Daily
Simultaneously Published From
Rawalpindi, Lahore , Multan
The Spokesman
A LEADING NATIONAL DAILY
Chief Editor
Almass Ayoub Sabir
ABC Certified
Scan For ePaper
Editor
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www.dailyspokesman.net @daily_spokesman Daily Spokesman

Saturday, October 24,2026 | Jamadi-ul-Awwal 12,1448 AH | Vol: 20 | Issue: 184 | Price Rs,30.00 | Pages -8



German defence ministry accords guard of honour to President Zardari

Web Desk

BERLIN

A grand reception was held in honour of President Asif Ali Zardari at Germany's Ministry of Defence, where he was also presented with a guard of honour.German President Frank-Walter Steinmeier welcomed President Zardari upon his arrival at the German Ministry of Defence. A guard of honour was presented to the Pakistani president, while the national anthems of both countries were played during the ceremony.



No One Sleeps Hungry in Pakistan,' Rana Sanaullah Says Amid GHI Debate

News Reporter

ISLAMABAD

Prime Minister's Adviser Rana Sanaullah has dismissed concerns over Pakistan's standing on the Global Hunger Index (GHI), saying people should not fall prey to "propaganda" based on such reports.
Sanaullah made the remarks while speaking to Geo News in Islamabad when asked who should be held responsible for Pakistan ranking 106th out of 122 countries on the index, compared with India at 100th.
Discover more



Field Marshald Syed Asim Munir attends a briefing on security situation in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

No let-up in campaign against Indian-sponsored terrorists: Field Marshal

■ CDF Asim Munir says Pakistan will crush terrorists and their ideology completely

STAFF REPORTER

PESHAWAR

Chief of Defence Forces and Chief of Army Staff Field Marshal Asim Munir vowed to continue the campaign against "Indian-sponsored terrorist outfits" and "hit them hard wherever they are", the military's media wing said on Friday.
According to a statement issued by the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), CDF Munir visited Corps Headquarters in Peshawar. Upon arrival, he was received by the Peshawar Corps Commander.
The army chief was briefed on the prevailing security situation, ongoing counter-terrorism operations, border management measures, and the operational preparedness of formations deployed in the province.
"Field Marshal commended the high morale and professionalism of officers and troops, directing them to continue vigilance and highest standards of operational readiness to effectively counter threats," the statement said.
ISPR said, "He underscored that we would continue the campaign against Indian-sponsored terrorist outfits to the fullest and hit them hard wherever they are."
"While paying tributes to the sacrifices of the people of Pakistan, including Shuhada and Ghazis of the security forces, CDF Munir affirmed that with the support of the people, Pakistan would surely inflict total defeat to the terrorists and their perverted ideology," the statement concluded.
CDF Munir arrived in Peshawar a day earlier to attend a meeting of the Federal Apex Committee on the National Action Plan, chaired by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Thursday. The meeting discussed the security situation in Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa (K-P), with the government reiterating its commitment to restoring peace and accelerating development in the province
PM Shehbaz defended the imposition of emergency and governor's rule in Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa (K-P), saying the measures had been necessitated by the deteriorating security situation, and vowed to restore peace, prosperity and development in the province.
Defending the decision, he maintained that the Constitution and law empowered the government to take the measures implemented in K-P. He thanked the coalition partners for supporting the move, particularly President Zardari and Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) President Nawaz Sharif.
(Continued on Page-5)

Supreme Court seeks assistance on jurisdiction over former FATA cases



News Reporter

ISLAMABAD

The Supreme Court has issued a notice to the attorney general in an appeal challenging a 14-year prison sentence in a case involving allegations of sheltering Taliban militants. The court also sought assistance on the jurisdiction of cases from former FATA following the 25th Constitutional Amendment.
A two-member bench comprising Justice Malik Shahzad Ahmad Khan, who headed the bench, and Justice Aqeel Ahmad Abbasi heard the case.



Federal government ready to provide more funds to KP for terror-hit areas: Talal Chaudhry

STAFF REPORTER

ISLAMABAD

State Minister Talal Chaudhry has said the federal government is ready to provide additional funds to Khyber Pakhtunkhwa for areas affected by terrorism, adding that the province already receives an additional one per cent share under the National Finance Commission (NFC) Award.
Speaking during a Senate session, Talal Chaudhry said the additional amount allocated to Khyber Pakhtunkhwa under the NFC Award was separate from the allocations made to other provinces.

Court bars govt from arresting PTI leader Asad Qaiser

STAFF REPORTER

ISLAMABAD

An anti-terrorism court (ATC) in Islamabad on Friday barred authorities from arresting senior PTI leader and former National Assembly Speaker Asad Qaiser in connection with Sangjani protest case, ATC judge Abul Hasnat Muhammad Zulqarnain conducted the hearing and approved the PTI leader's application for interim bail until November 7.

Security forces foil Gwadar camp attack, kill 10 militants including a woman: ISPR

■ The militants sought to harm the people of Balochistan and undermine the province's development and prosperity

OUR CORRESPONDENT

ISLAMABAD

Security forces have foiled terrorist attempts in Gwadar, killing 10 militants, including a woman, during clearance operations, the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) said on Friday.
According to the military's media wing, India-backed terrorists attempted attacks near the Gabd border crossing and on the outskirts of Gwadar city. Security forces responded promptly and launched clearance operations to neutralise the threat.
The ISPR said 10 militants, including a female operative, were killed during the operations. One civilian was also killed in the terrorist incidents, while several vehicles



were damaged.
It added that no security personnel lost their lives during the operations.
According to the statement, the militants sought to harm the people of Balochistan and undermine the province's development and prosperity.
The ISPR said clearance operations in Gwadar had been completed, restoring law and order and the writ of the state in the affected areas.
The military's media wing also condemned the involvement of a Baloch woman in terrorist activities, describing it as an offence against the dignity of Baloch traditions. It said that militants were exploiting Baloch women to advance their objectives and propaganda.
It further stated that the people of Balochistan had always rejected those who shed blood in their name and would continue to see through the deception of those seeking to undermine peace.
It added that the counterterrorism campaign under the vision of Azm-e-Istehkam would continue at full pace. Security forces remain committed to the complete eradication of foreign-sponsored terrorism, the ISPR said. .

Hina Javed murder case: Post-mortem report confirms severe torture

News Reporter

LAHORE



The original post-mortem report in the Hina Javed murder case has confirmed severe torture and multiple serious injuries on the victim's body, as additional photographs documenting the alleged violence have also emerged. According to the post-mortem report, injury marks were found on Hina Javed's face, neck, arms and hands. The report also stated that her neck was fractured and her lips were split.
Meanwhile, the National Assembly's Standing Committee on Interior has scheduled a meeting for October 29 to review the case.

Focus is on wooing foreign direct investment, says PM Shehbaz

■ The Prime Minister especially emphasised that government is cognizant of the vital importance to have team of experts and professionally qualified workforce to improve economic growth engine.



STAFF REPORTER

ISLAMABAD

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has said the government is giving special attention to enhance performance and efficiency of domestic manufacturing sector while equally focusing on measures to invite foreign direct investment (FDI),
PM Shehbaz was talking to Managing Director of North American Operations of Alvarez & Marsal (A&M) company, Peter Briggs, who called on him in Islamabad on Friday.
The Prime Minister said after successfully achieving the goal of economic and fiscal stability, the government is taking effective measures to undertake deep-rooted structural and economic reforms to usher into an era of export-led growth and productive economy.
He said the government is following a vibrant strategy to evaluate the economic viability of State-Owned Enterprises (SOEs) and subsequently to tread a path of privatization for uplifting national economy and growth. The Prime Minister especially emphasised that government is cognizant of the vital importance to have team of experts and professionally qualified workforce to improve economic growth engine.

Pakistan mediating between US, Iran to reduce tensions: FO

■ Islamabad seeks verifiable action against terrorism from Afghanistan | Ishaq Dar to attend seven-nation talks in Istanbul | Pakistan rejects Indian allegations, vows to protect water rights

Muzaffar Ahmed Bhatti

ISLAMABAD

Pakistan remains in contact with the United States and Iran in its mediatory role and is pursuing diplomatic efforts to reduce tensions between the two countries, Foreign Office spokesperson Sajjad Haider Khan said on Friday.
Addressing his weekly press briefing, Khan said Pakistan supported negotiations between Washington and Tehran and wanted both countries to resolve their differences through dialogue rather than confrontation.
He said the United States and Iran would have to determine the agenda for any potential negotiations



themselves, while Pakistan would continue its diplomatic efforts to promote regional peace and stability.
The spokesperson said Pakistan was a responsible member of the international community and remained committed to implementing international sanctions in accordance with international and domestic obligations.
Responding to a question about the Pakistan-Iran border, Khan said there was no information on the ground regarding its closure and that the movement of pilgrims between the two countries continued.
He said Pakistan had taken note of remarks by Marco Rubio regarding its status as a nuclear-armed state.
Khan said Pakistan and the United States maintained strong bilateral relations based on trade and investment.
Pakistan seeks verifiable action against terrorism from Afghanistan
The spokesperson said Pakistan was prepared to engage in dialogue with Afghanistan, provided that threats against Pakistan originating from Afghan territory were eliminated.

IGP Islamabad Visits 4C Centre, Reviews Security Monitoring and Directs Enhanced Use of Modern Technology

■ Muhammad Sohail Chaudhry emphasizes improved coordination among police units, effective surveillance, timely response to emergencies, transparent administration, prompt resolution of public complaints, and welfare of police personnel.

News Desk

ISLAMABAD



IGP Islamabad Visits 4C Centre, Reviews Security Monitoring and Directs Improved Coordination and Use of Modern TechnologyAccording to the details, Inspector General of Police (IGP) Islamabad Muhammad Sohail Chaudhry visited the Command, Control, Communication and Coordination Centre (4C), where he reviewed the monitoring system for police operations and the security situation in the federal capital. He issued necessary directions to further improve its effectiveness.During the visit, the IGP Islamabad directed officers to make effective use of modern technology and available resources to maintain continuous surveillance of the security situation. He emphasized strengthening coordination and communication among various police units to ensure a swift response to emergencies. He also stressed the importance of improving surveillance mechanisms, identifying suspicious activities promptly, preventing crime, and protecting the lives and property of citizens.The IGP Islamabad subsequently held a meeting with branch in-charges to review the performance of various branches, administrative matters, and routine office operations. He directed officers to perform their duties with responsibility, integrity, and professionalism, ensure the timely completion of official tasks, and maintain transparency and merit in administrative matters. He also emphasized teamwork and effective coordination to improve the overall performance of Islamabad Police.Furthermore, IGP Islamabad Muhammad Sohail Chaudhry held an Open Court at the Central Police Office, where citizens directly presented their problems and complaints. He listened to their concerns and issued on-the-spot directions to the relevant officers for their resolution. He instructed officers to address public complaints promptly, resolve matters strictly on merit, and avoid unnecessary delays in providing relief to citizens.The IGP Islamabad also conducted an Orderly Room, where he directly heard the service-related and personal issues of police officers and personnel and issued necessary directions for their resolution. He instructed the relevant officers to prioritize legitimate concerns of police personnel and provide them with a supportive working environment to perform their professional duties effectively.



NCCIA nabs 24 accused in raids across Punjab

News Desk

ISLAMABAD

The National Cyber Crime Investigation Agency (NCCIA) has arrested 24 accused from different cities in Punjab during operations,

According to details, on the directives of NCCIA Additional Director Atif Amir, different operations were conducted against accused who were involved in anti-state talks and spreading hatred among people. The NCCIA personnel raided an illegal call center located at Susan Chowk, Faisalabad, and arrested 3 people and recovered laptops, mobile phones, and data of foreign nationals.

