



India continued to commit severe human rights abuses and imposes oppressive laws to tighten its grip over Kashmir's land and resources

Federal Minister for Law, Senator
Azam Nazeer Tarar

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PM Shehbaz credits the approval of the 26th Amendment to all coalition parties

Bilawal Bhutto expresses his commitment to standing with the govt in support of Parliament & democracy

VOM Report

LAHORE: Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari has described the passage of the 26th Constitutional Amendment as historic during a meeting with Prime Minister Mian Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Saturday.

Bilawal Bhutto was accompanied by former prime minister Raja Pervaiz Ashraf, Punjab Governor Sardar Saleem Haider Khan, Syed Naveed Qamar and Murtaza Wahab Siddiqui while Prime Minister's Advisor Rana Sanaullah Khan, National Assembly Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq and Law Minister Senator Chaudhry Azam Nazeer Tarar Advocate were also reported to have attended the meeting.

During the meeting, Bilawal Bhutto emphasised the need to work together for the strengthening of democracy and parliament, stating that the 26th Constitutional Amendment will be effective in curbing undemocratic forces.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif credited the approval of the 26th Amendment to all coalition parties, reaffirming their commitment to public service. He noted that positive economic indicators are leading to a noticeable decrease in inflation.

Bilawal Bhutto expressed his commitment to standing with the government in support of Parliament and democracy.

Four terrorists in two separate operations in KP Province: ISPR

RAWALPINDI: On 26/27 October 2024, four terrorists were killed by the security forces in two separate operations in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province. According to a statement issued by the ISPR on Sunday, an intelligence based operation was conducted in North Waziristan District and after intense exchange of fire, two terrorists including Khariji Insaaf Ullah were killed.

In another encounter in Khyber District, own troops effectively engaged the terrorist location and resultantly two terrorists were killed, while three got injured.

Weapons and ammunition were also recovered from killed terrorists, who remained actively involved in numerous terrorist activities against the law enforcement agencies as well as the innocent civilians.

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



LAHORE: Chairman Pakistan People's Party Bilawal Bhutto Zardari calls on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif. INP

Aurangzeb appreciates diaspora for bolstering Pak-US economic ties



VOM Report

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb appreciated Pakistani diaspora community on their valuable contributions in bolstering economic, business and investment ties between Pakistan and the United States.

During an interaction with diaspora leaders, the minister briefed them on the socio-economic developments in Pakistan and shared details of his weeklong engagements in Washington DC, according to press release issued by finance ministry here Sunday. The minister, during an interaction with Pakistani-American tech entrepreneurs, identified IT as one of the burgeoning sectors of the economy and informed that Pakistan ranked among top 5 countries in terms of freelancing.

He highlighted the contribution of IT sector to the rising exports of the country and informed that digital ecosystem was being enabled through a broad range of legislative, policy, regulatory and operational initiatives.

He expressed satisfaction over the outcome of his engagements with different stakeholders on the sidelines of the Annual Meetings 2024 and underlined the importance of staying the course on reforms.

The minister also met with the President of AIIB, Jin Liqun and acknowledged the Bank's support to Pakistan, particularly in dealing with the aftermath of the devastating floods of 2022.

He recalled his previous visit to China

where he interacted with the management of Peoples Bank of China (PBOC). He indicated that government wanted to diversify its financing base and explore the possibility of issuing a panda bond with partial credit guarantee of AIIB. He added that engaging AIIB as an anchor to support the process would send out a strong signal to the market.

The option of a no-deal roadshow first followed by a deal roadshow was also discussed.

He expressed satisfaction over the progress of portfolio of AIIB projects in Pakistan and further efforts to improve the disbursement of ongoing projects.

On the infrastructure side, he invited AIIB to invest in N-5 (GT Road) reconstruction project and also provide support in terms of program loan for dealing with the impacts of climate change and disaster preparedness.

He also welcomed the upcoming visit of Vice President (Operations) wherein issues of mutual interest would be discussed and portfolio of ongoing projects reviewed and pipeline firmed up.

He invited the President to visit Pakistan which he accepted at mutually convenient dates to be decided later.

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

ISLAMABAD:

Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Mohammad Ishaq Dar on Sunday said that Pakistan remained committed to promoting peace in South Asia and sought constructive relations with all neighbors, however, lasting peace in the region could not be realized without a just and peaceful settlement of the Jammu and Kashmir dispute, in line with the UNSC resolutions and the aspirations of Kashmiri people.

"Pakistan stands in unwavering solidarity with the Kashmiri people in their struggle and will continue to provide its full political, moral and diplomatic support to the realization of their inalienable right to self-determination," the deputy prime minister/foreign minister said on the observance of Kashmir Black Day.

He said October 27 marked a somber turning point in the history of Jammu and Kashmir. On this day, seventy-seven years ago, the Indian forces landed in Srinagar, marking the beginning of a prolonged and painful chapter for the region.

Over the past seven decades, India has employed various strategies to strengthen its control over Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK), he added. However, since August 5, 2019, they had witnessed an accelerated effort to undermine the internationally recognized disputed status of IIOJK and to marginalize the rights and voices of the Kashmiri people.

"The actions taken by Indian authorities, including attempts to alter the demographic and political landscape of the territory, stand in direct violation of the relevant UN Security Council resolutions and the Fourth Geneva Convention. Despite these measures, the resolve of the Kashmiri people remains undeterred," a press release quoted the deputy prime minister as saying.

Today, Dar said the region was witnessing an intensification of repression. Thousands of political leaders and activists remained behind bars, with 14 political parties effectively banned. Draconian emergency and counter terrorism laws granted Indian forces sweeping powers, enabling them to arrest or eliminate any individual and destroy property at will, he added.

The deputy prime minister/foreign minister further said that nonetheless, the spirit and determination of the Kashmiri people endured, as they continued their peaceful struggle for justice and self-determination.

"While elections for the Legislative Assembly of IIOJK have recently been conducted, any such exercise, carried out under the framework of the Indian Constitution and amidst an overwhelming military presence, cannot be considered a substitute for the legitimate right to self-determination of the Kashmiri people," he stressed. DNA



Kashmiris dream of freedom will become a reality soon: Tarar

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

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

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

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

He said, "Kashmiri people will never accept India's usurpation of occupied Jammu and

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

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

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

"The only acceptable solution to the Kashmir dispute issue is a plebiscite under the supervision of the United Nations," he said. The minister urged the international community to play its role to find a peaceful solution to the Kashmir issue and pressurize India to stop gross human rights violations in Kashmir. APP

October 27 Blackest Day in Kashmir's history: Ahsan Iqbal

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives, Professor Ahsan Iqbal said here on Sunday that October 27, 1947 was the darkest day in the history of occupied Kashmir when India illegally occupied the region.

In a message on Kashmir Black Day, the federal minister said, the decades-long oppression and brutality against Kashmiris were unbearable. He said, freedom was the fundamental right of Kashmiris, and Pakistan stands with them in their struggle.

