

# Daily The Spokesman

A Leading National Daily



فرمان رسول ﷺ  
ہم سے ابو نعیم نے بیان کیا کہ ہم سے سفیان ثوری نے، انہوں نے عمرو بن یحییٰ سے، انہوں نے اپنے والد سے، انہوں نے ابو سعید خدری رضی اللہ عنہ سے، انہوں نے نبی کریم صلی اللہ علیہ وسلم سے آپ صلی اللہ علیہ وسلم نے فرمایا: دیکھو اور تمہیں اس سے بھوکے کی حالت مت دے۔ (صحیح بخاری، حدیث نمبر 6091)

Barkat Rice Mills (Pvt) Limited



## India has long history of oppression in Held Kashmir: Law Minister

Federal Minister for Law, Senator Azam Nazeer Tarar has said that the Black Day served as a solemn reminder of the tragic events of 1947, when Indian forces unlawfully invaded Srinagar, marking the beginning of a long history of oppression, detentions and tyranny against the innocent people of the region. Since then, India has consistently violated the human rights of the Kashmiri people in the occupied territory, he said,



## Finance Minister terms meetings with stakeholders in US 'positive'

Finance Minister Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb on Sunday said that his meetings with stakeholders in the United States remained positive, adding that the stakeholders appreciated the scaling down of inflation in Pakistan. He made these remarks after concluding his visit to Washington to participate in the World Bank (WB) and International Monetary Fund (IMF) Annual Meetings from October 21 to 26. (Details on Page 8)

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## Humanitarian assistance

ISLAMABAD: On the Instructions of Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, Pak NDMA dispatched 15th & 16th consignment of 200 tons of relief items for people of Lebanon and Gaza through NLC convoy from NDMA's Warehouse, Islamabad.



Photo: Online

## Pakistan sends humanitarian aid for Palestine, Lebanon

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: The first ground convoy of the National Logistics Corporation (NLC), carrying humanitarian assistance for the people of Palestine and Lebanon, departed from Islamabad on Sunday.

Under the direction of the Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, the National Disaster Management Authority has increased its humanitarian aid for the victims in these regions, supported by the NLC.

To date, a total of 1,598 tonnes of relief goods have been delivered to those affected in Gaza and Lebanon.

The departure ceremony held in Islamabad was attended by MNA Malik Abrar, MNA

Raja Qamarul Islam, Ambassador of Palestine to Pakistan, Zuhair M. H. Darzaid, and the Ambassador of Lebanon, Ghassan El Khatib.

Both Ambassadors expressed their gratitude to the government and people of Pakistan for their generous humanitarian assistance.

During the event, Pakistani parliamentarians emphasized the necessity of providing aid to the war-torn populations of Palestine and Lebanon, reaffirming the government's commitment to this crucial effort.

Pakistan remains determined to support the victims of these crises and will continue to stand by its Muslim brothers in the time of need.

## Four terrorists eliminated in separate KP operations: ISPR

Security forces determined to wipe out menace of terrorism

Spokesman Report

RAWALPINDI: Four terrorists were gunned down by the security forces in two separate operations in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP), the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) said on Sunday.

According to a statement issued by the military's media wing, an intelligence-based operation (IBO) was conducted in North Waziristan District where, "after an intense exchange of fire, two khwarij including Kharij Insaf Ullah, were [killed]."

In another operation in Khyber District, the ISPR said,

"own troops effectively engaged the khwarij location and resultantly two khwarij were killed, while three got injured."

Weapons and ammunition were also recovered from killed terrorists, who according to the military's media wing remained actively involved in numerous terrorist activities against the law enforcement agencies (LEAs) as well as the innocent civilians.

Sanitization of the area is being carried out to eliminate any other Khwarij found in the area as security forces of Pakistan are determined to wipe out the menace of terrorism from the country.

# President, PM express resolve to eliminate terrorism

President Zardari and PM Shehbaz reaffirm Pakistan's support for Kashmiri people

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari and Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif have commended security forces for conducting two successful operations against Fitna al-Khawarij in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

In a statement, President Zardari expressed resolve to continue operations against terrorists until complete elimination of Fitna al-Khawarij.

He said the entire nation stands with its security forces in the fight against terrorism.

Meanwhile, in a statement, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif said the security forces, with professionalism and bravery, sent four Khawarij including a Kharij ring leader involved in the terrorist activities, to the hell.

Shehbaz Sharif said the entire nation stands united with the

Pakistan's Armed Forces, and we will continue the war against terrorism until its complete elimination from the country.

Meanwhile, in their messages on the occasion of "Kashmir Black Day" on Sunday, President Asif Ali Zardari and Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif have said that Pakistan will stand shoulder-to-shoulder with its Kashmiri brothers and sisters until they achieve their inalienable right to self-determination.

The President urged the international community to pressurize India to halt its human rights' abuses in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir, alleviate the suffering of Kashmiris and implement UN Security Council resolutions.

He strongly condemned India's ongoing atrocities in IIOJK and reaffirmed Pakistan's unwavering moral, diplomatic, and political

support for the Kashmiri people's just cause.

In his separate message, Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif said the people of the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir had suffered countless hardships during the last seventy-seven years.

He said India had been taking successive steps to tighten its grip over IIOJK since August 05, 2019. India's nefarious designs are aimed at undermining the disputed status of IIOJK and denying the Kashmiri people their democratic right to decide their own future.

In his message on Black Day today, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar said this day marks the beginning of a prolonged and painful chapter for the region.

He said over the past seven decades, India has employed

various strategies to strengthen its control over Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir but since 5th August 2019, an accelerated effort to undermine the internationally recognized disputed status of territory has been witnessed.

Ishaq Dar said actions taken by Indian authorities, including attempts to alter the demographic and political landscape of the territory, are in direct violation of the relevant UN Security Council resolutions and the Geneva Convention.

He said the occupied territory is witnessing an intensification of repression with thousands of political leaders and activists behind bars, draconian emergency and counterterrorism laws granting Indian forces sweeping powers to arrest or eliminate any individual.

He said despite all this, the

spirit and determination of the Kashmiri people endure, as they continue their peaceful struggle for justice and self-determination.

Referring to the recent elections for the Legislative Assembly of IIOJK, the Deputy Prime Minister said any such exercise amidst an overwhelming military presence, cannot be considered a substitute for the legitimate right to self-determination of the Kashmiri people.

He said Pakistan remains committed to promoting peace in South Asia and seeks constructive relations with all neighbors.

He however categorically stated that lasting peace in the region cannot be realized without a just and peaceful settlement of the Jammu and Kashmir dispute, in line with the UN Security Council Resolutions and the aspirations of the Kashmiri people.

## Hunger deepens in Gaza as food shortage worsens, aid plummets

GAZA: Every day, Yousuf Maher, a Palestinian displaced man based in Deir al-Balah, central Gaza Strip, rushes to queue up to buy some bread for his kids.

However, the 39-year-old father of four could not buy even a bit of bread for more than a week due to a shortage of flour and food supplies amid a tight blockade imposed by Israel.

"Because of the ongoing war, we have already been suffering from poverty and lack of food, water, and other necessities," the man lamented, adding the situation has been deteriorating day by day.

"I used to buy 25 kilograms of flour for seven U. S. dollars only, but now it costs more than 50 dollars, which is unaffordable for me as I am not working and do not have any (enough) money," Maher complained, saying he can barely keep his family afloat and his children may die of hunger.

According to the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, the consumer price index in Gaza has sharply increased by 283 percent since October 2023 up to the end of September 2024 due to the war.

On Thursday, the Food and



A Palestinian woman receives food at a food distribution center in the city of Deir al-Balah in central Gaza Strip. Xinhua

Agriculture Organization of the United Nations said on social media platform X that, compared to last year, potatoes in southern Gaza can cost up to 5.7 times more, while in northern Gaza up to 66.7 times more.

"Hostilities in Gaza have severely damaged cropland and agricultural infrastructure, making it increasingly difficult for families to access nutritious food. Rising food infla-

tion is impacting everyone there," the UN organization said.

Saleh al-Masri, another displaced Palestinian in Deir al-Balah, said that to not return home with empty hands, he had to buy one loaf of bread for the price of three loaves from the black market.

He blamed the difficulty on the monopolistic traders and relevant authorities who failed in recent months to prevent the theft of aid

entering southern Gaza. Many displaced people in the enclave survive on aid provided by international and relief organizations as the war between Israel and Hamas enters its second year. However, the aid supplies have been frequently stolen by unknown gunmen on the road linking the Kerem Shalom crossing in Rafah to the rest of the strip.

In Gaza, over 1 million people did not receive food rations in August, and the number climbed to more than 1.4 million in September, Philippe Lazzarini, commissioner-general of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East, said via his X account in early October.

"Over 100,000 metric tons of food supplies are stranded outside Gaza due to access restrictions, insecurity, damaged roads, and the breakdown of law and order," the UN official said.

"Again and again, hunger is spreading in Gaza. It is entirely man-made," Lazzarini said. "Choosing peace as a way forward is a choice of the courageous, it's time," he added. Xinhua

## PM, PPP delegation discuss political situation

Our Correspondent

LAHORE: A delegation of Pakistan People's Party, led by its Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, called on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif in Lahore on Sunday.

During the meeting, they discussed overall political and economic situation of the country.

Speaking on the occasion, the Prime Minister said that PPP is an important coalition partner of the government, and it has always supported the government's economic policies aimed at bringing prosperity to the country.

The Pakistan Peoples Party delegation praised the government's economic policies. The delegation expressed full confidence in the government's policies and actions, which the Prime Minister welcomed. Agencies

## 'Kashmiris dream of freedom will become a reality soon'; says Tarar

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

In his message on October 27, Black Day of Kashmir, he said on that day, India illegally annexed Jammu and Kashmir by landing its troops against the wishes of Kashmiris, the

federal minister for information said.

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

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

He said, "Kashmiri people will never accept India's usurpation of occupied Jammu and Kashmir." (Continued on Page 8)

## Terror attack in southeast Iran kills 10 border guards

ISLAMABAD: At least 10 police officers and soldiers were killed in an armed clash with terrorists in Goharkuh, located in the Taftan County of the Sistan-Balochistan province on Saturday.

According to the Tehran Times, the clash began when unidentified gunmen ambushed a police patrol vehicle, leading to intense fighting which resulted in significant casualties among the patrol personnel.

