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dailyvomqta@gmail.com Chief Editor: Syed Abdul Wadood Shah Quetta

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"Establishing peace in Balochistan is our responsibility":

Balochistan govt committed to counter terrorism; protect lives of citizens: CM Bugti

CM Bugti commends Police, FC for successful anti-terror operation in Khuzdar

QUETTA, (APP):Balochistan Chief Minister (CM) Mir Sarfraz Bugti has lauded the Police and Frontier Corps (FC) for carrying out a successful security operation in the Karkh area of Khuzdar district, describing the action as a clear reflection of the state's unwavering resolve against terrorism.

In a statement issued on Tuesday, the CM said the successful operation demonstrated the commitment of law enforcement agencies to maintaining peace and eliminating threats posed by terrorist elements. He emphasized that timely intelligence sharing and close coordination among security institutions remained crucial in the ongoing fight against terrorism.

Referring to the operation in which five terrorists were killed, Bugti said the outcome was the result of effective action against elements seeking to undermine peace and stability in the province. He noted that such operations underscored the professionalism, preparedness and joint strategy of law enforcement agencies working to safeguard public security.

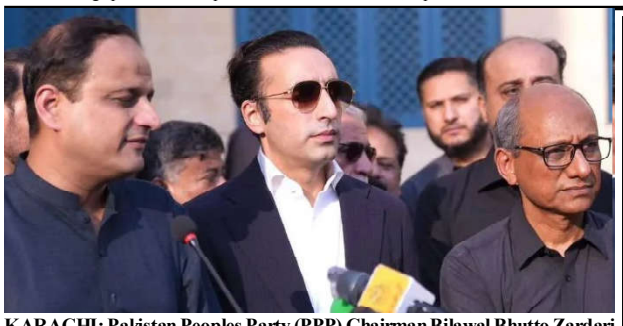
The CM warned that any attempt to disrupt peace in Balochistan would be dealt with firmly in accordance with the law. He reiterated the government's determination to take all necessary measures to counter terrorism and protect the lives and property of citizens.

Sarfraz Bugti paid tribute to the officers and personnel of the Police and FC, acknowledging their valuable services and sacrifices in maintaining law and order. He said the security forces were performing an essential role in ensuring the safety of the public and preserving peace throughout the province.

"Establishing peace in the province is our responsibility, and protecting the people is our commitment," the chief minister said, adding that the sacrifices rendered by the guardians of peace would not be allowed to go in vain.



ISLAMABAD: Jamat e Islami chief Hafiz Naeemur Rehman called on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif.



KARACHI: Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari addressing media during the inaugurating ceremony of the expansion of the public-private project to uplift the Dr Kaikhusrow Nanabhoy Spencer's Eye Hospital.

Pakistan consistently highlights Kashmir issue at every important int'l forum: Governor

QUETTA, (APP): Governor Balochistan Jaffar Khan Mandokhail on Tuesday said that the observance of Kashmir Black Day on October 27 aims to raise voice against India's occupation of Jammu and Kashmir and to reaffirm support for the Kashmiri people's right to self-determination in accordance with United Nations resolutions.

In a message issued on the occasion of Kashmir Black Day, the governor said that solidarity was being expressed with Kashmiri brothers and sisters across the country through gatherings, rallies and public demonstrations.

Jaffar Mandokhail said that Pakistan has consistently highlighted the Kashmir issue at every important international forum, including the United Nations, and has continued to advocate for a just resolution of the longstanding dispute.

He stressed that the international community bears the responsibility of playing an effective role in resolving the Kashmir issue and taking practical measures to ensure that the Kashmiri people are granted their fundamental right to self-determination.

The governor noted that Pakistan stands against oppression and injustice faced by subjugated nations and marginalized communities around the world, including those in Kashmir and Palestine.

He emphasized the need to draw global attention to the hardships and human rights concerns faced by the Kashmiri people and to build effective international public opinion in support of their legitimate rights.



QUETTA: Provincial Home Minister Mir Ziaullah Langove chairs an important meeting regarding law and order situation in Surab.

Plight of children "more alarming" in situations of foreign occupation: Pakistan tells UN

UNITED NATIONS, (APP): With record-breaking 38,000-plus grave violations against children verified in 2025 worldwide, Pakistan has called for stronger accountability for perpetrators and safeguards against digital harm to ensure their safety and prosperous future.

"These offences are not happening in a vacuum but point towards deeper problems: a callous disregard for International Humanitarian Law; indiscriminate targeting of children, in some cases exacerbated by AI-integrated weapons; expanding vortex of global conflicts; and crisis of confidence in multilateral diplomacy to provide the requisite redressal and protections," Acting Pakistan Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Usman Jadoon, told the UN Security Council on Monday

The 15-member Council's meeting on 'Children in Armed Conflict' was organized by Greece, which holds the Council presidency for the month of October, in commemoration of the thirtieth anniversary of the founding of the children and armed conflict mandate.

The mandate for the Special Representative for Children and Armed Conflict was created by the General Assembly, following the landmark 1996 report, which pointed out that children were no longer bystanders to war but its targets.

In his remarks, Ambassador Jadoon reaffirmed Pakistan's firm commitment to the CAAC (Children and Armed Conflict) mandate aimed at the safety and protection of children. The Pakistani envoy pointed out that the plight of children was "more alarming" in the situations of foreign occupation," noting that more than 12,000 verified incidences of grave violations, including killing and maiming, occurred only in one year in the Occupied Palestinian Territory. "Countless Palestinian children bear scars of perpetual psychological trauma – others suffer with amputated limbs and, spinal and head injuries – truly heartbreaking," he added. As a State Party to the Convention on the Rights of Child and its Optional Protocol on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict, he said, Pakistan remains committed to implementing their provisions, including by establishing a National Commission for Rights of Children and appointing a national focal person. In this regard, Ambassador Jadoon calls for full respect for International Humanitarian Law and International Human Rights Law by parties to armed conflict; just settlement of situations of armed conflict and foreign occupation in accordance with international law

PM, JI agree to form committee on petroleum relief, levy reduction

ISLAMABAD, (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday met a Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) delegation led by Ameer Hafiz Naeem ur Rehman, with both sides agreeing to set up a joint committee to finalise recommendations on petroleum relief measures and the petroleum levy.

The delegation included JI leaders Liaquat Baloch, Syed Farasat Shah, Nasrullah Randhawa and Inayatullah, a Prime Minister's Office news release said. The prime minister thanked the delegation for choosing the path of dialogue on the issue of petroleum prices.

The JI delegation presented its position on the abolition of the petroleum levy and relief for the public.

The prime minister said he fully understood the burden placed on the people by the increase in petroleum prices. He said the government was making vigorous diplomatic efforts to resolve the regional crisis so that the situation could return to normal.

Bilawal calls for 'full stop' on conversations about new provinces

KARACHI, (Monitoring Desk): Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Chairman Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari on Tuesday said the Sindh Assembly had already made its decision on the issue of further administrative units in the province and the debate should now be put to rest.

Speaking to reporters after inaugurating the expansion of the public-private project to uplift the Dr Kaikhusrow Nanabhoy Spencer's Eye Hospital, established in 1938, in Karachi, Bilawal reiterated the PPP's stance against division of Sindh.