He said that India has blatantly violated United Nations resolutions, denying Kashmiris their right to self-determination.

"We will continue to provide moral, political, and diplomatic support to the Kashmiri people," he said and appealed to the international community to play its role in ensuring peace and security in the region.



Pakistan reaffirms solidarity with the people of J&K on the 77th anniversary of the arrival of Indian troops

ISLAMABAD: On the 77th anniversary of the arrival of Indian troops in Jammu and Kashmir, the Government and people of Pakistan reiterate their unwavering solidarity with the people of Kashmir. According to a statement issued by Foreign Office Spokesperson Muntaz Zahra Baloch on Sunday, in their messages on this solemn occasion, the President, Prime Minister, and Deputy Prime Minister/Foreign Minister of Pakistan have reaffirmed the nation's steadfast moral, political, and diplomatic support for the Kashmiri people's right to self-determination.

She said that the Deputy Prime Minister/Foreign Minister has addressed letters to the leadership of the United Nations and the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), highlighting the ongoing situation in Illegally Indian Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK). He has called for the full implementation of relevant UN Security Council resolutions and urged international action to address human rights concerns, including the release of Kashmiri political prisoners

and dissenters.

Muntaz Zahra Baloch said that additionally, the Foreign Secretary has briefed Islamabad-based diplomatic missions on the multifaceted legal, security, and human rights dimensions of the Jammu and Kashmir dispute, underscoring Pakistan's commitment to seeking a just resolution.

FO Spokesperson said that in a display of solidarity, a 'Solidarity Walk' took place in Islamabad on Sunday along Constitution Avenue to D-Chowk, led by the Minister for Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit-Baltistan, Engineer Amir Muqam, and Parliamentary Secretary for Foreign Affairs, Dr. Shehza Mansab Ali Khan Kharal. Across Pakistan, a series of events, including public rallies, seminars, and photo exhibitions, were organized to honor the Kashmiris' struggle.

Pakistani and Kashmiri diaspora communities actively participated, and Pakistan's diplomatic missions worldwide hosted special events to raise global awareness about the Jammu and Kashmir dispute SABA

Romina Khurshid for regional Climate Action Data Bank for evidence-based climate response

VOM Report

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister's Coordinator on Climate Change, Romina Khurshid Alam has reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to boost regional collaboration among the Vulnerable Twenty (V20) Group, representing 70 countries from the most climate-vulnerable regions and pledged her all-out support to set up V20 Climate Action Data Bank she proposed during a recent high-level meeting with representatives of the V20 member countries.

"Establishing the proposed data bank would be indeed a groundbreaking initiative to consolidate data on climate risks, economic losses and financial resilience-building needs of the V20 group member countries," the PM's climate aide said in a press statement issued here on Sunday.

She offered her country's willingness to play the lead role in mobilising V20



group member countries to set up the crucial data bank.

Romina Khurshid Alam said further that this centralised platform would aim to empower V20 nations to effectively cope with adverse fallouts of climate change by providing the critical evidence-based information needed for informed decision-making and resource mobilization from available climate regional and international funding channels for the

result-oriented climate actions through adaptation and mitigation efforts.

The Vulnerable Twenty (V20) Group is a coalition of finance ministers from countries highly susceptible to climate change impacts. Established in October 2015 in Lima, Peru, the V20 aims to promote greater investment in climate resilience and low-emission development.

As of October 2024, the V20 comprises 70 member countries from Africa, Asia, the Caribbean, Latin America and the Pacific, collectively representing over 1.7 billion people and accounting for just 5% share in the total heat-trapping global carbon emissions.

The PM's climate aide said that today the V20 countries, comprising more than 1.7 billion people, are disproportionately affected by climate change. Many of these nations grapple with rising sea levels, extreme weather events and rapid environmental degradation that threaten their economies, essential infrastruc-

tures, populations and livelihoods. Given the V20 country's heightened climate vulnerability, the new data bank is inevitable to enhance access to reliable data to strengthen climate resilience strategies and leverage international funding," she underlined.

"Indeed, the proposed V20 Data Bank would be a major step forward in our collective efforts to safeguard our vulnerable communities, economies and critical infrastructure from the devastating impacts of climate change," the PM's climate aide Romina Khurshid Alam emphasised. "By centralizing data and making it widely accessible for decision-makers, policymakers and planners, we can ensure that every dollar is well spent and every action is informed by the best available evidence."

She said further that while climate finance needs to flow faster and with precision, this crucial data bank would be also helpful to eliminate barriers and expedite funding flows from various

regional and international funding channels such as the Green Climate Fund, Adaptation Fund, and Loss and Damage Fund to where it's needed most.

Highlighting the importance of the data bank of the world's most climate-vulnerable countries including Pakistan, Bangladesh, Nepal, Bhutan, Sri Lanka, Mongolia, Cambodia, Kyrgyzstan Philippines, the PM's climate aide remarked that the proposed V20 data bank would also be instrumental to enhance regional cooperation by facilitating the sharing of critical climate-related data and resources aimed at improving understanding of vulnerabilities and risks, enabling countries to develop sectoral and country-tailored strategies for climate resilience through mitigation and adaptation efforts. She also highlighted that by pooling data, V20 member countries can engage in joint risk analysis, promote innovative financial mechanisms and coordinate responses to climate challenges more effectively.

"With this new and crucial collaborative approach, the V20 countries can also strengthen collective resilience efforts, ensuring that countries can better prepare for and respond to climate impacts, ultimately fostering sustainable development across the region," PM's climate aide said.

"By enhancing risk management, timely informed decision-making and strengthening regional cooperation can also help attract investment and yield economic benefits", she highlighted.

Romina Khurshid Alam said that access to comprehensive climate data could also effectively assist in negotiating better on terms with international financing institutions such as the Asian Development Bank, World Bank and the International Monetary Fund for debt-for-nature swaps, debt relief or restructuring to alleviate fiscal pressures and enabling governments to allocate resources toward development and resilience initiatives rather than debt servicing.

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Stuck in the shadows

NIGHAT DAD & SEERAT KHAN

For the 14th consecutive year, Pakistan ranks as 'Not Free' on Freedom House's Freedom on the Net (FoTN) report, with greater internet outages and restrictions on the internet. The question we ask ourselves for the 14th consecutive year is: how did we get here? As of August 2024, Pakistan's mobile broadband penetration rate reached 56.72 per cent, while overall broadband penetration stood at 58.19 per cent, according to the Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) Telecom Indicator. Despite an improvement in internet penetration rates in the country, internet outages and social media platform disruptions remain at an all-time high within the country. These blanket shutdowns have not only proved to violate fundamental freedoms such as the right to freedom of speech under Article 19-A, and right to freedom of association under Article 17 but have also significantly damaged the gig economy and tech sector within Pakistan.

