



India a terrorist state, committing worst atrocities against Kashmiris: Kakar

Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Monday said that India was a terrorist state, which had been committing the worst atrocities and brutalities against the innocent people of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu & Kashmir for decades. (Details on Page 8)



Pakistan's diplomatic missions worldwide observe Kashmir Solidarity Day

The diplomatic missions of Pakistan across the world observed Kashmir Day to show solidarity with the people of Indian Illegally Occupied Kashmir (IIOJK). The diplomatic missions of Pakistan in the United States, China, France, United Arab Emirates, Cambodia, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Australia, New Zealand, Azerbaijan, Spain, Iran, Japan, Kyrgyzstan, Malaysia, South Africa, Russia, South Korea, Germany, Tajikistan... (Details on Page 8)

Simultaneously published from Islamabad, Lahore and Multan

Floral wreath

MUZAFFARABAD: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar laid a floral wreath at the Martyrs Monument on Kashmir Solidarity Day on Monday.



Photo: PID

Four civilians injured in Wana Rustam bazar bomb blast



Adam Khan Wazir

WANA: An explosion took place in a junk shop in Wana's Rustam bazar of South Waziristan Lower district on Monday.

Officials said, in which four people were injured while the police SHO escaped unhurt, and all the injured persons are civilians.

Officials said, they are said to be slightly injured.

A police official says that an explosive device exploded in broad daylight in a junk shop in Rustam bazar Wana of South Waziristan Lower District.

At the time SHO of City Wana police station Razaullah was passing by, however, four people were injured when the IED exploded.

While the SHO of City Police

station Wana Razaullah, who was on patrol in the market at that time, he narrowly escaped again.

According to the preliminary investigation report, the explosives had already been planted near a scrap car shop near Allah Noor Pump Wana.

Officials said, all the injured were shifted to District Headquarters Hospital, wana, where the doctors have said that his condition is out of danger.

After the explosion, the police cordoned off the entire area and started a search operation and later the area was cleared.

Later, an independent candidate for PK-110 constituency, Taj Wazir visited District Headquarters Hospital, wana, where he visited all the injured and assured full cooperation from his side.

PM, COAS visit Muzaffarabad Monument, pay tribute to sacrifices of martyrs

Spokesman Report

MUZAFFARABAD: Prime Minister of Pakistan, Prime Minister of Azad Jammu and Kashmir and General Syed Asim Munir, NI (M), Chief of Army Staff (COAS) visited Muzaffarabad. COAS later visited troops deployed on the front lines along Line of Control (LOC) in Sarian Sector.

Upon arrival at Jammu and Kashmir Monument Muzaffarabad, PM of Pakistan, PM of A&JK and COAS laid floral wreath at Martyrs' Monument and paid rich tribute to the supreme sacrifices of Shuhada.

The leadership acknowledged that the fortitude, resilience and unwavering faith of Kashmiris in the face of unabated brutality of Indian occupation forces in IIOJK had been exemplary. The brewing humanitarian and security

crises in the IIOJK seriously threatens regional peace and stability. Pakistan would always stand with Kashmiris in their just struggle for the inalienable right to self-determination in light of UNSC resolutions.

"India is attempting to change the demography of IIOJK through illegal administrative and unilaterally imposed draconian laws and security clamp-downs. Such machinations cannot suppress the will and the yearning of the Kashmiri people to attain their legitimate objectives."

COAS was briefed about the latest situation along the LOC and appreciated the operational readiness, high morale and effective response of troops to Indian CFVs.

Addressing the troops, COAS reiterated that any aggression or violation of territorial sovereignty

of Pakistan will be responded with full national resolve and military might.

"Pakistan Army is well versed with the full threat spectrum and is perpetually ready to respond effectively."

COAS also mentioned the Indian state sponsored terrorism in Pakistan which now extended to heinous targeting of individual Pakistani citizens on our soil. Such callous disregard for international law and norms of international system was becoming a routine occurrence and India was now being called out openly by many countries in the world, exposing her sham credentials, COAS concluded. Pakistan would continue to expose all such attempts and ensure the security of its citizens.

Earlier on arrival, COAS was received by Commander Rawalpindi Corps.



Pakistan expresses support to Kashmiris for Right to Self-determination

Naveed Ahmad Khan

ISLAMABAD: The Government and people of Pakistan observed 'Kashmir Solidarity Day' on Monday to express solidarity with Kashmiris in their struggle for the realization of their right to self-determination.

The President, the Prime Minister, and the Foreign Minister, in their special messages on the occasion, renewed Pakistan's unstinting moral, diplomatic, and political support for the Kashmir Cause. Foreign Minister Jalil Abbas Jilani has addressed letters to the Presidents of the UN Security Council and General Assembly, the UN Secretary-General, the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, and the OIC Secretary-General to update them on the latest developments in the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir.

In these letters, the Foreign Minister has emphasized the need to implement the relevant Security Council resolutions so that the people of Jammu and Kashmir can determine their future through a fair and impartial plebiscite under UN auspices. He has also urged the UN and OIC leadership to play their role in improving the human rights situation in IIOJK and in the release of



Kashmiri political prisoners and dissenters.

In the run-up to Kashmir Solidarity Day, a briefing was organized for Islamabad-based diplomats to apprise them of the situation in IIOJK.

A 'Solidarity Day Walk' was held on Constitution Avenue earlier today, from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs up to the Parliament Building. The walk was led by the Ministers for Information, Privatization, Culture, and Religious Affairs.

A wide range of other activities, including seminars, webinars, panel discussions, and photo exhibitions, were also organized throughout the country and at Pakistan's diplomatic missions around the world. These activities aimed to express solidarity with the Kashmiri people, highlight the ongoing human rights violations in IIOJK, and underscore the grave implications of India's efforts to turn Kashmir into a disempowered community in their own land.

Arrest warrants issued for officers skipping election duty

Correspondent

JAMSHORO: Arrest warrants has been issued for the government employees skipping elections 2024 duty, in Shwani.

An emergency meeting of police officers under the chairmanship of the Returning Officer of Shwani was called in Jamshoro to discuss the non-compliance of govt employees with their assigned election duties.

The Returning Officer of Shwani directed the police to arrest the 134 government employees for refusing their assigned election duties.

The district admin, under the leadership of RO, has issued orders for the arrest of 134 government employees who have shown reluctance to perform election duties and directed present them before the authorities.

No guidelines to shut down internet on Election Day: Solangi



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Federal Minister for Information, Broadcasting and Parliamentary Affairs Murtaza Solangi on Monday said that the government had not issued any guideline to shut down internet and mobile signals on the day of general election.

Speaking in a private news channel programme, the minister said that the local administrations had the authority to decide about shutting down internet in a specific area if it faced any law and

order issue. He said there was no doubt that an extraordinary situation required extraordinary measures, however, so far no such a situation had been reported in any area.

Highlighting the government's measures to curb fake news and propaganda on social media, the minister said the relevant institutions had been issuing clarification to rebut any such news circulating in different media.

"Security is a serious issue," he said, while pointing out a steep rise in activities of different terrorist groups in the country, especially after the establishment of an interim government in Kabul.

"Last year alone, around 1,500 incidents of terrorism were reported in the country," Murtaza Solangi noted.

Bank of Punjab partners with Lahore Biennale Foundation for fostering art and culture

PPA

LAHORE: The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) formalizing this partnership was signed at the Curtain Raiser Ceremony for the eagerly awaited third edition of Lahore Biennale, LBO3, held at Alhamra Arts Council, Lahore. The distinguished event witnessed the presence of key figures such as Syed Mohsin Raza Naqvi (Chief Minister Punjab), Danyal Saleem Gilani (Secretary Information and Culture, Punjab), Zafar Masud (President & CEO - BOP), Tariq Mahmood (Executive Director, Alhamra), Naazish Ata-Ullah (Chairperson, LBF), Raza Ali Dada (Chairperson, LBF), Qudsia Rahim (Executive Director, LBF), Kamran Lashari (Director General, PWCHAA), and various other dignitaries.



Following the ribbon-cutting ceremony, marking the commencement of LBO3, Curator John Tain led a guided tour for patrons and guests, showcasing the diverse talents contributing to the exhibition. Renowned artists such

as Haegue Yang, Lo Lai-Lai Natalie, Hamra Abbas, Ali Kazim, Usman Saed, Carolina Caycedo, Abuzar Madhu, Mehreen Murtaza, Imran Channa, along with retrospective works by artists Zahoor ul Akhlaq, Mian Sala-

huddin, and Sheherazade Alam, were featured in the preview exhibition. During the gathering, Zafar Masud (President & CEO-The Bank of Punjab) underscored the importance of corporate collaboration in promot-

ing the arts. The subsequent signing of the MOU between LBF and BOP solidified an institutional partnership for the next 3 editions of the Biennale.

Adding to the occasion's significance, Qudsia Rahim (Executive Director, LBF) shared her thoughts, stating that the Lahore Biennale Foundation adopts an inclusive and context-driven approach to achieve its projects and goals, challenging traditional critique methods and prevalent frameworks for curating, researching, and archiving material culture, built ecologies, and histories. We express the deepest gratitude to the Bank of Punjab for their generous support in conducting this biennale.

Chief Minister Mr. Mohsin Naqvi delivered the closing remarks and extended his heartfelt salute to the organizers of Biennale and the visionary individuals behind the seamless execution of such remarkable international events. Organizing such endeavors is no small feat, and we take immense pride in acknowledging their dedication and hard work.

Pakistan cannot be completed without the freedom of Kashmir: Safdar Hashmi

Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: Pakistan cannot be completed without the freedom of Kashmir. The ongoing atrocities in Kashmir and Palestine are painful. The victory of the scales on February 8 will be the first step towards the freedom of Kashmir and Palestine. Amir Jamaat-e-Islami Multan and candidate NA-149 Dr. Safdar Hashmi and Hafiz Aslam candidate PP-216 speech at the Kashmir rally.

Organized by Jamaat-e-Islami Pakistan, like across the country, a Kashmir rally was organized in Multan, which was led by Amir Jamaat-e-Islami Multan and NA-149 candidate Dr. Safdar Hashmi. Speaking on this occasion, Amir Jamaat-e-Islami Multan Dr. Safdar Hashmi said that Jamaat-e-Islami has allocated today's day for Kashmir and today all activities are in the name of Kashmir. Jamaat-e-Islami has always supported the oppressed. Jamaat-e-Islami condemns the atrocities happening all over the world. He said that the class in power in the country has always harmed the freedom struggle of Kashmir and Jamaat-e-Islami will first come to power and fight for the solution of the Kashmir issue. The victory of Jamaat-e-Islami will be the victory of the oppressed. On February 8, the victory of the scales by defeating the oppressors will be the victory of justice and justice for the oppressed and subjugated class. Jamaat-e-Islami will end oppression. Inflation will end corruption and injustice.

Commissioner says all arrangements completed for general elections in Multan division

Kiran Asim

MULTAN: Divisional administration under the leadership of Commissioner Multan Division Engineer Aamir Khatkhat has completed all arrangements for the transparent conduct of general elections. According to a spokeswoman Ms Iram Saleemi for the commissioner's office Multan Said



8097260 registered voters will exercise their right to vote in Multan division. 240 candidates on 16 national constituencies in the division, 642 candidates on 32 provincial constituencies will participate in the election. 4 DROs, 48 ROs, 96 AROs, 4 DMOs have been nominated in the division. Security cameras are being installed at sensitive polling stations. The Central Election Office is fully operational in Multan Public School for the delivery of general election materials. Control rooms have been established in the Commissioner's Office, District Administration Offices. The DRO office has been established in Police Line Multan. There are 623 polling stations of K category, 1853 of B category, 2987 of C category. 2896 cameras are being installed at 623 polling stations. So far, action has been taken on 196 violations of the election code of conduct. 5463 polling stations, 16680 polling booths have been established in the division. 5538 presiding officers, 34667 assistant presiding officers will perform their duties. 57539 general officers including 17334 polling officers will perform election duty. Security measures have been completed for the delivery of election materials to the polling stations. Uninterrupted power supply, UPS, generators will be kept for backup. More than 1500 police personnel will be on duty at the polling stations on the General Election Day. There will be 9493 of District Police, 2391 of IG Police, Special Force in the division. 10560 jawans will perform their duties.