"The party and the Sindh Assembly have repeatedly made their position clear [against division of Sindh]," Bilawal said, adding that the province's elected representatives had reflected the will of its people. He maintained that only the people of Sindh could decide the province's future and that no one else had the right to determine the fate of its cities. The PPP scion also called for an end to the debate, saying the people had already settled the matter.

During the media briefing, the Bhutto scion reponded in negative, when asked whether the federal government or its coalition partners had discussed proposals to amend the 18th Amendment through a proposed 28th Constitutional Amendment.

IHC orders enforcement of laws against online harassment, blackmail

ISLAMABAD, (Agencies): The Islamabad High Court (IHC) has ordered enforcement of relevant laws to prevent online harassment, blackmailing and the unauthorised publicity of private material, redressing the complaints relating to misuse of electronic and digital media. The court directed the federal government, the Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA), the Pakistan Electronic Media Regulatory Authority (Pemra) and the National Cyber Crime Investigation Agency (NCCIA) to submit comprehensive reports on the implementation of laws aimed at preventing online harassment, blackmail and unauthorised dissemination of private content. Justice Arbab Muhammad Tahir, in an interim order in a petition filed by Dr Raana Ahsan, also directed the federal government to convene a meeting of the relevant institutions to identify gaps in coordination, clarify their statutory responsibilities and devise a coordinated mechanism for effective enforcement of the applicable laws.

Turkish parliament committee approves Makkah Agreement on joint defence with Pakistan, KSA

ANKARA, (Agencies): The Turkish parliament's Foreign Affairs Committee on Tuesday approved a bill to ratify the Makkah Joint Defence Agreement between Türkiye, Saudi Arabia and Pakistan. The bill was approved following deliberations during which Deputy Foreign Minister Levent Gumrukcu answered lawmakers' questions about the agreement. Speaking at the committee meeting, Gumrukcu said the agreement aimed to strengthen regional security through cooperation and collective defence. "The Makkah agreement is not only an extension of the special friendly relations between the three countries, but also a concrete product of the regional ownership increasingly needed in our region," Gumrukcu said. He recalled that the agreement was signed in Makkah on August 7 by Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, Saudi Crown Prince and Prime Minister Mohammed bin Salman, and Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif. He said Saudi Arabia and Pakistan had completed their domestic ratification procedures and submitted the required official notifications. Gumrukcu said the agreement marked an initial step toward establishing a regional security framework based on cooperation and collective defence, adding that the three countries aimed to take responsibility for addressing regional challenges rather than waiting for solutions from outside the region.

Aspirations of Kashmiri people cannot be extinguished through coercion or repression: PM

ISLAMABAD, (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif reiterated that Pakistan's position on Jammu and Kashmir remained clear, consistent and principled, emphasizing that lasting peace and stability in South Asia cannot be achieved without a just and peaceful resolution of the Jammu and Kashmir dispute, in accordance with the relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions and the aspirations of the Kashmiri people.

In a message on Jammu and Kashmir Black Day, being observed on October 27, he said, "On this Jammu & Kashmir Black Day, the Government and people of Pakistan reaffirm their unwavering solidarity with the people of IIOJK."

The prime minister reaffirmed that Pakistan would continue to extend its moral, diplomatic and political support to the Kashmiri people, and to advocate for their legitimate rights at every national and international forum.

Seventy-nine years ago, he said Indian forces landed in Srinagar, marking the beginning of a tragic chapter in the history of Jammu and Kashmir, one that continues to cast its long shadow over the region to this day.

Since then, the people of Jammu and Kashmir have been denied the realization of their inalienable right to self-determination, as affirmed in the relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions, he added.

The prime minister observed that the people of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) had endured immense hardship, suffering and repression. Yet their courage, resilience and unwavering resolve to secure their fundamental rights remain undiminished. The sacrifices of successive generations stood as a powerful testament to their enduring commitment to freedom, dignity and justice, he added. "India has continued its efforts to suppress legitimate political expression and silence the voices that represent the aspirations of the Kashmiri people.



QUETTA: A delegation of Qaumi Paigham-e-Aman Committee led by Allama Tahir Ashrafi called on Balochistan Governor Jaffar Khan Mandokhail.

No illegal act can strip Kashmiri people of their inalienable right to self-determination: DPM

ISLAMABAD, (APP): Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar on Tuesday calling the resolve of 250 million Pakistanis for the Kashmir cause unshakable, pledged that Pakistan would continue its relentless moral, political and diplomatic support on all global forums until the people of Jammu and Kashmir achieve their right to self-determination.

The deputy prime minister, addressing the participants of a solidarity walk held in connection with the Kashmir Black Day, denounced India for launching an unprovoked and illegal occupation of Jammu and Kashmir on this day in 1947, violating international law and UN Security Council commitments.

The Day is observed annually by Pakistan and Kashmiris worldwide to mark the day Indian troops first landed in Srinagar in 1947.

"Every year, the world is reminded of the illegal step India took on October 27, 1947. India's actions remain condemned across the globe, and freedom for Kashmir remains the heartbeat of every Pakistani," Dar said.

Held at Constitution Avenue here, the rally started from the Foreign Office and culminated at D-Chowk. The event was attended by federal ministers, parliamentarians, leaders of the All Parties Hurriyat Conference, civil society activists and students from different educational institutions of the federal capital.

Highlighting Pakistan's proactive diplomatic engagement, the deputy prime minister underscored that the government, under Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, had revived the Kashmir cause on international platforms.

He highlighted the reactivation of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) Contact Group on Jammu and Kashmir, and said that its meetings were now consistently convened alongside major international summits, including the recent 81st session of the UN General Assembly (UNGA) High-Level Week in New York.

Deputy Prime Minister Dar strongly condemned the unilateral actions taken by the Indian government on August 5, 2019.



Turkish parliament's Foreign Affairs Committee meeting held to approve the bill to ratify the Makkah Joint Defence Agreement between Türkiye, Saudi Arabia and Pakistan.

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Rough waters

Amongst the key potential triggers for fresh conflict in South Asia is water. The Indian state is behaving in an increasingly irresponsible manner in this regard, constantly testing Pakistan's patience. The latest provocation has come in the form of a statement given by the Indian water minister, who was reported as saying that "not a single drop of water" will flow to Pakistan, and that his country was "actively working" to achieve this sinister aim, as per the directives of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. While it is true that current Indian infrastructure may not have the capacity to block water, statements such as these are not mere rhetoric. New Delhi is actively pursuing projects that will affect Pakistan's water rights. The Chenab-Beas Link Tunnel Project, which will divert significant volumes of water, is a major example of India taking practical steps to deliver on its stated aims of choking Pakistan's water. The Foreign Office has noted that deliberate attempts to block Pakistan's water could amount to acts of war, adding that this country would "vigorously" defend its water rights.