In the first half of 2024, Pakistan ranked second among nine countries that imposed internet and platform restrictions before, during, and after elections, according to SharkTank's Internet Shutdown Tracker. These widespread shutdowns have had a substantial economic impact, causing a loss of \$237.6 million in 2023 alone, and affecting 83 million people. As a result, Pakistan now ranks seventh among countries suffering the most economic damage from internet shutdowns, highlighting the growing concern over the financial toll of these disruptions. Despite the significant economic losses caused by internet shutdowns, Pakistan has continued to experience periodic shutdowns and throttled internet speeds in 2024. This has been linked to the alleged deployment of a new web monitoring system and firewall by the PTA, aimed at managing content and blocking applications and websites deemed non-compliant with the law. The government's denial of these shutdowns, its varying statements, and then its shifting of the blame on VPN usage and damaged submarine cables shows the lack of concern on the part of the state and the declining rights of citizens within the country. In contrast to the government's denial, the Wireless and Internet Service Providers Association of Pakistan (WISPAP) has reported a 30-40 per cent decline in internet speeds, which has significantly impacted the country's digital economy. Business associations and freelancers, in particular, have expressed frustration over these disruptions, including restricted access to essential communication platforms like WhatsApp. Amidst these challenges, along with X (formerly Twitter) remaining banned in Pakistan since February 2024, the Freedom on the Net report's ranking of Pakistan's internet freedom stands valid. The report has noted that some restrictive regimes, traditionally among the worst offenders, have shown some signs of improvement. However, Pakistan's ranking remains unchanged, with concerns that it may drop further in the future due to the state of the internet and declining rights of users in the country. Internet infrastructure restrictions and disruptions are only one factor contributing to Pakistan's declining internet freedom rankings. Equally important is the rise in disinformation and technology-facilitated gender-based violence (TFGBV), which has significantly narrowed the online space for women and marginalised groups to express themselves freely. During the elections, the widespread use of deep fake images, videos, and audio targeting women political candidates and journalists, further eroded trust in the internet and contributed to a sense of disillusionment for users. This disenchantment among users has continued to grow, particularly in the wake of persistent disinformation cycles following the elections. A recent incident involving protests over an alleged rape case at the Punjab Group of Colleges highlighted the catastrophic consequences of this disinformation. The overwhelming flow of information, coupled with a restrictive online environment with offline implications for users has fostered an atmosphere of uncertainty online and unfortunately, little effort has been made to build resources for fact-checking and debunking claims and news. As of now, Pakistan's state of digital rights and human rights remain an area of concern – not just from an optics point of view for the country but also they violate the pledge Pakistan made with the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights by Pakistan. Recently, the Human Rights Committee (HRC)'s response to Pakistan's report during the 142nd session of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) review repeatedly raised concerns regarding internet shutdowns and declining state of freedom of expression in the country. The committee – along with the citizens of the country – is seeking a clarification on what safeguards exist to ensure that the newly adopted firewalls and systems are not enforced in ways that violate fundamental rights to freedom of expression and privacy. One persistent issue in the report and the ICCPR review that keeps coming up over the years has been the need for a strong data protection bill for citizens, particularly since citizens' personal information is being exploited through breaches and hacks. In this digital age, data is vital for a growing and striving digital economy.

The report accurately notes the increasing reliance on regulations in online spaces by states, a trend that Pakistan is all too familiar with as it continuously adopts new laws to limit online freedoms. What is needed now is not more legislation or regulation, but rather independent consultations with unbiased organisations that possess technical expertise in international human rights frameworks essential for Pakistan's economic growth and state of human rights. Currently, the Freedom on the Net report serves as an opportunity for self-reflection on our declining scores and should be a wakeup call for the government to be more transparent and accountable regarding the declining online freedoms in the country. Online freedoms and the digital economy are closely linked and intertwined together, and without free and unrestricted access to the internet, we cannot fully benefit from the advancing digital economy.

Nighat Dad is the executive director of the Digital Rights Foundation.
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Maheen Shafeeq

Closer to midnight

So far, we have lived in an era of arms control and disarmament efforts made during the cold war – though we have taken this for granted. The international security environment is becoming precarious with every passing day. The Bulletin of Atomic Scientists' Doomsday Clock was two minutes to midnight in 2019, but now it is 90 seconds to midnight. This implies the looming risks of advertent and inadvertent nuclear crises due to the growing number of protracted conflicts, geostrategic competition, arms race and, most importantly, weakening arms control regimes. The ongoing escalations in the Middle East and Eastern Europe do not appear to be reaching a point of ceasefire anytime soon. While predicting future wars, analysts assumed them to be intensive but short. However, the ongoing disputes are only getting intense as they draw more actors. Iran has become a part of the Middle Eastern conflict while Russia has drawn Nato allies into the square. With Iran being part of the Middle Eastern conflict, the international security environment has become dangerous. Earlier in October, the International Monitoring Stations (IMS) of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty Organization (CTBTO) detected two earthquakes in northern Iran. Although NorNews, an unofficial

Iranian information source, dismissed speculations of nuclear tests, the subject will always remain under scrutiny. Similarly, Russia's long-expected shift in nuclear doctrine has brought new potential targets and reduced the threshold of use of nuclear weapons. On September 25, 2024, Russian President Vladimir Putin announced that an attack by a non-nuclear weapon state (probably Ukraine) with the support or participation of a nuclear-armed state (either the US, UK, France or all) would be considered a joint attack on the Russian Federation. While the change in the Russian nuclear doctrine remains open to interpretation, it increases tensions and creates ample room for uncertainty. Although the US, Britain, and France are still considering Ukraine's demands, they understand the caution regarding placing high-risk weapons on Ukrainian territory. This development comes in light of Kyiv's insistence on placing Western long-range missiles in Ukraine to hit targets deep inside Russia. Regardless of the decision to place missiles in Ukraine, the US withdrawal from the Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty and the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty leaves little to the imagination of international security analysts. The New Start Treaty is the only arms control agreement between the US and Russia that is still standing. However, it is also set to expire in 2026, the renewal of which could face hurdles due to growing geostrategic competition and an arms race among major powers. The US, China and Russia are not only modernizing their nuclear arse-