DC Multan paid a surprise visit to the sensitive polling stations



Quratul Ain Asim

MULTAN: According to the Spokesman Of Deputy Commissioner Multan Waseem Yousaf Said the Captain Retired Rizwan Qadri Deputy Commissioner Multan paid a surprise visit to the sensitive polling stations set up for the general elections yesterday. On this occasion, the Deputy Commissioner Rizwan Qadeer reviewed the security arrangements and delivery of election materials and took a briefing. The Deputy Commissioner Rizwan Qadeer during the visit. Lights and furniture of polling stations to the administration Also issued an immediate repair order

Deputy Commissioner Captain Retired Rizwan Qadri said that CCTV cameras and personnel will be deployed at more than 240 sensitive polling stations was given the task of delivering the election materials to the polling stations by tomorrow.

On the direction of the Election Commission, they are also conducting a strict review of the election campaign of the candidates for the general election.

The Deputy Commissioner said that the returning officers in the Central Election Office will compile the election results, after which the results will be uploaded on the Election Commission's portal. 8 Law and order situation of Pakistan army and security agencies on February. I will support the district administration.

Solidarity

Multan: Pakistani Girls Lit the Candles For 5th February Kashmir Day Celebration.



Photo: Asim Tanveer

CM Mohsin Naqvi inaugurated Several Projects in Bahawalpur

Asim Tanveer

BAHAWALPUR: Arrival of Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi in Bahawalpur, inauguration of Victoria Hospital OPD, Surgical Ward Upgradation Project

Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi inaugurated the Bahawalpur Safe City Project, model police station civil line, virtual inauguration of other model police stations.

You have your own hospital, take care of such a lovely building: Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi's conversation with patients, doctors and staff. The local police played an



effective role in the Kache operation, in a few days 26 thousand people will get their land papers, talking to the media. Chief Minister Punjab

Mohsin Naqvi arrived in Bahawalpur from Faisalabad. Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi inaugurated OPD, Surgical Ward Upgradation Project at Baha-

walpur Victoria Hospital. Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi also inaugurated Bahawalpur Safe City Project. Inauguration of the upgraded building of Thana Civil Line Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi also virtually inaugurated other model police stations in Bahawalpur. Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi visited the wards of Bahawalpur Victoria Hospital on foot. Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi also reviewed the patients, therapists, talked to the doctors and staff. Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi said that you have your own hospital, take care of such a lovely building. Speaking to the media in Bahawalpur,

Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi said that Bahawalpur Victoria Hospital was built in 1906, old. Renovating the building was a very difficult task. Credit goes to the team of the Department of Construction and Communications for beautifully upgrading the historic building of the Victoria Hospital. Even if the new hospital is built, it will not be upgraded like Victoria Hospital. The old Victoria Hospital building has been completely reconstructed. Victoria Hospital Upgradation Project has cost 2 billion 10 crore rupees, Victoria Hospital has been upgraded in 2 months and 5 days.

Pakistan People's Party will complete the mission of Zulfikar Ali Bhutto: Yousuf Raza Gilani

Kiran Asim

MULTAN: Former Prime Minister and Senator NA-148 candidate Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani has said Pakistan People's Party Will Complete the Mission Of Zulfikar Ali Bhutto he further said that he has been serving the people for 36 years while loyal to the People's Party and my doors are always open for the people.

Cantt area business community and who changed their allegiance to many parties I have the opportunity to serve the people of the region before, I will play a full role in solving their problems. Muhammad Khani and his son Muhammad Bilal Khani are the capital of the People's Party whose party services cannot be forgotten. Khani's announcement of giving jobs to 20 unemployed youth of Kent area is happy. He expressed these views while

addressing a public meeting organized by former Vice Chairman Cantonment Board Malik Khan known as Malik Khani in Multan Cantt. Thousands of people participated in the meeting.

Yusuf Raza Gilani said that the cantonment area Benazir Income Support Program to deserving women I have been punished for giving jobs, I will still give jobs if I get a chance and I will keep doing this crime again and again and funds will also be released from the federal government for the development works of the Cantonment Board.

Shah said that my father Syed Nazim Hussain Shah first in his life fought the election from Cantt and I am also starting to participate in the election from here.

Cantt was the stronghold of the People's Party before and it is still a stronghold. On February 8, there will

be rain of arrows, not the bills, former president of Cantonment Board Multan, Muhammad Khan. Khani. Member Cantonment Board Mohammad Bilal Khani said that today the people of the constituency.

There is a great opportunity to succeed Syed Yusuf Raza Geelani and Barrister Syed Mudassar Shah with their valuable votes who continue to serve the people in and out of power. We expect that Syed Yusuf Raza Geelani and barrister Syed Mudassar Shah succeeded the merchant community of Kent region.

Federal funds for the development works of the cantonment board of the problems and under the Benazir Income Support Program will also be released for the deserving women of the cantonment and the businessmen will play their role in solving the problems of



the community while on this occasion Muhammad Khani Also announced to provide 20 jobs to unemployed youth of Kent area.

Dr. Ghazanfar Malik performed the duties of the stage secretary while Qari Ismatullah and Hadiya Naat Mohammad Zohaib Qadri received the blessing of recitation, Ijaz Karim, Zafar Iqbal Khan, Syed Mushtaq Shah Mashhad, Sheikh Muhammad Shafiq, Qalb Abid, Malik Asad, Malik Ibrahim,

Khawaja Dilshad, Syed Karar Shah Bukhari, Sajjad Bhatti, Siddique Tahim, Chaudhry Muneeb Anwar, Pir Syed Tayyab Sultan Bukhari, Saeed Muni, Kashif Warsi, Hashim Khan Babar, Akhtar Hussain, Saleem Shahzad, Mirza Naem Baig, Chaudhry Muhammad Yasin, Malik Allah Bakhsh Bhatta, Raees Qureshi, Khawaja Imran, Akhtar Hussain, Malik Rabnawaz Work, Muzaffar Hussain Qureshi, Tanveer Gilani, Khalil Thousands of local resi-

dents including Bhatti, Zafar Bhatta, Imran Samra, Maqsood Bhai participated. Syed Yusuf Raza Gilani further said that I contested the first election in Cantt area in 1988 against Mian Nawaz Sharif and won with a huge majority. I also expect the people of the area to wake up on February. Meanwhile, Syed Yusuf Raza Gilani and Brister Syed Mudassar Shah were warmly welcomed at the assembly hall and flowers were showered on them.



Islamabad

15° - 23° Clear

SERVICES

Namaz Timings

Fajr 5:37 am
Zohr 12:22 pm
Asr 4:04 pm
Maghrib 5:42 pm
Isha 7:07 pm

EMERGENCY

Rescue (Police) 15
Bomb Disposal 15
Fire Services Rawalpindi/ Islamabad 1122 & 16
Emergency Ambulance 1122 & 4451122
Motorway Police 9266044
Motorway Police 9270601-20

Women Police Stations

Islamabad 9222596
Rawalpindi 9270601-20

ENQUIRY

Edhi Ambulance 115
PIA Flight Info 114
PIA Cargo 9280979
Railway Inquiry 117
Railway Exchange 9270831-5
WASA Rawalpindi 5555489
CAA 9281092

HOSPITALS

CMH 561111
MH 561116
MH 561116
Cantt Hospital 9270907-11
DHO 5556311-4
RGH 9290301-7
Holy Family 9290322-7
PIMS 9261170-79
Polyclinic 9218300-09
Shifa International 4603666

DEPARTMENTS

CDA 921334-43
CDA 9208301-04
Met Office 9250360-6
RDA 5555864
TMA 5770886
Cantonment Board 9270151-3
Islamabad Metropolitan Corporation 9209224
Potohar Town 9209224
Rawal Town 5773343

COMPLAINTS

Water Tanker Service
E-7, F-10 & F-11 9204654
G-5, G-6, G-7, G-8 9203883
G-9, G-10, G-11, G-12, H-8 9266316
Wapda Islamabad 9217579-80
Sui Gas Complaint 119, 9272249
Wasa Water Tank
Rawalpindi 0331-5022125

Kashmir Solidarity Day celebrated

Abdul Majid

FAISALABAD: Kashmir Solidarity Day was celebrated under the auspices of Senior Tutor Office of Agriculture University Faisalabad. According to the details, participated enthusiastically in all the main events of the university in New Saint Hall which organized elocution competitions, poetry, quiz competitions, photo exhibition and documentary film.

Vice Chancellor of Agriculture University Faisalabad Dr. Iqar Ahmad Khan said that the agreements of international organizations and the resolutions of the United Nations regarding the Kashmir issue should be implemented. The participants reiterated their determination that the whole nation stands together for the right of self-determination for Kashmiris. Senior Tutor Dr. Shaikat Ali, Dr. Rabia, Principal Officer PRP Dr. Jalal Arif, Deputy Director Mumtaz Ali and a large number of administrative and teaching staff participated in the rally. Dr. Shaikat Ali said that the day is not far when Kashmiris will realize their aspirations. They will decide their future accordingly.

Islamabad's Christian community announced its support for Dr. Tariq Fazal Chaudhry

PPA

ISLAMABAD: Christian community leaders in Islamabad have announced their support for Dr. Tariq Fazal Chaudhry, the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) candidate for National Assembly constituency NA-47. The announcement was made at a ceremony held at the residence of Zafer Bakhtwari, Secretary General of the United Business Group. Dr. Chaudhry said that he is aware of the problems faced by the Christian community in Islamabad and that he will work to solve them if elected. He also said that he will work to ensure that the Christian community is given a 10% quota in government jobs in Islamabad. Zafer Bakhtwari said that the Christian community has been supporting the Bakhtwari family for the past 35 years and that this support will continue. He also said that the Christian

community in Islamabad has a number of problems that need to be solved, including land rights for informal settlements, education, health, and employment. The ceremony was attended by a number of prominent Christian community leaders, including Pervaiz Jazbi, Chaudhry Gulzar, Patras Joseph, Chaudhry Ishaq, Ashraf Farzand, Arshad Sindhu, Dawood Boota, Bishop Amjad, and Manzoor Masih. In his address, ICICI President Ahsan Bakhtwari said that it has been 76 years since the creation of Pakistan, but our basic problems have not been solved. The main reason for this is the lack of stability in policies and political instability. In the upcoming elections, the nation has the opportunity to elect people who have vast experience in improving the economy, infrastructure, and employment. The previous

PML-N government performed well and I hope that the people will pave the way for the establishment of a strong government that can solve the country's problems. He said that the Christian community of Islamabad should use their right to vote for Dr. Tariq Fazal Chaudhry, and the Bakhtwari family will stand guard to solve their problems. In his address, Secretary General UBG Zafer Bakhtwari said that the Christian population in Islamabad is 6%, which has a significant impact on the election results. We have been serving the Christian community for the past 35 years and this will continue. The Christian community associated with the Bakhtwari family will vote in favor of the PML-N and Dr. Tariq Fazal Chaudhry on February 8. We have served the Christian community of Islamabad in the past and will continue to work with the incoming government. He said that the



Christian community of Islamabad has many problems that have been waiting for a long time to be solved. These include land rights for informal settlements, education, health, and employment. There is a need for measures to make Christian youth skilled so

that they can better support their families. A 10% quota should be allocated for the Christian population in government jobs in Islamabad. All the prominent Christian community leaders present at the ceremony stood up one by one and announced their support for Dr.

Tariq Fazal Chaudhry along with their introduction. All the leaders emphasized that after today's ceremony, the PML-N has gained a clear edge and lead in Islamabad. 45,000 votes of the Christian community will be cast in favor of the PML-N.