The transboundary water-sharing regime that survived for over six decades between both countries in the shape of the Indus Waters Treaty was scuttled by India last year after the Pahalgam episode. New Delhi had been seeking to re-negotiate the treaty for some time, and India used the Pahalgam episode to withdraw from its commitments regarding shared waters. Pakistan has a legal and moral right as the lower riparian to defend its share of transboundary waters, while the IWT cannot be held in abeyance unilaterally. Instead of upholding an internationally recognised treaty, India is trying to wiggle out of its commitments, while at the same time intending to inflict maximum harm on Pakistan by blocking its share of water. If New Delhi continues on the current trajectory, renewed conflict in the subcontinent is a strong possibility as Pakistan cannot surrender its water rights. The more advisable path would require India to return to the table and discuss water and all other outstanding issues as a responsible state. But that does not seem likely in the near future, considering the combative rhetoric coming from New Delhi. As things stand, Pakistan must defend its water rights at all forums, and prevent India from delivering on its threats.

Enemy mine

Zarrar Khuhro

Every now and then there seems to emerge a vague if transient realisation in some small circles of American polity that Israel may not be their absolutely best buddy of all time ever. The issue of the Israeli attack on the USS Liberty in 1967 in which 34 US soldiers were killed — suppressed and spared from scrutiny as it was — pops up now and then, as it did a few days back on the anniversary of the attack when US Rep Thomas Massie brought up the attack on the floor of the US House of Representatives and spoke about how this was a deliberate and planned assault by the Israelis and not, as Israel has long argued, a case of 'mistaken identity'.'

Survivors of the attack have long argued this, with Richard Brooks, the Liberty's chief engineer echoing other survivors by saying "it was a deliberate attack. They knew who we were. They wanted to sink us". Naturally, the usual suspects popped up, calling it a conspiracy theory and accusing Massie and others of — you guessed it — antisemitism. After all, how could the self-declared Jewish state ever work against its greatest benefactor?

But just a week before Massie spoke came another report, this time purportedly from the US Department of Defence, warning that the threat of Israeli spying on the US had gone from 'high' to 'critical', which is the highest such level.

Israel, the report claimed, has been working overtime not only to collect information on US military personnel in the Gulf but also singled out high-level personnel such Steve Witkoff who was the lead negotiator in the nuclear talks along with the Pentagon's top policy official Elbridge Colby and his deputy Michael DiMino. As part of these efforts, attempts were also made by Israel's Shin Bet to plant listening devices of US secret service vehicles. US defence personnel working in Israel also reported discovering spyware on their phones.

It's by no means the first time Israel has tried to snoop on the US, despite a 1951 agreement to do nothing of the sort.

The report also states that Israeli spying was stepped up in late 2024 when the first reports of a rift between the Joe Biden administration and Israel began to emerge and only increased with the election of Donald Trump. Naturally, Israel denies all this.

This isn't an aberration, despite having agreed not to spy on each other, America has always been a prime target for Israeli espionage. Sometimes the secrets obtained were military, such as when Tel Aviv used the services of Jewish Hollywood producer Arnon Milchan to obtain nuclear secrets for Israel. Milchan wasn't shy about his involvement, having later said to Robert DeNiro: "Yeah I did that. Israel's my country."

Obtaining information about US policy towards Middle Eastern states, and especially Iran, has always been a priority; in 2006, Lawrence Franklin, a former Defence Department official, was sentenced to 13 years in prison for handing over classified documents related to US policy on Iran to two Jewish members of the American Israeli Public Affairs Committee which, apart from its main job of bribing US politicians, apparently also has a sideline in espionage.

Defeat is an orphan and AIPAC fired the two employees and the US government obediently dropped charges against them without even the token exercise of a plea bargain. As for Franklin, his sentence was commuted to 10 months of house arrest and 100 hours of community service. And everyone lived happily ever after.

The poster boy of Israeli espionage in the US remains Jonathan Pollard. Rejected by the CIA for extensive drug use, debt and lying on his resu--mé, Pollard beca--me an intelligence analyst for the US navy just two years later and promptly had his security clearance cancel-led for divulging classified information to South Afri--ca.

Still managing to keep his job, he agreed to provide US secrets to Israel for $1,500 a month and a diamond engagement ring for his fiancée.

The information he provided included, but was not limited to, US intelligence on Pakistan's nuclear programme, Soviet defence systems, and of course, the military readiness of Arab nations. Once caught, Pollard was tried and sentenced to life, with then US defence secretary Caspar Weinberger saying he could not "conceive of a greater harm to national security than that caused by [Pollard]". Pollard, to no one's surprise, was eventually paroled.

He returned to Israel which, after denying any links with him, gave him a hero's welcome with none other than Benjamin Netanyahu receiving him at the airport. It also seems that Israel tried to get him released during Bill Clinton's tenure by leveraging alleged recordings of Clinton and Monica Lewinsky in an attempt to blackmail a sitting US president. Epstein files, anyone? With friends like these, who needs enemies?.

100, not out…

F.S. Aijazuddin

This is not an obituary. Far from it. It is a tribute to someone who is completing the first 100 years of a crowded, productive life.

Syed Babar Ali was born on June 30, 1926. For the past few weeks, numerous relatives, friends, business associates and educationists have joined in celebrating his centenary. Eleven years ago, in 2015, he recounted his life in a published memoir Learning from Others. He compressed 89 years of his life into 237 succinct pages.

How does one compact 100 years of his life into 800 words? Yet, perhaps that is what he would wish — to have his life set down on a single sheet of paper. Every Pakistani — the living and the yet unborn — should read this memoir, if they wish to understand who was who, who did what and when, and how a single person has beneficially affected the lives of millions of us Pakistanis.

Syed Babar Ali was born into money. His father Syed Maratib Ali had a flourishing business in Ferozepur and post-1947 in Lahore. That enabled Babar to obtain the best education money could buy — Aitchison College, then Government College in Lahore, University of Michigan in the US, and in time Harvard Business School.

Could it have been the early slur of being "a contractor's son" at the elitist 'Chiefs' College that spurred him to achieve beyond the creditable? Was it being the youngest of four brothers that drove him to seek a separate path for himself in business? Was it the blessings of his parents — particularly his mother the formidable Syeda Mubarik Begum — that tapped him for greatness? All three certainly, and more.

Babar Ali's life runs parallel to the history of Pakistan. He belonged to an age when industrialisation and self-reliance were a national mission. He brought the Swedish Rausing group to Lahore where they established Packages Limited. His friendship with Ruben Rausing and his sons Hans and Gad spawned a number of profitable joint ventures like TetraPak.

Faced with the spectre of Zulfikar Ali Bhutto's blunderbuss nationalisation of the 1970s, Babar Ali agreed to help the subsequent rationalisation by heading the National Fertiliser Corporation of Pakistan (NFC), the second largest corporation after the Pakistan Steel Mills. Between 1974 and 1977, he established three large fertiliser complexes — Pak-Arab Fertiliser expansion in Multan, the grassroots Pak-Saudi Fertilisers in Mirpur Mathelo and the Pak-China plant in Haripur Hazara.

To run them, he set up a training institute at Daudkhel. To handle the huge volume of fertilisers being produced daily for a seasonal offtake, he envisaged the establishment of intermediate storages and a marketing network across four provinces.