Initial reports indicated that both the soldiers and law

enforcement team members were targeted in the attack.

Furthermore, the attack was confirmed by the Sistan-Balochistan Police in a statement.

Later, the terrorist group Jaish al-Adl, referred to as Jaish al-Zulm within Iran, claimed responsibility for the assault, which took place around 1,200 kilometres southeast of Tehran.

Following the attack, the Iranian Minister of Interior Eskandar Mo'meni called for an immediate and thorough investigation into the incident. (Continued on Page 8)

# KP governor calls for peace, unity, harmony

*Faisal Karim Kundi acknowledged the province's ongoing struggle against extremism and terrorism*

Staff Reporter

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

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

Highlighting the strategic significance of KP, which shares a border with Afghanistan, he noted that while two global powers have attempted to control the region, neither succeeded. He acknowledged the province's ongoing struggle against extremism and terrorism and expressed his desire



to organize a similar conference in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa to engage the local community in promoting peace.

In a media briefing later, Kundi underscored the critical role of the judicial system, stating that an improved

justice system could address many societal issues — an objective in line with the Pakistan People's Party's vision.

He reiterated the government's commitment to overcoming political differences to ensure peace and progress

in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. He also pledged support for initiatives aimed at providing employment for the youth and endorsed any efforts that promote positive development in the region.

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

The conference brought together scholars and professors from esteemed universities in the UK, USA, Australia, Austria, Singapore, India, and Norway, who presented their research. The event also saw participation from professors, religious leaders of various faiths, scholars from different ideologies, and a large number of students, marking a successful gathering in support of peace and academic exchange.

## Referendum under UN, only solution to Kashmir issue: Rubina

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Chairperson Benazir Income Support Program (BISP), Senator Rubina Khalid on Sunday said Pakistan Peoples Party will continue to provide moral, political, and diplomatic support for resolution to the Kashmir issue.

In a message on Kashmir Black Day, Senator Rubina Khalid said that the only acceptable solution to the Kashmir issue was a referendum under United Nations supervision. She said, "The hearts of the Pakistani people beat with the Kashmiri people."

Senator Rubina Khalid termed October 27, 1947 as the darkest day in Kashmir's history when India occupied Jammu and Kashmir militarily. "This day marks the beginning of Indian forces' oppression", she said. Senator Rubina Khalid said, India disregarded United Nations resolutions and stripped Kashmir of its right to self-determination.

"On August 5, 2019, India revoked Articles 370 and 35A which granted special status to Kashmir", she said.

She also termed elections in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) in 2024 as illegal actions by the Indian government.

## 17th Korean Ambassador National Taekwondo C'ship held

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: The 17th Korean Ambassador National Taekwondo Championship 2024, presented by Combaxx, is showcasing some of Pakistan's top taekwondo talent, drawing fierce competition and widespread interest from sports enthusiasts across the nation.

The championship, hosted at a prestigious venue, has become a centerpiece for athletes eager to display skill, discipline, and sportsmanship. In the cadet division, the competitions were held in cadet -57 kg, cadet +57 kg, cadet girls -51 kg, cadet girls +51 kg. In the senior division, the competitions were conducted in senior female kyorugi -46 kg, senior para male -70 kg, senior para female -60 kg and senior female team.

Distinguished guests graced the medal ceremony, offering their support and motivating the athletes. Among the notables one include Omar Saeed, CEO, Pakistan Taekwondo Federation, Dr Izharul Haq, Secretary, Punjab Taekwondo Association, Naseebullah Babar, President, Quetta Taekwondo, Syed Arif Ali, Combaxx Sports, Yousef Karami, Head Coach, Pakistan Taekwondo Federation, Dr Sajjad Malik, CEO, AHMO Najam Khan and Para Taekwondo.

## President PPP AJK says Oct 27 is darkest day in history of Kashmiris



Bureau Report

MUZAFFARABAD / ISLAMABAD: President Pakistan People's Party Azad Kashmir Chaudhry Muhammad Yasin has said that October 27 is the darkest day in the history of Kashmiris when India landed troops in the state of Jammu and Kashmir and occupied a large part of the state by conspiring with the Maharaja by force did it and heated up the market of killing and looting in Kashmir, target killing of youth will be done, state terrorism, economic terrorism and educational terrorism have started to suppress the voice of freedom fighters and to deprive them of leadership Kashmiris.

The leadership was imprisoned, martyred in public, they were judicially killed, but the freedom movement continues and will continue. He expressed these views while addressing the round table conference held at the National Press Club. He said that due to India's stubbornness, Kashmiris have been deprived of their basic right to self-determination for 77 years. Any conflict over the Kashmir issue can destroy the peace of the world.

He said that now the world has come to believe that the United Nations is an organization to protect the interests of certain nations and countries. He said that the OIC has failed to protect the interests of the Muslim Ummah the way it should. He said that if the international community does not understand the situation, then it will burn itself in this fire. The only solution for Kashmir is in the UN resolutions he added.

## GB Assembly reaffirms support for Kashmiris' struggle for freedom

Our Correspondent

GILGIT: The Gilgit-Baltistan Assembly has passed a resolution reaffirming their support for the people of Jammu and Kashmir and their right to self-determination.

The resolution condemned the abrogation of Articles 370 and 35-A, human rights violations, sham elections, and other actions. The resolution was passed unanimously during the 33rd Session of the Gilgit-Baltistan Assembly here in Gilgit on Sunday.

The resolution was moved by members of the GB Assembly including Mr. Ghulam Muhammad, Engr. Muhammad Ismail, Muhammad Kazim, Wazir Muhammad Saleem, Dilshad Bano, and Muhammad Ayub Waziri.

The resolution also called for the international community particularly the United Nations to intervene and ensure a free, fair and impartial plebiscite, conducted under UN supervision to determine the future of Jammu and Kashmir.

## Red Line bus service

KARACHI: Construction work is going on, on the Red Line bus service being built from University Road in the Provincial Capital.

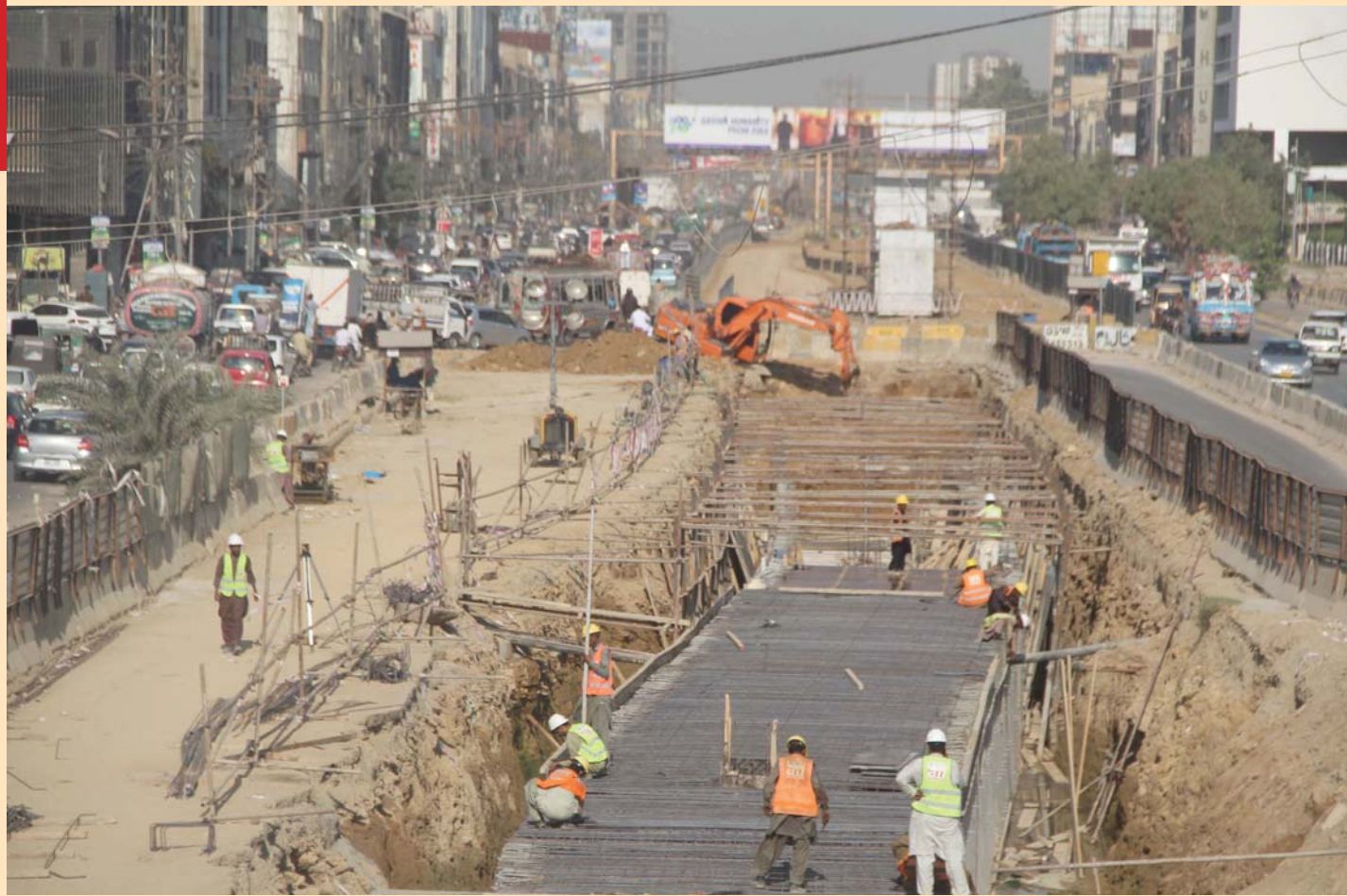


Photo: Online

## IPP to continue active role in politics: Aleem Khan

*Says first & last priority is Pakistan*

Staff Reporter

LAHORE: Central President Istehkam-e-Pakistan Party and Federal Minister Abdul Aleem Khan has said that IPP will continue to play its active role in the country's politics and our first and last priority is Pakistan.

He added that after the establishment of Istehkam-e-Pakistan Party in the very first elections we have secured 4 Members of the National Assembly and 4 MPAs in the Punjab Assembly which is very much encouraging and this Party will get more recognition and achievements in the coming days. He expressed these views while addressing the organizational meeting of



the party of Punjab in which Central General Secretary Mian Khalid Mehmood, Provincial President Rana Nazir Ahmed Khan and General Secretary Punjab Shoab Siddiqui also highlighted the organizational structure of the party and told that so far in 22 districts

Party Presidents have been appointed and including Kasur in other districts soon this setup will be completed.

