departure, Director Exports FFP Saifur Rehman told the media here on Sunday that the upcoming event at the Riyadh International Convention and Exhibition Centre was a key platform for halal-certified businesses. He emphasized Pakistan's commitment to international standards by showcasing a diverse range of food items that meet strict halal guidelines, ensuring quality and authenticity.

The event will provide with a unique opportunity to engage with a global buyers including distributors, retailers, and industry experts. By participating in this prestigious expo.

Farmers urged not set paddy stubble on fire

BAHAWALPUR (APP): Agriculture department Bahawalpur region has urged the farmers not to set paddy stubble on fire in order to avert smog in the area. Burning paddy stubble was causing spread of smog at large scale in the region, affecting health of people, says a new release issued by agriculture department here on Sunday. Stern action would be taken against those found involved in burning paddy stubble, it said. A spokesman for the agriculture department said that setting paddy stubble on fire also damaged fertilization power of the agricultural field.

FBR rebuts misleading claims regarding to DG I&I Custom

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) issued a rebuttal on Sunday addressing recent misleading claims from certain sections of media that misrepresented the role and performance of the Directorate General of Intelligence and Investigation (Customs).

Contrary to these baseless assertions, the Directorate's mandate and functions remain intact, while specific changes are the part FBR transformation plan with was approved by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, said a news release.

The reorganization aims to eliminate duplicative enforcement roles within Customs, streamlining anti-smuggling and enforcement operations under a unified structure without compromising the Directorate's core functions. Only certain regional offices, deemed redundant under the new structure, will be closed, with staff reallocated to the enforcement setups to strengthen and beef up anti-smuggling efforts.

The Directorate's contributions have been exceptional, particularly in seizing smuggled goods and

recovering evaded revenue. The Directorate has performed phenomenally with meagre resources of 293 operational personnel for the complete setup all across Pakistan.

The Directorate General has implemented a collaborative anti-smuggling strategy, coordinating with intelligence and law enforcement agencies to maximize its enforcement capacity.

DG I&I Customs continues to uphold its critical role in overall Customs setup, and this role has now been further strengthened with additional technical resources and the capability to execute sting operations when potential violations of the Customs Act or related laws are identified. Positioned at a central role within Pakistan Customs, DG I&I now enjoys comprehensive access to critical data to initiate information based operations as necessary.

In light of the vast scope of the anti-smuggling jurisdiction and the shortage of personnel, a collaborative anti-smuggling strategy has been implemented through this Transformation.



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.

Miftah Ismail for strengthening businesses, uplift middle class

HYDERABAD (APP): Former Federal Finance Minister, Miftah Ismail has said that if we have to make Pakistan prosperous and stable, it was crucial to strengthen businesses and uplift the middle class.

Addressing the traders and industrialists at the Secretariat of the Hyderabad Chamber of Small Traders and Small Industry here Sunday, he urged all institutions in Pakistan to work for the uplift of people. Acting President of the Chamber, Ahmad Idrees Chohan, stressed the urgent need for immediate actions to stabilize Pakistan's economy. He called for energy issues to be resolved along with a review of IPP agreements. He urged for a simplified tax system to facilitate small businesses and SMEs.

Chohan highlighted the importance of stabilizing the rupee, controlling inflation through strong financial policies, and implementing trade policies that enhance exports and open access to international markets. He advocated for low-interest loans for SMEs, upgrading infrastructure, and fostering public-private sector partnerships.

Ahmad Idrees Chohan concluded that these measures would not only stabilize the economy but also address key challenges faced by the business community.

Those who attended the event included HCSTSI Former Presidents Ferooz Shaikhani, Saleemuddin Qureshi, Members Executive Committee, Conveners and General Body Members.

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 due to inadequate digital infrastructure and affordability issues. While

urban centers like Karachi, Lahore, and Islamabad enjoy relatively high internet penetration, the contrast with rural areas is stark. Only about 20% of rural households have internet access, compared to 60% in urban regions, according to the report.

Moreover, the report highlights a pronounced disparity in digital development across different provinces and districts in Pakistan, ranging from high to very low levels of digital access.



HYDERABAD: Laborers are busy in drying wreaths after washing into Canal in Hyderabad.

Women empowerment essential for sustainable growth: Iftikhar Ali Malik

LAHORE (APP): Former SAARC Chamber of Commerce and Industry President Iftikhar Ali Malik has said that women's participation in the workforce remains underutilized in South Asia, where social norms, inadequate support systems, and limited access to education and training prevent the majority from contributing economically. In a statement issued here on Sunday, an octogenarian trade leader of South Asia said by addressing these barriers, the region could potentially boost its GDP significantly.

He said gender parity in employment could increase productivity, reduce poverty, and lead to better outcomes in health and education, ultimately contributing to more resilient societies. Providing women with equal access to opportunities and ensuring policies that support work-life balance, parental leave, and safe work environments could create an environment where both men and women thrive in the workforce.