In 1977, Babar Ali returned to the private sector, where he applied his talents to social imperatives like the environment and education. He worked closely with and later succeeded Prince Philip as president WWF International. He established the Ali Institute of Education for the training of teachers, and in 1985 he obtained a charter to establish Lums. Over the past 40 years, Lums has provided a generation of managers and successful entrepreneurs who have become the 'steel frame' of organisations here and abroad. With great power comes great responsibility; with great wealth comes beneficence. Through the Babar Ali Foundation, he has amongst other benefactions endowed scholarships at Lums, established the Naqsh School of Art in his ancestral haveli, and at the seedling level, schools for underprivileged children in Syedanwala villa--ge outside Lahore.

Mr Babar Ali has spoken frequently of 'learning from others'. For him, every day is a classroom from which he emerges with newer insights, afresh with ideas. Visiting the milk cooperatives in Indian Gujarat, he felt inspired to develop Pakistan's huge but unorganised milk industry. [Pakistan is the world's 5th largest milk producer, with production of over 65 million tons annually.] He filled this lacuna through a joint venture with Nestlé Milkpak to provide long-life milk in germ-free cartons.

Syed Babar Ali and I worked together closely in the NFC. I recall a meeting in Islamabad to decide on the Pak-Saudi project. The government committee held one opinion, Babar sahib another. "What happens if the plant goes wrong?" they asked.

Babar sahib replied: "You can have my head!" I whispered to him: "You may think your head is worth $200 million. The government clearly does not." Babar sahib prevailed. The rest is fertiliser history.

Syed Babar Ali's contribution to Pakistan is worth multiples of $200m. He once asked me after his brief three-month tenure as interim finance minister in 1993: "Did I achieve anything?" I reassured him: "You showed how it should be done."

His long life is a lesson in how things should and can be done.

A year on, stalemate persists

Maleeha Lodhi

A Year after the May 2025 conflict, the India-Pakistan relationship remains volatile. Diplomacy is frozen. Neither side has sought to break the deadlock. A war of words erupts every so often. Last week, it was over the water dispute. Then it was on the Kashmir dispute at the UN. Bilateral relations are at one of the lowest points in their tortured history.

Last month saw speculation about the revival of dialogue. It was triggered by voices from India calling for talks. RSS general secretary Datta-treya Hosabale urged engagement. A former army chief and ex-head of RAW agreed. Leaders from occupied Kashmir chimed in. Pakistan's foreign ministry spokesman responded quickly but cautiously. Describing this as a "positive development" he said it was the official Indian line that mattered.

Speculation grew that Delhi may be testing the waters with its no-talks posture coming under increasing questioning at home. But it quickly died. There was no official Indian statement. The opposition Congress party attacked the government for "softening" on Pakistan.

India-Pakistan relations snapped back to their default mode of a tense stand-off. In fact, even track two engagement between former officials over the past year has seen no movement.

Just reiterations of familiar positions. Suggestions by the Pakistani side for backchannel communication found no traction from the Indians. The Modi government, they said, was averse to any formal or informal dialogue.

Meanwhile, water has emerged as the new arena of India-Pakistan confrontation. Delhi had suspended the Indus Waters Treaty (IWT) in April 2025, in the immediate aftermath of the terrorist incident in Pahalgam in occupied Kashmir. After the four-day India-Pakistan military clash, Indian officials repeatedly declared Pakistan would not get a single drop from 'India's rivers'.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi vowed to make Pakistan "feel the heat" on the issue. For over six decades, the 1960 treaty had survived wars, confrontations and tensions to provide a framework for water-sharing between the two neighbours. Now its fate hung in the balance. India's weaponisation of water held serious long-term implications for Pakistan, posing an existential threat to its agricultural economy and water security. Its immediate impact was, however, limited. This was because India lacked the infrastructure or enough dams to halt the flow of water or significantly divert it.

Over the past year, Pakistan repeatedly protested against India's use of water as an instrument of coercion and warned any diversion of Indus river flows would be deemed an "act of war". It also sought to draw international attention to the issue. Islamabad pointed out that India's decision to put the treaty into "abeyance" had no legal basis.

The treaty does not allow either party to unilaterally suspend or abrogate it. But Delhi rejected Islamabad's protests and said the treaty would remain suspended "until Pakistan ends its support for cross-border terrorism".

More significantly, the Indian government now says it is "actively working" on Prime Minister Modi's directive to halt water flows to Pakistan. Last week, India's minister of water, C.R. Patil declared that it was being ensured that "not a single drop of water will go [to Pakistan] in coming years". This involves restoring and expanding the capacity of existing reservoirs and creation of new ones.

Delhi announced projects to build canals that will divert water from Pakistan's Chenab river system into the Beas basin. Islamabad called this interference in downstream flows a violation of both the IWT and broader principles of international water law.

The Indian government also unveiled plans for silt flushing from the Salal Dam reservoir on the Chenab river in occupied Kashmir. Islamabad has also objected to this plan which will enable India to increase effective storage and regulate flows in ways that could exceed the IWT's limits. This is not permissible under either the treaty or the 1978 Salal Agreement.

Putting the treaty in abeyance doesn't legally allow India to undertake these two river projects that can threaten irrigation supplies critical for Pakistan's agricultural heartland. But that hasn't stopped Delhi. The two countries also continue to clash over the IWT's dispute settlement mechanism.

For years, they have disagreed with India rejecting and boycotting the Permanent Court of Arbitration at The Hague and ignoring its rulings. It called, instead, for a neutral expert. The IWT provides for both. But Delhi now rejects these mechanisms and has disassociated itself from both. This means there is no avenue or forum to resolve water disputes.

It is not just India's aims to weaponise water that concern Islamabad. Its post-May 2025 moves to rearm itself and upgrade its military capabilities are also consequential for Pakistan. The Modi government raised India's defence budget to a record $85billion this year. It has ordered over a 100 more Rafale fighter jets from France. It also plans to buy an unprecedented number of armed drones and additional S-400 air and missile defence systems.

Missile development and purchases have accelerated. More alarmingly, India is now mating nuclear warheads to missiles and deploying a small number with operational forces in peacetime, according to SIPRI's latest 2026 handbook. This is a dangerous departure from the posture of recessed deterrence adopted by both India and Pakistan, by which they have kept warheads and launchers de-mated.

The current phase of 'no war, no peace' is expected to continue. The Modi government is not interested in resuming any dialogue. In fact, its post-2019 approach to Pakistan is characterised by three key features.

One, that Kashmir is off the negotiating table. Two, the relationship will be seen through the narrow lens of terrorism with Delhi grading Pakistan's 'good behaviour'. And three, diplomatic engagement is a concession Pakistan will have to 'earn'. For Pakistan, these terms are unacceptable. This makes for dim prospects for resumption of formal dialogue anytime soon.

India and Pakistan can't afford another crisis. They have had five in the past 25 years, each one more dangerous than the last. They have to find a way — and mechanism — to prevent the next crisis and manage one if it breaks out.

This urges the need to revive the backchannel between the two countries. It worked between 2019 and 2024. This kept the line of communication open. Today, it is needed even more not just to manage crisis but also explore how old and new disputes can be resolved.

Finance Minister stresses timely follow-up, institutional coordination for AML-CFT framework

ISLAMABAD, (APP): Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb on Tuesday chaired the 19th meeting of the National Executive Committee (NEC) on Anti-Money Laundering and Countering the Financing of Terrorism (AML-CFT).