In his address, Central President of IPP and Federal Minister Abdul Aleem Khan said that there are always ups and downs in politics, our party is new but not poli-

tics. He added that now politics is not a game of "Twenty-Twenty" but a test match but we need a long term inning to play. Congratulating the new party officials, he said that he will personally visit the district where the organization has been completed and address the workers' conven-

tion.

He said that by giving importance to the party workers, we will prepare a strong plan for the future through the district organization. He especially appreciated the organization of Lahore office bearers and expressed hope that all wings including women will be formed active so that they can face the future political challenges including the local bodies elections. On this occasion, the district officials from all over Punjab welcomed Abdul Aleem Khan and expressed their full confidence in his leadership, they raised slogans with great enthusiasm and showed determination for the success of Istehkam-e-Pakistan Party.

## Black Day: Protest rally held in solidarity with Kashmiris

Abdul Majeed Tahir

MUZAFFARABAD: A protest rally was organized by the Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Cell on the occasion of October 27 Black Day in the capital Muzaffarabad.

Azad Kashmir Minister Elementary and Secondary Education Diwan Ali Khan Chaghtai, All Party Hurriyat leader Syed Yusuf Naseem and Daud Khan Yusufzai specially participated in the event. In the protest rally, Government Secretaries Sardar Sohail Azam, Secretary Wajahat Rasheed Baig, Shahid Ayub, Chaudhry Majeed Ahmed, Rashid Hanif Qureshi, Mahmood Mirza, Aamir Latif, Special Secretary Qazi Inait Ali Director Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Cell Dr. Raja Sajjad Latif, Director Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Cell Raja Aslam Khan, Director Information Department Muhammad Bashir Mirza, Media Coordinator Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Cell Sardar Ali

Shan, Deputy Commissioner Muzaffarabad Mudassar Farooq, Leader of All Parties Hurriyat Conference Syed Yusuf Naseem and other Hurriyat Organizations including Shabab Muslimeen along with officers and officials of other departments, public and civil society have participated.

Addressing the participants of the protest rally on this occasion, Azad Kashmir Minister Elementary and Secondary Education Diwan Ali Khan Chaghtai said that the Azad Kashmir government stands on the back of the people of Occupied Jammu and Kashmir. Indian repression on Occupied Kashmir is a sad act. The United Nations took action on the ongoing Indian brutality in Occupied Kashmir. On October 27, 1947, India had established forced domination by killing troops in the occupied valley. This day is observed as Black Day by Occupied Jammu and Kashmir, Azad Kashmir and Kashmiris all over the world.

He said that the right to self-determination is the destination. Ensure the implementation of the resolutions passed by the United Nations Security Council. The government of Pakistan is taking strong steps to highlight the issue of Kashmir in the international world. We reject every unilateral move by India. The struggle will continue until the dawn of freedom. He said that plebiscite is a fundamental right and the United Nations should fulfill the long-standing demand for plebiscite.

Addressing the protest rally, All Parties Hurriyat Conference leader Syed Yusuf Naseem said that October 27 is the darkest day in the history of Kashmir. On that day, contrary to the wishes of the Kashmiris, India pushed the region into the darkness of subjugation by killing troops in occupied Jammu and Kashmir.

He said that the United Nations has failed to stop Indian domination over the state of Jammu and Kashmir for 77 years. Freedom is the goal and



will not hesitate to make any sacrifice to achieve the goal. The long-standing demand for referendum should be fulfilled. He said that it is a pity that the international forces are silent regarding the state of Jammu and Kashmir. Grateful for the government of Pakistan taking a firm stand on Occupied Jammu and Kashmir. Kashmiris live and die with Pakistan. He said that the United Nations should take immediate action on the plight of Occupied Kashmir and fulfill

the demand for referendum.

On the occasion, Director Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Cell Raja Aslam said that in the light of the special instructions of the Prime Minister, the independent government of Jammu and Kashmir, October 27 is being observed as a black day across the state on the dimensions of Azad Kashmir. Today, there is an all-out protest across Azad Kashmir against the people of occupied Jammu and Kashmir. The sacrifices of the martyrs in the Azadi Kashmir movement will never go in vain.

We will continue the philosophy of Syed Ali Geelani "We are Pakistanis, Pakistan belongs to us".

He said that the struggle for the completion of Pakistan will continue. India will not be allowed to maintain forced domination in the occupied valley for long. God willing, the day is not far when the people of Occupied Jammu and Kashmir will get rid of Indian slavery and breathe in free air. The rally started from Yadgar Shahada and ended at Chhatar Chowk. A large number of people participated in the rally. By tying black armbands and hoisting black flags, the citizens raised fierce slogans against India. At the end of the protest rally, the leader of All Parties Hurriyat Conference Dawood Khan Yusufzai offered a special prayer for the freedom of Occupied Jammu and Kashmir, the martyrs of the Jammu and Kashmir Freedom Movement and the martyrs of the Pakistan Army, and for the protection of national security.

Islamabad  
30° - 38° Clear

**SERVICES**

**Namaz Timings**

Fajr ..... 4:59 am  
Zohr ..... 11:52 am  
Asr ..... 3:42 pm  
Maghrib ..... 5:20 pm  
Isha ..... 6:44 pm

**EMERGENCY**

Rescue (Police) ..... 15  
Bomb Disposal ..... 15  
Fire Services Rawalpindi/  
Islamabad ..... 1122 & 16  
Emergency Ambulance ..... 1122 &  
& Rescue Services ..... 4451122  
Motorway Police ..... 92766044  
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  
DHQ ..... 5556311-4  
RGH ..... 9290301-7  
Holy Family ..... 9290322-7  
PIMS ..... 9261170-79  
Polyclinic ..... 9218300-09  
Shifa International ..... 4603666

**DEPARTMENTS**

CDA ..... 9221334-43  
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

**Pakistan stands united with Kashmiris in their rightful struggle: Hina**

LAHORE: Chairperson Punjab Women Protection Authority Hina Pervaiz Butt said on Sunday that Kashmiris worldwide were observing October 27 as Black Day in protest against India's occupation of Jammu and Kashmir.

She said that the people of Pakistan stand with the Kashmiris in their struggle and raise their voices for their right to self-determination.

Hina Butt said that the people of Jammu and Kashmir had never accepted any form of oppressive rule, whether it was under Dogra rule or Indian occupation. She expressed Pakistan's commitment to continue providing diplomatic and moral support to the Kashmiris and urged the international community to grant them their right to self-determination, as per UN resolutions.

She expressed hope, saying, "The dawn of freedom will surely rise for Kashmir, and their sacrifices will not go in vain." APP

# Mushaal blasts world's silence over India's war crimes in IIOJK

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Mushaal Hussein Mullick, wife of an unlawfully incarcerated senior Hurriyat Leader Mohammad Yasin Malik, stated that the supremacist Indian occupation authorities had been committing war crimes and violating international human rights with impunity in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) since October 27, 1947 to perpetuate its illegitimate occupation on Kashmir.

Speaking at a Kashmir solidarity rally taken out in Islamabad to mark Kashmir Black Day, she said that the people of Kashmir had been enduring the tyrannies of Hindutva regime during the past 77 years but these oppressions and coercive



tactics could not dampen their courage. Mushaal, who is also the Chair-

person of Peace and Culture Organisation, expressed serious concerns about safety and wellbeing of her jailed husband because the Indian notorious government was hell-bent to silence to most powerful voice of Kashmiri freedom struggle in a fake, fabricated and absurd case.

She highlighted that the occupation authorities converted the scenic valley into a garrison city and a killing field, as even Kashmiri children could not go to school right now because parents were imprisoned for their crimes to raise voice of their right to self-determination.

However, the Hurriyat leader stated that despite all these hardship and reign of terror unleashed by the brutal forces, Kashmiris remained steadfast struggling for seven decades to break the shackles of

Indian slavery. Mushaal encouraged young Pakistanis to launch campaigns through social media, highlighting that Pakistan's founding leader, Quaid-e-Azam, also placed trust in the power of youth.

"You can become our powerful voice today," she stated, urging them to remain steadfast for Kashmir.

Mushaal recalled that India had resettled millions of Indian nationals in the region unlawfully to alter its demographic makeup, aiming to turn it into what she termed a mini-India.

She called upon the international community to hold India accountable for its excesses in IIOJK and to support the Kashmiri people's struggle for their inalienable right to self-determination.

## Wedding ceremony

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



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

## AIOU releases final exam schedule for Spring 2024



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Allama Iqbal Open University has released the date sheet for the final examinations of Spring Semester 2024 Master's programs, which include MA, MSc, M. Com, MEd, and MBA programs. According to the issued date sheet, these exams will commence on November 15 and will continue until December 16. Professor Dr. Nasir Mahmood, Vice Chancellor AIOU has directed that essential facilities for students at examination centers be ensured.

Additionally, admissions for the second phase of the Fall Semester 2024 are ongoing. Programs offered in this phase include Associate Degree in Arts (BA General), Associate Degree in Commerce (BCom), BBA, Associate Degree in Education, BS (ODL) programs, 1.5-year, 2.5-year, and 4-year BED programs, Postgraduate Diploma programs, and Certificate courses. The Vice Chancellor, responding to student requests, extended the admission deadline to November 5, allowing prospective applicants to take advantage of this opportunity and apply by November 5. It is worth noting that re-enrollment for continuing students in these programs is available until November 20.