Media Helpline

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Federal Minister for Information & Broadcasting, Murtaza Solangi, addressing during inauguration Groundbreaking Application designed to empower journalists and media working during election period. The App allows seamless registration and complaint resolution, at PID in the Federal Capital.



Photo: Online by Raja Farid

World's peace not possible without peaceful resolution of Kashmir dispute: Mushaal

PPA

ISLAMABAD: Special Assistant to the Prime Minister for Human Rights and Women Empowerment, Mushaal Hussein Mullick, has urged global community to break their silence and take proactive measures to prevent the ongoing genocide by Modi led Indian government in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK). She was addressing a poster exhibition organized by National College of Arts (NCA) on Kashmir Solidarity Day. SAPM was accompanied by focal person to SAPM, Sabien Hussein Mullick. The exhibition organized by NCA served as a powerful platform to raise awareness about the Kashmir issue.



The Special Assistant to the Prime Minister highlighted the profound influence of art in evoking empathy, understanding, and generating awareness about the just struggle of the people of IIOJK. She noted that the poster exhibition showcased the remarkable artistic talent within the National College of Arts.

Mushaal expressed deep concern over the Indian Judiciary aligning itself with the RSS ideology and the fascist policies of the Modi government. She strongly criticized the recent verdict by the Indian Supreme Court regarding the revocation of Kashmir's special status and described the biased and unfair judicial proceedings against Kashmiri political leadership as judicial terrorism. She said that Modi's entire government machinery was conspiring to impose death sentence to Yasin Malik under false and fabricated charge to gain electoral advantage.

The Special Assistant to the Prime Minister lamented the information and communication blockade imposed by India in the illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir, highlighting the difficulty in obtaining accurate and unbiased information about the ground realities in the region.

The Special Assistant to the Prime Minister lamented the information and communication blockade imposed by India in the illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir, highlighting the difficulty in obtaining accurate and unbiased information about the ground realities in the region.

PAC organized rally and Photographic exhibition



PPA

RAWALPINDI: Punjab Arts Council organized rally and photographic exhibition on the occasion of Kashmir Solidarity Day. The rally was led by Director of Arts Council Waqar Ahmed, on this occasion Deputy Director Muhammad Shakur and Assistant Director Muhammad Suleman also accompanied him. Addressing the rally, director Waqar Ahmed said that the purpose of celebrating the day is to express support for the struggle of the Kashmiri people to achieve their right to self-determination under the UN resolutions. We strongly condemn the human rights violations and atrocities committed by India in illegally occupied Kashmir and salute the struggle and determination of the Kashmiri people to achieve their right to self-determination. Even after the passage of 76 years, the series of cruel and inhuman acts against the oppressed Kashmiris of India continues. Every year thousands of innocent Kashmiris are martyred by Indian brutality. Despite the military massacre, India has not been able to lower the strong ambitions and morale of Kashmiris till date. Deputy Director Muhammad Shakur said that since the 1990s, India has martyred 96,285 Kashmiris for demanding freedom during the last 33 years. Around 170,000 Kashmiri citizens were imprisoned in various jails in India, while properties worth billions of rupees were seized and more than 100,000 business centers and houses were burnt. On August 5, 2019, India violated the UN resolutions and terminated the special status of Occupied Jammu and Kashmir. A large number of showbiz artists from the root cities participated in the rally.

Conference on Mevelana Rumi & Hadrat Sultan Bahoo concluded



PPA

LAHORE: National one-day Conference on Mevelana Rumi & Hadrat Sultan Bahoo has been organized by MUSLIM Institute, Islamabad and Idara-i-Nazria-i-Pakistan. The conference was comprised of two sessions in which many scholars shared their thoughts. In the final session of the conference, Dewan of Junagadh State and Chairman MUSLIM Institute Sahibzada Sultan Ahmed Ali, Chairman Punjab Higher Education Commission Prof. Dr. Shahid Munir, Director General Muqtadara National Language, Dr. Saleem Mazhar, Vice Chancellor Home Economics University Lahore Prof. Dr. Faleeha Zahra Qazmi, Senior Vice Chairman Idara-i-Nazria-i-Pakistan Mian Farooq Altaf, Principal Pakistan Law College Prof. Humayun Ehsan and others delivered their speeches.

While addressing to the conference scholars emphasized that teachings of Sufis are vital for the social, moral, ethical and spiritual transformation in the contemporary era. Truth is unconquerable by itself. To seek for one's ultimate purpose should be the central point of one's knowledge and struggle. Any deed lacking God's love is raw and imperfect by its very nature. Teaching of Mevelana Rumi and Hadrat Sultan Bahoo have long lasting impacts even in the present age. Love for humanity is the core idea of their peaceful teachings. To have strong bond with our blissful culture, we should seek guidance from such great Sufi thoughts and philosophy. For the promulgation of peace and love it is inevitable to implement such teachings. Learned speakers further shared that it is very much needed to research upon and consequent dissipation of the teachings of such great personalities to make our society a cradle of peace and love where people of different religions can live peacefully for centuries. We should take steps for the possible reformation of the society by promoting the teachings of the Sufis and eradicating the materialistic approach of thinking. The very foundation of the Rumi and Bahoo's teachings is to struggle against the base-self means enabling one to come out of slavery of materialistic desires and to strengthening of his very moral and ethical character. It is impossible to maintain justice in society till we have courage of self-accountability.

Kashmir Day marked with walk to raise awareness on Kashmiris

PPA

ISLAMABAD: Walk on the occasion of Kashmir Solidarity Day in collaboration with Social Welfare Association and Pakistan National Heart Association Director Social Welfare Association Rawalpindi Rana Shahid led the walk, Secretary General Panah Sanaullah Ghamman, many members of civil society and children participated in this walk.

Speaking, Rana Shahid said that the purpose of today's walk is to send a message to his Kashmiri brothers that the Pakistani



nation stands with you and to tell the human rights organizations to take notice of the atrocities on Kashmiris. Secretary General Panah Chaudhry

Sanaullah Ghamman said that the purpose of celebrating Kashmir Solidarity Day on February 5 is to show that Kashmiris are not alone in this war,

the unwavering support of Pakistani people is with them. The day holds deep significance as it marks a collective commitment to create awareness

about long-standing issues in the region.

Kashmir Solidarity Day emphasizes solidarity with the Kashmiri people and the need for peaceful resolution of the conflict. It reiterates the call for dialogue, mutual understanding and respect for the rights and aspirations of people in the region.

On this occasion, civil society organizations urged the international community to play an active role in facilitating diplomatic efforts for a just and lasting solution to the Kashmir conflict.

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PMLN propensity of employing calumnious tactics, particularly targeting female adversaries - I

The 'M' in PMLN ostensibly connotes Misogyny, as the vitriol disseminated against women by this political faction is deemed unparalleled. Moreover, this reprehensible rhetoric is not confined to mere internet trolls or their ardent supporters; rather, it emanates from within the ranks of their party members and former ministers, thereby revealing a pervasive and intrinsic misogyny within their core.

The historical trajectory of the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PMLN) reveals a persistent adherence to such tactics, spanning several decades. For instance

During the electoral campaign of the 1990s, a notorious incident unfolded wherein spurious explicit imagery of Ms Benazir Bhutto was disseminated aerially, accompanied by the derogatory slogan "Coca Cola Pepsi, Benazir Taxi."

epitomizes the deliberate orchestration of defamation aimed at undermining her credibility and reputation.

The character defamation of Nusrat Bhutto, mother of Benazir Bhutto, was orchestrated by the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PMLN) with the unequivocal endorsement of Nawaz Sharif. This insidious campaign entailed the dissemination of posters and pamphlets adorned of their like-

ness alongside disparaging insinuations, emblematic of PMLN's historical penchant for targeting women as political adversaries.

The Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PMLN) purportedly subjected the former spouse of the Ex-Prime Minister, Imran Khan, namely Jemima Khan, to undue harassment. Allegedly, they endeavored to incarcerate her during a vulnerable state of pregnancy, employing spurious charges of smuggling, thereby rendering her existence in Pakistan markedly untenable.

Nawaz Sharif, deemed one of the least successful politicians in Pakistan's annals, has long been entrenched in a pattern of utilizing his cadre of party workers as instruments for nefarious endeavors, while projecting an image of superiority over his peers.

However, his facade of magnanimity has gradually eroded, laying bare his intrinsic misogyny. A testament to this unveiled contempt for women was his recent vitriolic commentary, uttered during his incumbency as Prime Minister, wherein he denigrated women who chose to partake in PTI Jalsas, further perpetuating a culture of gender-based discrim-

ination and disparagement.

Former Defense Minister Khawaja Asif, while in possession of a United Arab Emirates (UAE) work visa, derogatorily referred to fellow parliamentarian Shireen Mazari as a "tractor trolley" and suggested that she should modify her voice to be more feminine during a session in the National Assembly. When confronted with the demand for an apology, he adamantly declined, stating, "I am not inclined to offer apologies; they may pursue whatever course of action they deem fit."

He reiterated the characterization on social media as a "tractor trolley" and referred to Firdaus Ashiq Awan as a "Dumper," engaging in body shaming, a practice seemingly deemed acceptable. Notably, his critique exclusively targeted Firdaus, overlooking male politicians who transitioned from PPP to PTI alongside her. The selectivity in targeting suggests a bias rooted in apprehension towards confronting male counterparts.

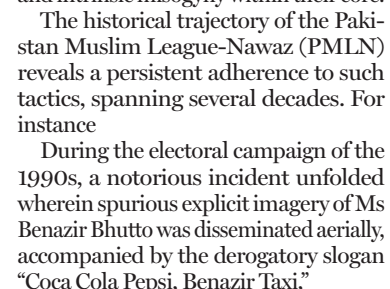
Jawed Latif, a member of the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) and Member of Provincial Assembly (MPA), purportedly made derogatory comments about the sisters of Murad Saeed in the

presence of the assembled media, exhibiting reprehensible language and conduct.

During the presentation of #Budget2018 in the National Assembly, Abid Sher Ali, formerly the Minister of State for Power, engaged in vitriolic discourse on social media platforms. When Murad Saeed intervened to address the situation, he was subjected to slanderous remarks as well. Such behavior, characterized by invoking familial relations in a disparaging manner, is emblematic of the tendencies often associated with the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) faction.

When Shireen Mazari rebuked Abid Sher Ali's attempted physical contact, he callously retorted by insinuating there was naughty worth touching. His brazen recounting of this incident on a public platform, met with laughter from his compatriots, exemplifies the egregious misogyny perpetuated by those in positions of authority. It is lamentable to note that such behavior was not confined to the realms of online trolling, but rather, was exhibited by a former government minister. In my estimation, Abid Sher Ali and Rana Sanaullah, colloquially known as "Muchan waali Baandri," epitomize the most odious manifestations of misogyny, emanating from the highest echelons of power.

To be continued



Analysis
Kiran Asim

Provincial Election Commission completed all arrangements

The Provincial Election Commission has completed all arrangements to hold fair, free and transparent elections on 61 National as well as 130 Provincial Assemblies general seats in Sindh.

This was stated by Provincial Election Commissioner Sindh Sharifullah and Joint Election Commissioner Nazir Abbas while addressing a joint press conference here at the PEC office on Monday.

Sharifullah said apart from 61 general seats of the National Assembly and 130 of the Provincial Assembly, polls will be held on 14 reserved seats of women in the National Assembly 29 reserved seats of women and 9 seats of minorities in the Sindh Assembly.

As many as 26,994,769 registered voters will exercise their right of franchise for which 19,008 polling stations have been set up by the Election Commission of Pakistan, PEC said and added that all arrangements were in the final stage and now we are preparing for the polling day.

He said polling material had been dispatched to the districts and the polling scheme was finalized on January 24 after receiving data from the polling staff, they were provided required training. He informed that the printing process of the ballot papers had already been completed and the same have been delivered to all districts while bags are ready which will be delivered to the polling staff on February 07.

All District Returning officers have devised a transportation plan from where ballot papers will be dispatched and after completion of the polling and counting process, the ballot papers will be taken back to the points already notified by the DROs, Sharifullah said.