The NCCIA also raided another illegal call center located in Ali Tower, Faisalabad, and arrested 16 accused who were involved in defrauding foreigners by showing themselves as representatives of foreign companies.

DIG Islamabad Ali Wasim and SSP Operations Qazi Ali Raza Review Friday Prayer Security at Faisal Mosque and Imambargahs



Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD

DIG Islamabad Ali Wasim and SSP Operations Qazi Ali Raza Visit Faisal Mosque and Various Imambargahs to Review Friday Prayer Security ArrangementsFollowing the special directives of Inspector General of Police Islamabad, Captain (Retd.) Muhammad Sohail Chaudhry, DIG Islamabad Ali Wasim and SSP Operations Islamabad Qazi Ali Raza visited Faisal Mosque and various Imambargahs on the occasion of Friday prayers to conduct a detailed review of security arrangements.During the visits, the senior officers met with police personnel deployed on security duties and directed them to ensure effective monitoring of places of worship, entry and exit points, and surrounding areas. They instructed officers and personnel to remain alert and vigilant, keep a close watch on suspicious individuals and activities, and stay prepared to respond promptly to any emergency.DIG Islamabad and SSP Operations emphasized that effective action against criminal and suspicious elements must continue and that negligence in security arrangements would not be tolerated. They directed officers to ensure thorough security checks while treating citizens with courtesy, respect, and professionalism.The officers further stated that protecting the lives and property of citizens, securing places of worship, and maintaining law and order in the federal capital remain top priorities of Islamabad Police.

They urged all police personnel to perform their duties with honesty, integrity, and professionalism to ensure that citizens can offer their prayers without fear.

Pakistan Awami Quwat Party to Contest Islamabad LG Elections in All 125 Union Councils

Our Correspondent

ISLAMABAD

Pakistan Awami Quwat Party Chairman Khakan Waheed Khawaja has announced that the party will participate actively in the 2026 local government elections in Islamabad and field its candidates in all 125 union councils.He was addressing a workers' convention of the Pakistan Awami Quwat Party at Rawal Auditorium, attended by party office-bearers, workers, supporters and delegations representing NA-46, NA-47 and NA-48.Several political and social figures joined the party during the convention, which was specifically organised to discuss the upcoming local government elections. The new entrants included NA-47 President Babar Hashmi, General Secretary Anjum Ilyas, Raza-ur-Rehman, Shahid Iqbal, Muhammad Ajmal, Owais Ajmal, Maulana Amjad Abbasi, Malik Gulraiz Awan, Umair Mahmood, Bilal Zahid, Chaudhry Sahir Ali, Raja Ishtiaq and Madam Bushra, among others. Party Chairman Khakan Waheed Khawaja welcomed them and presented them with party scarves.



11 killed, over 20 injured in van-coach collision in Lasbela

News Desk

ISLAMABAD

At least 11 people were killed and more than 20 others injured when a van collided with a passenger coach near Zero Point in Uthal, Lasbela, police officials said.According to police, the accident occurred at Zero Point in Uthal, resulting in 11 fatalities and injuries to over 20 people. Police officials said the passenger coach was travelling from Gwadar to Karachi, while the van was heading from Karachi to Lasbela when the collision occurred. Authorities have launched an investigation into the accident to determine the circumstances surrounding the crash.



LHC rules default tax surcharge applicable from 16th day after due date

News Desk

ISLAMABAD

The Lahore High Court (LHC) has rejected the Punjab Revenue Authority's (PRA) method of calculating default surcharge, ruling that it will be imposed from the 16th day after the tax payment due date, The court issued the ruling on a petition filed by Al-Rehman Hospitality, ordering the recalculation of a disputed default surcharge amounting to Rs2.486 million.In its 13-page written judgment, a two-member bench comprising Justice Abid Aziz Sheikh and Justice Manwar Iqbal Dogal held that any uncertainty in tax laws must be interpreted in favour

Aseefa Bhutto rues poor internet services in interior Sindh



News Desk

ISLAMABAD

First Lady Aseefa Bhutto has expressed concern over poor internet services in cities of interior Sindh, saying she is worried over it, Speaking in the National Assembly on Friday, Aseefa Bhutto said neither 4G nor 5G service is available in Larkana. She asked Parliamentary Secretary for Information Technology and Telecommunication Sabheen Ghoury to look into the matter and find a solution of it.Earlier, the National Assembly was informed that Pakistan has achieved significant digital growth, with mobile subscribers reaching approximately 210 million and a teledensity of over 83 percent.

DIG Islamabad Ali Wasim Holds Orderly Room, Directs Prompt Resolution of Police Personnel's Grievances

News Desk

ISLAMABAD

DIG Islamabad Ali Wasim Holds Orderly Room, Hears Police Personnel's Grievances and Issues Immediate Directions for Their ResolutionAccording to details, Deputy Inspector General of Police (DIG) Islamabad Ali Wasim held an orderly room in his office, where he personally heard the service-related and personal issues of police officers and personnel. He issued on-the-spot directions to the concerned officers to ensure the prompt resolution of these issues on merit.The welfare of police personnel, timely resolution of their legitimate concerns, and the provision of better facilities remain key priorities. Islamabad Police continue its efforts to improve personnel welfare, enhance professional capabilities, and ensure more effective public services.Meanwhile, under the special directions of Federal Interior Minister Syed Mohsin Raza Naqvi and Inspector General of Police (IGP) Islamabad Captain (Retd.) Muhammad Sohail Chaudhry, open courts are being held regularly to provide prompt relief to citizens.DIG Islamabad Ali Wasim and SSP Operations Islamabad Qazi Ali Raza held open courts in their respective offices, listened to citizens' complaints, and issued directions to the relevant officers for their timely resolution.



IG Punjab Abdul Kareem Takes Notice of Recovery of Two Women's Bodies in Rawalpindi

Crime reporter

ISLAMABAD

Inspector General of Police Punjab Abdul Kareem has taken notice of the recovery of the bodies of two women from a house within the jurisdiction of Dhamial Police Station, Rawalpindi, and sought a report from RPO Rawalpindi.IG Punjab Abdul Kareem directed CPO Rawalpindi to investigate the incident from all angles and ensure the immediate arrest of the accused. He ordered that all resources be utilised to arrest the accused.

IG Punjab Abdul Kareem Orders Enhanced Patrolling and Vehicle Tracking Across Punjab

■ Chairing a meeting at the Central Police Office, IG Punjab directs district police chiefs to strengthen night patrolling, install trackers in all patrolling vehicles by the next day, and take strict action against negligence.

Crime reporter

Lahore

Inspector General of Police Punjab Abdul Kareem chaired an important meeting at the Central Police Office to review public safety, crime prevention, and patrolling arrangements. IG Punjab ordered increased patrolling across Punjab, including Lahore, to ensure the safety of citizens. He directed district police heads to further strengthen and improve the effectiveness of night patrolling to prevent crime during nighttime hours.IG Punjab directed that trackers must be installed in all patrolling vehicles by tomorrow under all circumstances. He instructed RPOs, CPOs, and DPOs to personally monitor vehicle tracking and patrolling operations from their respective offices.IG Punjab directed SHOs, SDPOs, SPs, and other senior police officers to personally conduct field patrolling. He made it clear that negligence in patrolling duties would not be tolerated and that strict action would be taken against any dereliction in this regard.IG Punjab also directed all senior police officers to conduct personal visits to police stations and review all matters, including front desks, lockups, and record rooms.The meeting was attended by Additional IG Operations Punjab, RPO Faisalabad, DIG Investigation Lahore, AIG Operations, and AIG Admin & Security. CCPO Lahore, Additional IG South Punjab, all RPOs, CPOs, DPOs, and DIG Operations Lahore participated in the meeting via video link.



Austria expels four Russian diplomats



Web DESK

Austria

Austria has ordered the expulsion of four Russian diplomats, accusing them of engaging in "activities incompatible" with their status, the foreign ministry said Friday. "Based on findings by the Austrian security authorities, the Austrian foreign ministry has taken measures against four Russian diplomats in Vienna," said a ministry statement.

Three diplomats at the Russian Embassy "engaged in activities incompatible with their diplomatic status", the ministry said. Another from Russia's delegation to the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) "also engaged in activities incompatible with his status... (and) has likewise been declared persona non grata and ordered to leave Austrian territory," it added.

Several European countries have expelled Russian diplomats since Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine in 2022, which has drawn heavy sanctions from Western governments. Hungary expelled 10 members of the Russian diplomatic mission in September under new Prime Minister Peter Magyar to protect the country's "security and sovereignty".



Islamabad: 23 October 2026 — Acting President Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani in a meeting with the Ambassador of Saudi Arabia to Pakistan, Dr Rajeh Tami Albugamy, at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

Injuries in China's Tibet rise to 65 after earthquake, death toll remains at 16

■ **Summary A magnitude 7 earthquake in Tibet has injured 65 people and killed 16, with more than 12,000 residents relocated as rescue teams respond to the disaster.**

Web Desk

BEIJING

The number of people injured in a magnitude 7 earthquake that struck the southwestern region of China's Tibet has risen to 65, local government said in a social media post on Friday, while the death count remained unchanged at 16.

The quake, with an epicentre in Nagqu, a sparsely populated, high-altitude city in northern Tibet, is the strongest to hit China since January 2024.

More than 300 police officers including traffic and community police personnel were sent to the epicentre to carry out rescue and



emergency relief work, the Nagqu ?police department said in a separate post on messaging app WeChat early on Friday.

Officers sent to the region checked for damage to homes and helped people relocate to safer locations, the Nagqu police also said in the WeChat post.

A video the police posted, opens new tab on TikTok sister app ?Douyin showed officers packing supplies in a truck in the dark and inspecting a building and rubble with flashlights.

More than 12,000 people have been safely relocated, state media outlet Xinhua reported.

Videos previously released by local ?official media showed people leaving their homes and seeking shelter outside or in their cars parked on ?the street. One resident reported being awakened by the strong quake and hearing the house squeaking during the tremor.

The China Earthquake Networks Center said in a post that 413 aftershocks had been recorded.

N 2010, a magnitude 7.1 tremor struck Yushu in neighbouring Qinghai province, killing at least 2,698 people and leaving ?nearly 300 people missing.

Taiwan shuts down ahead of Typhoon Champi, hundreds of flights cancelled

■ **One person was killed and 94 were injured in Taiwan, where the government said almost 1,300 people had been evacuated from mountainous areas**

Web Desk

YILAN, Taiwan

Almost all of Taiwan shut down on Friday ahead of the arrival of Typhoon Champi, which is forecast to bring strong winds and torrential rain, and though the storm is weakening it could still make direct landfall on the island.

At one point a super typhoon and one of the strongest storms in the Pacific this year, Champi was still packing gusts of around 191 kph (119 mph) near its centre, according to Taiwan's Central Weather Administration (CWA).

The storm was about 320 km (198 miles) east of Taiwan's southern tip, the CWA said. The storm's forecast track shows it will pass just off northeastern Taiwan, turn north toward the Chinese coast and eventually move into southern



Japan.

One person was killed and 94 were injured in Taiwan, where the government said almost 1,300 people had been evacuated from mountainous areas.

CWA forecaster Liu Pei-teng told Reuters that landfall could not be ruled out if it "stalls, loops, or wobbles from side to side" on approach to Taiwan.