## Black Day Observed with Photo Exhibition at PAC

City Desk

RAWALPINDI: Punjab Arts Council hosted a photo exhibition depicting Indian atrocities in occupied Jammu & Kashmir in observance of Kashmir Black Day. Parliamentary Secretary for Information and Culture, Shazia Rizwan, inaugurated the exhibition. The ceremony was attended by Punjab Arts Council Director Sajjad Hussain, Assistant Director Muhammad Suleman, Assistant Director Sarfaraz Khan, and other distinguished guests. A documentary showcasing the plight of unarmed Kashmiris under Indian occupation was also screened. While addressing the participants of the exhibition Shazia Rizwan said that every child of Pakistan stands with the people of Kashmir. Pakistan will continue to support the Kashmiris' struggle for freedom on political and international fronts until the end of India's illegal occupation. There is a pain



in the eyes of the Kashmiris. The international community must address the pain and sufferings of Kashmiris, as global peace remains incomplete without the liberation of occupied Kashmir. I pray for an end to the brutal occupation soon, with Allah's mercy. Director Arts Council Sajjad

Hussain said that October 27 is the tragic day of Indian occupation of Occupied Jammu and Kashmir. Black Kashmir Day is the story of India's illegal occupation and long struggle for freedom of Kashmiri people. 77 years have passed since the illegal occupation of Occupied Jammu and Kash-

miri. For seven decades, Kashmiri people have been making sacrifices for freedom, justice and their right to self-determination. As a Pakistani, I salute the eternal struggle of Kashmiri brothers and sisters. A large number of people from the root cities participated in the visual exhibition.

## Kashmir walk, ceremony to mark Kashmir Black Day held in Attock

Raza Naqvi

ATTOCK: A ceremony and walk were organized in Attock to mark Kashmir Black Day, with participation from Assistant Commissioner Attock Shagufta Jabeen, Chief Officer Municipal Committee Attock Sardar Aftab Ahmed Khan, Municipal Officer Raza Elahi, and people from various walks of life, including students.

A solidarity walk was also held to support the Kashmiri people, with participants carrying placards and banners bearing slogans in favor of Kashmir's cause. Speakers at the ceremony condemned India's unlawful occupation of Kashmir on October 27 and emphasized that freedom is a fundamental right of the Kashmiri people, which they must receive.

They highlighted that the Indian government has been suppressing Kashmiris for the last 77 years, denying them their basic rights and forcing them to live under extremely diffi-

cult conditions. The speakers urged the international community to stand with the Kashmiri people and pressure India to respect their right to self-determination.

They underscored that the freedom movement of Kashmir cannot be silenced through oppression and that the people of Pakistan continue to provide full diplomatic and moral support to the Kashmiri cause.

Students at the event also expressed their unwavering support for the Kashmiris' right to self-determination, emphasizing that this struggle for Kashmir's freedom is being fought by every Pakistani and will persist. During the walk, participants passionately chanted slogans for Kashmir's freedom and demonstrated solidarity with the Kashmiri people.

In Attock, rallies and events were organized in all tehsils of the district on Kashmir Black Day, where the public expressed full solidarity with the people of Kashmir.

## NDU and CAP Sign MoU to Strengthen Academic and Industry Collaboration

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The National Defence University (NDU) and the Chainstore Association of Pakistan (CAP) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to enhance collaboration in academic and research initiatives.

The MoU was signed by Rear Admiral Javid Iqbal, Deputy President of NDU, and Asfandyar Farrukh, Chairman of CAP, in a ceremony attended by key CAP leaders, including Patron-in-Chief Rana Tariq Mehboob, Senior Vice Chairman Ahsen Mehmood, and Secretary General Asim Dogar.

The partnership aims to foster mutual support across several areas, including guest lectures by retail

experts at NDU, incentives for NDU students, and collaborative research on retail-related topics.

Additional components include professional development training for CAP members, joint efforts in curriculum development aligned with industry standards, and improved placement opportunities for NDU students and graduates.

Both organizations will pursue joint research projects, share valuable data and information, and develop publications that address practical needs of the retail ecosystem and the national economy. CAP and NDU also agreed to plan a Chainstore Awards program to recognize and honor high-achieving students at NDU.

## High cost of doing business hurts trade, industry the most: BMP



Commerce Desk

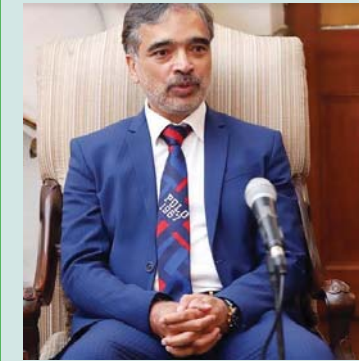
LAHORE: The Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce & Industry's Businessmen Panel has called for keeping check on government expenditure and high cost of debt servicing to contain budget deficit, as the Pakistan's federal budget deficit projection has been revised to history's highest to over Rs4 trillion, highlighting the unending fiscal woes that have pushed the country into a debt trap despite putting additional burden of billions of rupees on industry in the current fiscal year.

The FPCCI former president and BMP chairman Mian Anjum Nisar has warned the high cost of doing business has been hurting the economic growth, hurting the trade and industry the most, which faced the brunt of a staggering increase in gas and power prices.

The FPCCI former president said that the failure to reform the tax system is a major factor behind heavy domestic and foreign borrowings by the government.

## With 5.2m businesses, SMEs fostering employment, economic growth: PIAF

Commerce Desk



LAHORE: The Pakistan Industrial and Traders Associations Front (PIAF) chairman Faheem Saigol has said that government needed to highlight the critical role of small & medium enterprises (SMEs) in driving sustainable economic development in Pakistan. With an estimated 5.2 million businesses, the SME sector is a cornerstone of our economy, fostering employment, growth, and export diversification.

The PIAF chairman observed that despite their significance, more than 5 million SMEs face a significant credit gap, receiving limited credit, far below the neighboring countries. The State Bank of Pakistan is committed to increasing SME credit share to 17% by 2023. To achieve this, we must advocate for targeted and fixed SME allocations in concessional financing schemes, particularly those aimed at the export-oriented sector.

Faheem Saigol proposed the central bank to review its credit policies by fixing a special quota to finance the small and medium enterprises, contributing around 40 percent to the national gross domestic product (GDP).

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# National Security Workshop-A Commendable Initiative

National security conferences focused on Kashmir are crucial for shaping Pakistan's approach to the region. These conferences serve as platforms for dialogue, policy formulation, and strategic planning, addressing the multifaceted dimensions of the Kashmir issue. They provide a vital space for policymakers, military leaders, scholars, and civil society representatives to discuss the complexities of Kashmir. By bringing together diverse perspectives, these conferences help raise awareness about the historical, cultural, and political significance of Kashmir for Pakistan. Building consensus among stakeholders enhances the effectiveness of Pakistan's stance on Kashmir, uniting various voices in support of the Kashmiri people's right to self-determination. The Kashmir issue requires a nuanced approach that considers both domestic and international dynamics. National security conferences enable experts to analyze current developments and develop strategies to inform Pakistan's foreign policy. These discussions often emphasize diplomatic efforts, potential alliances, and ways to elevate the Kashmir issue on global platforms, ensuring that Pakistan remains proactive in advocating for the rights of Kashmiris.

Following the abrogation of its special status, National security conferences in Pakistan offer a platform to address these concerns comprehensively. Experts and activists can discuss the impact of ongoing conflicts on civilians, raising awareness about human rights violations. This focus not only underscores the plight of Kashmiris but also bolsters Pakistan's moral standing in advocating for their rights on international platforms. The Kashmir issue has ramifications for regional stability, potentially escalating tensions between India and Pakistan. These conferences also serve as venues for formulating diplomatic strategies aimed at garnering international support for Pakistan's position on Kashmir. By inviting international experts and representatives from other countries, they facilitate dialogue that can influence global opinion. Strengthening diplomatic ties and building coalitions with countries sympathetic to the Kashmir cause are vital for Pakistan's efforts to bring the issue to the forefront of international discussions. A unified national narrative on Kashmir is crucial for Pakistan's domestic and international policies. National security conferences assist in crafting a coherent message that resonates with both the public and the international community. By highlighting the historical context and the aspirations of the Kashmiri people, these conferences reinforce Pakistan's commitment to supporting their struggle for self-determination, thereby strengthening national identity and cohesion. National security conferences focusing on Kashmir are critical for Pakistan, as they provide a platform for raising aware-

ness, formulating policies, and enhancing civil-military collaboration. These conferences play a significant role in addressing human rights concerns, preparing for crises, and shaping international diplomatic efforts. As Pakistan navigates the complexities of the Kashmir issue, these conferences will remain essential for developing comprehensive strategies that advocate for the rights of the Kashmiri people while promoting regional stability. In this context, the recent national security workshop on Kashmir held in Muzaffarabad was a commendable initiative. Jointly organized by GOAJK and the Pak Army, the arrangements were impressive. Participants came from various sectors of society, including politicians, civil servants, health officials, academics, and media representatives. The selection of speakers was excellent, with former AJK President Sardar Masood Khan and ex-diplomat Maleeha Lodhi providing comprehensive insights into the Kashmir issue and Pakistan's foreign policy efforts in this regard. Throughout different sessions, participants had valuable opportunities to learn about the strengths, opportunities, and challenges in AJK as well. The Corps Commander of 10 Corps and the GOC of 12 Division delivered engaging and thorough lectures, effectively dispelling many misunderstandings and myths about the Pakistan Army, Kashmir, and related policies. They consistently demonstrated their unwavering commitment to Kashmir, its cause, and its people. Their interactions conveyed a clear message that Pakistan, the Pakistan Army, and Kashmir are

united. They eloquently expressed Pakistan's and the Pakistan Army's dedication to AJK and the Kashmir cause. The Corps Commander and GOC have always viewed AJK as their home, and this sentiment has been reciprocated by the people of AJK. Workshop participants had the chance to visit PDO, the AJK Legislative Assembly, and AJK University, where they gained valuable insights into the region's progress and potential for further growth. Different sessions highlighted the impact of false propaganda and misinformation, while discussions also focused on the media's role in addressing the Kashmir issue. The quality of the questions and answers during the workshop was impressive, with participants engaging openly and receiving detailed responses. ISPR, the Commander of the 1 AK Brigade and his team, excelled in selecting high-quality participants and organizing the event, demonstrating great dedication to its success. Overall, the workshop conveyed a strong message to the people of AJK, serving as an effective platform for sharing facts, strengthening connections, and dispelling misunderstandings. Pakistan and AJK stand as beacons of hope for the people of IIOJK, who are unable to voice their concerns over human rights violations and advocate for their right to self-determination. Both Pakistan and AJK are committed to raising awareness of the dire situation in IIOJK on the global stage. Given the current circumstances in Pakistan and AJK, such events are not only uplifting but also essential for fostering understanding and awareness about the realities on the ground regarding AJK and the Kashmir issue. The people of AJK and various sectors of society have embraced this commendable initiative to bring all stakeholders together to discuss core issues.