He said that all facilities for the Returning Officers were provided at the designated points where results will be announced.

He said with the support of the provincial caretaker government, a security plan was devised and the CCTV cameras would be installed at all highly sensitive polling stations.

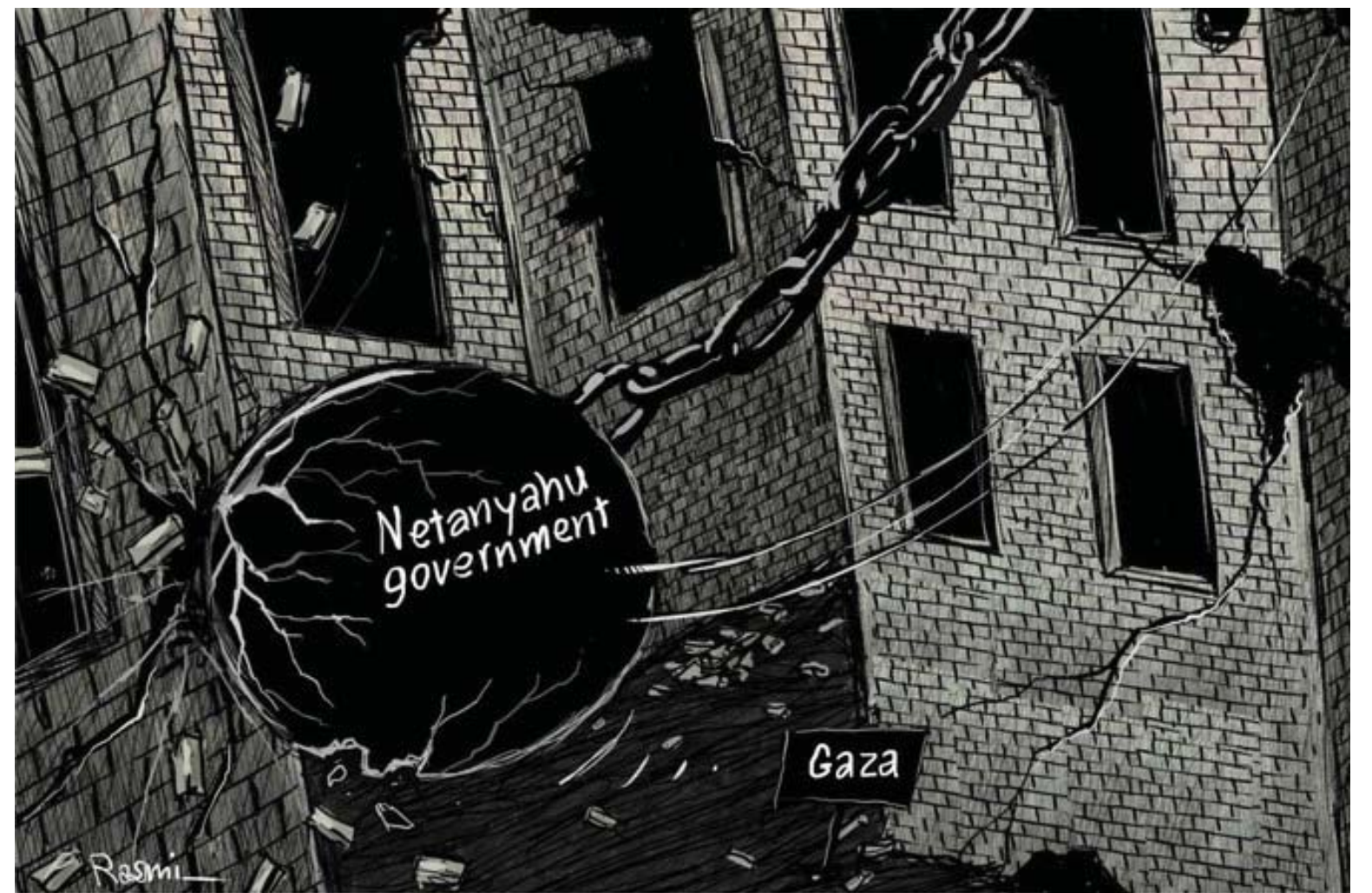
He said the bags containing polling material would be handed over to the presiding officers on February 07 and they will be taken to the polling stations.

Sharifullah said on February 08, polling would start at about 8 am and then presiding officers would return to the same point from where they departed to the polling station and hand over the bags and results to the returning officers concerned.

He said the facilities have been arranged for media persons covering polling activities at the provincial Election Commission office, RO offices and other points where results would be prepared so that they could ensure media coverage efficiently.

Joint Election Commissioner Nazir Abbas informed that in Sindh 6,524 polling stations were declared as highly sensitive and the District Returning Officers will be responsible for all security issues in consultation with the security forces.

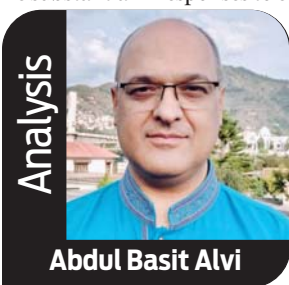
He said Police and Rangers personnel would be deployed at all highly sensitive polling stations while Army soldiers would be deployed where the District Administration deemed it necessary.



Cartoon by Amjad Rasmī. (Courtesy of Asharq Al-Awsat)

Kashmir Solidarity Day and the Proportion of Kashmiri Personnel in the Armed Forces of Pakistan and India - II

Beyond contributing at various ranks, Kashmiris have also assumed leadership roles within the Pakistan Army, highlighting a commitment to diversity and equal opportunities. The integration of Kashmiris in the armed forces plays a pivotal role in strengthening the social fabric of the country, fostering unity and a shared sense of purpose. It underscores that the armed forces represent the diverse tapestry of Pakistan, contributing to a united and prosperous nation. The substantial number of Kashmiris in the Pakistan Army attests to their unwavering commitment to national security, reflecting dedication amidst regional complexities and a collective defense of the nation. Their service serves as a bridge of understanding between different regions and communities within Pakistan, exemplifying a shared commitment to a united and prosperous nation that transcends regional and ethnic boundaries.



Analysis
Abdul Basit Alvi

On the other hand, the Indian Army, one of the largest standing armies globally, faces weaknesses and challenges. One significant issue is the presence of outdated equipment and technology in many segments. Challenges persist in ensuring the entire force is equipped with state-of-the-art weaponry. The sheer size and diverse geographical terrain of India present logistical challenges, affecting the smooth movement of troops, equipment, and supplies.

Personnel shortages in critical areas, such as cybersecurity, intelligence, and technical expertise, pose concerns for the Indian Army. Instances of corruption and ethical lapses have been reported, underscoring the importance of addressing such cases for

maintaining the institution's integrity. Despite increasing demands on the defense budget, constraints impact the Indian Army's ability to invest adequately in modernization and training. Balancing the current force structure, meeting operational requirements, and investing in long-term modernization efforts is a complex task. Achieving optimal crisis response times remains a challenge, highlighting the need to enhance the army's agility and rapid deployment capabilities for effective responses to emerging threats.

An examination of the composition of the Indian Army reveals a notable discrepancy in the representation of Kashmiris within its ranks. The historical context of Kashmir is characterized by political intricacies, territorial disputes, and periods of unrest. The region has encountered challenges that, at times, have influenced the dynamics of recruitment into the Indian Army. Instances of conflict and civil unrest, mainly attributed to the actions of the Indian Army, have contributed to reservations among Kashmiris about pursuing a military career.

The persistent security challenges in the region, encompassing insurgency and counterinsurgency operations, have affected the recruitment dynamics. The unique security environment in occupied Kashmir has influenced the willingness of individuals from the region to enlist in the armed forces, considering the complexities of the local situation. The perception of a trust deficit between the Kashmiri population and the Indian government has shaped choices regarding military service.

Socio-economic factors, including educational opportunities and economic conditions, play a pivot-

al role in career choices. In regions facing specific challenges, such as occupied Kashmir, limited access to quality education and economic opportunities impacts the number of individuals opting for a military career. Effective communication and outreach efforts are crucial for dispelling misconceptions and encouraging participation. Disseminating accurate information about military service, benefits, and opportunities can bridge communication gaps and address apprehensions among potential recruits.

Identity politics, both at the regional and national levels, can influence perceptions of military service. In the context of occupied Kashmir, where questions of regional identity are deeply intertwined with political narratives, individuals perceive the Indian armed forces through a complex lens shaped by historical and political dynamics. Given the security concerns in the region, the screening process for security clearances may be stringent, impacting the ease with which individuals from occupied Kashmir can join the Indian Army, adding an additional layer of complexity to the recruitment process.

The long-standing conflict in Kashmir has been entangled in a complex web of political, historical, and social issues. One contentious aspect that has drawn international attention is the allegations of human rights violations and atrocities committed by the Indian Army in the region. It is crucial to approach this sensitive topic with an objective lens, acknowledging diverse perspectives while scrutinizing the allegations and their impact on the Kashmiri population. The history of the Kashmir conflict is marked by territorial disputes, political unrest, and conflicting national narratives. Understanding the historical context is crucial in comprehending the complexities surrounding allegations of human rights violations.

To be continued

Reconstitution of AJK Public Service Commission - II

In circumstances narrated above it is a matter of great satisfaction that PSC has been reconstituted and a constitutional body has been restored. The reconstitution is apparently commendable due to the manifest qualities of merit and impartiality. It has generated a hope and confidence in young qualified candidates of AJK. The Chairman and the members each has his distinct credentials and selection is above board free from political motive rather national cause has been kept in view.

The selection of the chairman, Lt. General (Retd) Hadayat-ur-Rehman, a resident of Bonji area, Astore, GB, has been appreciated by all segments of society. His appointment reminds the golden tenure of Col Mirza Hassan Khan, who held the position of Defense Secretary in AJK when Azad Kashmir Regular Forces (AKRF) has not yet been merged in Pakistan Army. Col Mirza Hassan Khan has left a heroic history. AJK can never forget the supreme sacrifice of Col Kazim Shaheed, Sitara-e-Jurat, of 12 AK, Shadat in Comilla sector. While he was leaving from Muzaffarabad for his destination he told his great mother "you are making preparations for my marriage and I am going for Nishan-e-Haider".

Incumbent Chairman of PSC can contribute to bridge up the brotherly

relations of two units of administration. The CPEC route which has been planned to pass through Astore to Kel and Muzaffarabad can be expedited which could be beneficial for both units. Besides, the students of GB are studying books of Punjab Text Book Board, could utilize the services of AJK Text Book Board as both units have common background of history, geography, culture and above all a common goal of liberation of Kashmir.

The failure of PSC to make prompt selection of suitable candidates is partly due to cumbersome selection process adopted by the commission, who have been subjecting every post and each candidate for any vacancy to a writ-ten test which obviously consumes a lot of time. Whereas the law requires a written test only for the posts of AC/ASP/ACF and Sub judge for which syllabus for written test has been notified by the government. Law does not prescribe written test for the post of Doctors, Engineers, Lecturers and similar other posts for which no syllabus has been enforced. These categories of posts should be selected on the basis of academic records and interview for which prescribed proforma is available with the PSC.

The writer is Retired Additional Chief Secretary of AJK and Advocate Supreme Court of AJK.



Analysis
Ch Muhammad Latif

Xi extends condolences over death of Namibia's Geingob

Xinhua

BEIJING: Chinese President Xi Jinping on Monday sent a message of condolences to Namibia's newly sworn-in President Nangolo Mbumba over the death of former Namibian President Hage Geingob.

On behalf of the Chinese government and people, and in his own name, Xi extended profound condolences and expressed sincere sympathy to the Namibian government and people, as well as Geingob's family.

In his message, Xi pointed out that President Geingob, an outstanding leader of Namibia, had promoted the in-depth development of the China-Namibia comprehensive strategic partnership of cooperation during his lifetime and made important contributions to boosting China's friendship with Namibia and Africa.