"The storm's wind radius is quite large, among the bigger ones in recent years," Liu said. "If the storm slows down, the strong winds will affect Taiwan for longer."

France's Macron tightens curbs on protests, blaming hard left for unrest

● **Macron said demonstrations organised by groups such as trade unions would be allowed to go ahead but could be diverted along alternative routes to protect businesses**

Web Desk

PARIS

French President Emmanuel Macron said that "illegitimate" protests would be banned in the coming days and blamed "seditious" ultra-left groups and vandals for last weekend's riots and looting.

Speaking after a meeting with intelligence chiefs and senior ministers, Macron said demonstrations organised by groups such as trade unions would be allowed to go ahead but could be diverted along alternative routes to protect businesses.

"Last Saturday we had political and seditious acts by ultra-left



groups whose aim is to bring down the Republic," he said.

His comments came as authorities across France prepared for fresh protests following some of the country's worst urban unrest in years.

Justice Minister Gerald Darmanin said he ?wanted voting rights suspended for people who defy bans on taking part in demonstrations, and restrictions on social media access for people involved in violence, looting or attacks on police.

All protests planned for Saturday in Marseille and Lyon, France's second- and third-largest cities, have been banned, local authorities said. Yet fresh demonstrations are already taking shape before what officials fear could be another volatile weekend.

France's main student union, UNEF, has called for rallies on Saturday, while the Yellow Vest movement, the anti-establishment force that emerged in 2018, has filed plans for a march through central Paris.

Businesses in central Paris have begun boarding up their shop windows in case of violence. Luxury goods group Hermes said it had stepped up security measures at its French stores.

Organisers of the Art Basel Paris international art collectors fair being held in a central Paris exhibition hall said it would be closed all weekend.

Elsewhere, authorities in the northern city of Orleans were bracing for potential unrest as the far-right National Rally was due to hold an annual meeting and unions and left-wing groups planned demonstrations.

British HC Jane Marriott visits Lahore's historic Fakir Khana Museum

NEWS DESK

LAHORE

British High Commissioner Jane Marriott visited the historic Fakir Khana Museum in Lahore's Walled City, where she viewed historical artefacts and praised the city's rich heritage,

During her visit, Marriott viewed the objects displayed at the museum, which reflect different aspects of the region's history and culture. She appreciated the historical heritage preserved at the site.



She also expressed a desire to explore more of the historic area in the future.

Located in Lahore's Walled City, Fakir Khana Museum is a notable cultural landmark that offers visitors a glimpse into the region's past through its collection of historical objects.

Lockheed, US Pentagon strike initial deal to produce 850 F-35 jets



Web Desk

Washngation

Lockheed Martin has entered an initial production and sustainment agreement with the United States Department of Defence for at least 850 F-35 Lightning II fighter jets over the next 10 years,

The defence contractor will self-fund at least $7 billion in initiatives that support the F-35 programme, the department said in a statement.

The F-35, built with stealth technology that allows it to evade enemy detection, is considered the world's most advanced fighter jet and is at the core of Lockheed's aeronautics division that forms close to 40 per cent of its quarterly revenue.

Under the agreement with the Department of Defence, which US President Donald Trump calls the Department of War, Lockheed aims to maintain annual production at 156 aircraft.

Russian missiles pound Kyiv as Moscow says over 800 Ukrainian drones downed

■ **Zelenskyy says only a meeting of leaders can end the deadlock.**

Web Desk

KYIV, Ukraine

Russia bombarded Kyiv with ballistic missiles in an hourslong nighttime barrage, while the Russian military air defenses intercepted over 800 drones fired by Ukraine at Moscow and other cities. At least four people were killed in Ukraine and dozens of others were wounded, officials said, in the attacks that began only hours after Russian President Vladimir Putin agreed "in principle" on Wednesday to resume three-way negotiations between Russia, Ukraine and the United States.

"Russia has not changed the way it wages this war, and it is taking no steps that would signal a genuine desire to end it," Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said after the latest large-scale barrage.

Putin's consent came in talks in St. Petersburg with U.S. President Donald Trump's envoy, Steve Witkoff, who had spoken of a "new momentum"



toward peace after meeting Tuesday with Zelenskyy in Norway. No date was set for the tripartite talks.

Representatives of the three countries held rounds of "technical" talks in the United Arab Emirates and Switzerland in January and February, seeking to lay the groundwork for detailed negotiations. But they reported little progress beyond exchanges of prisoners of war. Russia and Ukraine remain far apart in their terms for stopping the fighting despite U.S. efforts.

Zelenskyy says only a meeting of leaders can end the deadlock.

Russia's aerial attacks hit 12 regions of Ukraine overnight, killing at least four people and wounding scores of others, including five children,

Two women aged 50 and 60 were killed and dozens of others wounded in a Russian strike on a market in Lozova, in Ukraine's northeastern Kharkiv region, said Oleh Syniehubov, head of the regional military administration. Another person was killed in other strikes on Kharkiv, the State Emergency Service said.

The Ukrainian capital endured a noisy night as 21 ballistic missiles came in three waves, Zelenskyy said, smashing apartment buildings, energy facilities, a railway station and the Kyiv subway system, shopping malls and businesses. One person was killed in Kyiv.

The Russian attack on Kyiv included three ballistic missiles carrying cluster munitions — bombs that open in the air and release scores of smaller bomblets, Zelenskyy said.



Islamabad, Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb, meeting with Mr. Sandeep Mahajan, Regional Practice Director for the MENAAP region, World Bank, alongside Ms. Bolormaa Amgaabazar, Country Director, World Bank, and Mr. Simon Andrews, Division Director, IFC, to discuss Pakistan's economic reforms and priorities for investment-led growth.

FBR unveils electronic auctions for seized goods

■ **Successful applicants will receive a unique identification number, with registration details communicated through their registered email address or mobile number.**

Business Reporter

KARACHI

The Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) has introduced an electronic auction system for the disposal of seized and confiscated goods, prescribing a minimum registration fee of Rs25,000 for bidders and a 72-hour online bidding period under amendments to the Sales Tax Rules, 2006,

According to SRO 1889(I)/2026, issued on October 22, the FBR has inserted a new chapter into the rules under powers granted by sections 50 and 40F of the Sales Tax Act, 1990, establishing procedures for electronic registration, valuation, bidding, payment and delivery of auctioned goods.

Under the new framework, individuals holding a valid Computerised National Identity Card (CNIC) or National Identity Card for Overseas Pakistanis (NICOP) may register electronically through the FBR's auction platform after paying a one-time fee of not less than Rs25,000.Successful applicants will receive a unique identification number, with registration details communicated through their registered email address or mobile number.

The authorised officer may verify registration particulars and reject applications on valid grounds recorded in writing, including non-compliance with relevant procurement rules.

The system will cover confiscated goods and seized goods that have been finalised for disposal under an adjudication order.

Custodians will be responsible for uploading inventories, photographs and supporting documents to the electronic platform, maintaining safe custody of goods and facilitating inspections by prospective bidders.

Before an auction begins, the authorised officer must verify the legal basis for disposal, including any judicial stay orders, available release or redemption options and applicable restrictions.

Weekly inflation rises 0.65pc, annual rate reaches 11.85pc

■ **The report showed that petrol prices increased by 44.17pc over the past year**

Special Correspondent

ISLAMABAD

Pakistan's weekly inflation increased by 0.65 per cent, pushing the year-on-year inflation rate to 11.85 per cent, according to the latest report released by the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) on Friday.

The report showed that prices of 19 essential commodities increased during the week, while 12 items became cheaper and prices of 20 commodities remained unchanged.

Liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) recorded the steepest weekly increase of 22.44pc, followed by chicken, which became 12.20pc more expensive. Onion prices



rose by 4.19pc, shirting fabric by 1.86pc and plain bread by 1.66pc. Flour prices also increased by 1pc, while garlic, firewood and ghee recorded further increases.

In contrast, tomato prices fell by 21.99pc during the week. Petrol became 3.63pc cheaper and diesel prices declined by 1.68pc. Banana prices decreased by 2.42pc, potatoes by 1.38pc and gram pulse by 0.93pc. Prices of eggs and powdered milk also recorded declines.

On a year-on-year basis, LPG prices surged by 107.12pc, while onion prices increased by 72.81pc and electricity tariffs rose by 58.59pc.

The report further showed that petrol prices increased by 44.17pc over the past year, while diesel became 41.56pc more expensive. Chicken prices rose by 38.99pc and flour by 36.49pc. Mutton prices increased by 14.66pc, beef by 12.10pc, plain bread by 10.82pc and prepared tea by 8.36pc.

However, some commodities recorded significant annual declines. Tomato prices fell by 71.72pc, potatoes by 40.75pc and sugar by 25pc. Egg prices also decreased by 22.14pc over the past year.



PSX plunges over 700 points amid selling pressure

Business Reporter

KARACHI

The Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) continued to face selling pressure on Friday, with the benchmark KSE-100 index losing 714.26 points in early trading to reach 163,210.05.According to the latest market data provided, the benchmark index declined by 0.44% from the previous close of 163,924.31 points.

The index recorded an intraday high of 163,966.86 points before falling to 163,210.05.Trading volume stood at 15,732,608 shares as the market remained open, reflecting ongoing trading activity amid the downward movement.

The latest decline follows a difficult session on Thursday, when the benchmark index came under significant selling pressure and dropped below the 164,000-point level.

Two LPG vessels carrying more than 7,600 tonnes arrive at Port Qasim

■ **Two vessels carrying more than 7,600 metric tonnes of imported liquefied petroleum gas have berthed at Port Qasim for Sui Southern Gas Company.**

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD

Two vessels carrying a combined total of more than 7,600 metric tonnes of imported liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) have arrived at Port Qasim, according to the port administration.

The imported fuel is intended for Sui Southern Gas Company (SSGC), the administration said.

The vessel Alisa One arrived with 3,083 metric tonnes of LPG, while the PGC Yanias carried 4,520 metric tonnes.

Together, the two shipments account for 7,603 metric tonnes of imported LPG.

Imported supplies reach port

The arrival of the vessels adds to the supply of imported LPG handled at the country's major port near Karachi.

LPG is widely used in Pakistan for domestic cooking and other applications, including commercial



and industrial purposes. Imported shipments can help supplement locally available supplies, although their impact on market availability and prices depends on distribution, demand and other supply conditions.

Supply and distribution

The port administration confirmed the arrival and cargo quantities but did not provide details of the subsequent distribution schedule or the expected impact on retail prices.

The availability of LPG in the domestic market will depend on how quickly the cargo is transferred through the supply chain and delivered to consumers and businesses.



Oil prices rise as Middle East supply concerns linger

■ **According to the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS), the country's food exports increased from $1.11 billion in the corresponding quarter last year**

Web Desk

KARACHI

Crude oil prices rose on Friday after Houthi attacks in Saudi Arabia stoked concerns of further disruption to energy supplies from the Middle East.

Brent crude futures climbed 58 cents, or 0.5%, to $113.75 a barrel as of 0439 GMT, while US West Texas Intermediate crude futures rose 66 cents, or 0.7%, to $100.13.

On a weekly basis, Brent, which settled at its highest since May 4 on Thursday, is set to close higher for a third successive week, while WTI is on track to finish lower, following two weeks of gains. Saudi Aramco on Thursday ordered the evacuation of its headquarters in Dhahran on the Gulf near Bahrain.

"Markets are increasingly worried about renewed escalation in the Persian Gulf, a scenario that could threaten oil flows that have so far remained remarkably resilient," ING analysts said in a note on Friday.