Analysis

Abdul Basit Alvi

## Govt to launch nationwide polio vaccination campaign from Monday

The government will launch a week-long nationwide polio vaccination campaign from Monday, tomorrow to protect over 45 million children. Reinforcing Pakistan's dedication to eradicating polio, the Pakistan Polio Programme is launching this vaccination campaign to address the resurgence of wild poliovirus and safeguard millions of children from the debilitating effects of polio. This campaign aims to reach more than 45 million children across the country. With unwavering commitment to eradicate polio, the Health officials called upon all parents and caregivers nationwide to play an active role in this campaign and ensure every child receives the polio vaccine. The campaign will run from October 28 to November 3, aiming to vaccinate more than 45 million children under five years of age. Additionally, Vitamin A supplements will be provided to enhance immunity. This is Pakistan's third nationwide campaign this year, launched in response to the alarming increase in polio cases, with 41 cases reported so far in 2024 and across 71 districts. Prime Minister's Focal Person for Polio Eradication, Ayesha Raza Farooq, reaffirmed the government's unwavering commitment, saying, "under the Prime Minister's guidance, we are re-energized in our efforts to combat polio." "Starting October 28, our polio workers will reach every corner of Pakistan, delivering the vaccine and securing a healthier future for our children." Encouraging parents to prioritize vaccinations, she said, "with the virus now present in 71 districts, the risk to every child is real. The Government of Pakistan is bringing this vaccine directly to your doorsteps." She said, "Please welcome and support our dedicated health workers by ensuring your children are vaccinated." In a message, Muhammad Anwar-ul-Haq, Coordinator of the National Emergency Operations Centre for Polio Eradication, urged parents to fully cooperate with polio workers. He stated, "polio has no cure, but it can be prevented with this readily available vaccine. With the threat at an all-time high, we must act as one nation to keep our children safe through vaccination." Throughout the campaign, the Sehat Tahhafuz Helpline 1166 and the 24/7 WhatsApp Helpline at 0346-7776546 will be available to assist parents with information and to report any children missed during the vaccination drive.



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

## The First Bloodshed in Gogo Village and the Indian Military Presence in Kashmir II

Shaikh Yaqoob

In addition to the ongoing violence, India has transformed Kashmir into a heavily militarized zone, with nearly a million troops stationed under the draconian AFSPA law. Furthermore, on August 5, 2019, India unilaterally revoked Article 370, which guaranteed special status to Kashmir, and Article 35A, allowing non-Kashmiris to buy land in the region. This drastic move also divided Kashmir into two union territories under Indian administration. Reports from the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) in June 2018 and July 2019 indicated that the number of Indian soldiers in Jammu and Kashmir ranged from 500,000 to 700,000. This figure has reportedly surged to approximately 900,000 following the Indian government's actions on August 5, 2019. Jammu and Kashmir remains one of the most militarized zones in the world. Amidst this backdrop of militarization and political change, the phased elections held in September and October 2024 marked a significant moment for Kashmir. Five years after the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)'s assault on autonomy, the pro-autonomy National Conference formed a government with its coalition partner, Congress, after winning the elections. This vote enables Kashmir to establish its own truncated government and a regional legislature while remaining directly under New Delhi's authority. However, the transfer of power from

New Delhi to the assembly will be limited, as Kashmir will continue to be a "union territory" overseen by the Indian government, with India's Parliament serving as its primary legislator. For the new government to acquire powers comparable to other states in India, Kashmir's statehood must be restored. Nevertheless, it will not regain the special powers it had prior to the 2019 changes. Today, Gogo and many other villages, towns, and cities across Kashmir are marked by military presence, reminiscent of notorious torture centers. While the intensity of violence by the occupying forces may seem to have lessened for a while, the legacy of the first bloodshed in Gogo and the ongoing suffering of its people would remain deeply etched in the collective memory of Kashmiris. And with the Hindutva spectre entering the scene the situation has turned much more ominous. The only fact of consolation should be the outcome of the recently concluded electoral charade as the rabidly communal BJP has been trounced and denied the opportunity it had been madly seeking to fulfill its Hindutva agenda in the state. So, would restoration of statehood put an end to Kashmir saga and be the harbinger of peace across the occupied territories and beyond, the narrative passionately peddled by the pro-India stooges, the answer is 'no'. Restoration or no restoration, the issue is immaterial as it holds little importance for the natives, what is of primary importance to them is the restoration of their usurped birth right, the right to self-determination as its usurpation has made them into slaves, a fact that their DNA finds extremely

abhorrent and irreconcilable being antithetical to their national honour and an affront to their collective conscience. It is this innate urge for freedom and honourable existence that has been inspiring them to rebel against this occupation and colonisation since the day, Indian forces put their footsteps on their motherland. The epic resistance and struggle for freedom from the Indian yoke is raging on irrespective of the odds and challenges and shall continue till the dawn of freedom. This spirit and flame of freedom can never be extinguished whatever amount of tyranny or depression India may unleash; half a million have so far been martyred, but the resolve to fight stays undefeated for these martyred serve as the inexhaustible source of inspiration for the caged millions that yearn to be free like all peoples across the planet. What we need to do is to redouble our efforts, particularly at the diplomatic front to not only expose the communal designs and the egregious human rights abuse by the occupying power but also to agitate the issue at all important world fora seeking UN intervention for forcing India to end its occupation and honour the relevant Security Council and UNCIP resolutions to secure permanent peace in the region. Till then the dark chapter of bloodshed enacted in Gogo on October 27 largely forgotten by history would continue to resonate in the hearts and minds of the Kashmiri people, and keep reminding the world of the colonised Kashmiris' enduring struggle for identity, justice, peace and freedom. *Writer is member of All Parties Hurriyat Conference.*

## 'Government' has conquered all Pillars of the State II

ICJ observed that after re-composition of the Judicial Commission of Pakistan (JCP) which now consists of two members of the National Assembly, two members of the Senate and one woman or non-Muslim member, to be nominated by the Speaker of the National Assembly, the Law Minister, the Attorney General of Pakistan, and a representative of the Bar has allowed for direct political influence over it, and reduce the JCP's judicial members to a minority. Now for the appointment of Supreme Court judges, only five out of 13 JCP's members are required to be judges (namely, the Chief Justice of Pakistan, the most senior judge of the constitutional benches, and the three most senior Supreme Court judges). Now it would only be the non judicial members of JCP which will nominate "constitutional benches" in the Supreme Court and High Courts to handle matters of constitutional interpretation and fundamental rights. It also empowers a Special Parliamentary Committee (SPC) to nominate the Chief Justice of Pakistan from among the three most senior judges, a process previously based solely on seniority. Furthermore, the amendment allows the Supreme Judicial Council (SJC) to recommend the removal of judges on the vague ground of "inefficiency," without clear criteria, potentially compromising judicial independence. According to JCP these changes are seen as a violation of both Pakistan's Constitution

(Article 10A) and international law (Article 14 of the ICCPR), undermining the separation of powers and the judiciary's impartiality. Notwithstanding, the observation of the ICJ, the fact is that now all pillars of the state are under the iron grip of the 'government' and these were the politicians who made it possible. The government appears unconcerned with the perspectives of jurists, lawyers, intellectuals, international thinkers, or even the International Court of Justice regarding these amendments. It shows little regard for the value of an independent judiciary, not only as a safeguard for the public but also, at times, as a benefit to the government itself. Currently, the people have lost faith in all pillars of the state: the office of the President, the government, the parliament, and, finally, the judiciary. Through the use of manipulative powers, the government has effectively placed the entire state under its control, prioritizing its objective without regard for the methods employed. The only institution left that retains the people's respect is the Pakistan Army, which remains robust and perhaps stronger than ever. As a result, the people of Pakistan may now look to the army to guide the country out of its political, economic, and financial challenges, hoping that, as in the past, the country will regain stability and prosper once again. *Writer is Former Press Secretary to the President, Former Press Minister to the Embassy of Pakistan to France, Former MD, SRBC, CEO, ATV*



Analysis

Qamar Bashir

# Embassy of Pakistan in Brussels Commemorates Kashmir Black Day

**Spokesman Report**

BRUSSELS: In observance of Kashmir Black Day, the Embassy of Pakistan in Brussels hosted an event to spotlight the ongoing challenges and resilience of the Kashmiri people. Attendees included members of the Pakistani and Kashmiri diaspora as well as representatives from the media.

Chargé d'Affaires Faraz Zaidi, Head of Chancery Muhammad Adil, and Counsellor Press Sagheer Wattoo conveyed messages from the President, Prime Minister, and Deputy

Prime Minister/Foreign Minister of Pakistan. These messages reaffirmed Pakistan's unwavering support for the Kashmiri people in their struggle for self-determination. Mr. Zaidi highlighted the global importance of October 27, stating, "This day, observed globally as Kashmir Black Day, is a solemn reminder of the terror endured by unarmed and innocent Kashmiris, who continue to courageously seek their right to self-determination."

The event featured a video documentary detailing the historical significance of Kashmir Black Day,

commemorating October 27, 1947, when Indian forces entered Jammu and Kashmir. The video underscored the human rights abuses endured by Kashmiris and amplified their calls for justice and self-determination, as recognized by United Nations resolutions.

Mr. Imran Saqib, President of the Pakistan Press Club Belgium, presented a poetic tribute to honor the continued resilience and struggle of the Kashmiri people.

Chairman of the Kashmir Council-EU, Ali Raza Syed, addressed the audience, emphasizing the impor-



tance of sustained international attention to the Kashmir issue. He urged the global community to respond to the ongoing human rights abuses in the region, stating, "The international community must not ignore the struggles of the Kashmiri people.

Their rights, as upheld by international law, must be respected."

In the lead-up to Kashmir Black Day, the Embassy held a week-long photo exhibition portraying the experiences and resilience of the Kashmiri people, offering further insight into

their ongoing struggle.

The event concluded with a collective prayer for peace, justice, and a lasting resolution to the Kashmir issue, reaffirming Pakistan's commitment to advocating for the rights of Kashmiris on the international stage.

# Kashmir Black Day event held in Jeddah



**Spokesman Report**

JEDDAH: The Consulate General of Pakistan organized a community gathering to commemorate 27th Oct, as Kashmir Black Day at Pakistan Consulate Jeddah. A cross section of prominent members of Pakistani/ Kashmiri community was present at the event.