nal but their stockpiles are also growing. As of January 2024, SIPRI estimated that the US nuclear stockpiles grew to 3,708 while Russia's were estimated to be 4,380. Although China's nuclear stockpiles reached 500, far less than the rest, due to geostrategic competition, the US insists on looping China into arms control agreements. The current arms control regime does not account for the nexus of nuclear and emerging and disruptive technologies such as AI, cyber, nanotechnology, quantum, robotics and space. What's cautious is that this introduces new regulatory and legally binding challenges as countries are still lagging in this domain, arguably intentionally or unintentionally. With modernisation and growing stockpiles of nuclear arsenal comes the demand for nuclear testing, which was banned under the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) in 1996. Several states have continued to conduct computer simulations but the urge to conduct actual nuclear tests is increasing. With Russia's de-ratification last year, and growing geostrategic competition, the urge to revert to nuclear testing is the highest it has been since the cold war despite the taboo. What's concerning is the domino effect it could have on the states holding back on the urge of nuclear testing but also the ones waiting to acquire nuclear weapons. In South Asia, India particularly has no desire to hold back on nuclear testing if the option emerges. Although India upholds a unilateral moratorium on nuclear testing, its emerging geopolitical stature in the Indian Ocean brings many risks to the region. In particular, India is improving its nuclear triad by building strategic maritime domain awareness and security capabilities. India has launched its fourth nuclear-powered ballistic missile (SSBN) submarine while the other two INS Arihant and INS Arighaat are already on deep-sea patrols. India is also building a new and larger submarine base INS Varsha on the eastern coast of the country and is also expected to launch more nuclear-powered submarines by 2028. This shows the growing nuclear risks in South Asia. Although India maintains a highly doubtful No First Use policy, Pakistan has a clear No First Use policy. To address the emerging threats from India, Pakistan has changed its policy from Credible Minimum Deterrence to Full Spectrum Deterrence, and its full range of nuclear weapons is not only to deter aggression but also to deliver counter-retaliation towards target-rich India. This showcases that a growing adversarial environment in South Asia, the Gulf and Eastern Europe brings consequences not only for these regions but the whole world. Although nuclear war might not be imminent, nuclear crises including both accidental and those spiralling out of control could have serious implications. This demands that rational actors come together to address these issues and sincerely work together towards sustainable efforts for global peace and stability.

The writer is a research analyst in emerging technologies and international security. She tweets/posts @MaheenShafeeq

Disclaimer: Views expressed by writers in this section are their own and do not necessarily reflect The Asian Telegraph's point-of-view

Today in History

History of Pakistan



Often rendering those areas virtually ungovernable by the central authorities, and acts of violence against religious minorities have increased. At the time of partition in 1947, as many as 10 million Muslim refugees fled their homes in India and sought refuge in Pakistan—about 8 million in West Pakistan. Virtually an equal number of Hindus and Sikhs were uprooted from their land and familiar surroundings in what became Pakistan, and they fled to India. Unlike the earlier migrations, which took centuries to unfold, these chaotic population transfers took hardly one year. The resulting impact on the life of the subcontinent has reverberated ever since in the rivalries between the two countries, and each has continued to seek a lasting modus vivendi with the other. Pakistan and India have fought four wars, three of which (1948-49, 1965, and 1999) were over Kashmir. Since 1998 both countries

have also possessed nuclear weapons, further heightening tensions between them. Pakistan is bounded by Iran to the west, Afghanistan to the northwest and north, China to the northeast, and India to the east and southeast. The coast of the Arabian Sea forms its southern border. Get a Britannica Premium subscription and gain access to exclusive content. Since 1947 the Kashmir region, along the western Himalayas, has been disputed, with Pakistan, India, and China each controlling sections of the territory. Part of the Pakistani-administered territory comprises the so-called Azad Kashmir ("Free Kashmir") region—which Pakistan nonetheless considers an independent state, with its capital at Muzaffarabad. The remainder of Pakistani-administered Kashmir consists of Gilgit and Baltistan, known collectively after 2009 as Gilgit-Baltistan (formerly the Northern Areas).

Pakistan is situated at the western end of the great Indo-Gangetic Plain. Of the total area of the country, about three-fifths consists of rough mountainous terrain and plateaus, and the remaining two-fifths constitutes a wide expanse of level plain. The land can be divided into five major regions: the Himalayan and Karakoram ranges and their subranges; the Hindu Kush and western mountains; the Balochistan plateau; the submontane plateau (Potwar Plateau, Salt Range, trans-Indus plain, and Sialkot area); and the Indus River plain. Within each major division there are further subdivisions, including a number of desert areas. K2 (Mount Godwin Austen), in the Karakoram Range, viewed from the Gilgit-Baltistan district of the Pakistani-administered portion of the Kashmir region. The Himalayas, which have long been a physical and cultural divide between South and Central Asia, form the northern rampart of the sub-

To be continued....

Showbiz

Johnny Depp presented with lifetime achievement award at Rome Film Festival

Johnny Depp's 'Modi - Three Days On The Wing Of Madness' is releasing on December 5

Legendary actor Johnny Depp has just earned himself a lifetime achievement award at the Rome Film Festival. The Tourist actor attended the glamorous event for the premiere of his new directorial film, Modi – Three Days On The Wing Of Madness. He made an appearance at the premiere along with the star cast of the biological drama film. Oscar nominated actor, while receiving the prestigious award, made a heartwarming acceptance speech in which he thanked all his fans and his employers. He added: "My eternal thanks goes out to all of you people, real people, my employers, our employees. I am humbled as without you I would not be here or likely I would not be any-



where." Depp, not just thanked all around him, but also hoped that his latest film inspires everyone. "I have to salute you all because you truly have been warriors and heroes and you are the very reason that do continue and want to continue to make films. I'm very lucky to still be around and most of you are the reason for that so thank you. I hope that something in Modi inspires you because you inspire me." The Charlie and the Chocolate Factory actor was presented the highly privileged honor by the directors of the film festival; Riccardo Scamarcio and Paola Malanga. Johnny Depp's Modi - Three Days On The Wing Of Madness is all set to release in theatres on December 5, 2024.

Tech

Is Google planning to take over computers using artificial intelligence?

With an increase in use of artificial intelligence in our daily lives, companies are making strenuous efforts to innovate and design new AI models to facilitate netizens and enhance their user experience. In line with the ongoing AI race, global tech giant Google is working on AI technology capable of taking over computers. The Verge reported citing The Information. Code-named "Project Jarvis", the AI model, as per Reuters, will be able to take control of a web browser to complete tasks such as research and shopping. Project Jarvis will reportedly only work with a web browser and will be specifically for Chrome. The AI tool will take and interpret screenshots followed by clicking buttons or entering text to assist users in automating everyday web-based tasks. However, the report underscores that Google's plan to reveal Jarvis in December is not final but in fact, is subject to change as the company is reportedly mulling over releasing the AI model to a small number of

Project Jarvis will reportedly only work with a web browser and will be specifically for Chrome

testers to fine-tune its product and work out any bugs that exist. The development comes as Microsoft-backed OpenAI also wants its models to conduct research by browsing the web autonomously with the assistance of a "CUA," or a computer-using agent, that can take actions based on its findings. Also, the Bill Gates-founded company's Copilot Vision will be capable of engaging in conversation with users about the web pages they view. With companies scrambling to take an edge in the race for AI supremacy, Apple Intelligence is expected to be capable of having awareness of what's present on the screen and carrying out tasks across multiple platforms in future.