"Re-escalation seems the most likely path. Even if tensions don't re-escalate, the mere possibility is likely to keep a sizeable geopolitical risk premium embedded in prices."

"The key factors to monitor now ?are the extent of actual disruption and the time needed to restore operations, as these will ultimately determine how much of a supply risk premium the market is willing to pay," said Linh Tran, an analyst at XS.com.

"If attacks persist and delay deliveries, elevated prices will have a firmer foundation."

Pakistan, Canada medical colleges sign MoU for cooperation in education, training

■ **The colleges signed the MoU aimed at strengthening institutional cooperation in post-graduate medical education, training, faculty capacity building, and the exchange of best practices in areas of mutual interest.**

News Desk

OTTAWA

The High Commission of Pakistan in Ottawa hosted a special ceremony on Friday to welcome visiting delegations from the College of Physicians and Surgeons Pakistan (CPSP) and the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada (RCPSC), marking an important step towards strengthening bilateral cooperation in postgraduate medical education, professional training, and institutional development.

The ceremony brought together representatives of the two leading medical institutions, highlighting their shared commitment to promoting academic collaboration, enhancing professional standards, and fostering closer institutional ties between Pakistan and Canada.

A key highlight of the visit was the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between CPSP and RCPSC. The agreement aims to establish a framework for enhanced cooperation in postgraduate medical education, training, faculty capacity building, and the exchange of best practices in areas of mutual interest.

The MoU reflects the mutual desire of both institutions to explore opportunities for collaboration and benefit from each other's experience in medical education, professional development, and the advancement of healthcare



training standards.

The CPSP delegation was led by its President, Prof. Dr. Khalid Masood Gondal, while the Canadian delegation was headed by Dr. Christopher Watling, Chief Executive Officer of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada.The participation of senior leadership from both institutions underscored the importance attached to the agreement and the potential for closer engagement between Pakistan's postgraduate medical education system and Canada's established framework for specialist medical training.

Under the MoU, both institutions intend to strengthen institutional cooperation through the sharing of knowledge, educational expertise, and effective training practices. Faculty capacity building is also a key area of focus, with collaboration expected to support professional learning and contribute to the continued development of medical educators and trainers.The exchange of best practices will provide an opportunity for both sides to learn from their respective experiences and explore approaches that could help improve postgraduate medical education. Such cooperation can also encourage professional dialogue, support institutional learning, and promote the development of training programmes responsive to evolving healthcare needs.

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Growth to remain moderate at 4.2%

The World Bank projected a moderate 4.2% economic growth for Pakistan in the year before general elections in 2029 but urged the government to implement a plan to stay on course of macroeconomic stability in the election year.

In its Pakistan Development Outlook, the Washington-based lender said rupee-dollar parity was not "freely" responding to market conditions and a fully flexible exchange rate would better serve Pakistan's interests.



The report discussed in depth Pakistan's current exchange rate policy, implying that such stability led to three macroeconomic crises in the recent past and adjustment was needed to arrest appreciation of the real effective exchange rate.

The report projected 4.2% economic growth in fiscal year 2027-28, which would be the second last year of the government, and 4.4% during the election year. It underlined that Pakistan's current-to-medium-term growth rate was not enough to create jobs for 3.6 million people entering the market every year.

"With the current International Monetary Fund programme ending in September 2027 and national elections scheduled for early 2029, developing, publishing and effectively implementing a medium-term fiscal plan that preserves macroeconomic stability is critical to maintaining confidence," said the World Bank.

The lender emphasised the need for preserving macroeconomic stability due to past episodes of loosening fiscal purse during the election year. For the current fiscal year, the World Bank projected 3.8% growth, slightly lower than the government target of 4%.

"The growth rate in the medium term does not seem going beyond 4.5%, which is too low to create enough jobs," said Sebastian Essl, Lead Author of the report. The report underlined growth-enabling reforms that were urgently required to reverse recent increases in poverty from 22% in 2019 to 29% in 2025 and create sufficient jobs for 3.6 million Pakistanis reaching working age every year.

The World Bank said that under a baseline scenario with continued sound macroeconomic management and limited structural reform progress, growth was projected to remain broadly stable at 3.8% this fiscal year. Elevated commodity and energy prices were expected to weigh on services and industry, it added. "The macroeconomic outlook assumes that Pakistan's economy will continue to be affected by the conflict in the Middle East through end-2026, with a gradual de-escalation over the course of 2027," said the lender.

"Pakistan has made real progress in restoring stability and markets have taken notice," said Bolormaa Amgaabazar, World Bank Country Director for Pakistan. But real per capita growth – the rate at which the income of an average Pakistani increases – remains stuck at around 1.6% and reforms to drive faster growth are now urgently needed, according to Bolormaa.

The report showed that a more prolonged and intense conflict in the Middle East remained the most significant risk to Pakistan's near-term macroeconomic outlook. A longer or deeper conflict would sustain elevated energy prices and increase Pakistan's import bill while weighing on export demand and disrupting trade routes.

These effects could widen the current account deficit and add pressure to reserves. Intensified domestic demand-management measures to contain energy shortages could deepen the drag on domestic activity, while sustained higher input costs would renew pressure on inflation and household purchasing power.

The report found that such growth was possible if Pakistan followed the path taken by other successful countries in pursuing ambitious economic reforms. Reforms that upgrade policies and institutions to the quality seen in the average middle-income country could drive sustained growth of up to 6.2-6.9% per annum, sufficient for Pakistan to reach Vietnam's current level of income by 2050.

The World Bank commented extensively on Pakistan's exchange rate policy, suggesting that it had issues with the current policy. "The central bank exchange rate intervention creates temporary stability but leads to disruptive adjustments, deterring investment and undermining confidence," it stated.

"Stability in the face of these shocks suggests that the exchange rate is not responding freely to market conditions. A fully flexible, market-determined exchange rate would better serve Pakistan's economic development needs: it would buffer external shocks, support private sector confidence and prevent a gradual erosion of competitiveness."

Who Shall Hold the Reins of the Future?



Dr. Muhammad Tayyab Khan

Let us suppose that, one morning, the world awakens to the announcement that artificial intelligence has successfully passed every examination by which mankind has hitherto presumed to measure the reach of its own intellect. It can traverse billions of pages of accumulated knowledge, examine millions of decisions, anticipate economic tendencies, map the prospective spread of disease, and formulate, within moments, policy recommendations for which even the most accomplished experts might otherwise require months of deliberation. The world stands astonished; investors are exhilarated; and the technological establishment busies itself with drawing fresh cartographies of the future.

Yet, at the very moment when this triumph appears to settle the question of intellectual supremacy, another question arises, unsettling in its simplicity and profound in its implications: if the machine has learnt to think more swiftly than man, has man, in turn, learnt to exercise sounder judgement

This is, in truth, a question less about artificial intelligence than about humanity, the State, and the institutions through which collective life is governed.

We are assaying the intelligence of machines, yet neglecting the discernment of institutions. We are measuring the velocity of algorithms, whilst overlooking the wisdom by which their conclusions ought to be judged and their recommendations translated into action. A system may possess the capacity to anticipate the incidence of poverty with remarkable precision; but of what consequence is such prescience if the government lacks either the political resolve or the institutional capacity to eradicate its underlying causes? Artificial intelligence may identify the likelihood of tax evasion, trace suspicious patterns, and reveal the points at which public revenue is imperilled. Yet, if the State remains incapable of proceeding against influential interests, the most sophisticated algorithm will be rendered impotent at the very threshold of practical consequence.

It is here that the concept of institutional intelligence assumes its proper significance.

Institutional intelligence is neither synonymous with technological modernity nor reducible to the possession of immense datasets and formidable computing power. It denotes the capacity of an institution to comprehend information, convert comprehension into considered policy, translate policy into effective action, and evaluate the consequences of that action with honesty and intellectual discipline. It is, in essence, the faculty by which knowledge becomes judgement, judgement becomes public purpose, and public purpose acquires practical efficacy.

Where this faculty is deficient, even the most advanced artificial intelligence may become little more than a formidable instrument entrusted to an institution incapable of determining where it ought to be employed, for what reason it should be employed, or towards which legitimate end its power should be directed. The possession of intelligence, whether artificial or institutional, is not in itself proof of wisdom; nor does the capacity to calculate necessarily confer the ability to judge.

Consider, then, a State equipped with the most advanced artificial intelligence, yet burdened by public departments that remain dependent upon labyrinthine paperwork merely to exchange information. Imagine a government in possession of the personal and administrative data of millions of citizens, but unable to transform that abundance of information into coherent, effective policies for the public good. Its technological apparatus may be thoroughly contemporary, whilst its habits of governance remain obstinately antiquated. The contradiction is not merely one of appearance; it is a fundamental failure to reconcile the instruments of modernity with the purposes of responsible government.

There is, moreover, a danger that cannot prudently be dismissed: powerful technologies may not strengthen weak institutions so much as magnify their existing deficiencies. An opaque administrative order, armed with artificial intelligence, may acquire unprecedented means of collecting, correlating, and scrutinising the personal information of millions of citizens, without thereby becoming any more transparent or accountable to them. Its capacity for surveillance may increase exponentially, whilst the restraints upon its exercise of power remain lamentably unchanged.

The distinction is of the utmost importance. Technology does not, by its mere existence, constitute progress. It becomes an instrument of genuine advancement only when governed by ethical discernment, subject to effective legal oversight, sustained by transparency, and directed towards purposes consistent with human dignity and the public interest. Without these safeguards, technological sophistication may coexist with administrative injustice, and computational efficiency may serve ends fundamentally at odds with the welfare of those whom institutions are established to serve.

It follows that the future standing of successful States may depend less upon the magnitude of their artificial-intelligence models, the speed of their processors, or the sheer extent of their data reserves than upon the degree to which they have brought their collective intelligence into harmony with the accelerating capabilities of their technological instruments. The decisive advantage may belong not to the State possessing the most powerful machines, but to the one capable of employing them with the greatest institutional competence, constitutional restraint, and moral discernment.

Governments that deploy artificial intelligence principally to extend surveillance and concentrate authority may acquire the outward appearance of modernity whilst becoming, in their underlying relationship with the citizen, increasingly impersonal and inhumane. By contrast, States that direct its capabilities towards education, healthcare, the administration of justice, institutional transparency, economic opportunity, and the improvement of civic life may transform technological innovation into a genuine instrument of collective welfare.

The distinction, therefore, is not between those who embrace technology and those who reject it. It is between those who mistake technological power for the fulfilment of public purpose and those who understand that the value of an instrument must ultimately be judged by the ends it serves. A

government may possess extraordinary computational resources and yet remain deficient in justice; it may accumulate unprecedented quantities of information and yet fail to understand the people whose lives that information represents. The challenge is not merely to acquire greater power, but to cultivate the wisdom necessary to exercise it responsibly.

Thus, the central question of the twenty-first century is not simply how far artificial intelligence may advance beyond the intellectual capacities of human beings. The more consequential question is whether humanity itself will become more judicious in its

When the Pain of Children Touched the Corridors of Power

By: Mudassar Chuhdary



Sometimes, a few words spoken by a child can break the silence of the corridors of power. Sometimes, a tear in a child's eye can remind an entire nation of its responsibilities. Something of this nature unfolded at the inauguration of Danish School Islamabad on 18 October, when children who had battled deprivation, endured hardship and continued to dream of a better future shared their stories with Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif. As he listened to their accounts, the Prime Minister was visibly moved to tears. It was more than an emotional moment; it was a reminder of a painful reality: countless children in Pakistan possess the talent and determination to succeed, yet remain deprived of opportunities simply because their families lack the financial means to support their ambitions.