The NEC is a high-level body responsible for overseeing policy and implementation matters relating to Pakistan's AML-CFT regime, said a press release issued by the Ministry of Finance.

The meeting reviewed compliance with decisions taken at the 18th NEC meeting and progress on Pakistan's AML-CFT regime, including the performance of the Financial Monitoring Unit (FMU), institutional capacity and initiatives involving artificial intelligence and machine learning. The Finance Minister emphasize the importance of regular and timely follow-up and stronger coordination among relevant institutions to ensure effective implementation of the national AML-CFT framework. The NEC considered and approved the proposed revision to the thresholds for Currency Transaction Reports (CTRs) under the framework for analysing Suspicious Transaction Reports (STRs) and CTRs.

The committee also approved the proposed inclusion of Section 28 of the Pakistan Maritime Zones Act, 2023, in Schedule I of the Anti-Money Laundering Act (AMLA). It further approved the inclusion of the Pakistan Virtual Assets Regulatory Authority (PVARA) in Schedule IV of the AMLA. The Committee highlighted the importance of keeping Pakistan's AML-CFT framework responsive to evolving financial risks and emerging technologies, while strengthening the analytical capabilities of relevant institutions.

The Finance Minister underscored the importance of strengthening the FMU's analytical and operational capacity through a clear implementation roadmap with defined timelines.

He emphasized that the NEC serves as an effective strategic forum for strengthening Pakistan's AML-CFT framework.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Kashmir Affairs, Gilgit-Baltistan and States and Frontier Regions Engr. Amir Muqam addressing a gathering on the occasion of Kashmir Black Day, to condemn the Indian atrocities against Kashmiris and the Indian illegal occupation of Kashmir on October 27, 1947.



Palestinian women gather amid the rubble of buildings destroyed by Israeli strikes to mark Palestinian National Women's Day at the Bureij refugee camp in the central Gaza Strip

PM forms high-level committee to steer Pak-Iran gas pipeline out of arbitration impasse, NA told

ISLAMABAD (INP): Petroleum Minister Ali Pervaiz Malik told the Senate on Tuesday that Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif had constituted a high-level committee to work out a mutually acceptable solution to the long-stalled Pak-Iran gas pipeline project, balancing Pakistan's potential financial liability arising from arbitration with its future energy requirements,

Responding to a calling attention notice moved by Senator Talha Mahmood, the minister said the committee was examining the legal, financial and energy dimensions of the project to determine a way forward in Pakistan's national interest.

He said Iran was a "brotherly country" and the leadership of the two countries remained engaged in efforts to reach an amicable settlement acceptable to both sides.

Malik said Iran had already made substantial physical progress on its side of the project, bringing gas from the South Pars field to a major Iranian city near the Pakistani border.

The minister said the matter had gone into arbitration in Paris, making it necessary for Pakistan to assess the potential financial liability associated with the project carefully.

He said the government wanted to avoid further complications arising from litigation and was therefore pursuing a negotiated settlement with Iran.

"The committee is looking at the potential liability facing Pakistan, the implications of litigation and the country's future energy requirements," Malik said, adding that these factors would help determine the way forward on the project.

Responding to concerns over gas-related issues in Balochistan, the petroleum minister said the premier had directed him to engage with provincial stakeholders.

He said another high-level committee, headed by Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar, was examining Balochistan's gas-related problems, including technical and payment issues.

On August 14, Pakistan called on Iran to slash the price of gas by half for it to be supplied through the Iran-Pakistan (IP) pipeline project. It also asked it to lower the gas volume after different sectors in the country showed lack of interest in buying energy supplies at higher prices.

At present, the local distribution companies are providing gas to fertiliser plants and domestic consumers at Rs1,500, or $5.7, per million British thermal units (mmBtu) and Rs1,000, or $3.57, per mmBtu, respectively.

Power producers have expressed their inability to buy imported gas at a price of over Rs2,000/mmBtu, which in dollar terms stands at $7.14. The government has established it as a commercially sustainable market benchmark for the IP gas pipeline. Moreover, authorities said they would push ahead with the project if US President Donald Trump gives a waiver to Iran. The Iran-Pakistan gas pipeline, also known as the Peace Pipeline, was conceived to bring Iranian natural gas to Pakistan to help meet the country's growing energy needs. Iran has already built part of the pipeline inside its territory, while Pakistan failed to complete the project by December 2014. The project has remained stalled for more than a decade, with Pakistan unable to complete its portion.

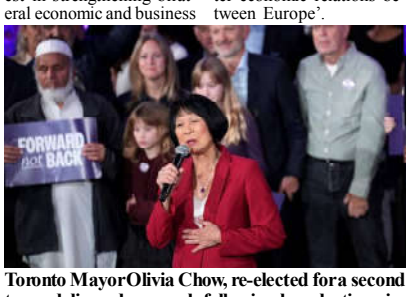
German ambassador hails Pakistan's economic progress, Moody's rating upgrade

ISLAMABAD (APP): Germany's Ambassador to Pakistan, Ms. Ina Lepel, called on Finance Minister Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb here on Tuesday, congratulated Pakistan on the recent upgrade in its sovereign credit rating by Moody's, and appreciated the country's economic progress despite regional geopolitical challenges.

She appreciated the government's ongoing efforts towards economic stabilization and structural reforms, and reaffirmed Germany's continued interest in strengthening bilateral economic and business relations with Pakistan.

She also expressed support for sustained engagement and greater collaboration between German companies and their Pakistani counterparts, according to press release issued by finance ministry.

She also extended an invitation to the Finance Minister to the 19th Asia-Pacific Conference of German Business (APK), to be held in Seoul later this year. The Conference aims to provide a platform for dialogue between business and political leaders and to foster economic relations between Europe'.



Toronto Mayor Olivia Chow, re-elected for a second term, delivered a speech following her election victory in Toronto, Ontario, Canada.

Pakistan to introduce more high-yield crop seeds from China

ISLAMABAD (INP): Pakistan is moving to expand access to high-yield crop seeds from China as it seeks to raise agricultural productivity, strengthen food security and ease mounting pressure on food prices.

In the latest development, Pakistan's Federal Seed Analyst Waqas Amjad signed an agreement with a seed company in Chongqing, China, to facilitate the introduction of additional Chinese crop varieties, including rice, rapeseed, corn, soybeans and vegetables, China Economic Net (CEN) reported on Tuesday.

The move came as Amjad concluded a training programme in China, where he explored cooperation in seed technology and agricultural development.

Pakistan is also considering a series of measures to make it easier for Chinese seed companies to enter the Pakistani market and accelerate the commercialisation of new varieties, Amjad told China Economic Net.

Under the proposed measures, the adaptation testing period for imported seed varieties could be reduced from two years to one, allowing new varieties to reach farmers more quickly.

FCCI hails Moody's upgrade of Pakistan's credit rating

FAISALABAD (APP): Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FCCI) President Farooq Yousuf Sheikh has welcomed Moody's improvement in Pakistan's credit rating and described it as a significant confidence-building development that could strengthen standing of the country among international financial institutions and attract greater foreign investment.