With its addiction eating away at youth's health, fast food 'accelerating' puberty in girls

As a result of young people's addiction to fast and junk food, many are living with cardiac disorders, and some have died prematurely from heart attacks. Its consequences for pregnant mothers and their unborn infants are no different. Experts claim that fast food intake is a big contributor to increased obesity, early puberty in girls, and health complications in infants and it is also linked to mental disorders such as anxiety and depression. First, we have to understand what's the difference between junk and fast food. Junk food includes all processed or packaged goods that are sold in plastic bags or other packaging, including your favourite snacks. Nonetheless, all fried foods, including burgers, fries, and fried chicken, are classified as fast food. Both are dangerous and pose serious health haz-

ards. When Geo Digital sought medical professionals about the impact of junk food and fast food on pregnant women and their unborn children, various responses painted a disturbing picture. Girls who are consuming fast food from a young age and becoming addicted to it are not only reaching puberty earlier, even at the age of 6-7 years but also facing complications in conceiving and during labour. Adults are increasingly receiving diagnoses for mental health issues like depression and anxiety. One of the most common problems we are addressing nowadays is polycystic ovary syndrome (PCOS); many women are unaware of this condition. Dr Muzna Arif, an endocrinologist at Aga Khan University and Hospital (AKUH), highlighted how fast food can lead to early puberty and other health problems.

"As endocrinologists, we are increasingly noticing signs of early puberty, particularly in girls, and one of the leading contributing factors is the intake of fast or processed foods. These foods cause substantial weight gain due to their high starch and carbohydrate levels. The higher intake of the abovementioned macros, the higher the insulin levels, which causes a variety of changes in the human body. High insulin levels release and increase another hormone called leptin, which triggers early puberty", she added. She further clarified that insulin is a hormone that triggers many chemical changes in the body. Leptin causes early puberty in children, particularly girls, resulting in premature development as young as 6 or 7 years old. This not only impacts their height as they age but also imposes an impact on their overall health due to weight gain.



Health

دی اینڈین سٹارٹ اپ گراف

اسلام آباد

یہ 28 اکتوبر 2024ء

وزیر اعظم سے بلاول بھٹو کی ملاقات، 27 ویں آئینی ترمیم پر بات چیت

لاہور (یورورپورٹ) وزیر اعظم شہباز شریف سے پیپلز پارٹی کے چیئر مین بلاول بھٹو نے لاہور میں ان کی رہائش گاہ پر ملاقات کی جس میں آئینی ترمیم اور سیاسی صورتحال پر گفتگو کی گئی۔ ذرائع کے مطابق ملاقات میں 26 ویں آئینی ترمیم پر بھی تبادلہ خیال کیا گیا۔

بھٹو نے 26 ویں آئینی ترمیم کو کسی تاریخی قرار دیا۔ وزیر اعظم شہباز شریف کا بھٹو کا کہنا تھا کہ 26 ویں آئینی ترمیم کی منظوری کا کریڈٹ اتحادی پارٹیوں کو جاتا ہے، پہلے ہی عوامی خدمت سے پیچھے نہیں ہے، اب بھی پیچھے نہیں گئے۔ بلاول بھٹو نے کہا کہ جمہوریت اور پارلیمنٹ کی مضبوطی کیلئے کرپشن سے، غیر جمہوری طاقتوں کا راستہ روکنے کیلئے 26 ویں آئینی ترمیم کارگر ثابت ہو گی۔ وزیر اعظم شہباز شریف سے پیپلز پارٹی کے چیئر مین بلاول بھٹو زرداری نے لاہور میں ان کی رہائش گاہ پر ملاقات کی جس میں آئینی ترمیم اور سیاسی صورتحال پر گفتگو کی گئی۔



لاہور، وزیر اعظم شہباز شریف سے پیپلز پارٹی کے چیئر مین بلاول بھٹو زرداری ملاقات کر رہے ہیں

عالمی برادری کشمیر کے تصفیہ طلب بحران کو حل کرنے کیلئے اقدامات کرے، بلاول بھٹو نے انصاف، امن اور آزادی کیلئے مسئلہ کشمیر کا حل ناگزیر، پاکستان کشمیری بھائیوں کے ساتھ کھڑا ہے، پیغام خطے میں

لاہور (یورورپورٹ) پاکستان پیپلز پارٹی کے چیئر مین بلاول بھٹو زرداری نے کہا ہے کہ عالمی برادری کشمیر کے تصفیہ طلب بحران کو حل کرنے کیلئے اقدامات کرے۔ یوم سیاہ کشمیر کے موقع پر اپنے پیغام میں بلاول بھٹو زرداری کا کہنا تھا کہ عظیم کشمیری عوام کی حمایت اور برادری کے ساتھ ہمہ گیر رویہ ہے اور کشمیر کے لیے خود مختار اور انسانی حقوق کو تسلیم کرنے کے لیے اقدامات کرے گا۔

بھٹو نے کہا کہ پاکستان کشمیری بھائیوں اور بہنوں کے ساتھ ساتھ کشمیر کے عوام کی آزادی کو دبانے کی خدمت کرے گا۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ پاکستان اپنے کشمیری بھائیوں اور بہنوں کے ساتھ ساتھ کشمیر کے عوام کی آزادی کو دبانے کی خدمت کرے گا۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ پاکستان اپنے کشمیری بھائیوں اور بہنوں کے ساتھ ساتھ کشمیر کے عوام کی آزادی کو دبانے کی خدمت کرے گا۔

بھارتی قبضے کھنڈا پاکستان سمیت دنیا بھر میں یوم سیاہ منایا گیا

عالمی برادری متوجہ کشمیر میں انسانی حقوق کی خلاف ورزیوں کو روکے بھارتی قراردادوں پر عمل کرے، زرداری، اقوام متحدہ سے مطالبہ کرتا ہوں فلسطین میں جاری انسانی حقوق کی پالیسیوں کو نوٹس لے، امیر مہتمم

مکمل پرتال رہی جس سے کاروبار زندگی مفلوج ہو کر رہ گیا۔ 127 اکتوبر 1947 کو بھارتی فوج نے کشمیر اور جی پور کی قبضہ کر لیا۔ بھارتی فوج نے کشمیر کی طرف سے متوجہ کشمیر کی شخصیت کی زندگی کی خدمت کے لیے کوششیں کی اور انسانی حقوق کی خلاف ورزیوں کو روکا۔

بھارتی فوج نے کشمیر کی طرف سے متوجہ کشمیر کی شخصیت کی زندگی کی خدمت کے لیے کوششیں کی اور انسانی حقوق کی خلاف ورزیوں کو روکا۔