The event started with reading out of special messages from the President, the Prime Minister of and the Foreign Minister of Pakistan. Ambassador of Pakistan in OIC Syed Mohammad

Fawad Sher was key note speaker at the event. Chairman Kashmir Committee Mr. Masood Puri, Acting Chairman J&K Overseas Community M. Arif Mughal highlighted the plight of people of Illegally Indian Occupied Jammu & Kashmir (IIOJ&K). Students from Pakistani Community Schools made special speeches representing the sentiments of Pakistani young generation for Kashmir cause.

The speakers emphasised the historical significance of the day, condemned the brutalities of the Indian occupying

forces in the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu & Kashmir (IIOJ&K) particularly post August 5, 2019. A rich tribute was paid to the sacrifices of Kashmiris against the Indian oppression, speakers underlined that people of Pakistan will never withdraw from its just and ethical stance on the IIOJ&K. Gathering reiterated its moral, political, and diplomatic support to the people of Kashmir in their just struggle for the right to self-determination, as promised to them by the international community through UN Security Council resolutions.

Speaking at the occasion, Consul General of Pakistan Mr. Khalid Majid acknowledged and lauded consistent support to the Kashmir cause by the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) and Saudi government.

Renowned Pakistani author Dr. Khalid Abbas Al Assadi also shared his views on historic significance of the freedom struggle of Kashmiris and the spirit of sacrifices. The event concluded with collective prayer for the people of Kashmir and Palestine for their legitimate struggle for freedom.

# Kashmir Cries Out to all Humanists

**Sayyidah Kausar Fatima**

Imagine being an inmate in the largest concentration camp in the world you are being held incommunicado and under a constant fear of death. Imagine where having no means of communication, no access to the internet and not have been able to get emergency medical assistance. For anyone living and thriving in Canada this would be the stuff of a horror film but for millions of Kashmiris in Indian Occupied Jammu & Kashmir this is an everyday reality. India which is a self-proclaimed

defender and champion of Human Rights, is demonstrating to the world that multilateralism and pacific settlement of disputes are for the faint of heart. The occupying state should be like a juggernaut free to prey upon its captives if it feels that it is too populous or too important commercially to be taken to task. But history tells us that braggadocio and delusions of grandeur have played havoc with world peace. If India's repression of Kashmiri and aggression against Pakistan and its nonchalance towards Pakistan's constant call for negotiation leads to a conflagration between two nuclear armed countries, one does not

need to be an Einstein to understand the ramifications.

The echoes of Kashmir's tumultuous history continue to resonate through the valley. Despite promises of autonomy and self-determination, the rights of Kashmiris have been consistently eroded and their voices have gone unheard. Beside scrapping the special status of Indian Occupied Jammu & Kashmir; forced disappearances of thousands of young men; use of rape as an instrument of war; and arbitrary detentions, India has embarked upon a cynical campaign to re-engineer the demography of Indian Occupied Jammu & Kashmir by

making it possible for any non-Kashmiri to take up residence and buy property in the Occupied Territory. The revocation of article 35 (A) of the Indian Constitution is a clear violation of Article 49 of the 4th Geneva Convention. India's tall claims of being a secular country and world's largest democracy have been blown to shreds by these actions. Since 1989, over 96 thousand Kashmiris have been killed and more than 7,000 custodial killings are reported. Thousands of Kashmiris have disappeared. Tens of thousands have passed through torture chambers. Kashmiri teenagers have been blinded with pellet guns. Thou-

sands of young boys have been arbitrarily detained. Protests have been violently suppressed. Women have been subjected to sexual harassment, humiliation and intimidation.

The Kashmir dispute has become the focus of attention at the global level after the illegal actions taken by the Modi regime on and post August 05, 2019 in IIOJK. Pakistan's arduous efforts and the grave human rights situation caused by the continued military siege in the illegally occupied territory convinced the UNSC to hold its session on Kashmir three first time after the period of over 50 years. Following India's action to change

the disputed status and demographic composition of IIOJK, the solution of the Kashmir dispute has become more imperative for ensuring permanent peace in the region and the world at large. The slow moving yet relentless tsunami of cruelty should not be ignored by champions of human rights. Hapless Kashmiris hearken for the world to put an end to this orgy of bloodshed and intolerance. Pakistan hopes and strives for an amicable resolution. Let us empower rationality and humanity and not strengthen the narration of those who espouse and advocate violence as a means of settling disputes.

# World Justice Project (WJP) Report on Rule of Law Highlights Pakistan's Declining Law and Order

The World Justice Project (WJP) has published a report focusing on the state of law and order.

According to the report, Pakistan ranks 140th out of 142 countries in the WJP Rule of Law Index regarding law and order, while India ranks 79th. Pakistan is listed among the worst-performing countries, occupying the third-lowest position globally.

The report highlights a significant decline in law and order in Pakistan, reflecting weaknesses in governance and the enforcement of laws. The index evaluates countries based on various factors, including restrictions on government powers, control of corruption, transparency, protection of fundamental rights, and the delivery of civil and criminal justice.

According to Dawn newspaper, law and order are assessed using three key criteria:

1. Ability to control crime
2. Protection of citizens from armed conflict
3. Avoiding the use of violence to

resolve civil disputes

Despite access to various benefits and facilities, the performance of the police remains highly disappointing, reflecting serious flaws within the law enforcement system. Even with available resources, the police frequently fail to control crime, provide public safety, and maintain order. Mismanagement, lack of accountability, and outdated methods have compounded these inefficiencies, eroding public trust in the justice system.

Our policing and judicial systems are buckling under the weight of their own shortcomings, leading to growing delays and inefficiencies in justice delivery. A backlog of cases, poor coordination between institutions, and inadequate training for officers have paralyzed these systems. As a result of these persistent weaknesses, Pakistan ranks 140th out of 142 countries in the World Justice Project (WJP) Rule of Law Index, making it the third-worst country in terms of law and order.

This situation is alarming for the public, but citizens cannot be blamed

for the deteriorating conditions. The primary responsibility lies with the flaws in the police and judicial systems, which have undermined public confidence. The leadership of these institutions must acknowledge their responsibilities and take practical steps toward systemic improvement. Ignoring these deficiencies will only worsen the crisis.

The Inspector General (IG) must move beyond superficial or symbolic actions and confront the realities on the ground. Genuine reforms are needed—cosmetic changes won't suffice. To provide citizens with safety, effectively combat crime, and ensure the rule of law, modern training, robust accountability measures, and better institutional coordination are essential.

Similarly, the judiciary must reassess its performance. Legal reforms are required to expedite trials and ensure

timely justice. Without meaningful change in how the police and judiciary operate, improving the country's law and order situation will remain a distant dream, keeping the nation trapped in this crisis.

When an individual is accused or convicted, they are sent to prison, but little attention is given to their rehabilitation. Instead of fostering a sense of remorse for their actions, the prison environment often breeds violence, frustration, and hopelessness. Poor management and the absence of effective rehabilitation programs turn prisons into hubs that further promote criminal behaviour.

The decline in civil justice has also slowed since the height of the Covid-19 pandemic, it said, while acknowledging that problems delivering timely and independent civil justice continued to spread. Between 2016 and 2024, people in 81pc of countries have lost

protections for their fundamental rights. Additionally, 77pc have registered a dip in governmental checks and balances, including oversight by legislatures, courts, civil society, and the media. "After seven consecutive years of rule of law declines, it can be easy to focus on the negative. But to do so would ignore accomplishments in anti-corruption and the hard work occurring to improve justice systems globally," WJP co-founder and president William H. Neukom said.

"The global community must redouble efforts to expand these rule of law gains in all areas."

Rather than reforming inmates, the system worsens their condition, increasing the likelihood of their return to criminal activities. When released, former inmates struggle to reintegrate into society, burdened by the stigma of their criminal records. The lack of social support and employment opportunities drives many back into crime, perpetuating a vicious cycle.

To improve its ranking in the World Justice Project Index, Pakistan can

implement several key measures: Strengthen Rule of Law: Enhance the independence of the judiciary to ensure fair legal processes and accountability. Combat Corruption: Continue anti-corruption initiatives to build public trust and improve governance. Protect Fundamental Rights: Safeguard civil liberties and human rights to foster a more inclusive society. Enhance Security: Improve crime control mechanisms and community safety to address law and order issues. Promote Transparency: Foster open government practices to enhance civic engagement and trust in institutions.

In short, the failure of the policing and judicial systems lies not only in apprehending offenders but also in preventing crime and focusing on rehabilitation. Without structural reforms—such as enhancing police accountability, speeding up judicial processes, and prioritizing prisoner rehabilitation—this cycle of crime and institutional inefficiency will persist. As a result, both social stability and public trust will continue to deteriorate.



Analysis

Zain-ul-Abideen Abid

**Bull & Bears**  
PSX 100-Share  
Index Fluctuation

Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index	
Current	Prev. Close
89,993.96	88,945.98
Day's High	Day's Low
90,593.61	89,373.82
Index Value	Change
30,372,935,001	+ 1047.98
Percentage	Time
+1.18%	25 Oct, 2024 5:00 pm

Europe: FTSE 100 Index	
Index Value	Change
8,248.84	-20.54
Percentage	Time
-0.25%	25 Oct, 4:35 pm GMT+1

USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average	
Index Value	Change
42,200.04	-174.32
Percentage	Time
-0.41%	25 Oct, 1:28 pm GMT-4

Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average	
Index Value	Change
37,913.92	-229.37
Percentage	Time
-0.60%	25 Oct, 3:15 pm GMT+9

Open Market Forex Rates		
Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	183.75	186.00
Bahrain Dinar	731.21	739.21
Canadian Dollar	200.60	203.00
China Yuan	38.88	39.28
Danish Krone	40.29	40.69
Euro	298.20	300.95
Hong Kong Dollar	35.3	35.65
Indian Rupee	3.34	3.45
Japanese Yen	1.92	1.98
Kuwaiti Dinar	896.87	906.37
Malaysian Ringgit	64.13	64.73
New Zealand \$	165.23	167.23
Norwegians Krone	24.96	25.26
Omani Riyal	715.20	723.70
Qatari Riyal	75.45	76.15
Saudi Riyal	73.60	74.15
Singapore Dollar	208.64	210.64
Swedish Korona	26.46	26.76
Swiss Franc	319.11	321.91
Thai Bhat	8.15	8.3
U.A.E Dirham	75.25	75.90
UK Pound Sterling	357.15	360.65
US Dollar	277.20	278.70

# Fatima Fertilizer to partner with UNDP on SDG Impact Framework

**Commerce Desk**

ISLAMABAD: Fatima Fertilizer has become the first company in Pakistan to officially partner with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) by adopting SDG Impact Framework. This milestone marks a significant step in the company's journey toward sustainability, focusing on mapping its contributions to the UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Fatima Fertilizer recently launched a campaign highlighting its unwavering commitment to SDGs to commemorate this achievement.