His death is a great loss to the Namibian people, and the Chinese people also lost a good friend, Xi said.

He added that China cherishes the



profound traditional friendship between China and Namibia and is ready to work with the Namibian side to push forward the continuous development of the two countries' comprehensive strategic partnership of cooperation.

Special Event and Photo Exhibition to mark Kashmir Solidarity Day at OIC Headquarters



Noorulhassan

JEDDAH: Permanent Mission of Pakistan to the OIC organized a 'Special Event and Photo Exhibition' to mark Kashmir Solidarity Day, at the OIC headquarters in Jeddah, today. The OIC Secretary General, H. E. Hisein Ibrahim Taha graced the event as the 'Chief Guest'. Senior officers of the OIC General Secretariat, Permanent Representatives of the OIC Member States, diplomats and officials from the diplomatic corps in Jeddah, media persons, members of Kashmir Committee Jeddah and a large number of people from Pakistani and Kashmiri diaspora attended the event.

In his opening address, Ambassador Fawad Sher, Permanent Representative of Pakistan to the OIC, thanked the OIC Secretary General for his presence and conveyed his gratitude to the General Secretariat for hosting the event at its New Headquarters. The Ambassador stated that Pakistan and Kashmiris around the world observe Kashmir Solidarity Day every year on 5th February to express their unwavering political, moral, and diplomatic support for the just struggle of their Kashmiri brothers and sisters for their right of self-determination as enshrined in the UN Charter and the relevant OIC and UN Security Council Resolutions.

In his keynote address, Secretary-General OIC H. E. Hisein Ibrahim Taha reaffirmed the OIC's categorical and unequivocal support for the Kashmir cause and stressed that the OIC, through its various mechanisms including the OIC Special Envoy for Jammu and Kashmir, the OIC Contact Group on Jammu and Kashmir and the IPHRC's Standing Mechanism to monitor the human rights situation in the IIOJK, would continue to project the Kashmir cause and hold India accountable for its usurpation of the Kashmiris' right to self-determination. The Secretary General also inaugurated the 'Photo Exhibition' depicting the gross human rights violations being perpetrated by the Indian occupation forces in IIOJK.

The Chairman Kashmir Committee, Mr. Masood Puri, also spoke on the occasion and lamented India's growing highhandedness and intransigence in the IIOJK.

The Consul General of Pakistan in Jeddah, H. E. Khalid Majid in his remarks recapitulated Pakistan's firm position on the Kashmir dispute. He called upon the international community to play its due role in resolving the Kashmir dispute as it has held the security and stability of the entire region hostage.

World economy to grow by 2.9 pct in 2024 — OECD

Xinhua

PARIS: Global gross domestic product (GDP) growth is projected to ease to 2.9 percent in 2024 from 3.1 percent in 2023, before recovering to 3.0 percent in 2025 as financial conditions ease, according to the outlook released Monday by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD).

Annual GDP growth in the United States would moderate to 2.1 percent in 2024 and 1.7 percent in 2025 while it's expected to remain supported by household spending and strong labor market conditions. Euro area GDP growth is projected to be 0.6 percent in 2024 and 1.3 percent in 2025, with activity held back by tight credit conditions in the near term before picking up as real incomes strengthen, the report said.

The OECD also reported global growth proved resilient in 2023, with inflation declining more quickly than anticipated; inflation was projected to be back to target in most G20 countries by the end of 2025.

"Headline inflation in the G20 economies is projected to drop from 6.6 percent in 2024 to 3.8 percent in 2025, with core inflation in the G20 advanced economies easing to 2.5 percent in 2024 and 2.1 percent in 2025," the organization added.

According to the report, high geopolitical tensions are a significant near-term risk to activity and inflation, particularly if the conflict in the Middle East were to disrupt energy markets.

Persisting service price pressures could also generate upside inflation surprises and trigger financial market repricing as expectations of monetary policy easing are reassessed.

"The foundations for future growth need to be strengthened by policy reforms," the report said, adding that enhanced international cooperation was needed to revive global trade, ensure faster and better co-ordinated progress towards decarbonization, and alleviate debt burdens in lower-income countries.

Solidarity with Palestine

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Federal Minister for National Heritage & Culture Syed Jamal Shah, and participants hold a banner to showing solidarity with the people of Kashmiri during protest rally to mark the Kashmir Solidarity Day, at Constitution Avenue in the Federal Capital.



Photo: Online

Embassy of Pakistan, Tokyo marked the Kashmir Solidarity Day



PPA

TOKYO: Pakistani community members, Kashmiris as well as Japanese media persons attended the event. Syed Faiz Naqshbandi, Convener All Parties Hurriyat Conference joined the event virtually.

The Ambassador read out the messages of Pakistani leadership on the occasion. In his remarks, he highlighted the continuous atrocities being committed by Indian occupation forces in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK). He expressed Pakistan's full support for the Kashmir cause. He also underlined Pakistan's firm support for Palestinians.

Kashmir Solidarity Day commemorated across Australia

PPA

CANBERRA: Today, Kashmir Solidarity Day was commemorated across Australia, with multiple events organized across major cities, including Sydney, Melbourne, and Brisbane. Car rallies featuring pictures that expressed support for Kashmiris and their quest for justice and self-determination also gained a lot of public attention.

The main event was organized at the Consulate General of Pakistan in Sydney, bringing together Australian parliamentarians, human rights activists, media personnel, and members of the Pakistani and Kashmiri Diaspora. The participants underscored the need for a collective commitment to just resolution of the longstanding Jammu and Kashmir dispute.

High Commissioner Zahid Hafeez Chaudhri, in his address, highlighted the political, legal, and humanitarian aspects of the Jammu and Kashmir dispute. He underscored the gravity of the situation in the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK). He informed that India has



maintained its occupation of IIOJK for seventy-six years, making it one of the oldest unresolved dispute on the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) agenda. The situation worsened after India's illegal actions on August 5, 2019, aimed at further disempowering the Kashmiri people. The recent events, such as the Indian Supreme Court's judgment on December 11, 2023, further signalled India's intent to consolidate its illegal occupation of IIOJK.

Expressing concerns over the human rights situation in IIOJK, the High

Commissioner stressed that India needs to ensure the fundamental rights and freedoms of the Kashmiri people. He commended the people of Jammu and Kashmir for their resilience against Indian oppression and brutality.

Reiterating Pakistan's unwavering support for the just struggle of the Kashmiri people, the High Commissioner emphasized that Pakistan will continue to lend full moral, diplomatic and political support to the people of Jammu and Kashmir till just realization of their right to self-determination.

Senator David Shoebri, renowned for his commitment to human rights, in his message emphasized the collective responsibility of the international community to protect the human rights of the people of Jammu and Kashmir. He urged that commercial and political considerations should not supersede universal human rights, and international relations should be based on shared values.

Former Member of the Legislative Council of New South Wales, Hon. Shaoquett Moselmann, and other Speakers echoed concerns over the humanitarian and human rights crisis in IIOJK, calling for an immediate end to gross and systematic human rights violations and a just resolution of the longstanding dispute based on international legitimacy.

A photo exhibition highlighting the atrocities faced by Kashmiris at the hands of Indian forces was also organized, serving as a powerful visual testament to the ongoing struggle for justice, peace, and the realization of the right to self-determination for the people of IIOJK.

China's travel boom buoys global expectations

Xinhua

BEIJING: As the eight-day Spring Festival holiday draws closer, global tourist destinations are keen to attract Chinese holidaymakers, with high hopes for a tourism boom.

In a video message last week, Thai Prime Minister Srettha Thavasin extended a warm welcome to Chinese tourists, as they had been the largest source of inbound tourism for the country. The prime minister expressed hopes that Chinese visitors would have a delightful and secure experience in Thailand.

This came after China and Thailand signed a mutual visa exemption agreement, which will come into effect from March 1. "As a Thai citizen, I'm so excited about the news," said Chanapan Kaewklachaiyawuth, vice

president of the Thai Chinese Tourism Alliance Association, adding that it will facilitate travel and be the best mechanism to boost economic gains.

Chanapan said the association expects between 200,000 and 250,000 Chinese tourists to enter Thailand during this year's Spring Festival holiday, running from Feb. 10 to 17.

In 2024, the Southeast Asian country aims to attract 8 million tourists from China, more than double the figure from 2023 and constituting 75 percent of the pre-pandemic peak recorded in 2019.

Singapore, which also signed a visa-free agreement with China last month, experienced a recovery in its tourism sector last year, with the Chinese mainland topping its tourist spending chart.

The city-state expects its tourism industry to recover further this year, driven by improved global flight connectivity and capacity as well as the implementation of the mutual 30-day visa-free travel with China.

Tourism bureaus across China are actively promoting local attractions and employing innovative strategies to entice visitors. Featuring unique local traditions such as distinctive dressing-up, traditional dances and delectable cuisine, these efforts aim to captivate tourists in the lead-up to the Spring Festival holiday.

The "ice city" Harbin, capital city of northeast Heilongjiang Province, took advantage of its winter landscape to promote ice and snow tourism, attracting more than 3 million visitors during the three-day New Year holiday and raking in a total



Visitors watch a firework show during the opening ceremony of the 40th Harbin International Ice and Snow Festival at the Harbin Ice-Snow World in Harbin, northeast China's Heilongjiang Province, Jan. 5, 2024. (Xinhua/Wang Jianwei)

tourism revenue of 5.91 billion yuan (about 831.6 million U.S. dollars), both reaching record highs.

On Alibaba's travel platform Fliggy, bookings for domestic and overseas destinations for visits during the Spring Festival

holiday have surged, with that for outbound travel increasing more than 15 times compared with 2023, leaving tour guides buzzing with excitement.

"Customers are eager to explore overseas destinations, particularly after countries like Thailand, Malaysia and Singapore waived visa requirements for Chinese tourists. It's like a renaissance for both individual and group tours," said Tan Mingyuan, a tour guide with GZL International Travel Service.

"I have to work the entire holiday period," said Tan, who just returned from the Philippines and is leaving for Vietnam with a 20-member tour group.

Looking ahead, 2024 will be a big year for China's tourism industry, which will enter "a new prosperous cycle," according to

the China Tourism Academy.

Chinese tourists are expected to make more than 6 billion domestic trips this year, up from nearly 4.9 billion in 2023, while the number of outbound trips by Chinese tourists is expected to reach 130 million, a big jump from more than 87 million last year, according to the academy.

The United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) said that following a strong 2023, international tourism is well on track to return to pre-pandemic levels in 2024.

According to the first UNWTO World Tourism Barometer of the year, the unleashing of remaining pent-up demand, increased air connectivity, and a stronger recovery of Asian markets and destinations, are expected to underpin a full recovery by the end of 2024.

Bull & Bears
PSX 100-Share
Index Fluctuation

Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index		
Current	Prev. Close	
63,002.91	62,393.73	
Day's High	Day's Low	
63,075.30	62,448.72	
Index Value	Change	
8,117,414,186	+609.18	
Percentage	Time	
+0.98%	2 Feb, 2024 5:00 pm	
Europe: FTSE 100 Index		
Index Value	Change	
7,612.86	-2.68	
Percentage	Time	
-0.035%	5 Feb, 4:35 pm GMT	
USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average		
Index Value	Change	
38,369.80	-284.62	
Percentage	Time	
-0.74%	5 Feb, 12:35 pm GMT-5	
Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average		
Index Value	Change	
36,354.16	+196.14	
Percentage	Time	
+0.54%	5 Feb, 3:15 pm GMT+9	
Open Market Forex Rates		
Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	183	184.8
Bahrain Dinar	743.54	751.45
Canadian Dollar	206	208
China Yuan	39.21	39.61
Danish Krone	40.75	41.15
Euro	304	307
Hong Kong Dollar	35.45	35.8
Indian Rupee	3.37	3.48
Japanese Yen	2.1	2.18
Kuwaiti Dinar	909.3	918.3
Malaysian Ringgit	58.52	59.12
New Zealand \$	171.76	173.76
Norwegians Krone	26.76	27.06
Omani Riyal	726.14	734.14
Qatari Riyal	76.83	77.53
Saudi Riyal	74.45	75.2
Singapore Dollar	207	209
Swedish Korona	26.74	27.04
Swiss Franc	325.92	328.42
Thai Bhat	7.85	8
U.A.E Dirham	76.6	77.5
UK Pound Sterling	356.5	360
US Dollar	280.1	281.8

DRAP failed to protect public and legitimate enterprises: Mian Zahid Hussain

Tariq Khattak

ISLAMABAD: Chairman of National Business Group Pakistan, President Pakistan Businessmen and Intellectuals Forum and All Karachi Industrial Alliance and former provincial minister Mian Zahid Hussain said on Monday that the sale of fake and substandard medicines is increasing in the country.