One child struggles to continue his education while collecting scrap from rubbish heaps. Another, the daughter of a hardworking tailor, overcomes considerable hardship on her journey towards becoming a doctor. The son of a martyr dreams of supporting his ailing mother, while an orphan from Balochistan looks to education as a means of finding his identity, purpose and place in society. These are different stories, yet they raise the same fundamental question: should a child's future be determined by the poverty of their parents, or should ability, hard work and determination determine how far that child can go The Danish Schools initiative seeks to offer an answer to this question. At the heart of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's educational vision is the belief that poverty should never become an insurmountable barrier between a talented child and a promising future. The real significance of this vision, however, lies not merely in the construction of educational institutions, but in the broader national principle that Pakistan's future depends on providing its children and young people with education, skills, confidence and genuine opportunities to succeed.The Prime Minister's tears gave the ceremony a deeply human dimension. Yet the greatest hope associated with that emotional moment is that the children's aspirations will be translated into reality through sound policies, adequate resources and sustained action. The most meaningful expression of a leader's concern for the younger generation is to ensure that no talented child is left behind simply because their family cannot afford school fees, books or the cost of higher education.

The Danish Schools initiative was conceived around the idea that talented children from disadvantaged and underprivileged backgrounds should have access to quality education, regardless of their families' financial circumstances. The inauguration of Danish School Islamabad represents a further step in advancing this vision. It is not simply the opening of another educational institution; it is an affirmation of the principle that quality education must not remain the privilege of a particular social or economic class.

Across Pakistan, thousands of children possess remarkable intelligence, potential and determination but are unable to access quality education. Some are compelled to contribute to household expenses at an early age. Others struggle to afford books, uniforms and transport, while many girls are unable to continue their studies because their families cannot meet the associated costs. For these children, an educational opportunity can represent the difference between a future constrained by poverty and one shaped by choice, dignity and achievement.The educational vision associated with Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif rests on the principle that economic deprivation should not permanently obstruct a child's abilities. Poverty does more than limit material resources; it restricts choices, undermines confidence and narrows the horizons of young people. A child may possess intelligence, discipline and ambition, but without qualified teachers, suitable learning facilities, books and access to further education, that potential may never be fully realised.

No let-up in campaign against Indian-sponsored terrorists: Field Marshal

The meeting came amid a resurgence of terrorism in K-P. Security assessments presented to the federal cabinet showed that terrorist incidents in the province had increased by 195 per cent between March 2024 and September 2026, with police and security personnel bearing the brunt of attacks.

On Thursday, four police personnel, including a Counter-Terrorism Department deputy superintendent of police, were martyred in an exchange of fire with armed men in Karak. In a separate incident in Bannu, two civilians were injured in a remote-controlled bomb explosion.

Pakistan plans Manhattan-style development in Islamabad, invites Saudi investors

■ **Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi announces plans for a modern residential and recreational project in Islamabad, offering Saudi investors streamlined approvals and new investment opportunities**



Our Correspondent

ISLAMABAD

Pakistan plans to develop a Manhattan-style residential and recreational project in Islamabad and has invited Saudi investors to explore investment opportunities in the country, Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi said on Friday.

Addressing the Saudi Real Estate Expo, Naqvi said the proposed development would feature residential and other facilities arranged around a central park, forming part of plans to introduce modern urban development in the federal capital.

He said the government also intended to improve Islamabad's safari park by increasing the number of animals and expanding recreational facilities to attract more visitors.

Naqvi said Pakistan offered considerable opportunities for investment in the recreational and real estate sectors, urging Saudi investors to participate in projects aimed at expanding the country's urban infrastructure and leisure facilities.

One-window operation to accelerate investment

The interior minister said the government would introduce a one-window operation to simplify the investment process and facilitate project approvals.

Under the proposed arrangement, the authorities would seek to complete approvals and related formalities within days rather than weeks or months, reducing delays for investors.

The initiative is intended to make investment procedures more efficient and improve the ease of doing business for domestic and foreign investors.Naqvi said the government was taking steps to facilitate investors and accelerate the approval process for development projects.

Efficient regulatory procedures are particularly important for large-scale real estate developments, which often require multiple approvals and coordination among government departments.A streamlined system could help investors navigate administrative requirements more easily, although the practical impact would depend on the implementation of the proposed mechanism.



Istanbul: 23 October, 2026 - Group photo of the Foreign Ministers of Pakistan, Türkiye, Saudi Arabia, and Egypt ahead of the commencement of the 6th R4 meeting, in Istanbul.

Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Turkey and European Powers seek Hormuz reopening

WEB DESK

ISTANBUL

Foreign ministers from eight European and Middle Eastern countries met in Istanbul on Friday in an unprecedented format for talks on reopening the Strait of Hormuz and crises across the Middle East.

Ministers from Britain, France and Germany -- the so-called E3 -- as well as Italy met counterparts from Turkey, Saudi Arabia, Pakistan and Egypt to discuss the Palestinians, Yemen, Hormuz -- a crucial trade route blocked in the Iran war -- and ways to end the Russia-Ukraine conflict.

The talks began at an Istanbul hotel overlooking the Bosphorus, after separate meetings of top European diplomats and diplomats from regional countries.

French Foreign Minister Jean-Noel Barrot said a new escalation between Iran and the United States "would create nothing but losers and would undoubtedly have very serious consequences for hydrocarbon prices".

CM Maryam orders ban on sale of 20kg wheat flour bags across Punjab

● **Says only 10kg flour bags will be brought to market. Orders strict monitoring of borders to curb wheat smuggling:**

NEWS REPORTER

LAHORE



.Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz on Friday reviewed the fluctuation of prices of daily commodities in Lahore and ordered to ban 20kg wheat flour bags across the province, saying only 10-kilogram bags will be brought into the market,

CM Maryam issued the order while presiding over a special meeting in Lahore to review the prices of edible goods. All commissioners and deputy commissioners participated through video link. During the meeting, a comprehensive briefing was given to the chief minister about the fluctuation of prices of daily commodities.

The chief minister directed that 10-kilogram flour bags be sold in the in the market and that the sale of 20kg bags should be halted.

On this occasion, Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz directed strict monitoring of inter-provincial borders to curb smuggling of wheat.All the deputy commissioners were directed to meet the wheat-sowing target, and orders have been issued to ensure the cultivation of wheat on government land.

Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz stated that under the 'Numberdar', 'Mare-rearing', and 'Own Farm, Own Livelihood' schemes, wheat will be cultivated on all the designated land. She also issued directives for effective measures to regulate the sale of loose milk in accordance with hygiene and safety standards.

The chief minister also issued directives for taking measures to ensure availability of bananas, apples, and dates at controlled prices during the holy month of Ramadan

"Every deputy commissioner will ensure storage of bananas, apples, and dates in cold storage as per requirements in their respective areas," she added.



Marriyum Aurangzeb, Chinese diplomat discuss cooperation in Punjab

■ **Punjab Minister Marriyum Aurangzeb and China's Deputy Head of Mission discuss CPEC, economic growth, smog control, healthcare and education, with an air quality conference planned for next year.**

Staff Reporter

LAHORE

Punjab Senior Minister Marriyum Aurangzeb met with the Chinese Deputy Head of Mission to discuss ways to strengthen Pakistan-China friendship and expand cooperation in CPEC, economic development, law and order, technology transfer, environmental protection, health and education.

Aurangzeb said relations between Pakistan and China went beyond diplomacy, describing them as a strong bond of love, trust and friendship extending across families and generations. She called the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) a historic milestone in bilateral ties and said former prime minister Nawaz Sharif had played a key role in advancing the project.

She said Punjab had set a target of achieving business-friendly economic transformation by 2029 under Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif. A comprehensive strategy was being developed to increase exports, promote value addition and attract investment.

The senior minister said an international-level air quality conference would be organised next year with China's cooperation. Punjab has increased the number of air quality monitoring stations to 69, with a target of establishing 100 stations.

Aurangzeb said Punjab was taking year-round measures to combat smog, drawing on Beijing's successful model. The government was focusing on environmentally friendly technologies and effective monitoring, while promoting the use of super seeders and balers to discourage the burning of crop residues. She added that efforts were also underway to promote modern methods of turning agricultural waste into economic resources.

The minister said Punjab was promoting green energy and electric mobility under the chief minister's leadership.

Centre assures Rs160 billion in funds for KP, says Governor Faisal Kundi

● **KP governer announced that a special compensation package had been approved for the families of marty**

Staff Reporter

PESHAWAR



Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor Faisal Karim Kundi has said the federal government has assured the province of Rs160 billion in funding, adding that additional funds would also be provided if the provincial government makes a further request.

Addressing a press conference in Peshawar alongside Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Information Adviser Samar Haroon Bilour, Kundi described Thursday as a significant day in the province's history, referring to a national Apex Committee meeting chaired by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif.

The meeting was attended by the prime minister, the field marshal and federal ministers, while the provincial chief secretary briefed participants on the overall situation in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, the governor said.

Kundi added that the meeting discussed the province's challenges, wheat-related issues and other key matters. He said transparency would be ensured in government postings and transfers, while a zero-tolerance policy would be adopted against corruption.

The governor also announced that a special compensation package had been approved for the families of martyrs. He thanked Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and the field marshal, saying the government aimed to build a stronger and more developed Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.Commenting on the performance of government employees, Kundi said officials drawing salaries without performing their duties would be required to fulfil their responsibilities. He stressed that the government must ensure public servants deliver work in return for their salaries.

Sardar Muhammad Yousaf Registers 21 More Ziyarat Group Organizers, Total Reaches 282

● **Federal Minister distributes registration certificates to newly authorized companies and stresses quality services, pilgrims' safety, and transparent management of Ziyarat travel.**

Muzaffar Ahmed Bhatti

ISLAMABAD



Federal Minister for Religious Affairs Sardar Muhammad Yousaf distributed registration certificates to 21 more Ziyarat Group Organizers at a ceremony held at the Ministry of Religious Affairs, bringing the total number of authorized Ziyarat Group Organizers in Pakistan to 282.The ceremony was attended by Joint Secretary and Head of the Dawah and Ziyarat Section Shahbaz Mustafa, Deputy Secretary Dr. Shahid ur Rehman Marth, Section Officer Ashar Mahmood, Rana Muhammad Mujahid Khan, Syed Mujab Rizvi, and representatives of the newly registered companies.

The companies had completed all mandatory requirements, including security clearance, security deposits and other necessary documentation. Registration certificates had previously been issued to 261 companies.Congratulating the newly registered organizers, Federal Minister Sardar Muhammad Yousaf emphasized the need to ensure the provision of quality facilities to Pakistani pilgrims visiting holy sites in Iran, Iraq, Syria and other countries. He urged the experienced organizers to prioritize pilgrims' convenience, safety and proper travel arrangements.The minister said that, in line with the Prime Minister's vision, the Ministry of Religious Affairs, in collaboration with the National Information Technology Board (NITB), was developing a Management Information System (MIS) for Ziyarat Group Organizers. The system would integrate company records, agreements and a mechanism for addressing complaints.He said the initiative aimed to improve transparency and monitoring of Ziyarat services while ensuring better standards of facilities for Pakistani pilgrims.