پاکستان نے غزہ اور لبنان کیلئے 14 ویں امدادی کھیپ روانہ

شمالی فلسطین اور لبنان کیلئے 14 ویں امدادی کھیپ روانہ



شمالی فلسطین اور لبنان کیلئے 14 ویں امدادی کھیپ روانہ

لاہور (یورورپورٹ) پاکستان پیپلز پارٹی کے چیئر مین بلاول بھٹو زرداری نے کہا ہے کہ عالمی برادری کشمیر کے تصفیہ طلب بحران کو حل کرنے کیلئے اقدامات کرے۔ یوم سیاہ کشمیر کے موقع پر اپنے پیغام میں بلاول بھٹو زرداری کا کہنا تھا کہ عظیم کشمیری عوام کی حمایت اور برادری کے ساتھ ہمہ گیر رویہ ہے اور کشمیر کے لیے خود مختار اور انسانی حقوق کو تسلیم کرنے کے لیے اقدامات کرے گا۔

کل جماعتی حریت کانفرنس کے زیر اہتمام احتجاج، حق خود ارادیت کا مطالبہ

پاکستان کشمیر میں انسانی حقوق کی خلاف ورزیوں کو روکے بھارتی قراردادوں پر عمل کرے، زرداری، اقوام متحدہ سے مطالبہ کرتا ہوں فلسطین میں جاری انسانی حقوق کی پالیسیوں کو نوٹس لے، امیر مہتمم

لاہور (یورورپورٹ) کل جماعتی حریت کانفرنس کے زیر اہتمام احتجاجی مظاہرے کیے گئے۔ مظاہرین نے بھارتی فوج کی خلاف ورزیوں کو روکنے کے لیے کوششیں کی اور انسانی حقوق کی خلاف ورزیوں کو روکا۔

مظاہرین نے بھارتی فوج کی خلاف ورزیوں کو روکنے کے لیے کوششیں کی اور انسانی حقوق کی خلاف ورزیوں کو روکا۔



یاسین ملک کو کچھائی گھاٹ کے قریب رکھا، وہاں ہے، مشعل ملک

سیاست، اخلاق اور سفارتی حمایت جاری رہے گی، یوم سیاہ پر پیغام

اسلام آباد (نامہ نگار) پاکستان پیپلز پارٹی کے چیئر مین بلاول بھٹو زرداری نے کہا ہے کہ عالمی برادری کشمیر کے تصفیہ طلب بحران کو حل کرنے کیلئے اقدامات کرے۔ یوم سیاہ کشمیر کے موقع پر اپنے پیغام میں بلاول بھٹو زرداری کا کہنا تھا کہ عظیم کشمیری عوام کی حمایت اور برادری کے ساتھ ہمہ گیر رویہ ہے اور کشمیر کے لیے خود مختار اور انسانی حقوق کو تسلیم کرنے کے لیے اقدامات کرے گا۔

سیبیت اور قومی اسمبلی کے اجلاس آج منعقد ہونگے

اسلام آباد (نامہ نگار) قومی اسمبلی کے اجلاس آج منعقد ہونگے۔ اجلاس میں حکومت اور اپوزیشن کے مابین تبادلہ خیال کیا جائے گا۔

اجلاس میں حکومت اور اپوزیشن کے مابین تبادلہ خیال کیا جائے گا۔

معیشت کی بہتری کیلئے مشکل فیصلے کرنا ہوں گے، وزیر خزانہ

اسلام آباد (غیر رپورٹ) وزیر خزانہ یاسین ملک نے کہا ہے کہ معیشت کی بہتری کے لیے مشکل فیصلے کرنا ہوں گے۔ وزیر خزانہ نے کہا ہے کہ معیشت کی بہتری کے لیے مشکل فیصلے کرنا ہوں گے۔

وزیر خزانہ نے کہا ہے کہ معیشت کی بہتری کے لیے مشکل فیصلے کرنا ہوں گے۔

انسانی حقوق کے علمبردار کشمیریوں پر ظلم کا نوٹس لیں، علی امین گنڈاپور

لاہور (یورورپورٹ) انسانی حقوق کے علمبردار علی امین گنڈاپور نے کہا ہے کہ انسانی حقوق کے علمبرداروں کو نوٹس لیا جائے۔

علی امین گنڈاپور نے کہا ہے کہ انسانی حقوق کے علمبرداروں کو نوٹس لیا جائے۔

پاکستان کشمیر یوں کیسا تھ کھڑا تھا، ہے اور رہے گا، مریم نواز

لاہور (یورورپورٹ) مریم نواز نے کہا ہے کہ پاکستان کشمیر یوں کیسا تھ کھڑا تھا، ہے اور رہے گا۔

مریم نواز نے کہا ہے کہ پاکستان کشمیر یوں کیسا تھ کھڑا تھا، ہے اور رہے گا۔

غزہ میں اسرائیلی حملے جاری، مزید 58 فلسطینی شہید

غزہ (ٹائمزنگ ڈیسک) اسرائیلی فوج کے حملے سے 58 فلسطینی شہید ہو گئے۔ اسرائیلی فوج نے غزہ میں اسرائیلی فوج کے حملے سے 58 فلسطینی شہید ہو گئے۔

اسرائیلی فوج نے غزہ میں اسرائیلی فوج کے حملے سے 58 فلسطینی شہید ہو گئے۔

رضوان کپتان، سلمان علی آغا وائٹ بال کے نائب کپتان مقرر: محسن نقوی کا اعلان

لاہور (ٹائمزنگ ڈیسک) محسن نقوی نے رضوان کپتان، سلمان علی آغا وائٹ بال کے نائب کپتان مقرر کر دیے۔

محسن نقوی نے رضوان کپتان، سلمان علی آغا وائٹ بال کے نائب کپتان مقرر کر دیے۔

کشمیری اپنی منزل مقصود تک ضرور پہنچیں گے، آزادی کا خواب تعمیر ہوگا، عطاء تارا

لاہور (یورورپورٹ) عطاء تارا نے کہا ہے کہ کشمیری اپنی منزل مقصود تک ضرور پہنچیں گے۔

عطاء تارا نے کہا ہے کہ کشمیری اپنی منزل مقصود تک ضرور پہنچیں گے۔

بشری بی بی سیاست میں نہیں آ رہیں، شیر افضل مروت

اسلام آباد (یورورپورٹ) شیر افضل مروت نے کہا ہے کہ بشری بی بی سیاست میں نہیں آ رہیں۔

شیر افضل مروت نے کہا ہے کہ بشری بی بی سیاست میں نہیں آ رہیں۔

عدالت عظمیٰ، 28 اکتوبر سے یکم نومبر تک 968 مقدمات کی سماعت کرے گی

اسلام آباد (نامہ نگار) عدالت عظمیٰ نے کہا ہے کہ 968 مقدمات کی سماعت کرے گی۔

عدالت عظمیٰ نے کہا ہے کہ 968 مقدمات کی سماعت کرے گی۔

حکومت کا گاڑیوں کی درآمد کی اجازت دینے کا فیصلہ

اسلام آباد (نامہ نگار) حکومت نے کہا ہے کہ گاڑیوں کی درآمد کی اجازت دینے کا فیصلہ کیا گیا۔

حکومت نے کہا ہے کہ گاڑیوں کی درآمد کی اجازت دینے کا فیصلہ کیا گیا۔

سیاحوں کو تین ماہ کے لیے عارضی طور پر ڈیوٹی فری ایجنڈا گاڑیوں کی درآمد کی اجازت دینے کا فیصلہ

اسلام آباد (نامہ نگار) سیاحوں کو تین ماہ کے لیے عارضی طور پر ڈیوٹی فری ایجنڈا گاڑیوں کی درآمد کی اجازت دینے کا فیصلہ کیا گیا۔

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Chinese ambassador highlights regional cooperation, security concerns at SCO, BRICS Summits

ISLAMABAD: Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan, Jiang Zaidong has underscored the evolving and deepening partnership between China and Pakistan, describing it as a distinctive and unparalleled alliance.