By advancing in both these areas, South Asia could create a more inclusive and prosperous economy. Empowering women economically and fostering international trade and investment pave the way for sustainable growth, improved living standards, and progress toward regional development goals. With focused reforms, the region could unlock tremendous growth, benefiting not just economies but entire communities, he added.

Iftikhar Malik said at the same time, opening further to global trade and investment offers South Asia substantial opportunities for growth. Increasing openness not only attracts foreign direct investment (FDI), which brings capital and technology, but also encourages domestic industries to become more competitive.

He said through trade liberalization, countries can tap into global markets and enhancing their economic dynamism. Integrating with the global economy supports innovation and raises productivity, as companies adapt to international standards and practices, he added.



RAWALPINDI: A vendor is selling old books on his roadside workplace at Sadar area in the city.

Rising prices, other violations in ICT stir public outcry

ISLAMABAD (APP): The islootes 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.

Speakers at Stockholm event Kashmir conflict must be resolved through dialogue

NEW YORK (APP): Speakers at an event organized by the Kashmir Council in Stockholm, Sweden, to mark Kashmir Black Day called for a peaceful resolution of the Kashmir conflict that ensure the exercise of Kashmiri people's U.N.-pledged right to self-determination, according to a message received here. They also called for ending human rights abuses in the disputed region and for providing Kashmiris

leaders a platform to air their viewpoints at international forums. In his opening remarks, Sardar Tamur Aziz, President of the Council and Emcee of the event explained that Kashmir Black Day, which is observed on October 27, marks the day in 1947 when Indian troops entered Jammu and Kashmir. The observance of Black Day is a symbol of protest by Kashmiris and supporters worldwide. It calls attention

to what many view as a day of occupation and highlights the region's struggle for self-determination. The Council's objective basically is to push for a peaceful settlement of the decades-old Kashmir dispute, he said. Pakistan's Ambassador to Sweden, Bilal Hayee, said that the tragedy of Kashmir began when India occupied the State of Jammu and Kashmir by sending its army without the consent of



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.



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.

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 (IIOJ&K). In his message on October 27, Black Day of Kashmir, he said on that day, India illegally annexed Jammu and Kashmir by

PTI to challenge 26th amend. in court, Sheikh Waqas

ISLAMABAD (INP): Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader Sheikh Waqas Akram has disclosed that decision to challenge the 26th constitutional amendment would be made on Monday. He stated this while addressing a private TV channel. He said that the PTI legal committee would decide on challenging amendment and called for a protest against the amendment.

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.

Pak-South Africa Joint Exercise Iqbal-I concludes in Cherat

RAWALPINDI (APP): Closing ceremony of Pakistan-South Africa Joint Exercise Iqbal-I in Counter Terrorism domain was conducted between the armies of Pakistan and Republic of South Africa at Cherat. Two weeks long exercise commenced on 15th of this month. The Combat Teams from Special Services Group, Pakistan Army and Republic of South Africa Special Forces participated in the Exercise. Commandant Special Operation School, attended

Balochistan blessed with immense natural resources: Traders conference to be held in Islamabad in December to focus on Balochistan: SM Tanveer

FPCCI leader emphasizes upon establishing universities for skill development of children of province; slams stopping legal trade in name of prevention of smuggling. An important issue in the province. We have discussed the issues related to the province and found out that unemployment is an important issue that needs to be resolved, emphasized the FPCCI central leader while addressing a joint press conference here on Sunday morning. Other leaders and office bearers of the FPCCI and Quetta Chamber of Commerce and Industry (QCCI) were also present on the occasion. S.M. Tanveer referring his meeting with the representatives of Chamber of Commerce in Quetta said that it was good, as during the course, the issues of Balochistan were discussed. During the meeting, we also talked about the solution to the issues being faced in the province, he added. He said that unemployment is an important issue in the province, which was discussed thoroughly. He stressed the need to establish industries for promotion of livelihood opportunities in the province.

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 Nizamkhojaev Makhamatovich. CEC Raja is currently in Tashkent as a special observer for the ongoing parliamentary elections in Uzbekistan. Both officials agreed to enhance mutual cooperation, with the meeting focusing on the exchange of electoral experiences between the two countries.

Only Jihad can bring freedom to Kashmir, Naem

LAHORE (INP): Emir Jamaat-e-Islami Hafiz Naemur Rehman on Sunday reiterated that Kashmir could only be freed by Jihad. Naem said that people consumed their whole lives in the freedom movements of Kashmir and Palestine. "The martyrdom of Yahya Sinwar gives us the lesson of sacrifice, he stayed in jail for 23 years and came out as the emblem of independence," said JI Emir. He declared the Oct 27 a Black day as India on this day occupied Jammu and Kashmir illegally by military forces.