The campaign outlines how Fatima Fertilizer has embedded the impact framework assessment into its operations, mapping eight critical areas that align with the UN's SDGs. These areas highlight the company's efforts across multiple sustainability and community development fronts.

The comprehensive video showcased Fatima Fertilizer's dedication to eight key areas that fulfill the UN SDGs. Fatima Fertilizer is leveraging renewable solar energy and reducing



fossil fuel consumption through manufacturing excellence (SDG 7). Additionally, the company is harnessing digital power for rural women and communities (SDG 9), enabling farmers

and communities for responsible and green use of fertilizer (SDG 12), and contributing to national food security by increasing crop yield by at least 10% (SDG 8).

Commenting on this achievement, Mr. Asad Murad, COO Fatima Fertilizer, said, "This transition is a significant milestone in our journey towards sustainability and social responsibility."

Ms. Rabel Sadozai, Director Marketing and Sales at Fatima Fertilizer, added, "This partnership with UNDP is a testament to our commitment to sustainable agriculture and community development. By aligning our business practices with the SDGs, we're not just enhancing our corporate responsibility, but also setting a new standard for the industry in Pakistan."

As the first company in Pakistan to partner with UNDP on the SDG Impact Framework, Fatima Fertilizer is setting a precedent for the corporate sector in Pakistan. The company's continued collaboration with UNDP aims to inspire other businesses to follow suit, driving sustainable development and environmental responsibility as core aspects of their operations.

## Assistance

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



Photo: PID

## Former Governor Haji Ghulam Ali expresses concern over hours-long delay in fire control efforts



Photo: PTI

PESHAWAR: Former Governor Haji Ghulam Ali voiced deep concern and regret following a major fire that destroyed Deans Industry, a factory producing children's diapers and disposable items, causing losses worth billions in Hayatabad Industrial Estate. Visiting the site, he highlighted the critical need for strengthening emergency response capabilities, stressing that such delays in fire control undermine business confidence and future investment in the region.

During his visit to the fire-ravaged factory, Haji Ghulam Ali, joined by notable figures including Fazal Elahi, Bakhtiar Khan (President of Hayatabad Industrial Association), and Sarhad Business Alliance co-chairpersons Muhammad Ishaq, Syed Siraj-ud-Din, Atta-ur-Rehman, Ghulam Bilal Javid (President of Peshawar Traders Chamber), Tariq Rana, and former president Faisal Kakakhail, reviewed the extent of the damage and met with factory owner Haji Sher Muhammad. Local stakeholders briefed him on the financial losses, amounting to billions, and the prolonged 20-hour fire-fighting delay.

He urged the provincial government to extend substantial support to the affected factory owners and workers, who now face immense financial and personal hardship. Expressing his condolences to the factory owners, he pledged his full support to help them recover from this devastating loss.

## PAAPAM Concludes Pakistan Auto Parts Show 2024 with Celebrations and Innovation Awards

**Commerce Desk**

LAHORE: The Pakistan Auto Parts Show (PAPS) 2024, hosted by the Pakistan Association of Automotive Parts and Accessories Manufacturers (PAAPAM), has successfully concluded its vibrant three-day exhibition at the Lahore Expo Center. Launched on October 25, this year's event drew over 150 exhibitors, including 44 international participants, 51 PAAPAM members, and 43 local exhibitors, all gathered under the theme "Industrial Pakistan." With a record-breaking 400,000 visitors, PAPS 2024 has become Pakistan's largest automotive event, featuring leading industry players like Honda, Toyota, Hyundai, and Suzuki, who showcased and unveiled their latest innovations.

The chief guest, Vice Chancellor of the University of Lahore, Mr. Uzair Raouf visited the exhibition along with the convener of PAPS 2024 and other dignitaries. The closing day was highlighted by a ceremony that recognized all exhibitors with shields for their contributions to the industry. Additionally, the Innovation Prize

Ceremony honored companies leading in groundbreaking advancements in auto parts and original equipment manufacturing (OEM). A unique session, the Live Drawing and Sculpture Awards, celebrated artists capturing the spirit of Pakistan's automotive sector through their art.

Reflecting on the success of the event, Chief Organizer Syed Nabeel Hashmi said, "PAPS 2024 has solidified its role as a premier platform for innovation, collaboration, and advancement in Pakistan's automotive industry. With both local and international exhibitors, the event showcased the resilience, creativity, and technological progress driving the future of our auto industry. We are inspired by the journey so far and look forward to the industry's bright future."

The event was supported by a prestigious group of sponsors, including Diamond Sponsors Toyota, Changan, and Suzuki; Platinum Sponsors Hyundai, LMC, Sazgar, MG, and BYD; and Gold Sponsors Honda, Atlas Honda, New Asia, and BearMAX. PakWheels.com served as the Digital Media Partner, while the Trade Development Authority of Pakistan (TDAP) and the Engineering Development Board (EDB) provided crucial support as key partners.

Throughout the show, industry leaders, dignitaries, and the public explored cutting-edge technologies, connected with stakeholders, and attended industrial tours at OEM facilities to gain insights into the latest advancements in auto manufacturing. The combination of exhibitions, test drives, industrial tours, and awards has raised the bar for Pakistan's automotive sector, setting expectations high for future events.

PAAPAM President Usman Aslam Malik praised the efforts of all PAAPAM members, especially Convener Rehan Ahmad and Secretary General Anas Haroon, for their dedication to the event's success. "The success of the Auto Show is a testament to the hard work of our members and our sponsors, without whom this achievement wouldn't have been possible," he shared, announcing that the next Pakistan Auto Parts Show will take place in Karachi in 2025.

## RCCI holds think tank session on Economic Challenges and Future Directions

**Commerce Desk**

RAWALPINDI: The Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI) hosted a high-level think tank session focused on assessing Pakistan's current economic situation and identifying solutions for sustainable growth. The session was chaired by RCCI President Usman Shaukat, alongside Think Tank Chairman and Group Leader Sohail Altaf, and featured renowned economist and economic analyst Dr. Farrukh Saleem as the chief guest.

Dr. Farrukh Saleem highlighted several positive economic indicators, noting that inflation rates have fallen,



while exports and remittances have shown encouraging growth. However, he emphasized the need for reform in key areas, including fiscal deficit management, government spending, and foreign debt reduction, while pointing out growth potential in energy, agriculture, and industrial sectors. Dr. Saleem also advocated for the privatization of loss-making state-owned enterprises, such as Pakistan International Airlines (PIA), suggesting that the government should focus on regulation, leaving business activities to the private sector.

President RCCI Usman Shaukat underscored the purpose of the think tank, which is to not only evaluate

economic challenges but also to propose actionable solutions. "Continuity of policies is essential to address our economic challenges and guide Pakistan toward stability," he added.

Chairman Think Tank and Group Leader Sohail Altaf called on all political parties to unite on an economic stability agenda, much like the 26th constitutional amendment, to help Pakistan emerge from the economic quagmire. He highlighted the excessive tax burden on current taxpayers, citing the high tax rates of up to 50% in the region, and recommended an expansion of the tax net alongside incentives for businesses to stimulate economic growth.

**Spokesman Report**

ISLAMABAD: "Iran-Pakistan Gas Pipeline project is crucial for South Asian energy security and the regional attempts of diversification", said Muhammad Soroush, a prominent Tehran-based analyst at a seminar organized by the Institute of Regional Studies on the Iran Pakistan gas pipeline.

Earlier, Ambassador Jauhar Saleem, President IIRS, noted in his opening remarks that both Pakistan and Iran had much potential for furthering economic cooperation given their economic size and shared borders. While energy pipelines were much cheaper than shipping, and utilizing gas as a source of energy was significantly less polluting than oil, the US sanctions on Iran posed

a serious challenge. Muhammad Soroush, who also heads "Saramad" think tank based in Tehran, hailed IP gas pipeline as a game changer for the region. Noting that Iran had completed the construction of pipeline on its side but due to financial constraints, Pakistan was unable to start working on its part, Soroush felt that this energy project could make Iran a crucial player in South Asian energy landscape.

Naade Ali, a Washington-based researcher at Middle East Institute, opined that the US viewed energy cooperation between Pakistan and Iran as a prelude to a strategic partnership.

Dr. Khalid Waleed, an prominent energy expert at SDPI, addressed the issue of a non-productive energy sector.

## Plastic Packaging, Corrugated & Food Asia to be held on Oct 29-31

**Commerce Desk**

KARACHI: The Plastic Packaging, Corrugated & Food Asia International Exhibition will be held from October 29 to 31, 2024 at the Karachi Expo Centre, an interactive B2B platform for showcasing the latest trends in packaging and food processing innovations.

This event attracts industry leaders, manufacturers, suppliers, and trade professionals from around the globe, making it a key destination for those looking to stay ahead in these dynamic sectors.

As Pakistan advances in economic growth and diversification, value-added industries like packaging and food processing play a crucial role in boosting export competitiveness. The exhibition aligns with this goal by offering a platform for cutting-edge technologies and tailored solutions that can enhance the value addition in these sectors.

With over 225 exhibitors from more than 7 countries and thousands of industry professionals attending, participants can explore new partnerships, network with key players, and gain insights into emerging trends. The Plastic Packaging segment will highlight sustainable solutions and advanced materials, while the Corrugated sector focuses on innovative packaging for e-commerce and supply chains. Food Asia will feature advanced processing technologies to ensure product safety and longer shelf life.

Uzair Nizam, Group Director of Ecommerce (Pvt) Ltd, emphasized: "This exhibition is a vital platform for driving innovation and collaboration within the packaging and food sectors. It plays a key role in advancing Pakistan's industries by bringing together global expertise and local talent, helping to elevate our standards and competitiveness in international markets."



## Black Day

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Kashmir Affairs & Gilgit Baltistan Engr Amir Muqam leading a Kashmir Black Day rally in the federal capital along with APHC leaders on Sunday.