In a statement here on Tuesday, he said the improved rating would help enhance the confidence of global financial institutions and international investors in Pakistan's economy.

He said that foreign exchange reserves of the country had registered a substantial increase, which also reflected improvement in economic governance and overall management of financial affairs. He said that upward revision in the credit rating was an indication of greater economic stability and it could create a more favorable environment for investment and business activity.

The FCCI president particularly highlighted the potential benefits for foreign direct investment, saying that improved international credit standing could encourage foreign investors to explore opportunities in Pakistan with greater confidence. He expressed hope that the positive development would help Pakistan further strengthen its economic position.

2,125,296 smart meters installed across Pakistan

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Ministry of Energy has informed the Senate that a total of 2,125,296 smart meters have been installed across Pakistan's power distribution companies (DISCOs).

According to a written reply submitted to the Senate, the Lahore Electric Supply Company (LESCO) has installed the highest number of smart meters, with 1,153,556 units.

The Gujranwala Electric Power Company (GEPCO) has installed 348,135 smart meters, while the Multan Electric Power Company (MEPCO) has installed 229,719. The Islamabad Electric Supply Company (IESCO) has installed 119,372 smart meters, followed by the Faisalabad Electric Supply Company (FESCO) with 111,948.

The Peshawar Electric Power Company (PESCO) has installed 60,685 smart meters, while K-Electric has installed 50,599.

According to the ministry's written response, the Hyderabad Electric Supply Company (HESCO) has installed 19,620 smart meters and the Sukkur Electric Power Company (SEPCO) has installed 13,432.

Read more: Smart meters to transform residential water usage The Quetta Electric Supply Company (QESCO).



Members of the climate activist group Fossil Free London staged a protest in front of the Norwegian Embassy in London, dressed in 'Vampire Oil Executives' costumes, ahead of Norwegian energy company Equinor's third-quarter earnings announcement.

Issues in Milching Animal Tax collection to be resolved soon

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Local Government Minister Nasir Hussain Shah Tuesday said the issues relating to the collection of the Milching Animal Tax between towns would be resolved at the earliest so that the tax collection mechanism could function more effectively

TENDER NOTICE

TSE # 2627101215551

Balochistan Provincial Assembly Secretariat invites sealed bids as per Balochistan Public Procurement Regulatory Authority (BPPRA) Rules, 2014 from well-reputed, established and experienced firms **FOR PROCUREMENT OF CROCKERY & CUTLERY ITEMS** having registration and active status of NTN and GST with Federal Board of Revenue on the basis of following terms & conditions:

1. The bidder shall not be blacklisted by any of Provincial or Federal Government Department, Agency, Organization or Autonomous Body or Private Sector Organization anywhere in Pakistan.
2. Detailed bidding document can be downloaded from B-PPRA website www.bppra.gob.pk.
3. Single stage two envelope bidding method shall be used as per Rule 41-(3) of the BPPRA Rules, 2014.
4. Contract will be awarded as per the evaluation criteria mentioned in bidding document.
5. Bid can be submitted on or before **THURSDAY, 12th November 2026 (11:00 am)** in the Tender Box at Admin Block, Balochistan Assembly Secretariat. Technical bids will be opened on the same day at **(12:00 pm)** at the Procurement Cell Room # 76 of Balochistan Provincial Assembly Secretariat, Zarghoon Road Quetta. Financial bids of technically qualified bidders will be opened on the same day at **(12:30 pm).**
6. Bidding document fee of Rs.1000/- shall be submitted through Green Deposit Challan in National Bank of Pakistan (Head of Account CO-3870).
7. The bids must accompany Bid Security of fixed amount 40,000/- in the shape of Call Deposit issued from a scheduled bank in favor of Secretary Balochistan Provincial Assembly Secretariat.
8. Bidders shall quote their rates inclusive of all applicable taxes and duties for each and every item enlisted in bidding document/Data sheet.
9. The Balochistan Provincial Assembly Secretariat reserves the right to reject any or all bids as per provisions of B-PPPRA Rules, 2014.

CONTACT INFORMATION:

Telephone Number: 081-9203079 Ext – 375, 376.
Fax Number: 081-9202575
Email Address: bpaprocurement@yahoo.com

Procurement Cell
Balochistan Assembly Secretariat Zarghoon Road Quetta

DPRQ/PRQ No.2059/27-10-2026

www.dpr.gob.pk. @dpr_gob dpr.gob @dgprbalochistan

SBP considering abolishing Rs10 currency note

ISLAMABAD (INP): State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) Deputy Governor Dr Inayat Hussain on Friday told the Senate body that the central bank is considering discontinuing the Rs10 currency note due to its "rising production cost".

Briefing the Senate Standing Committee on Finance committee on the proposed new currency notes, Dr Hussain said the SBP had twice previously attempted to discontinue the Rs10 currency note.

He said the denomination would be abolished when the new currency notes are introduced.

The deputy governor said the existing currency series had been in circulation since printing began in 2005.

He added that new notes with enhanced security features were being planned, with the matter having been discussed twice by the federal cabinet.

Senate food security committee reviews wheat, oilseed policies

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Senate Standing Committee on National Food Security & Research on Tuesday met under the chairmanship of Senator Syed Masroor Ahsan and reviewed irregularities in the recruitment process of the Pakistan Agricultural Research Council (PARC) and National Wheat Policy.

The committee also reviewed National Oilseed Policy, tobacco cultivation and the issue of alleged bogus VRI vaccination in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, said a press release.

The meeting was attended by Senator Poonjo Bheel and Senator Sardar Al Haj Muhammad Umer Gorgaij.

The committee unanimously confirmed the minutes of its previous meeting. An agenda item regarding starred questions was deferred on the request of the movers.

While examining alleged irregularities in PARC's recruitment process, the committee expressed serious concern over the non-submission of the required written reply and relevant record.

The committee was informed that the matter is sub judice.

Al Zarooni calls for expanding UAE-Pakistan trade and investment & tourism ties

KARACHI (APP): United Arab Emirates business magnate and Chairman of Al Zarooni Group, Suhail Muhammad Al Zarooni, has called for expanding trade and investment cooperation between Pakistan and the United Arab Emirates, saying the two countries have significant untapped potential in commerce, industry, real estate, technology, logistics and tourism.

He highlighted the need for joint initiatives to strengthen bilateral ties through increased trade, tourism and people-to-people exchanges.

Speaking during his visit to Pakistan, Suhail Al Zarooni said stronger business-to-business links, simplified investment procedures and greater facilitation for investors could help increase bilateral trade and promote joint ventures.

He emphasized that Emirati citizens hold Pakistan in high regard and share deep affection for the country, urging both sides to focus on fraternity and constructive diplomacy rather than being influenced by negative narratives or irresponsible social media content. "The UAE and Pakistan share decades of brotherhood, and it is vital to safeguard each other's interests, dignity and sentiments," he said.

He called for new avenues of collaboration in trade, industry, real estate, technology, logistics and tourism, stressing that easing investment procedures and encouraging joint ventures could significantly boost bilateral trade.

Suhail Al Zarooni stressed the need for Pakistan to intensify efforts to attract tourists from Arab countries.