Talking to a select group of journalists here at the Chinese Embassy, he noted the significance of Chinese President Xi Jinping's participation in the 16th BRICS Summit, held from October 22 to 24, 2024, in Kazan, Russia, which garnered global attention, including from Pakistan.

Referring to the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), Ambassador Jiang highlighted that it was established with China's involvement 23 years ago and has since expanded from 6 to 26 member states, covering a significant portion of the world's population. He underscored President Xi's consistent support for SCO's development, adding that Xi had promoted the organization as a platform for solidarity, mutual trust, and regional stability at this year's Astana Summit.

The Chinese envoy also acknowledged Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's participation in the Astana Summit, where he discussed important initiatives aimed at achieving common goals.

Ambassador Jiang highlighted key outcomes from the 23rd Meeting of the SCO Council of Heads of Government, held in Pakistan from October 15-16, 2024. He shared that according to his understanding, Chinese Premier Li Qiang proposed several initiatives focusing on four main areas: expanding practical cooperation among member countries, proactively addressing major risks, enhancing people-to-people exchanges, and building upon the consensus reached during earlier meetings.

Ambassador Jiang elaborated that these efforts align with China's broader vision to contribute towards regional stability and prosperity, as articulated by President Xi at the Astana Summit.

Turning his attention to the BRICS Summit, the ambassador lauded the enlargement of BRICS, which he described as a "milestone in the evolution of the international situation." He reaffirmed China's commitment to working with Pakistan within both BRICS and the SCO frameworks to foster closer collaboration.

In response to a question regarding Pakistan's potential BRICS membership, the ambassador expressed China's desire to strengthen solidarity with Pakistan in multilateral forums. He further highlighted the importance of media-to-media and people-to-people exchanges between the two nations, noting that China had organized several media delegation visits to showcase progress on the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and other key projects.

Ambassador Jiang stressed that CPEC had entered a new phase of development, with cooperation extending into emerging sectors such as electric vehicles and renewable energy.

The ambassador revealed that bilateral talks during Premier Li Qiang's visit had yielded concrete results, including the signing of many cooperation documents covering various sectors, with security cooperation as a key focus.

He reiterated President Xi's stance that "security is the guarantee for development," stressing the importance of enhanced collaboration to protect Chinese nationals and projects in Pakistan. APP



ISLAMABAD: Students hold Pakistan and Kashmir national flags during a protest rally on the eve of Black Day, at Constitution Avenue in the Federal Capital.

President urges world to take action on HR abuses by India in IIOJK

VOM Report

ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari has called upon the international community to exert pressure on India to halt its ongoing human rights abuses in the Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK), alleviate the suffering of Kashmiris, and implement United Nations Security Council resolutions. According to Kashmir Media Service, the president in a message on the occasion of "Kashmir Black Day", today, said: "Pakistan will stand shoulder-to-shoulder with its Kashmiri brothers and sisters until they achieve their inalienable right to self-determination." The president said October 27, 1947, marked a dark chapter in South Asian history when India sent troops to occupy Jammu and Kashmir. For decades, the people of Indian Illegally

Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) have endured brutal repression by Indian forces.

Over the years, he said India had transformed IIOJK into one of the most militarised regions in the world. Thousands of innocent Kashmiris have been killed, while their legitimate leaders remain imprisoned, and local media is heavily censored, he lamented. Furthermore, the president emphasized that the United Nations Security Council had repeatedly affirmed the right of the Kashmiri people to self-determination through a fair and impartial plebiscite.

Yet, he said India continued to defy these resolutions and deny Kashmiris their fundamental rights. "Since August 5, 2019, India has further escalated its occupation by stripping IIOJK of its special status and implementing measures to alter its demographic and political landscape. These actions are part of a

broader strategy to consolidate control and suppress the Kashmiri Freedom Movement."

He said despite these oppressive tactics, the resilient people of Kashmir remained steadfast in their struggle for freedom. "We strongly condemn India's ongoing atrocities and reaffirm our unwavering moral, diplomatic, and political support for the Kashmiri people's just cause", he added.

President Zardari pointed out that the recent developments in the Middle East were a stark reminder that long-standing disputes should not be allowed to fester. Violating international law and pushing disputes under the rug does not guarantee lasting peace, he said. "Three generations of Kashmiris have waited for the world, especially the United Nations, to deliver them their right to self-determination. The world can no longer ignore its responsibility," the president added.

The delegation visited various polling stations, where they observed a well-organized electoral process. The delegation leader, Senator Irfan Siddiqui praised Uzbekistan's hospitality, and arrangements. He conveyed their deep sense of connection with Uzbekistan, with some members expressing that "Uzbekistan feels like our second home." Senator Irfan Siddiqui extended their sincere gratitude to the government and people of Uzbekistan for their warmth and cooperation.

Nizamkhajev conveyed his goodwill towards the Pakistani senators, voicing hope for sustained cooperation between the two nations. He acknowledged the importance of deepening ties beyond parliamentary relations, especially in fostering people-to-people connections.

Uzbek election chief welcomes Pakistani senators as observers, emphasizes growing cooperation

ISLAMABAD: Senate Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs Chairman, Senator Irfan Siddiqui has met with Chief of the Central Election Commission of Uzbekistan, Zayniddin Nizamkhajev during an official visit. The Pakistani delegation, led by Senator Irfan Siddiqui and comprising Senator Sarmad Ali and Senator Amir Chishti, is in Uzbekistan at

the invitation of the Uzbek Election Commission, serving as international observers for the parliamentary elections. Nizamkhajev warmly welcomed the delegation and expressed appreciation for their participation as observers. He highlighted the strong bilateral ties between Pakistan and Uzbekistan, emphasizing the importance of collaboration across multiple