Lahore to celebrate Basant 2027 from March 12 to 14

■ **Lahore will celebrate Basant from March 12 to 14, 2027. Kite flying will be allowed in permitted areas under government rules, with digital registration mandatory for manufacturers.**

STAFF REPORTER

LAHORE



The three-day Basant festival will be celebrated from March 12 to 14, 2027, in Lahore as a new notification has been issued.

Deputy Commissioner Lahore Captain (retd) Ali Ijaz issued the notification following approval from the Punjab government.

Kite flying will be conditionally permitted within Lahore's district limits, except in designated prohibited areas.

The notification stated that only kites and kite strings meeting the standards and requirements prescribed by the government may be used during the festival.

It further allows the manufacturing of kites and kite strings from September 5, 2026, to March 14, 2027. Digital registration has also been made mandatory for manufacturers involved in the production of kites and strings.

PSL 12 will expand to six more venues for first time: Naqvi

● HBL PSL 12 roadmap confirmed: Direct signings open: Player auction Set for 23 January: Tournament will feature 44 matches over 46 days, from 18 March to 2 May 2027

SPORTS REPORTER

ISLAMABAD



The HBL Pakistan Super League on Friday confirmed the pre-season roadmap for its 12th edition and the journey begins today, with Direct Signings now open across all eight franchises, According to a PCB statement released in Lahore, the player-movement calendar, from Direct Signings to the Player Auction on 23 January 2027, has been locked in. HBL PSL 12 will run from 18 March to 2 May 2027, featuring 44 matches across 46 days, played across five to six venues.

The window opens today and runs until 23 November 2026. Each franchise may directly sign one marquee player who did not feature in HBL PSL 10 or HBLPSL 11.

In a significant step towards strengthening Pakistan's cricketing pipeline, the PCB has formally aligned its domestic competition calendar with the HBL PSL pre-season cycle.

The National T20 Gold and National T20 Silver tournaments will serve as the primary talent-identification and player-pathway events ahead of the HBL PSL 12 Player Auction - offering outstanding domestic performers a clear and direct route from national circuit cricket into the country's premier T20 franchise league, and onward to national team consideration.

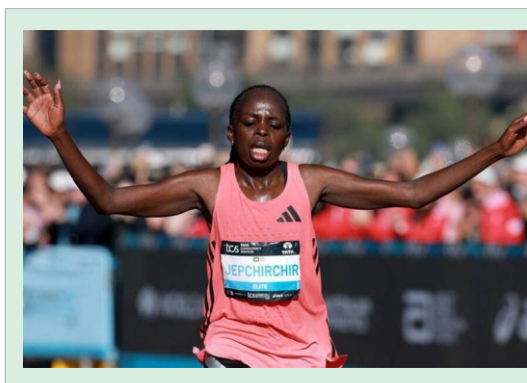
A Franchise workshop will be scheduled next week to finalise the deadline for Player Retentions, Pre-Auction Trade Window, Player Auction Rules and Playing Conditions.

"HBL PSL is Pakistan cricket's biggest stage, and Season 12 will be its most ambitious yet. HBL PSL 11 ended before a record crowd, and we are building on that momentum by taking the league to more cities than ever before. The roadmap we have finalised and are partially announcing today gives every stakeholder, from franchises and players to commercial partners and broadcasters, the certainty to plan at the highest level. With the foundations now in place, we are looking forward to an exciting season."

HBL PSL CEO Salman Naseer:

"For the first time, HBL PSL will go to five to six venues, bringing the league closer to fans across Pakistan and giving more cities the chance to host the best of T20 cricket. From today, the race to build the best squad for HBL PSL 12 is on. Every Direct Signing, every trade, every retention decision over the coming weeks will shape the teams that take the field in March. We look forward to a season that takes this league further than it has ever gone."

Further PCB announcements will follow in the weeks ahead.



Hammer blow for Kenya as world marathon champ Jepchirchir suspended For doping

SPORTS DESK

Kenya

In a fresh hammer blow for Kenyan athletics, world marathon champion Peres Jepchirchir has been provisionally suspended for doping, the Athletics Integrity Unit (AIU) announced Friday.

The highly decorated 33-year-old Kenyan, who won Olympic gold in the COVID-delayed Tokyo Games in 2021, was suspended after an out-of-competition sample tested positive for banned blood booster EPO.

An athlete is provisionally suspended while their case is investigated.

Jepchirchir joins more than 140 Kenyan athletes, including current women's marathon world record-holder Ruth Chepngetich, who have been suspended or banned by the AIU since 2017.

The AIU said Jepchirchir's out-of-competition sample had been collected in Kenya prior to her recent Sydney Marathon victory.

Haider Ali says govt has Yet to give him recognition he deserves



SPORTS REPORTER

ISLAMABAD

Pakistan's decorated para-athlete Haider Ali has appealed to the federal and Punjab governments to provide greater recognition and support to para-sports, saying that despite winning major international medals for the country, he has yet to receive the appreciation and backing he believes his achievements merit.

"I have always faced injustice in this regard. I have not received the love and government support that I should have been given," Haider Ali said in a message following his silver-medal performance in the discus throw at the 2026 Asian Para Games in Nagoya, Japan.

The four-time Paralympic medallist urged authorities to recognise his accomplishments on a par with those of other celebrated Pakistani athletes, stressing that sustained institutional support was essential to help him continue competing at the highest level.

"Everyone can see the attention being given to sports in Punjab. I want the chief minister to extend similar attention to the National Paralympic Committee and para-athletes," he said, also appealing to Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif to ensure greater support for athletes with disabilities.

Ali pointed to his record of international success, including a gold medal at the Tokyo 2020 Paralympics, a bronze at Paris 2024 and gold at the previous Asian Para Games. He noted that his earlier Asian Para Games gold was Pakistan's only gold medal at that edition, yet he felt his achievements had not received adequate recognition.

Despite his disappointment, Ali acknowledged the Pakistan Sports Board's cooperation and expressed gratitude to Pakistan WAPDA, his federation and the National Paralympic Committee for their support. He also thanked the media for highlighting para-athletes' performances, saying coverage helped motivate athletes and bring their achievements to the public's attention.

The athlete revealed that an injury sustained during training had threatened his participation in Nagoya. He specifically thanked ACTIVIT CEO and Director National Hospital DHA Lahore, Rd. Rizwan Aftab Ahmed for facilitating his treatment, which enabled him to recover and compete.

"Thanks to the treatment, I was able to compete and win a medal for my country. I am deeply grateful to Rd. Rizwan and his team of specialist doctors for helping me recover, regain my fitness and deliver this medal-winning performance. They deserve immense credit for their invaluable support," he said, adding that he had trained extensively in his hometown of Gujranwala to prepare for the continental event.

Barcelona eye Clasico statement against Real Madrid

● Flick's side look to extend their advantage despite defensive injuries

Sports Desk

BARCELONA

For weeks La Liga leaders Barcelona have been eagerly awaiting Sunday's Clasico as a chance to stretch the gap between themselves and rivals Real Madrid to a massive nine points.

Some turbulence in the final approach to the clash at Camp Nou has complicated the picture for Hansi Flick's Spanish champions, who suffered their first defeat of the season at Paris Saint-Germain in the Champions League .

By contrast Real Madrid have won four consecutive matches, thrashing RB Leipzig and starting to look, for the first time since Jose Mourinho's arrival this summer, like a team.

Despite that, the equation remains favourable for Flick. With Raphinha fit again and teenage winger Lamine Yamal enjoying a state of grace, Barcelona will be confident of building on their six-point lead over third-placed Madrid.



A Clasico often proves a fork in the road. Last season Madrid won the first meeting against Barcelona but Vinicius Junior's outraged reaction at being substituted pulled apart the fragile seams of Xabi Alonso's new era.

The Basque coach was ousted little over two months later, and his replacement Alvaro Arbeloa was unable to stop Madrid finishing a second straight season without winning a major trophy, while Barca retained the Spanish title at a canter.

On Sunday Brazil international Vinicius is suspended. Even aside from his underwhelming performances, his absence may help Madrid in terms of providing a clearer path for Mourinho.

"Vinicius's four-match suspension was seen within Real Madrid more as a solution than a problem," wrote Spanish daily AS.

Mourinho has largely deployed all of his team's stars when available, despite the difficulty it poses in terms of a cohesive game plan and finding balance between attack and defence.

Sadaf, Iram shine in must-win match to put Stars in final of National Women's T20 Tournament

■ Sadaf Shamas' unbeaten half-century and Iram Javed's 47 took Stars over the line with four balls to spare over Invincibles, who had put 140-6 on the board with the help of Eyman Fatima's 63-ball 85.

SPORTS DESK

ISLAMABAD

The league-stage of the National Women's T20 Tournament concluded with Stars qualifying for the final after a tense last-over chase against tournament favorites Invincibles, while the other finalists Strikers outclassed Conquerors in a one-sided affair as action unfolded on Friday across two venues in Faisalabad.

Sadaf Shamas' unbeaten half-century and Iram Javed's 47 took Stars over the line with four balls to spare over Invincibles, who had put 140-6 on the board with the help of Eyman Fatima's 63-ball 85.

With the loss, Invincibles slipped to third position due to their net run rate being behind Stars as both teams had accumulated eight points each.

Conquerors also had an outside chance of qualifying but they needed a net run-rate



boosting win over the unbeaten Strikers but it was not to be. Strikers defended their total of 123-6 by restricting Conquerors to 63 in 14.1 overs.

At the Bohranwali Ground, Stars lost the coin toss to Invincibles but got off to a dream start as they removed Samiya Afsar and skipper Gull Feroza with just one run on the board. From this juncture, Eyman took it upon herself to lead the fightback as she struck 12 fours and three sixes in her 63-ball 85.

Eyman shared a brilliant 115-run third-wicket stand with Syeda Aroob Shah (29, 32b, 3x4s). Invincibles also benefitted from Sidra Amin's unbeaten 10-ball 12 and Shahar Bano's eight-ball 11. Diana Baig's four overs yielded two for 17, while skipper Tuba only gave away 21 runs for her two wickets.

In reply, Sadaf Shamas anchored the chase with a 59 not out off 52 balls including six fours and two sixes. She lost her opening partner Samina Aftab for 19 off 15 before Yusra Amir also departed.

With Stars 61-2, Sadaf and Iram put on 76 runs and did not let Invincibles get back in the game despite leg-spinner Aroob bowling her four overs for only 15 runs and left-arm pacer Tasmia Rubab taking 2-19 in her three overs. Left-arm wrist-spinner Rida Aslam also picked 1-26 in her four overs. Stars reached the target with four balls to spare.

Hashimoto sweeps to gymnastics world all-around title

▪ He finishes 1.799 points clear of China's Yang Haonan



SPORTS DESK

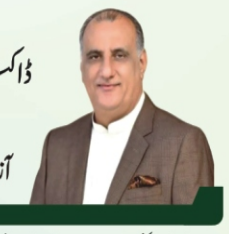
ROTTERDAM

Japan's Daiki Hashimoto successfully defended his men's individual all-around title at the Artistic Gymnastics World Championships in Rotterdam ahead of China's Yang Haonan and Britain's Joe Fraser.Having already claimed team gold the previous day, the 25-year-old from Narita secured his seventh world title in the Netherlands and his fourth all-around crown in a row.He took it by a comfortable margin, finishing 1.799pts ahead of Yang. It was the biggest winning margin in a men's all-around at an Olympics or a worlds in 13 years.Hashimoto is a worthy successor to fellow Japanese, the elegant Kohei Uchimura, who won a record six consecutive world all-around titles between 2009 and 2015.Initially trailing the unflappable Yang, and despite a modest start on the first two apparatuses (floor exercise and rings), the three-time Olympic champion eventually surged to victory thanks to two outstanding performances on the parallel bars and the horizontal bar.