Forty to fifty percent of medicines available in the country are harmful, and the Drug Regulatory Authority of Pakistan (DRAP) needs to protect the interests of the masses and genuine businesses, he said.

Mian Zahid Hussain said that the masses and businesses have been awaiting any strict action against merchants of death for decades, but to no avail, which amounts to encouraging them.

Talking to the business community, the veteran business leader said that according to reports by several important institutions, forty to fifty

percent of the medicines available in the country are harmful, but nothing is being done to control this menace.

He added that last year, the Ministry of Health had said that 85% of the medicines in the country are of substandard quality, which, if considered an exaggeration, indicates the seriousness of the situation.

He noted that the DRAP needed to do better in its duty to save people's lives and ensure the provision of quality medicines at reasonable prices. Therefore, a major cleanup operation has become necessary to eradicate the drug mafia.

The business leader said that DRAP should be abolished or three separate departments with no relation to each other should be formed. One should register the medicines, the other should monitor their quality, and the third should determine their prices.

These departments should have all the necessary equipment and resources to perform their



duties as expected.

Mian Zahid Hussain said that ruthless elements are not only poisoning the people of Pakistan for the sake of profit, but fake,

substandard, and expired medicines are also being exported to many countries from where complaints are also being received.

No such action has been taken against criminals, discouraging them; they should stop playing with people's lives for profit.

Mian Zahid Hussain said that many times in the country, in case of the death of children or adults, the pharma companies are asked to withdraw their poisonous drugs from the market.

Still, it is never known whether these drugs have been destroyed or not, and neither any action has been made public against such companies.

It has not been heard that a company has been delisted, and compensation has been paid to the families of the deceased.

He noted that the illegal pharma mafia has become so influential in Pakistan that due to it, pharma companies doing clean business are badly affected, but no one cares.

Donation

KARACHI: Bank Alfalah Ltd donates, PKR. 30 millions, cheque to, CEO, Green Crescent Trust (GCT), Zahid Saeed, for building a state-of-the-art school, in the backward area of Khoski, Badin. The GCT to its credit built a network of 166 charitable schools in Sindh in the last 29 years having an enrollment of over 31,799 children from deprived families.



IMF will not permit subsidies worth billions to the masses

Tariq Khattak

ISLAMABAD: Dr. Muhammad Hanif Mughal, Chairman of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Shadbad, said on Monday that all the major political parties are misleading the masses about education in their election campaign.

He said that no government can double the education budget with the current income, and the slogan of creating a university in every district of the country is unmanageable.

Political parties are also promising billions in subsidies to the masses, which is not possible in the current situation as the IMF will not allow any such move, he added.

Dr. Muhammad Hanif Mughal said in a statement issued here today that political parties are claiming to change the fate of the nation, but any such thing is unlikely.

As usual, the politicians are making promises that cannot be fulfilled in the current scenario when a country is dependent on the IMF for its survival.

He claimed that economic development is impossible without the advancement of education, but policymakers have always ignored this.

Similarly, leaders are trying to lure the masses by telling them about subsidies worth billions of rupees, but the fact is that in the presence of the IMF, subsidies will be impossible.

Dr. Hanif Mughal said that currently, about two percent of the GDP is spent on an important sector like education. How can a country whose tax revenue is 9 to 10 percent of GDP increase its education budget by 100 percent or even more?

He said that the claims about increasing the education budget are not new. Political parties have been making such claims for decades, but after coming to power, this promise is forgotten.

The quality of education can only be improved when the revenue is increased for which the government will have to tax property, agriculture, wholesalers and retailers etc. which seems impossible, he observed.

He said that a major party claims to build a network of schools in the country. The other is talking about giving

laptops and other items. Yet another party is claiming free food and free books for children, while the fourth party is talking about an end to co-education.

In the recent past, the ruling party has resorted to the policy of a uniform education system across the country, but now it seems that it has abandoned that policy.

PTI and PPP are also claiming to build a university in every district. In a country where there are 250 universities, their degrees are not recognised anywhere. Where millions of youth are unemployed, instead of establishing new universities, there is a need to improve the quality of existing educational institutions.

Pakistan's exports to China up by 46pc in 7 months



Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's export of goods and services to China witnessed an increase of 46 percent during the seven months (July to January).

According to sources, the overall exports to China were recorded at US \$1.7214 billion during July-January (2023-24) against exports of US \$1.18 billion during July-January (2022-23).

On the other hand, the imports from China into the country during July-January were recorded at US \$7.71 billion against US \$7.66 billion last year, sources added.

On January, Pakistan's export of goods and services to China witnessed an increase of 39.44 per cent during the first five months of the current fiscal year (2023-24) as compared to the exports of the corresponding period of last year, State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) reported.

The overall exports to China were recorded at US \$1223.532 million during July-November (2023-24) against exports of US \$877.444 million during July-November (2022-23), SBP data revealed. On a year-to-year basis, the exports to China also surged by 36.29 per cent from \$199.058 million in November 2022, against the exports of \$271.316 million in November 2023.

It is pertinent to mention here that China earlier "agreed" on a rollover of \$2 billion debt to Pakistan.

According to sources with the finance ministry, the \$2 billion debt will be rolled over before the maturity date on the existing conditions.

TikTok shares measures to combat misinformation ahead of Pakistan general election

PPA

ISLAMABAD: As the Pakistan parliamentary election approaches in February 2024, TikTok has shared its efforts to combat misinformation and uphold election integrity on its platform. The platform's latest initiatives demonstrate its unwavering commitment to maintaining a safe, authentic, and reliable information environment during this important period.

Building on its robust global framework to combat misinformation, TikTok is collaborating with internationally recognized fact-checking organization Agence France-Presse (AFP) as its fact-checker to specifically address the Pakistani electoral

context. Additionally, TikTok is also working closely with local community partner organizations in Pakistan to ensure platform integrity. These partnerships enable TikTok to identify potential misinformation, take action on it, and share accurate information with its community around important events. TikTok's fact-checking partners do not moderate content on the platform, but their assessments provide valuable input which helps TikTok take the appropriate action that upholds its Community Guidelines.

Enforcement of TikTok's Community Guidelines, available both in English and Urdu, is a key component of its misinformation combat strategy. The platform employs

a multi-pronged approach, including the removal of guideline-violating content, redirecting search results to authoritative sources, and reducing the discoverability of unverified information. This comprehensive approach ensures that the platform remains a safe space, free from harmful election-related misinformation.

As the Pakistan General Election nears, TikTok is dedicated to ensuring that its platform remains a source of joy and creativity, while also being an authentic source of reliable and factual information. TikTok continues to support its community in Pakistan and globally, fostering a digital environment where authentic content thrives and misinformation is diligently combated.

Beijing airports enhance payment facilities for foreigners

Xinhua

BEIJING: Beijing Capital International Airport and Beijing Daxing International Airport have created a more convenient payment experience for foreign visitors.

Both airports officially launched a payment service zone on Monday to meet various payment requirements of foreign visitors, which include shopping, dining and transactions using foreign bank cards, mobile payments, cash and digital yuan.

Currently, there are five banking outlets, seven currency exchange counters, 24 ATMs, and one currency exchange machine in the two airports. Foreign bank cards are accepted by most businesses in the airports.

China's central bank said at the end of last year that the country would continue to work on accepting foreign bank cards, mobile payments, cash use and account



services to create a more convenient payment environment for foreign visitors.

IMF asks Pakistan to further hike gas tariff

Monitoring Desk

ISLAMABAD: The International Monetary Fund (IMF) on Sunday asked Pakistan to hike the gas tariff, ARY News reported.

According to sources, the IMF demanded Pakistan to increase gas prices till mid-February, the hike in gas prices could go up to 41 percent.

Sources said that the IMF refused to provide subsidies on the power tariff except for the subsidies given in the budget.

Sources revealed that Rs 1000 billion cash will be released for the petroleum sector, Rs 250 billion for power sector, Rs 600 billion for OGDCL whereas Rs 150 will be issued for the PPL.

Earlier, Pakistan shared an electricity tariff plan for the export sector with the International Monetary Fund.

As per details, the Pakistan government proposed lowering the power tariff to 9 cents from 14 cents to the export sector. Sources familiar with the development said the plan will be enforced after approval of the international lender.

It is to be noted that the International Monetary Fund (IMF) once rejected the decision to lower the power tariff for the export sector.

The export sector of Pakistan has been demanding the government to lower the power tariff to boost the exports of the country.

It is pertinent to mention here that the International Monetary Fund (IMF) revised down Pakistan's growth estimate for fiscal year 2024 to two percent - a 0.5pc reduction from October outlook, stated its World Economic Outlook (WEO).

Gold rates drop in Pakistan

Web Desk

ISLAMABAD: The per tola price of 24 karat gold decreased by Rs.1,200 and was sold at Rs.214,800 on Monday compared to its sale at Rs.216,000 on last trading day.

The price of 10 grams of 24 karat gold also decreased by Rs.1,029 to Rs.184,156 from Rs.185,185 whereas the prices of 10 gram 22 karat gold went down to Rs.168,810 from Rs.169,753, the All Sindh Sarafa Jewellers Association reported.

The price of per tola and ten gram Silver remained stagnant at Rs.2,600 and

2,229.08 respectively.

The price of gold in the international market decreased by \$11 to \$2,048 from \$2,059, the Association reported. The weekly inflation measured by the Sensitive Price Indicator (SPI), witnessed a decrease of 0.28 per cent for the combined consumption groups during the week ended on February 1.

According to the PBS data, the SPI for the week under review in the above-mentioned group was recorded at 317.65 points in Pakistan as compared to 318.55 points during the past week.

FIFA unveils schedule for World Cup 2026

Sports Desk

LAHORE: The Federation Internationale de Football Association (FIFA) announced the schedule of the 2026 Men's Football World Cup during a live broadcast at the Telemundo Center in Miami on Sunday.

The 2026 World Cup final will be held at MetLife Stadium in New York/New Jersey, organisers FIFA announced on Sunday.

The New York bid held off a strong challenge from Dallas to secure the July 19 game, the culmination of the expanded 48-team tournament being co-hosted by the USA, Canada and Mexico.

The competition will kick off with the opening game at Mexico City's iconic Azteca Stadium on June 11.

"The most inclusive and impactful FIFA World Cup ever is no longer a dream but a reality that will take shape in the form of 104 matches in 16 state-of-the-art stadiums across Canada, Mexico and the USA," said FIFA president Gianni Infantino.

"From the opening match at the iconic Estadio Azteca to the spectacular final in New York New Jersey, players and fans have been at the core of our extensive planning for this game-changing tournament... that will not only set new records but also leave an indelible legacy."

Atlanta and Dallas will host the

semi-finals while the third-place game will be played in Miami.

The quarter-final games will take place in Los Angeles, Kansas City, Miami and Boston.

A total of 16 cities across the three countries will host games with the bulk of the matches being held in the USA.

The 1994 World Cup was also held in the United States and the final took place at the Rose Bowl in Pasadena, near Los Angeles.

New York hosted games at that tournament at the old Giants Stadium, which was later demolished to make way for MetLife, which opened in 2010.