Photo: Online

## Finance Minister terms meetings with stakeholders in US 'positive'

Aurangzeb says WB to give Pakistan grant instead of loan

ISLAMABAD: Finance Minister Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb on Sunday said that his meetings with stakeholders in the United States remained positive, adding that the stakeholders appreciated the scaling down of inflation in Pakistan.

He made these remarks after concluding his visit to Washington to participate in the World Bank (WB) and International Monetary Fund (IMF) Annual Meetings from October 21 to 26.

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

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

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

"We have had constructive discussions with the IMF. We will try to make this IMF programme our last programme," he said, adding due to the government's initiatives, the country was advancing towards macro-economic stability.

The finance czar also warned that the government might have to make arduous decisions for enhancing the economy.

"We are abolishing the term of non-filer. The non-filers will not be able to buy cars and properties and we will need a legal cover for that purpose," he said.

The finance minister said they had been working continuously for six months for economic improvement and bringing reforms in the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) was a step in the same direction. He said the tax-to-GDP ratio would be brought from 9% to 13%.

He also said the country's foreign exchange reserves had risen above \$11 billion. Aurangzeb said the IT and agriculture sectors held the status of game changer for the

country's development, therefore, we would have to boost its export.

On privatisation, he said three electricity distribution companies would be privatised in the first phase.

Meanwhile, State Bank of Pakistan Governor Jameel Ahmed said country's debt was \$100 billion in June 2022, which had fallen to 98.3 billion dollars. Dependence on foreign loans had been cut, he added. On the other hand, the finance minister held various meetings with leaders of different global finance companies on Saturday as well.

Separately, during a meeting with Regional President for VISA Andrew Torre in Washington, FinMin Aurangzeb appreciated VISA's commitment to modernising Pakistan's payments ecosystem, including support for domestic payment players like iLink.

He commended VISA's efforts in promoting financial inclusion and supporting entrepreneurs in Pakistan.

Both parties agreed on the importance of offering more routing choices for clients

and ensuring a level playing field for domestic transaction processing.

Global Head of Corporate and Investment Banking Business of Natixis Mohammad Kallala called on the finmin in Washington DC and briefed him on Natixis' operations and strong presence in infrastructure, renewables, transportation, aviation, telecom and tech sectors.

The two discussed opportunities for partnership with Gulf investors, particularly from Saudi Arabia, to provide financing and advisory support for investments into Pakistan.

Kallala shared that the bank aimed to collaborate with a select group of leading Pakistani companies to facilitate the investments.

Both sides agreed on the importance of maintaining continued engagement in the future.

Vice President and Global Head of Government Affairs and Public Policy at Google Karan Bhatia also called on Aurangzeb in Washington.

During the meeting, Karan Bhatia provided an overview

of Google's recent activities and engagements in Pakistan, along with their plans to deepen investments and make tangible economic contributions in the country.

He raised regulatory, legislative, connectivity, and financial concerns. The Finance Minister assured full support in this regard.

In meeting with China's Vice Minister of Finance Liao Min in Washington, the finance minister reaffirmed the all-weather strategic cooperative partnership between Pakistan and China.

He thanked the government of China for its unwavering support to Pakistan's socio-economic development and assistance in securing the IMF's Extended Fund Facility.

Aurangzeb added that Pakistan was eager to learn from China's experience with economic reforms. He also welcomed BYD's decision to introduce electric vehicles in Pakistan.

The minister said that the government aimed to launch an inaugural Panda bond in the Chinese market to diversify its financing base.

## Speaker of Russian Federation Council arrives in Pakistan

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: The Speaker of the Federation Council of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation, Ms. Valentina Matviyenko, arrived in Pakistan on Sunday at the special invitation of Senate Chairman Syed Yousof Raza Gillani.

Ms. Valentina Matviyenko is leading a high-level Russian delegation, including Federation Council of the Federal Assembly members.

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

During the visit, she and her delegation are scheduled to meet with



key Pakistani leaders, including the President, Prime Minister, Speaker of the National Assembly and Senate Chairman Syed Yousof Raza Gillani.

A highlight of the visit will be Ms. Valentina Matviyenko's address to the Senate during a special session.

The visit is expected to further strengthen the diplomatic and parliamentary ties between Pakistan and Russia.

## CEC, Uzbek election chief discuss electoral insights

Spokesman Report

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

CEC Raja is currently in Tashkent as a special observer for the ongoing parliamentary elections in Uzbekistan.

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

The Chief Election Commissioner visited several polling stations in Tashkent, where he closely monitored the electoral process. He commended the arrangements made for voter convenience and recognized the performance of the polling staff.

During his visit, Sikandar Sultan Raja also toured Tashkent University of Journalism and Mass Communications, a prestigious educational institution in Uzbekistan. He received



a comprehensive briefing on the university's modern educational facilities and media labs.

Last Saturday, the Chief Election Commissioner participated in an important briefing hosted by the Uzbekistan Election Commission, which featured Election Commission Chairpersons from various countries.

The session provided detailed insights into Uzbekistan's electoral system, legal framework, and the arrangements for conducting elections.

## Economy back on right track: Musadik

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Petroleum, Dr. Musadik Malik on Sunday said that the government was committed to economic stability and national progress.

Talking to a private news channel, he said that the government's focus was revitalizing the economy and providing relief to ordinary citizens.

"We have set the economy back on the right track and now, the benefits will soon reach the people," he added.

Answering a question on Article 140-A, he mentioned ongoing discussions around the importance of strengthening local bodies.

"For balanced development and

administrative progress, a mechanism that empowers local governance is crucial," he noted.

He further said that the government followed due democratic approach to introduce the 26th constitutional amendment, which aimed to clarify certain aspects of governance.

All stakeholders, including Maulana Fazal ur Rehman, contributed their views during the drafting process, he added.

He urged all parties to accept the amendment now that it has been enacted, so its benefits can be extended to the public. APP

## Pakistan-South Africa Joint Exercise Iqbal-I concludes

Spokesman Report

RAWALPINDI: Closing ceremony of Pakistan-South Africa Joint Exercise Iqbal-I in Counter Terrorism domain was conducted between the armies of Pakistan and Republic of South Africa at Cherat.

Two weeks long exercise commenced on 15th of this month. The Combat Teams from Special Services Group, Pakistan Army and Republic of South Africa Special Forces participated in the Exercise. Commandant Special

Operation School, attended the closing ceremony as Chief Guest. Chief of Staff Republic of South Africa Special Forces, Colonel SS Lechoenyo also witnessed the Closing Ceremony.

The troop displayed highest standards of professional excellence during the conduct.

The exercise was aimed at refining the drills, procedures and techniques involved in Counter Terrorism operations through joint training, besides harnessing the historic military to military relations among the friendly countries.



## Speculations about 27th amendment premature: Rana

ISLAMABAD: Advisor to the Prime Minister on Political Affairs, Rana Samaulah on Sunday said that the speculations on the 27th constitutional amendment were premature. Speaking to a private news channel, he dismissed rumors about unilateral constitutional changes, labeling them as baseless speculation.

He said that the coalition partners have agreed that any constitutional amendments would only be introduced through consensus whenever deemed necessary.

In response to a question about the formation of constitutional benches, the Advisor clarified that the responsibility lies with the Judicial Commission. He said that any judge could be part of such benches, according to the commission's discretion. APP

## Kashmir dispute; a reminder of unfulfilled promises: Pak CG

Spokesman Report

DUBAI: Pakistan Consul General in the United Arab Emirates Hussain Muhammad on Sunday said that Kashmir Black Day was being served as a reminder of the unresolved issue and unfulfilled promises made under relevant UN Security Council's resolutions.

Addressing an event to observe Kashmir Black Day at the Consulate, Dubai and attended by members of the Kashmiri and Pakistani communities, he said that the people of Indian illegally occupied Kashmir (IIOJK) continued to face hardships for

over seven decades.

Hussain said that Pakistan continued to extend moral, diplomatic, and political support to the just cause of Kashmir and urged all, especially youth, to play an active role in raising awareness about the Kashmir issue on all platforms.

"In today's digital world, our youth must highlight the Kashmir issue on the international stage so that the world remains informed about the continued struggle of the Kashmiri people," emphasised the consul general.

Messages from the President and Prime Minister of Pakistan

on Kashmir Black Day reaffirming Pakistan's commitment to support the Kashmiri cause were read out during the event, a press release said.

A special documentary video shedding light on the ongoing struggle and hardships faced by the people of IIOJK was also shown.

Acknowledging Pakistan's continued support, representatives from the Kashmiri community spoke on the occasion.

They extended gratitude to the government and people of Pakistan for standing with their Kashmiri brothers and sisters in the struggle for self-determination.

## 'Kashmiris dream of freedom will become a reality soon'; says Tarar

Continued from Page 1

Kashmir." He maintained that Pakistan was a strong supporter of Kashmiris' right to self-determination.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's bold stand on the Kashmir issue was a strong expression of Pakistan's unwavering commitment to the Kashmir cause and its desire for a just and peaceful solution to the long-standing conflict, he remarked.

Tarar said Pakistan had never backed down from advocating the legitimate cause of Kashmiris at

international forums.

"Pakistan always stands with the Kashmiri people and will continue to support their right to self-determination," he added.

"The only acceptable solution to the Kashmir dispute issue is a plebiscite under the supervision of the United Nations," he said.

The minister urged the international community to play its role to find a peaceful solution to the Kashmir issue and pressurize India to stop gross human rights violations in Kashmir. APP

## Terror attack in southeast Iran kills 10 border guards

Continued from Page 1

He also instructed officials to examine the circumstances and broader implications of the attack.

In a statement, the ministry expressed deep concern over the violence and emphasised the need to bring those responsible to justice.

It also underscored the government's commitment to maintaining security in the region. Meanwhile, Muhammad Mudassir Tipu, the ambassador of Pakistan to Iran, condemned the heinous attack in Khash, calling terrorism a "regional threat".

In a post on X, Tipu wrote: "I unequivocally condemn terrorist incident in Khash region of Iran today leading to loss of 10 precious lives. My heart goes out to bereaved families."

"Terrorism is regional threat Pakistan & Iran are committed to fight it with collective efforts. We stand by Iran at this critical juncture."

The Sistan-Balochistan province, which shares borders with Pakistan and Afghanistan, has seen multiple attacks targeting civilians and security forces in recent years. Earlier in October, at least six people, including police officers, were killed in two separate attacks in the province.