World champion Marc Marquez topped the timesheets in an incident-packed first practice at the Australian MotoGP on Friday ahead of Raul Fernandez and Jack Miller who both took nasty tumbles.





ڈاکٹر محمد نجیب خان
صدر
آزاد جموں وکشمیر

آج 24 اکتوبر، آزاد جموں وکشمیر کے 79 ویں یوم تاسیس کے تاریخی اور پُر وقار موقع پر، میں آزاد جموں وکشمیر کے عوام، مقبوضہ جموں و کشمیر کے اپنے بہادر بھائیوں اور بہنوں اور دنیا بھر میں مقیم کشمیریوں کو دلی مبارک باد پیش کرتا ہوں۔ آج کا دن ہماری تاریخ میں محض ایک یادگار دن نہیں، بلکہ قربانی، عزم، حوصلے اور آزادی کے لیے ہمارے اسلاف کی بے مثال جدوجہد کی روشن علامت ہے۔ 24 اکتوبر 1947ء کو آزاد حکومت ریاست جموں وکشمیر کا قیام ان عظیم قربانیوں کا ثمر تھا جو ہمارے آباؤ اجداد نے آزادی، عزتِ نفس اور حق خودارادیت کے حصول کے لیے پیش کیں۔ آج ہم اُن عظیم شہداء، مجاہدین آزادی اور بانیانِ آزاد کشمیر کو خراجِ عقیدت پیش کرتے ہیں جنہوں نے اپنی جانوں کا نذرانہ دے کر آزادی کی شمع روشن کی۔ یومِ تاسیس ہمیں یہ حقیقت بھی یاد دلاتا ہے کہ ہماری جدوجہد کا بنیادی مقصد ابھی نتیجہ خیز تکمیل ہے۔ آزاد جموں وکشمیر کا خطہ تحریک آزادیٔ کشمیر کی ایک عظیم امانت ہے، اور اس امانت کا تقاضا ہے کہ ہم اپنے اُن بھائیوں اور بہنوں کو کبھی فراموش نہ کریں جو مقبوضہ جموں وکشمیر میں اپنے بنیادی حقوق اور حق خودارادیت کے حصول کے لیے پُرعزم ہیں۔ ہم مقبوضہ جموں وکشمیر کے عوام کی استقامت، حوصلے اور قربانیوں کو سلام پیش کرتے ہیں۔ ہم عالمی برادری، بالخصوص اقوامِ متحدہ سے مطالبہ کرتے ہیں کہ وہ مسئلہ جموں وکشمیر کے منصفانہ اور پُرامن حل کے لیے اپنی ذمہ داریاں پوری کرے اور کشمیری عوام کو اقوامِ متحدہ کی متعلقہ قراردادوں کے مطابق حق خودارادیت دلانے میں اپنا مؤثر کردار ادا کرے۔ ہم سمجھتے ہیں کہ جنوبی ایشیا میں پائیدار امن، استحکام اور خوشحالی کا راستہ مسئلہ کشمیر کے منصفانہ حل سے ہو کر گزرتا ہے۔ اس موقع پر میں حکومتِ پاکستان، پاکستان کی تمام سیاسی قوتوں اور پاکستانی عوام کا تہہ دل سے شکریہ ادا کرتا ہوں، جنہوں نے ہر مشکل گھڑی میں کشمیری عوام کی سیاسی، سفارتی اور اخلاقی حمایت کی ہے۔ بحیثیت صدر آزاد جموں وکشمیر میرا پختہ یقین ہے کہ قومی اتحاد، آئین وقانون کی بالادستی، مضبوط ادارے اور عوامی خدمت ہی ایک مستحکم اور خوشحال معاشرے کی بنیاد ہیں۔ ہمیں سیاسی اختلافات سے بالاتر ہو کر ریاست اور عوام کے وسیع تر مفادات کے لیے متحد ہونا ہوگا۔ اختلافِ رائے جمہوری معاشروں کا حسن ہے، لیکن قومی مفادات، ریاستی وقار اور عوام کی فلاح و بہبود پر ہم سب کو یکجا ہونا چاہیے۔ میں اس تاریخی موقع پر تمام سیاسی قیادت، ریاستی اداروں، اہلِ علم، اساتذہ، نوجوانوں، سول سوسائٹی اور زندگی کے ہر شعبے سے تعلق رکھنے والے افراد سے اپیل کرتا ہوں کہ وہ آزاد جموں وکشمیر کا امن، رواداری، انصاف اور ترقی کا متحالی خطہ بنانے کے لیے اپنا کردار ادا کریں۔ آج ہم اپنے شہداء کی قربانیوں کو یاد کرتے ہوئے یہ عہد کرتے ہیں کہ ہم اُن کے خوابوں کو فراموش نہیں کریں گے۔ ہم اپنی آزادی کی قدر کریں گے، اپنے اداروں کو مضبوط بنائیں گے، اپنے عوام کے حقوق کا تحفظ کریں گے اور اپنی آنے والی نسلوں کے لیے ایک بہتر، محفوظ اور خوشحال مستقبل کی بنیاد رکھیں گے۔ ہماری منزل امن ہے، ہمارا راستہ اصولوں اور انصاف کا راستہ ہے، اور ہماری جدوجہد کشمیری عوام کے جائز اور مسلمہ حق خودارادیت کے حصول تک جاری رہے گی۔ آیئے، اس یومِ تاسیس پر ہم سب مل کر یہ عہد کریں کہ ذاتی مفادات سے بالاتر ہو کر ریاست کی عزت، عوام کی خدمت اور کشمیر کے روشن مستقبل کے لیے اپنی تمام تر توانائیاں وقف کریں گے۔ اللہ تعالیٰ ہمارے وطن کو امن، اتحاد، استحکام اور خوشحالی عطا فرمائے، ہمارے شہداء کے درجات بلند فرمائے، اور کشمیری عوام کو آزادی، انصاف اور باوقار مستقبل کی منزل سے ہمکنار فرمائے۔



افتخار گیلانی
وزیراعظم
آزاد حکومت ریاست جموں وکشمیر

وزیراعظم آزاد حکومت ریاست جموں وکشمیر افتخار گیلانی کا یوم تاسیس کے موقع پر اپنے پیغام میں پوری قوم کو مبارک باد پیش کرتے ہوئے کہا ہے کہ آج کا دن اہلیانِ جموں وکشمیر اور پاکستان کے لیے ایک تاریخی، اہم اور مبارک دن ہے۔ یومِ تاسیس آزاد جموں وکشمیر کے موقع پر اُن عظیم رہنماؤں، مجاہدین، سیاسی کارکنوں اور شہداء کو سلامِ عقیدت پیش کرتا ہوں جنہوں نے آزادی کی خاطر بے مثال جدوجہد کی اپنا گھر بار چھوڑا اور اپنی جانوں کے نذرانے تک پیش کیے۔ یہ دن ہمیں اپنے اُن عظیم اسلاف کی بے مثال قربانیوں کی یاد دلاتا ہے، جنہوں نے ڈوگرہ حکمرانوں کے ظلم و ستم، بے پناہ طاقت کے خلاف نامساعد حالات اور بے سروسامانی کے باوجود اس خطے کی آزادی اور اسکے پاکستان کے ساتھ الحاق کے لیے جدوجہد کی۔ آج ہمیں آزادی کی جو نعمت حاصل ہے، وہ ہمارے بزرگوں کی لازوال قربانیوں کا ثمر ہے۔ تاہم، ہماری ریاست کا ایک حصہ آج بھی بھارتی تسلط میں ہے، جہاں کشمیری عوام ظلم و جبر کا سامنا کر رہے ہیں۔ تحریک آزادیٔ کشمیر کے دوران لاکھوں کشمیری اپنی جانوں کا نذرانہ پیش کر چکے ہیں۔ بھارتی قابض افواج کے مظالم اور کالے قوانین کے باعث خواتین کی عصمت دری، بچوں کی یتیمی، نوجوانوں کی معذوری اور ہزاروں کشمیریوں کو گمنام قبروں میں دفن کیے جانے جیسے دل خراش واقعات تاریخ کا حصہ بن چکے ہیں۔ میں مقبوضہ جموں وکشمیر کے اپنے مظلوم بھائیوں اور بہنوں کو یقین دلاتا ہوں کہ آزاد جموں وکشمیر کے عوام اُن کی جدوجہدِ آزادی اور الحاقِ پاکستان کی تحریک میں اُن کے ساتھ کھڑے ہیں۔ ہم تحریکِ آزادیٔ کشمیر کے پرچم کو کبھی سرنگوں نہیں ہونے دیں گے اور اپنے کشمیری بھائیوں اور بہنوں کی آزادی کے لیے ہر ممکنہ سطح پر اپنی آواز بلند کرتے رہیں گے۔ تحریکِ آزادیٔ کشمیر ہماری اولین ترجیح ہے۔ عالمی برادری اور بین الاقوامی فورمز پر کشمیری عوام کا مقدمہ بھرپور انداز میں پیش کرتے رہیں گے۔ اقوام متحدہ اور عالمی برادری سے مطالبہ کرتے ہیں کہ وہ سلامتی کونسل کی قراردادوں پر عمل درآمد یقینی بنانے اور کشمیری عوام کی امنگوں کے مطابق مسئلہ کشمیر کے منصفانہ اور پُرامن حل کے لیے مؤثر کردار ادا کریں۔ پاکستان کی سیاسی و عسکری قیادت، بالخصوص وزیراعظم پاکستان میاں شہباز شریف اور سپہ سالار افواجِ پاکستان فیلڈ مارشل عاصم منیر کا شکریہ ادا کرتا ہوں، جنہوں نے ہمیشہ کشمیری عوام کی سیاسی، اخلاقی اور سفارتی حمایت کی اور عالمی سطح پر مسئلہ کشمیر کو بھرپور انداز میں اجاگر کیا۔ معرکۂ حق میں بھارتی جارحیت کا منہ توڑ جواب دے کر افواجِ پاکستان نے ایک بار پھر ثابت کیا کہ پاکستان آزاد جموں وکشمیر اپنے دفاع اور قومی وقار پر کوئی سمجھوتہ نہیں کرے گا۔ تحریک آزادیٔ کشمیر کے ساتھ ساتھ آزاد جموں وکشمیر کی تعمیر وترقی، عوامی خوشحالی اور بنیادی سہولیات کی فراہمی بھی ہماری حکومت کی اہم ترجیحات میں شامل ہیں۔ پاکستان مسلم لیگ ن کے ترقیاتی ویژن کے مطابق ہم ریاست کو ترقی و خوشحالی کی راہ پر گامزن کرنے کے لیے بھرپور اقدامات کر رہے ہیں۔ نوجوانوں کے لیے روزگار کے مواقع پیدا کرنے، عوام کا معیارِ زندگی بلند کرنے اور پائیدار ترقی کو فروغ دینے کے لیے اپنی تمام تر صلاحیتیں اور وسائل بروئے کار لائیں گے۔ ڈوگرہ عہد ہو یا بھارت کا جموں وکشمیر پر غاصبانہ قبضہ کشمیریوں نے اس کے خلاف ہمیشہ مزاحمت کی۔ انہوں نے اپنی اور ریاست کی آزادی کے لیے کبھی بھی مصلحت نہیں کی اور نہ ہی کبھی کسی قسم کا سمجھوتہ کیا جس کی بدولت ساری دنیا میں کشمیریوں کی جدوجہدِ آزادی کی حمایت موجود ہے۔ آج کے اس تاریخی دن اس عزم کی تجدید کرتے ہیں کہ پاکستان کی اخلاقی، سیاسی اور سفارتی حمایت سے اپنے شہداء کے مشن کو جاری رکھیں گے اور اُن کی قربانیوں کو کبھی فراموش نہیں کریں گے۔ ہمیں یقین ہے کہ کشمیری عوام کی جدوجہد، قربانیاں اور عزمِ آزادی ضرور رنگ لائے گا اور وہ دن ضرور آئے گا جب مقبوضہ جموں وکشمیر کے عوام بھارتی تسلط سے آزاد ہو کر پاکستان کا حصہ بنیں گے اور ایک باوقار زندگی بسر کریں گے۔