The decisions were announced on a live television broadcast in North America that featured Infantino alongside comedian and actor Kevin Hart, rapper Drake and celebrity Kim Kardashian.

The 82,500-seat MetLife Stadium, across the Hudson River from New York in East Rutherford, New Jersey, is the home of the NFL's New York Giants and New York Jets but has held a number of international football games, including the final of the 2016 Copa America tournament.

The New York bid had lobbied hard on the city's experience at hosting major international events and its position as a global city with easy transportation connections for fans.

Dallas had hoped that AT&T Stadium, in Arlington, Texas, home to the NFL's Dallas Cowboys, would benefit from having a roof to protect the game from the elements.



There is some compensation for Dallas with the venue being given nine total games — the most of any venue.

Los Angeles had also thrown a hat into the ring but the attempt struggled amid disagreements with FIFA about tournament upgrades needed to NFL venue SoFi Stadium.

The Azteca will become the first stadium to host World Cup tournament games in three separate editions after 1970 and 1986.

The venue hosted the finals of the 1970 and 1986 tournaments. The World Cup will take place during celebrations of the 250th anniversary of American independence.

A round-of-16 game will be held on July 4, Independence Day, in Philadelphia, where the US Declaration of Independence was signed.

The United States will kick off group stage competition at SoFi Stadium in

Los Angeles on June 12 and will also play in Seattle.

Toronto was selected to host the first game for the Canadian team. Vancouver is the other Canadian venue which will host the squad.

The expansion of the tournament to 48 teams from 32 means there will be an additional 24 matches, making up a total of 104 games across the 16 venues.

The tournament will take the format of 12 groups of four teams with the top two going through along with the eight best third-placed teams.

From there, the competition is a straight knock-out format with the finalists having to play eight games rather than the previous seven.

FIFA says the match schedule, which will not be complete until the qualification process has ended, has been designed to limit travel for the teams.

The full draw for the tournament is expected to be held in late 2025.

Group fixtures have been designed to avoid cross-coast travel for the teams, who will also be able to choose from team bases in their group's region.

The 16 host cities for the FIFA World Cup are: Atlanta, Boston, Dallas, Guadalajara, Houston, Kansas City, Los Angeles, Mexico City, Miami, Monterrey, New York-New Jersey, Philadelphia, San Francisco Bay Area, Seattle, Toronto and Vancouver.

Dominant Sri Lanka ease past Afghanistan in one-off Test

A Sports

COLOMBO: Left-arm spinner Prabath Jayasuriya's five-wicket haul in the second innings led Sri Lanka to a perfect 10-wicket victory over Afghanistan in the one-off Test here on Monday.

Afghanistan's batting line-up folded on 296 in the second innings despite Ibrahim Zadran's maiden Test century, setting Sri Lanka a measly 56-run target.

The touring side resumed their second innings at an overnight score of 199/1 and could add 97 runs for their remaining wickets as Prabath Jayasuriya ran through their batting unit.

Ibrahim Zadran led Afghanistan's batting charge and was supported well by Rahmat Shah, who scored a half-century. But after the pair were dismissed, Afghanistan folded quickly.

The opener remained the top-scorer for Afghanistan with a gutsy 114, featuring 12 boundaries while Shah was the next-best contributor with 54.

Middle-order batter Nasir



Jamal retaliated amid Afghanistan's collapse with an unbeaten 41 but ended up stranded at the other end when Asitha Fernando dismissed Mohammad Saleem to wrap up the innings.

Chasing a modest total, openers Dimuth Karunaratne and

Nishan Madushka took Sri Lanka to glory in just 7.2 overs. Follow us on our Official WhatsApp channel

Karunaratne was the core aggressor of the match-winning stand with his 22-ball 32 which featured three boundaries and a six while Madushka scored an

anchoring 22 off 23.

Sri Lanka captain Dhananjaya de Silva acknowledged Afghanistan's efforts, asserting that the touring side did well with the ball on the second day.

"When both Angelo (Mathews) and I got dismissed, it might not seem that bad but

that was the point that Afghanistan felt they were back in the game," he said.

"I think that was the crucial moment of the match. But our bowlers stuck to the plan all day (day 3), not giving runs away and keeping it tight."

On the other hand, Afghanistan skipper Hashmatullah Shahidi expressed his disappointment over a daunting defeat despite a "good comeback".

"I think it's the lack of experience in Test cricket and also not having a lot of opportunities to play red-ball cricket," Shahidi said.

"We're new in Test cricket and it's a learning process for us. I hope that we learn from this game."

It is pertinent to mention that the one-off Test between Sri Lanka and Afghanistan was not part of the World Test Championship (WTC).

The two teams will now travel to Kandy where they will compete in a three-match ODI series ahead of a three-match T20I series in Dambulla.

Bumrah-inspired India down England to level series

A Sports

VISAKHAPATNAM: Jasprit Bumrah registered a match haul of nine wickets and led India to a statement 106-run victory over England in the second Test of the five-match series.

Chasing a daunting 399-run target, the visitors skittled for 292 in the second session on day four despite an attacking start.

Bumrah, who claimed a six-fer in the first innings, carried his momentum and bagged three more, alongside spinner Ravichandran Ashwin, who ended the match on 499 Test wickets.

The right-arm pacer dismissed Tom Hartley to seal a comeback victory for the dominant hosts.

Zak Crawley was the pick of the batters for England in the run chase, courtesy of his counterattacking half-century. The opener smashed eight bounda-



ries and a six on his way to top score for England with a gutsy 73.

Barring him, Ben Foakes and Hartley were the next best contributors to England's total, scoring 36 each, while the rest made modest contributions.

The 106-run victory lifted India to

draw level with England at 1-1 in the five-match series.

On Day 3, out-of-form batter Shubman Gill strengthened India's command on the second Test with an important century and set England a daunting target.

The right-handed batter top-scored for India in the second innings with a magnificent 104, which featured 11 boundaries and two sixes.

Opening batter Yashasvi Jaiswal set the platform for India with a brilliant double-century in the first innings, leading India to a commendable total of 396.

Meanwhile, spirited England, known for their aggressive brand of cricket, "BazBall", came out all guns blazing in return but eventually fell short by 143 runs, courtesy of Jasprit Bumrah's six-wicket haul.

Crawley was England's batting mainstay in the first innings as well, scoring a brisk 76 with the help of 11 boundaries and two sixes.

It is worth mentioning here that the third Test between India and England will run from February 15 to 19 at Saurashtra Cricket Association Stadium in Rajkot.

Manzoor Hussain Memorial Golf to be contested today

Tahir Amin Malik.

LAHORE: The 14th Syed Manzoor Hussain Memorial Golf tournament for amateurs, ladies and senior golf professionals will be contested today (Tuesday) at the par 72, Lahore Gymkhana Golf Course. For the 14th time in succession this golf competition founded and presented by a steadfast and admiring son Syed Shagil Hussain in memory of his distinguished father Syed Manzoor Hussain who was a merited golf player and remained associated with golf activity at Lahore Gymkhana for over 50 years.

Syed Shagil Hussain who is currently based in United States travels each year to Lahore to host this event which benefits many great golf champions of the past and in the process honors the memory of Late Manzoor Hussain and rekindles the fondness of many of his junior playmates who remember him as a golfer of enterprising deeds.

Senior Professionals who compete in the Syed Manzoor Hussain Memorial Golf Tournament endeavor to produce quality golf in this stroke play competition and through performances of distinction and fitness add sufficient glow and intensity to the activity. For the energetic and enterprising ones the cash prizes are attractive indeed and by attaining winning positions they can go home with their pockets reasonably full.

As regards the amateurs and ladies, they have to feel gratified with mementos, trophies and souvenirs.

The early morning tee off will take place at 7 am.

At the conclusion of the 14th Syed Manzoor Hussain Memorial Golf Competition, the prizes will be awarded to the winners by Syed Shagil Hussain of USA, the Presenter of this Tournament.

Deep sorrow at the passing of cycling icon, Mumtaz Riaz

Sports Desk

LAHORE: The Punjab Cycling Association, through its Chairman Mr. Moazzam Khan Klair, expresses profound sadness as we announce the passing of Mr. Mumtaz Riaz, a cherished friend, and a dedicated servant of Pakistan Wapda for over four decades.

Mr. Riaz embarked on a remarkable journey, commencing as a cyclist and evolving into a committed manager, showcasing unwavering dedication and passion throughout his illustrious career. A paragon of professionalism, he not only demonstrated expertise in his field but also radiated warmth and kindness.

His legacy as a cycling legend will forever be etched in the memories of those fortunate enough to have known him. Mr. Mumtaz Riaz's contributions have left an indelible mark on the cycling community, and it will take time to recover the glory he brought to the field.

During this challenging time, our thoughts and prayers are with his family and loved ones. May Allah Almighty grant Mr. Mumtaz Riaz eternal rest and peace. In these trying moments, may the divine provide solace and strength to those mourning this profound loss.



Will Shaheen Afridi take Mohammad Amir out of retirement?

A Sports

Pakistan's T20I captain Shaheen Shah Afridi asserted that he will reach out to Mohammad Amir for the latter's potential return to international cricket.

Shaheen Afridi recently held an X, formerly Twitter, Space, and was subsequently asked whether he would consider the possibility of bowling alongside Mohammad Amir at the T20 World Cup 2024.

In response, Pakistan's T20I skipper asserted that he would have a discussion with his senior compatriot.

"I will talk to Mohammad Amir if he's available to come back for Pakistan

once again. Amir and I bowled together after almost 5 years. It was a very good experience to bowl with him, our partnership was great," stated Afridi.

Notably, both Shaheen Afridi and Mohammad Amir are representing Desert Vipers in the ongoing ICLT20 alongside their national teammates Shadab Khan and Azam Khan.

The two left-arm pacers bowled together for the Vipers after a gap of almost five years.

It is worth mentioning here that Mohammad Amir announced his retirement from international cricket in 2020, citing his differences with the then team management.

However, the fans kept demand-

ing his return and the movement got stronger when right-arm pacer Naseem Shah got ruled out of the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup 2023.

But Mohammad Amir was under-terred and stated that he had "moved on from international cricket".

"At the moment, I have moved on. I have different things in my life to do," Amir said in a press conference.

"Three years is a long period out of the international system. If you look at the Pakistan system right now, it is changing every single month, so you never know what is coming.

"For me this debate is closed. After three years out, I don't think it would be a sensible decision for me to come



back. For now, at least. I don't know what will happen in the next few years."

Mohammad Amir represented Pakistan in 147 matches across formats and picked up 259 wickets. He was

also a part of Pakistan's squads that won the T20 World Cup 2009 and ICC Champions Trophy 2017.

Gaurd of honor

MUZAFFARABAD: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar being presented guard of honor upon his arrival at AJK Legislative Assembly on Monday.



Photo: PID

India a terrorist state, committing worst atrocities against Kashmiris: Kakar

Abdul Majeed Tahir

MUZAFFARABAD: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Monday said that India was a terrorist state, which had been committing the worst atrocities and brutalities against the innocent people of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu & Kashmir for decades.

The world was, however, silently watching the Indian state terrorism against the Kashmiris, he regretted while addressing the Azad Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly on the occasion of Kashmir Solidarity Day.

The prime minister said for last many years, India was presenting a false narrative and trying to weaken the indigenous movement of the Kashmiris for freedom by wrongly labeling them as terrorists.

There was a clear difference between terrorism and the people's struggle for independence, he added.

PM Kakar said that the Indian leadership was also claiming that Gilgit-Baltistan and Azad Jammu & Kashmir were part of their country.

"On this day, I make it clear that India should not have any such illusions. We believe in peace and are showing

maximum patience and tolerance, but any misadventure in this regard will be forcefully responded."

He reaffirmed that Pakistan did not want any conflict in the region, however, it was fully capable of strongly retaliating any attack on its soil.

India, he said, had for many times tested Pakistan's capacity, and if still had any desire in that regard then "we are fully ready to show our might".

He said if India was a true democracy then it should give the people of Kashmir their just right to self-determination, besides restoring all the basic human rights in the IIOJK.