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.

New Gwadar Int'l Airport to attract local, international investment

ISLAMABAD (INP): China-aided New Gwadar International Airport (NGIA) is set to serve as strong transportation link to attract local and international investment, says a report published by Gwadar Pro on Sunday. Equipped with the spirit of inclusive connectivity with state-of-art airway features, NGIA is going to serve a dynamic precursor for spin-off effects on development horizons of Gwadar as well as Balochistan. One of impactful roles of NGIA in the development lies in attracting local and international investment. Since inception of Pakistan, Balochistan and Gwadar areas have direly needed modern air connectivity. Scattered businesses' locations afflicted by lack of air transportation systems

Quetta Admin to shift dairy farms from urban areas to outskirts

QUETTA (APP): Quetta Administration has devised a plan to shift dairy farms from urban areas to outskirts of the city under the plan of a proper urban planning for the provincial capital city in order to develop the city on modern lines. The Commissioner Quetta Division Muhammad Hamza Shafiqat has ordered to impose a complete ban on dairy farms established in all 58 urban wards of Quetta city. He said that strict action would be taken against the dairy farms owners who have not been shifted dairy farms from the city by Monday. Talking to APP, he said that the district administration was decorating the City by shifting undesirable land used, such as shifting of bus/truck stands, motor showrooms, junkyards and dairy farms from town area to outskirts of Quetta and rural areas. The government had planned envisaged development of the provincial capital city and up-gradation of existing municipal infrastructure, he added.

Pak increases monitoring of air traffic amid Iran, Israel tensions

ISLAMABAD (INP): Pakistan's Air Traffic Control (ATC) has heightened monitoring of air traffic entering Pakistani airspace in response to escalating tensions between Iran and Israel. Media reports indicate that the closure of Iranian airspace has led to flights rerouting through Omani airspace instead. Pakistan is particularly focused on monitoring flights approaching its airspace from the west. Each flight is being verified before being granted entry.



DUBAI: H.E. Hussain Muhammad, Consul General speaks during an event arranged to observe 27th October Kashmir Black Day at the Consulate General of Pakistan.

Samina Zehri says: Pakistan has raised the voice of Kashmiris in every forum of world

Independent Report QUETTA: The people of Occupied Kashmir are resisting every conspiracy of India. The day of October 27 holds a very important place in the history of Kashmir. These views were expressed by the Chairperson of the Standing Committee Senate on Human Rights, Senator Samina Mumtaz Zahri in a statement regarding the Black Day against the Indian illegal possession of Kashmir. She said that we will continue to struggle until the achievement. Indian conspiracies and tactics to crush the struggle for self-determination of Kashmiris have failed. The cases of extra-judicial killings in Occupied Kashmir have increased to an alarming extent. Martyring in competitions, India is plotting to change the demography of Occupied Kashmir.

Jam reaffirms unwavering support for Kashmiris' rights

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Commerce Jam Kamal Khan on Sunday reiterated Pakistan's steadfast commitment to the Kashmiris' cause, emphasizing the nation's dedication to advocating for the freedom, dignity, and justice of the Kashmiri people. As the country stands united with the people of Kashmir, honoring their sacrifices and supporting their rightful pursuit of peace, said a news release. "We observe Black Day, marking the beginning of a decades-long struggle faced by the people of Jammu and Kashmir since 27th October 1947", the minister said. This solemn day serves as a reminder of the injustices endured by the Kashmiri people and their unwavering determination to secure their right to self-determination.

Quetta Admin to shift dairy farms from urban areas to outskirts

QUETTA (APP): Quetta Administration has devised a plan to shift dairy farms from urban areas to outskirts of the city under the plan of a proper urban planning for the provincial capital city in order to develop the city on modern lines. The Commissioner Quetta Division Muhammad Hamza Shafiqat has ordered to impose a complete ban on dairy farms established in all 58 urban wards of Quetta city. He said that strict action would be taken against the dairy farms owners who have not been shifted dairy farms from the city by Monday. Talking to APP, he said that the district administration was decorating the City by shifting undesirable land used, such as shifting of bus/truck stands, motor showrooms, junkyards and dairy farms from town area to outskirts of Quetta and rural areas. The government had planned envisaged development of the provincial capital city and up-gradation of existing municipal infrastructure, he added.



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

BCA organizes "Kashmir Black Day Cycle Rally"

QUETTA (APP): Oct 27, 1948. The cycle rally aimed to strongly condemn the worst atrocities perpetrated on innocent Kashmiris by the Indian forces in illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir. Participants in the rally were adorned their bicycles with the national green and white flags and wore black armband to mark the day in support of the victims of violence of Indian troops in occupied valley.



KHARAN: Provincial Finance Minister Mir Shoab Noshervani listening the problems of the people during open katchery.