24 اکتوبر: یومِ تاسیس آزاد حکومت ریاست جموں وکشمیر
تاریخ، جدوجہد اور قومی ذمہ داریاں



تحریر: شوکت علی ملک

24 اکتوبر آزاد جموں وکشمیر کی تاریخ کا ایک اہم اور یادگار دن ہے۔ یہ دن ہمیں تحریکِ آزادیٔ کشمیر کی تاریخ، اسلاف کی قربانیوں، حصولِ حق خودارادیت کی جدوجہد اور اس عزم کی یاد دلاتا ہے جس کے تحت 1947ء میں آزاد حکومت ریاست جموں وکشمیر کا قیام عمل میں آیا۔ یوم تاسیس محض ایک تاریخی واقعے کی یاد منانے کا نام نہیں، بلکہ یہ اپنی قومی شناخت، اجتماعی ذمہ داریوں اور تحریکِ آزادیٔ کشمیر سے وابستگی کا اعادہ کرنے کا موقع بھی ہے۔ تاریخی پس منظر اور قیامِ آزاد حکومت ریاست جموں وکشمیر کی تاریخ قربانیوں، سیاسی جدوجہد اور حقِ خودارادیت کے مطالبے سے عبارت ہے۔ 1947ء میں برصغیر کی تقسیم کے دوران ریاست جموں وکشمیر کا مسئلہ ایک اہم سیاسی اور تاریخی مسئلہ بن کر سامنے آیا۔ ریاست کے مختلف علاقوں میں پیدا ہونے والی سیاسی بے چینی، عوامی ردِعمل اور مسلح جدوجہد نے حالات کو ایک نئے مرحلے میں داخل کر دیا۔ 24 اکتوبر 1947ء کو آزاد حکومت ریاست جموں وکشمیر کے قیام کا اعلان کیا گیا۔ اس اقدام نے ریاست کے ان علاقوں میں ایک سیاسی انتظام کی بنیاد فراہم کی جو بعد ازاں آزاد جموں وکشمیر کہلائے۔ اس تاریخی پیش رفت کے پس منظر میں ان لوگوں کی جدوجہد اور قربانیاں شامل تھیں جنہوں نے اپنے سیاسی مستقبل کے تعین اور ریاست کے تنازع کے حل کے لیے مختلف محاذوں پر کردار ادا کیا۔ یوم تاسیس ہمیں یاد دلاتا ہے کہ تاریخ صرف ماضی کے واقعات کا مجموعہ نہیں ہوتی؛ وہ قوموں کے حال کی رہنمائی اور مستقبل کی سمت متعین کرنے میں بھی اہم کردار ادا کرتی ہے۔ تحریکِ آزادیٔ کشمیر اور حقِ خودارادیت مسئلہ کشمیر آج بھی جنوبی ایشیا کے اہم اور دیرینہ تنازعات میں شمار ہوتا ہے۔ کشمیری عوام کے حقِ خودارادیت کا سوال اس مسئلے کا بنیادی پہلو ہے۔ پاکستان اور بھارت کے درمیان اس تنازع پر مختلف مؤقف موجود ہیں، جبکہ اقوام متحدہ کی سلامتی کونسل کی قراردادیں بھی مسئلہ کشمیر کے تاریخی اور سفارتی پس منظر کا حصہ ہیں۔ کشمیری عوام کی سیاسی، سفارتی اور انسانی جدوجہد کا ایک اہم مقصد ایسا پُرامن اور منصفانہ حل ہے جس میں ان کے بنیادی حقوق اور سیاسی مستقبل کے تعین کے حق کو اہمیت حاصل ہو۔ اس مقصد کے لیے ضروری ہے کہ مسئلہ کشمیر کو عالمی سطح پر مؤثر انداز میں اجاگر کیا جائے، مستند تاریخی حقائق پیش کیے جائیں اور کشمیری عوام کی آواز کو ذمہ داری اور تسلسل کے ساتھ دنیا تک پہنچایا جائے۔ آج کے دور میں سفارت کاری، مؤثر ابلاغ، ڈیجیٹل میڈیا اور عالمی رائے عامہ کی تشکیل کو غیر معمولی اہمیت حاصل ہے۔ اس لیے تحریکِ آزادیٔ کشمیر کے تاریخی تناظر اور موجودہ حالات کو نئی نسل تک درست معلومات کے ساتھ منتقل کرنا وقت کی اہم ضرورت ہے۔ آزاد حکومت: تحریک کے بیس کیمپ اور عوامی امنگوں کا مرکز ریاست جموں وکشمیر کا تاریخی پس منظر تحریکِ آزادی سے وابستہ ہے۔ ابتدائی دور میں حکومت کو محدود وسائل، غیر معمولی حالات اور انتظامی مشکلات کا سامنا رہا، تاہم وقت گزرنے کے ساتھ ریاست میں انتظامی، عدالتی، قانون ساز اور حکومتی اداروں نے ارتقائی مراحل طے کیے۔ سرکاری تاریخی ریکارڈ کے مطابق 24 اکتوبر 1947ء کو قائم ہونے والی حکومت کے پہلے صدر سردار محمد ابراہیم خان تھے۔ آج آزاد جموں وکشمیر کے عوام کی توقعات بھی ہے۔ تحریکِ آزادیٔ کشمیر اور حقِ خودارادیت وسیع ہو چکی ہیں۔ عوام تعلیم، صحت، روزگار، فراہمی، عوامی مسائل کی نشاندہی، اداروں کی کارکردگی پر تعمیری نظر اور معاشرے میں ذمہ دارانہ مکالمے کو فروغ دینا ہے۔ یوم تاسیس کے موقع پر تاریخی حقائق کی درست تشریل اور نوجوان نسل میں شعور کی بیداری کو بھی خصوصی اہمیت دینی چاہیے۔ تحریکِ آزادی کے ساتھ وابستگی اور عالمی سطح پر مؤثر آواز مسئلہ کشمیر کے پُرامن حل کے لیے ریاست کی مضبوطی صرف اس کے تاریخی تشخص سے نہیں بلکہ قانون کی حکمرانی، انصاف کی فراہمی، شفافیت، میرٹ، معاشی مواقع اور شہریوں کے اعتماد سے بھی وابستہ ہوتی ہے۔ آزاد کشمیر میں ایسی حکمرانی کو فروغ دینا ضروری ہے جو عام شہری کو اپنے حقوق کے تحفظ اور بہتر مستقبل کی امید دے۔ نئی نسل، تعلیم اور جدید دور کے تقاضے: آج دنیا تیزی سے بدل رہی ہے۔ مصنوعی ذہانت، ڈیجیٹل ٹیکنالوجی، جدید صحافت اور سوشل میڈیا نے معلومات کے تبادلے کے طریقوں کو تبدیل کر دیا ہے۔ آزاد کشمیر کی ترقی کے لیے ضروری ہے کہ نوجوانوں کو معیاری تعلیم، فنی تربیت، جدید ٹیکنالوجی اور کاروبار کے مواقع فراہم کیے جائیں۔ نوجوان کسی بھی معاشرے کا قیمتی سرمایہ ہوتے ہیں۔ ان کی صلاحیتوں کو شعبہ سمت دینے کے لیے جامعات، تعلیمی اداروں، سرکاری محکموں اور نجی شعبے کے درمیان مؤثر رابطہ ہونا چاہیے۔ آزاد کشمیر کے نوجوانوں کو جدید مہارتوں سے آراستہ کر کے نہ صرف مقامی سطح پر روزگار کے مواقع پیدا کیے جا سکتے ہیں بلکہ انہیں قومی اور بین الاقوامی سطح پر بھی اپنی صلاحیتوں کے اظہار کا موقع دیا جا سکتا ہے۔ اس کے ساتھ ساتھ ذرائع ابلاغ کی ذمہ داری بھی اہم ہے صحافت کا بنیادی فریضہ درست معلومات کی فراہمی، عوامی مسائل کی نشاندہی، اداروں کی کارکردگی پر تعمیری نظر اور معاشرے میں ذمہ دارانہ مکالمے کو فروغ دینا ہے۔ یوم تاسیس کے موقع پر تاریخی حقائق کی درست تشریل اور نوجوان نسل میں شعور کی بیداری کو بھی خصوصی اہمیت دینی چاہیے۔ تحریکِ آزادی کے ساتھ وابستگی اور عالمی سطح پر مؤثر آواز مسئلہ کشمیر کے پُرامن حل کے لیے ریاست کی مضبوطی صرف اس کے تاریخی تشخص سے نہیں بلکہ قانون کی حکمرانی، انصاف کی فراہمی، شفافیت، میرٹ، معاشی مواقع اور شہریوں کے اعتماد سے بھی وابستہ ہوتی ہے۔ آزاد کشمیر میں ایسی حکمرانی کو فروغ دینا ضروری ہے جو عام شہری کو اپنے حقوق کے تحفظ اور بہتر مستقبل کی امید دے۔ نئی نسل، تعلیم اور جدید دور کے تقاضے: آج دنیا تیزی سے بدل رہی ہے۔ مصنوعی ذہانت، ڈیجیٹل ٹیکنالوجی، جدید صحافت اور سوشل میڈیا نے معلومات کے تبادلے کے طریقوں کو تبدیل کر دیا ہے۔ آزاد کشمیر کی ترقی کے لیے ضروری ہے کہ نوجوانوں کو معیاری تعلیم، فنی تربیت، جدید ٹیکنالوجی اور کاروبار 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یوم تاسیس
آزاد حکومت ریاست جموں وکشمیر

ہم اس عزم کی تجدید کرتے ہیں کہ

تحریک آزادی کشمیر کے بیس کیمپ کی حکومت مقبوضہ جموں وکشمیر کی آزادی کے لئے اپنی تمام تر توانائیاں بروئے کار لائے گی

دفاعِ وطن کیلئے قربانیاں دینے والے افواجِ پاکستان اور تحریک آزادی کشمیر کے شہداء کو خراجِ عقیدت پیش کرتے ہیں

یوم تاسیس کے موقع پر مقبوضہ جموں وکشمیر میں ہندوستانی ظلم و جبر کا شکار مظلوم کشمیریوں کو سلام پیش کرتے ہیں

وہ دن دور نہیں جب مقبوضہ کشمیر ہندوستان کے تسلط سے آزاد ہو کر پاکستان سے الحاق کرے گا اور دونوں اطراف کے کشمیری مل کر آزادی کا جشن منائیں گے

محکمہ اطلاعات آزاد حکومت ریاست جموں وکشمیر

AK-86N/10/2026

Published by Almass Ayoub Sabir, Printed at Zero Point Printer, House No. 31, New Gulzar-e-Quaid, Rawalpindi. Editor: Atif Saeed.