PM Kakar said India must also stop the gross violations of human rights in the region along with releasing all the political prisoners. It should also abrogate all the strict emergency laws, besides removing its heavy military presence from the villages and towns of Kashmir.

It should allow the Kashmiris to hold peaceful gatherings, he added.

The prime minister said that India must allow unrestricted access to the observers of UN and Organization of Islamic Conference (OIC), international media and human rights organizations to IIOJK to get

first-hand information about the situation there; and investigate and report human rights violations.

He said that India's illegal and unilateral actions of August 5, 2019 usurping the special status of the IIOJK were a blatant violation of international laws, including the UN Charter, 4th Geneva Convention and the relevant UN Security Council resolutions.

India had since been engaged in taking further measures to alter the demographic structure and political landscape of the held Valley, he added.

Pakistan's diplomatic missions worldwide observe Kashmir Solidarity Day

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The diplomatic missions of Pakistan across the world observed Kashmir Day to show solidarity with the people of Indian Illegally Occupied Kashmir (IIOJK). The diplomatic missions of Pakistan in the United States, China, France, United Arab Emirates, Cambodia, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Australia, New Zealand, Azerbaijan, Spain, Iran, Japan, Kyrgyzstan, Malaysia, South Africa, Russia, South Korea, Germany, Tajikistan, Romania, Turkey, Tunisia, Czech Republic, Canada, United Kingdom, Afghanistan and Kenya observed the Kashmir Solidarity Day.

The embassies held seminars, photo exhibitions, walks and screened documentaries to mark the day. In this regard Friends of Kashmir in Dallas, USA organized a seminar to show solidarity with the people of Kashmir that was attended by Kashmiri diaspora, local dignitaries and Sikh community. Speakers at the seminar highlighted gross human rights violations in IIOJK and called upon for right of self-determination to people of IIOJK. Pakistan's diplomatic missions worldwide observe Kashmir Solidarity Day Pakistan Consulate General in New York organized an event to commemorate Kashmir Solidarity Day. A large number of people including members of Kashmiri and Pakistani Community in New York, opinion leaders, scholars, students and journalists attended the event. Inspiring speeches were made by Consulate General Aamer Ahmed Atozai, Dr. Asif Rehman, Carin J. Fischer, Dr. Sima Karetnaya, Zameer Ahmad, Taj Khan, Sardar Sawar and Saghir Khan. The Consulate General said that Pakistan stood committed to the acqui-

sition of the right of self-determination for Kashmiri brethren in accord with the UNSC Resolutions. Pakistan's diplomatic missions worldwide observe Kashmir Solidarity Day Likewise Pakistan Embassy in China also commemorated the Kashmir Solidarity Day by hosting a ceremony to underscore Pakistan's unwavering commitment to the Kashmir cause, including the right to self-determination of the Kashmiri people. On the occasion the embassy also organized a panel discussion on the continued salience of UN Charter and international law for the maintenance of international peace and security. The panelists stressed the centrality of multilateralism, with the UN at its core, for the resolution of disputes & prevention of conflicts. The event was attended by diplomats, scholars, academics and media. Pakistan's diplomatic missions worldwide observe Kashmir Solidarity Day Similarly, the Embassy of Pakistan, Abu Dhabi organized an event to mark the Kashmir Solidarity Day 2024. A number of Pakistani and Kashmiri community members based in the UAE attended the event. In his remarks, Ambassador Faisal Niaz Tirmizi paid tribute to the valiant people of the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu & Kashmir (IIOJK) and lauded their more than seven decades long efforts for the realization of the right to self-determination. Condemning India's unilateral and illegal actions in IIOJK, he said that India's atrocities cannot deter Kashmiri people from demanding their fundamental rights pursuant to the UN Security Council resolutions. The representatives of Kashmiri community also spoke on the occasion and shared their sentiments on the situation in the IIOJK, expressed concern



over the Indian brutalities against innocent civilians and reaffirmed their commitment to pursue their struggle for the realization of the right to self-determination. A documentary was also screened at the event. Pakistan's diplomatic missions worldwide observe Kashmir Solidarity Day Meanwhile an event was also organized at the Embassy of Pakistan, Phnom Penh Cambodia to commemorate Kashmir Solidarity Day and to re-affirm solidarity with the Kashmiri people's struggle for realization of their right to self-determination. Pakistan's diplomatic missions worldwide observe Kashmir Solidarity Day Pakistan High Commission in Bangladesh also organized an event today to observe "Kashmir Solidarity Day." Members of Pakistani diaspora, civil society and local media attended the event. High Commissioner Syed Ahmed Maroof reiterated statements of Pakistani leadership and reaffirmed Pakistan's unwavering moral, diplomatic and political support for

the people of IIOJK. He said that Pakistan will continue to raise its voice for the people of IIOJK at every forum. Pakistan's diplomatic missions worldwide observe Kashmir Solidarity Day A Seminar and Photo exhibition was held in the Pakistan High Commission, Colombo to commemorate "Kashmir Solidarity Day". Pictures depicting the human rights violations by Indian occupation forces in the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu & Kashmir (IIOJK) were displayed at the venue as part of the Photo Exhibition. Digital videos exhibiting violence in IIOJK were also played during the Seminar. Pakistan's diplomatic missions worldwide observe Kashmir Solidarity Day Pakistan Consulate General Melbourne organised a Kashmir Solidarity Day event on Monday. The event was addressed by the Consul General, Chairman Kashmir Council Europe Syed Ali Raza and renowned writer Ms. Laura Schuurmans. The event also included poems, speeches and tableau by the students. Participants expressed solidarity with Kashmiri people and stressed upon the international community to resolve Kashmir dispute as per UN resolutions. Pakistan's diplomatic missions worldwide observe Kashmir Solidarity Day Pakistan High Commissioner New

Zealand organized an event to observe Kashmir Solidarity Day with participation of Pakistani diaspora from all walks of life. Pakistan's diplomatic missions worldwide observe Kashmir Solidarity Day Embassy of Pakistan in Azerbaijan also organized an event to observe the Kashmir Day. People from different walks of life, joined the Embassy officials to observe the Day. Azerbaijan has always championed the cause of IIOJK at international fora. Pakistan's diplomatic missions worldwide observe Kashmir Solidarity Day Similarly the Pakistan's embassy in Spain held an event in Valencia in this regard. Ambassador Shujaat Rathore reiterated Pakistan's unwavering support to the just struggle of the Kashmiri brethren. Large number of Pakistanis, Kashmiris and Spanish attended the event. Pakistan's diplomatic missions worldwide observe Kashmir Solidarity Day In an event held at the Pakistan's Embassy in Tehran, Iran, Ambassador Mudassir highlighted brutal atrocities committed by Indian Occupation Forces in Kashmir and reiterated need for implementation of UN resolutions. Pakistan Embassy in Kathmandu, Nepal organized a discussion programme on "Kashmir Solidarity Day. Ambassador Abrar H Hashm emphasized the role and response of international community in view of numerous UNSC resolutions promising to the people of Jammu and Kashmir about their right to self-determination. The Embassy of Pakistan, Tokyo also marked the Kashmir Solidarity Day where Pakistani community members, Kashmiris as well as Japanese media persons attended the event. Syed Faiz Naqshbandi, Convener All Parties Hurriyat Conference joined the event virtually.

Pakistan Navy & PMSA save Lives of Seamen at sea including 9 Indian nationals



Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Navy in coordination with Pakistan Maritime Security Agency saved the lives of 9 Indian seamen at sea. An Ocean Tug SAS-5 registered at St Kitts & Nevis was disabled for last few days near the Indian coast at a position 167 NM South East of Karachi. The tug suffered a failure of its electric generators and had no electrical supply.

In early morning of 04 Feb 24, Pakistan Navy Joint Maritime Information and Coordination Center (JMICC) received a distress signal from the Ocean. The Tug began its voyage from Indian port of Debolat Maharashtra on 1st Feb 24 and was heading to Sharjah, UAE.

Upon receipt of information, Pakistan Navy in coordination with HQ PMSA generated response to initiate a Search & Rescue Operation to provide

assistance to the stranded Tug. Initially, PN Long Range Maritime Patrol Aircraft was tasked to locate the tug at sea followed by a Search and Rescue operation by Pakistan Maritime Security Ship (PMSS) KASHMIR which was deployed on routine Maritime Security Operations in the area.

Upon reaching the distressed Tug, PMSS KASHMIR secured the Tug alongside and after three hours of strenuous repair efforts the defect was rectified. Besides technical assistance, medical facilities, fresh water and cooked meals were also provided to the fatigued crew of the Tug. Upon completion of SAR operation, the tug successfully resumed its voyage towards next port of call at Sharjah UAE.

The professional and timely response by PN & PMSA assets was highly acknowledged and lauded by the salvaged crew of the Tug.

ECP completes printing of ballot papers for election 2024

City desk

ISLAMABAD: The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) has successfully completed the printing of 260 million ballot papers for all constituencies in the country ahead of the 2024 elections.

According to ECP spokesman, "National Assembly ballots are identifiable by green paper, whereas Provincial Assembly ballots are printed on white paper. Except for 31 districts, the distribution of printed ballot papers has been finalized across the nation."

Printing, which commenced on January 14, concluded by February 3. In compliance with a Supreme Court directive, ballot papers for 11 National Assembly and five Provincial Assembly constituencies underwent

reprinting, with the original ones set for destruction as per the court order.

ECP officials disclosed that this time, a total of 260 million ballot papers were printed, reflecting a 54.74% rise in candidates compared to the 2018 elections. Despite a 195% surge in demand for special paper, effective management led to a reduction from 2400 tonnes to 2177 tonnes.

The distribution of printed ballot papers comprises 5% single-column, 50% double-column, 30% three-column, 11.15% four-column, and 2.4% five-column formats, gearing up for the scheduled February 8 polls. Political parties and independent candidates are actively participating in campaigns, with the election drive slated to conclude on February 6 at 12 pm.

JUI-F chief asks masses to wisely utilize election opportunity for country's future

Adam Khan Wazir

TANK: Jamiat Ulema-i-Islam-Fazl (JUI-F) Fazlur Rehman on Friday urged people to vote for trustworthy and sincere leaders for the country during the upcoming general elections.

Addressing a public gathering here, he said that the country was currently passing through an important phase of elections, providing an opportunity to citizens to elect those leaders who had pro-country ideology and whose politics aimed at masses' interest and welfare.

He said that his party had always faced off those elements who strived to promote vulgarity among youth and pursue politics that threatened the country's foundation.

He said his party did not want enmity with anyone, but it would not let someone advance an external agenda which aimed at weakening Pakistan.

He said that his party's manifesto was in accordance with the Islamic principles and wanted a true welfare state where people felt secure with having ample employment opportunities and enjoying their due rights.

Thus, he asked people that it was high time to carry out their own introspection and wisely use their right to vote, which he described as a sacred piece of paper, playing a key role in shaping the future of nations.

He also said that ANP at Tank had announced its support for JUI-F in the district and expressed gratitude to them in this regard.

ECP terms social media reports about postal ballots baseless

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) on Monday termed reports circulating on social media showing the number of postal ballots of jail inmates by various candidates baseless and misleading. An ECP news release clarified that "returning officers open and count postal ballots in their respective constituencies in front of the candidates and their polling agents during the consolidation process."

Joint Flat march by Rangers, police for security of elections

Bureau Report

KARACHI: The Pakistan Rangers Sindh and District Kemari Police on Monday held a Joint flag march in connection with the security of the general election 2024, here. The flag march was organized in different areas of Site, Baldia, and Kemari Division.

SDPOs and SHO of Kemari district along with a heavy contingent of police and rangers participated in the flag march. The purpose of the flag march is to develop the sense of security among the citizens, said SSP Kemari Arif Aslam Rao. He said that the police will ensure foolproof security arrangements on the occasion of General Election 2024. He said that Kemari Police is fully prepared to provide security for the peaceful conduct of general elections.