Secretary Health reviews polio eradication efforts at NEOC

ISLAMABAD, (APP): Federal Secretary for National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination Momin Agha on Tuesday visited the National Emergency (Immunization) and members of the NEOC Core Group.

During the briefing, the federal secretary stressed the need to sustain progress towards polio eradication, strengthen accountability and improve coordination among relevant sectors to ensure effective implementation of vaccination campaigns.

He also called for enhanced monitoring, timely corrective measures and focused efforts to address gaps in the eradication programme and interrupt poliovirus transmission.

Emphasizing the importance of routine immunisation, Momin Agha said protecting children against polio and other vaccine-preventable diseases required consistent vaccination coverage and strengthened healthcare services.

Reaffirming the government's commitment to making Pakistan polio-free, he urged all stakeholders to maintain close coordination, ensure collective accountability and reach every child with polio vaccination.





The Van Maturation Institute conducted a root dyeing workshop to preserve traditional handicrafts and pass on cultural heritage to future generations.

Misuse of veto undermines UN's credibility: Pakistan

UNITED NATIONS, (Agencies): Pakistan has called for reforms to the veto mechanism of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) to end the 15-member body's "institutional paralysis" and make it more effective and equitable. "The misuse of the veto undermines the Security Council's effectiveness and the credibility of the UN, while giving the permanent five [US, Russia, China, France and UK] unmatched influence throughout the UN system," Gul Qaiser Sarwani, Counsellor/ Political Coordinator at the Pakistan Mission, told the UN General Assembly on Monday.

During a debate on use of the veto, representatives reiterated calls to restructure the UNSC to make it more responsive to its primary role of maintaining international peace and security.

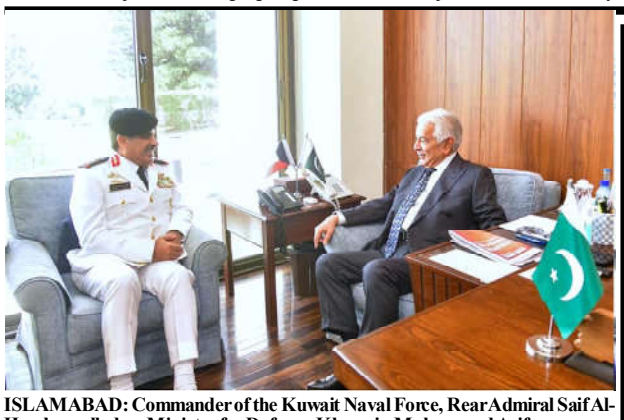
The UNGA had convened in line with resolution 76/ 262, adopted in April 2022, which mandates it to hold a session within 10 working days of a veto being cast in the UNSC. With the campaign of India, Brazil, Germany and Japan for permanent seats on the Council in mind, Sarwani, a counsellor and political coordinator in the Pakistan mission to the UN, said more permanent members and more vetoes would deepen existing inequalities, perpetuate historical privileges, create new centres of power and increase the risk of institutional paralysis.

"Let us be clear: the problems cannot be the solution," he said, highlighting that Pakistan/ Italy-led Uniting for Consensus (UfC) group remains opposed to the addition of any new individual permanent member on an expanded Security Council.

"We believe that the veto should be abolished or at least severely restricted; It must not be expanded," Sarwani said. Pakistan, he said, supported resolution 76/262, saying any measures to restrict or restrain the use of the veto must be consistent with the UN Charter provisions. Regarding the negative power of the veto to "block", Sarwani said Pakistan believes that this can be better balanced by placing restrictions on the use of the veto or by enhancing the number and role of the elected members of the Council through larger representation and thereby changing the threshold for approval of decisions by the Council — to make it more democratic and to serve as an effective check on the use of veto. Opening the meeting, UNGA's Bangladeshi President Khalilur Rahman said that, with 21 such meetings convened as part of the veto initiative, the "mechanism has become an established expression of transparency, accountability and collective responsibility within our organisation". He commended the UNSC for its timely special reports to the General Assembly and its permanent members' participation in these debates, noting that humanity is best served when both organs "operate in balance, each fulfilling its distinct yet complementary responsibilities under the Charter".



ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar addressing the participants of a solidarity walk held in connection with the Kashmir Black Day



ISLAMABAD: Commander of the Kuwait Naval Force, Rear Admiral Saif Al-Hamlan called on Minister for Defence Khawaja Muhammad Asif.

Resolution of Kashmir dispute essential for regional peace, stability: Syedaal

ISLAMABAD, (APP): Deputy Chairman Senate Syedaal Khan Nasar has reaffirmed Pakistan's unwavering support for the people of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK), stressing that their right to self-determination must be ensured in accordance with relevant United Nations resolutions.

In his message on Kashmir Black Day, observed on October 27, Syedaal Khan Nasar said the day serves as a reminder of the suffering and hardships endured by the Kashmiri people since the beginning of India's occupation of Jammu and Kashmir in 1947. He said Pakistan stands firmly with its Kashmiri brothers and sisters in their legitimate struggle for freedom, justice and fundamental rights. He emphasized that the international community must take practical steps to help resolve the longstanding Kashmir dispute.

Kashmir dispute must be resolved in accordance with aspirations of Kashmiri people: Law Minister

ISLAMABAD, (APP): Federal Minister for Human Rights Senator Azam Nazeer Tarar has said that October 27 serves as a reminder of Indian atrocities in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) and the sacrifices made by the Kashmiri people.

In his message on the occasion of Kashmir Black Day, the minister said the Jammu and Kashmir dispute was an international issue and must be resolved in accordance with the aspirations and free will of the Kashmiri people.

He urged the international community to raise its voice against serious human rights violations in the occupied territory and called upon states and international organisations to take appropriate action through relevant international forums.

The minister said lasting peace in the region could not be achieved as long as human rights violations and exploitation continued in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir.

He observed that India had subjected the Kashmiri people to oppression for decades and had attempted to alter the status of the territory through changes in its laws. Pakistan had consistently opposed and condemned these unilateral actions at every forum, he added.

Senator Tarar reiterated that the people of Jammu and Kashmir had the right to determine their own future and that the dispute should be settled in accordance with relevant United Nations resolutions and the freely expressed will of the Kashmiri people. He said the Kashmiri people were entitled to exercise their right to self-determination.

First Lady Asifa reaffirms solidarity with Kashmiri mothers, daughters, children

ISLAMABAD, (APP): First Lady Bibi Asifa Bhutto Zardari on Tuesday reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to extending moral, diplomatic and political support to the people of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) in their pursuit of legitimate rights, including the right to self-determination.

In her message on Kashmir Black Day, observed on October 27, she expressed solidarity with Kashmiri women and children, highlighting the suffering they continue to endure amid the unresolved Jammu and Kashmir dispute.

Recalling October 27, 1947, when Indian forces landed in Srinagar, the first lady said the day marked the beginning of a prolonged period of suffering for the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

She paid particular tribute to Kashmiri women who have endured profound loss and hardship, with many left to raise their children alone following the deaths or disappearances of their husbands and other family members. She stressed that the voices of mothers who have lost their sons, daughters growing up without fathers, and women seeking justice must be heard.

Asifa Bhutto Zardari also drew attention to the impact of prolonged conflict on children, noting that many have grown up amid fear, uncertainty and disruptions to their education and everyday lives.

She emphasised that every child has the right to education, proper healthcare, safe recreational spaces and a future free from fear. She urged the international community, human rights organisations and the United Nations to give serious attention to the emotional and psychological consequences of prolonged conflict on children.

The first lady reaffirmed her solidarity with Kashmiri mothers, daughters and children whose lives have been affected by the conflict, stressing that the rights, safety and future of women and children must remain central to international efforts to address the situation in IIOJK.

She further stated that nearly eight decades after the events of October 27, 1947, the right of the Kashmiri people to self-determination, recognised in relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions, remains unfulfilled. Emphasising the need for lasting peace in South Asia, she called for a resolution of the Jammu and Kashmir dispute in accordance with the aspirations of the Kashmiri people and relevant UNSC resolutions. On Kashmir Black Day, Asifa Bhutto Zardari remembered the mothers waiting for their loved ones, women shouldering the responsibilities of entire families, and children whose futures remain uncertain. She said their sacrifices must not be forgotten. Expressing hope for a peaceful future, she said Kashmiri mothers should be able to raise their children in peace, girls should pursue education without fear, and every Kashmiri child should be able to look towards the future with hope and confidence.She also highlighted the solidarity of the women and children of Pakistan with their Kashmiri counterparts.



QUETTA: Balochistan Governor Jaffar Khan Mandokhail inspects the stalls during the event of best performance awards at SBKWU.

International community's silence over Indian atrocities in IIOJK criminal act

ISLAMABAD, (APP): Federal Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi has reaffirmed Pakistan's unwavering solidarity with the Kashmiri people on Kashmir Black Day, marking 79 years since India's occupation of Jammu and Kashmir on October 27, 1947.

He said the people of Kashmir had not bowed before Indian oppression and continued to stand firm in their struggle for freedom. In his message on the occasion, Naqvi paid tribute to the Kashmiri people for resisting what he described as Indian oppression and said their sacrifices for freedom deserved recognition.

The minister said India's occupation of Jammu and Kashmir on October 27, 1947, marked a dark chapter in history. He added that Indian forces had turned the occupied valley into a place of suffering through state terrorism since 1947.

Naqvi said thousands of Kashmiri youth had sacrificed their lives in the struggle for freedom. He added that the military siege had turned the valley into a prison where voices were being suppressed.

The interior minister said the international community's silence over what he described as Indian atrocities was a criminal act. He stressed that the situation in occupied Kashmir required the attention of the world.



KARACHI: Provincial Minister Mir Saleem Ahmed Khan Khosa inquires about health of Parliamentary Secretary Barkat Ali Rind.

Modernization plan of Gadani Shipbreaking Industry implemented

QUETTA (APP): The modernization project of the Gadani Shipbreaking Industry at a cost of 12 billion under the federal Public Sector Development Programme (PSDP) is being successfully implemented.

These views were expressed on Tuesday by concerned officials in briefing to the Commissioner Lasbella Division Saira Atta during the inspection of the projects.

The officials said in the briefing that the government of Pakistan has started work on the Ship Recycling Green Yard project after ratifying the Hong Kong Convention.

Balochistan Development Authority (BDA) is monitoring each project as the regulatory authority of the project Commissioner Lasbela Division Saira Atta visited different sections of the 100-acre Gadani project site.

Pakistan intensifies efforts to stop poliovirus transmission

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan is intensifying efforts to stop poliovirus transmission by the end of 2026, deploying all available resources and focusing on early detection, high vaccination coverage and mobile populations to achieve the final mile of eradication.

In a media briefing at the National Emergency Operations Centre (NEOC), Prime Minister's Focal Person for Polio Eradication Ayesha Raza Farooq said surveillance data showed that poliovirus was still present in the country, but the surveillance system was effectively detecting its circulation.

She said the government was making sincere efforts to interrupt transmission by the end of this year and make Pakistan polio-free, adding that early detection and repeated vaccination campaigns remained critical to targeting the remaining virus reservoirs.

"Despite a 96 per cent reduction in cases nationwide compared to 2024, positive environmental samples show that the virus is still circulating," she said.

Ayesha Raza Farooq said environmental surveillance had detected ongoing transmission, with 40 per cent of monitored districts reporting positive samples in 2026.

However, she said there had been a steady decline in positive detections, from 417 samples during January-July 2025 to 124 during the corresponding period of 2026.

She stressed that recurrent vaccination campaigns were essential to reaching children in remaining high-risk areas and ensuring that no child was missed, underscoring the importance of continued surveillance and vaccination.

Commissioner directs to achieve anti-polio drive's objectives in Naseerabad

NASEERABAD: Commissioner Naseerabad Division Salahuddin Noorzai has ordered district administrations and health authorities to ensure comprehensive coverage during the forthcoming anti-polio campaign, with 413,788 children across 126 union councils included in the vaccination target.

He issued the directives while presiding over a meeting of the Divisional Task Force on Polio Eradication, instructing officials to complete preparations and execute the campaign according to a comprehensive micro-plan.

The Commissioner stressed that accurate planning and effective field monitoring were essential to achieving the campaign's objectives.

He directed deputy commissioners to personally supervise vaccination activities, assess the performance of field teams and closely monitor coverage as well as security arrangements for vaccinators.

Noorzai warned that negligence or shortcomings would not be tolerated and called for strict implementation of the provincial government's directions throughout the campaign.



SOHBATPUR: Deputy Commissioner Fareeda Tareen leads a solidarity walk held in connection with the Kashmir Black Day

MoFA holds solidarity walk to reaffirm Pakistan's support for Kashmiris

ISLAMABAD, (APP): The Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) on Tuesday held a solidarity walk here on Constitution Avenue to mark the 79th Kashmir Black Day, commemorating the illegal landing of Indian occupation forces in Srinagar on October 27, 1947.

Led by Foreign Secretary Asim Iftikhar Ahmad, the officials of the foreign ministry participated in the walk which culminated at D-Chowk where the leaders including Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar addressed the gathering.



The rally aimed to reaffirm Pakistan's unwavering solidarity with the people of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) in their struggle for justice and freedom. Participants in the walk carried placards and chanted slogans in support of the Kashmiri people's struggle against illegal foreign occupation.

Addressing the rally, Deputy Prime Minister Dar urged the international community to play its due role in alleviating the suffering of the Kashmiri people.



People from different walks of life participate in a rally on the occasion of Kashmir Black Day to express solidarity with the people of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir from Radio Pakistan Chowk, Constitution Avenue, to D-Chowk.

Reforms should involve comprehensive review of DRAP's overall institutional structure: Ahad

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Economic Affairs and Establishment Division Senator Ahad Cheema on Tuesday called for comprehensive structural and policy reforms to transform the Drug Regulatory Authority of Pakistan (DRAP) into a stronger, more independent and empowered regulatory and pricing authority, alongside a review of the existing pricing formula for imported medicines.

Chairing a high-level meeting on drug pricing, the minister emphasized the need to revisit DRAP's existing institutional and governance framework, including its relationship with the Ministry of National Health Services, its decision-making structure.

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