Pakistan stands with Kashmiri people in their just struggle for freedom: Munir

UNITED NATIONS: The United Nations has a duty to uphold its own resolutions on the decades-old Kashmir dispute and promote a just and peaceful resolution in line with the aspirations of the Kashmiri people, Pakistan's UN Ambassador Munir Akram said in a message on the occasion of the Kashmir Black Day on Sunday. On this solemn day, he said, we reaffirm our unwavering commitment to standing by the Kashmiri people, advocating for their human rights, and striving for a future of peace, freedom, and dignity for them. Today, Ambassador Akram said, as we observe Kashmir Black Day, we remember the grave injustices faced by the people of Jammu and Kashmir. The events of October 27, 1947, marked the beginning of an occupation that has denied Kashmiris their fundamental right to self-determination, a right enshrined in the UN Charter and affirmed through Security Council resolutions, he added. "Tragically, this denial of rights has only intensified, especially following the unilateral and

unlawful actions of August 5, 2019." Since that fateful day, he said that the people of Indian occupied Jammu and Kashmir had been subjected to an unprecedented lockdown, systematic human rights violations and severe restrictions on their freedom and dignity. "Countless reports by international human rights organizations and independent observers have documented instances of excessive use of force, extra-judicial killing enforced disappearances, arbitrary detentions and collective punishment. The imposition of media blackouts, restrictions on freedom of expression, and curfews have sought to isolate the people of Kashmir from the world and curtail their ability to seek their right to self-determination." Ambassador Akram said, stands with the people of Jammu and Kashmir in their just struggle for freedom and self-determination. We call upon the international community and the United Nations to hold those responsible for these violations accountable and to ensure that the voices of the Kashmiri people are heard, he expressed.

Speaker of Russian Federation Council arrives in Pakistan



ISLAMABAD: The Speaker of the Federation Council of the Russian Federation, Ms. Valentina Matviyenko, arrived in Pakistan on Sunday at the special invitation of Senate Chairman Syed Yousaf Raza Gillani. Ms. Valentina Matviyenko is leading a high-level Russian delegation, including Federation Council of the Federal Assembly members. The delegation was warmly welcomed at Noor Khan Airbase by Senate Deputy Chairman Syed Khan Nasar and Senator Bushra Anjum Butt. During the visit, she and her delegation are scheduled to meet with key Pakistani leaders, including the President, Prime Minister, Speaker of the National Assembly and Senate Chairman Syed Yousaf Raza Gillani. A highlight of the visit will be Ms. Valentina Matviyenko's address to the Senate during a special session. The visit is expected to further strengthen the diplomatic and parliamentary ties between Pakistan and Russia.

NDMA dispatches 14th Relief Consignment for Gaza, Lebanon

ISLAMABAD: The National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) on the directives of the Prime Minister, continued to provide humanitarian aid to the war-affected people of Gaza and Lebanon.

On Sunday, the 14th consignment of aid was dispatched from Karachi to Lebanon. This aid shipment, sent by NDMA in collaboration with Al-Khidmat Foundation, comprised approximately 17 tons of supplies, including tents, food tins, dry milk, clothes and hygiene kits, a news release said.

The aid was dispatched via flight from Jinnah International Airport, Karachi, to Beirut, Lebanon.

The send off ceremony held at Jinnah International Airport was attended by Federal Minister for Maritimes Affairs Qaisar Shah and the representatives from NDMA, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Al-Khidmat Foundation.

The Minister emphasized the urgent need to provide relief to the war-affected populations of Palestine and Lebanon, considering the ongoing conflict and the needs of the affected communities. He reaffirmed the Government of Pakistan's commitment to supporting the



brothers and sisters in distress and stressed the importance of collaboration by welfare organizations and the Pakistani public in strengthening these efforts.

Prior to this, Government of Pakistan has sent 11 aid consignments to Gaza, Palestine, and this marked the third shipment to Lebanon, with a total volume of 1,398 tons. The Government of Pakistan continues to send relief supplies based on the needs of the war-affected populations of Lebanon and Palestine. On instructions of Prime Minister, a special account named the "Prime Minister's Relief Fund for Gaza and Lebanon," for collection of donations from the public to aid their brothers and sisters in Gaza and Lebanon who are facing war emergencies. DNA

Dozens of Israeli soldiers injured in largest ramming attack

GAZA: A ramming terror attack near a bus stop in the Gilot area of central Israel left approximately 37 people injured on Sunday. The incident occurred when a truck crashed into a bus stop, with the impact causing varying degrees of injuries among those present. According to Magen David Adom (MDA), one individual is in critical condition, while six others are seriously wounded. Five individuals sustained moderate injuries, and around 20 people were treated for minor wounds. Additionally, four individuals experienced anxiety and were treated at the scene.

Witnesses reported that civilians intervened by firing at the truck driver, preventing further chaos. Preliminary investigations revealed that a bus had stopped near the bus stop before the truck collided with both the bus and pedestrians waiting at the stop.

Emergency responders, including United Hatzalah volunteers, arrived promptly, providing initial treatment to over 20 individuals. Some victims had to be rescued from under the truck by fire crews, and members of the Psychotrauma and Crisis Response Unit were on hand to assist those suffering from emotional distress. The attacker has been apprehended, and emergency services continue to treat the injured at the scene. INP

Maqam leads rally on Kashmir Black Day, urges UN to fulfill promise



ISLAMABAD: Minister for Kashmir Affairs, Engineer Amir Maqam, on Sunday led a rally in the federal capital on the occasion of Kashmir Black Day to express solidarity with the people of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK). Addressing to rally participants here, he reminded the people of October 27, 1947, when Indian forces entered Jammu and Kashmir illegally, stating, "No Pakistani can forget this day." He honored the courage of Kash-

miris who, after 77 years, continue their struggle for self-determination.

He highlighted the sacrifices made, with over 97,000 martyrs, countless widows, and orphaned children.

The minister expressed disappointment with international human rights organizations, calling on the United Nations to address what he termed as genocide in Kashmir.

Engineer Amir Maqam urged the UN to fulfill its commitment to

resolve the Kashmir issue per its own resolutions, allowing Kashmiris their right to self-determination.

He said Pakistan has always been a staunch advocate of this indigenous right of Kashmiris living in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir and has always supported them in this just struggle.

He stated that recent elections in occupied Kashmir revealed the reality of India's narrative and urged India to consider this election as a referendum against its rule.

Commending Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif for raising the Kashmir and Palestine issues at the UN General Assembly in September 2024, Amir Maqam reassured that Pakistan will continue to support Kashmir's political, diplomatic, and moral cause until Kashmiris achieve their right to self-determination.

He also praised Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ministry of Information and Broadcasting for their efforts in organizing and highlighting this important day. APP

People, government stand with Kashmiris, says Jam Kamal on Kashmir Black Day

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Commerce, Jam Kamal Khan, expressed in his message on Kashmir Black Day that the people and government of Pakistan stand in unwavering solidarity with their Kashmiri brothers and sisters, who continue to endure severe hardships under oppressive conditions. He said the observation of the day serves as a reminder of injustices endured by the Kashmiri people and their unwavering determination to secure the right to self-determination, a right recognized by international law and United Nations resolutions. "Kashmiris courage and resilience inspire us, and we will remain committed to advocating their cause on every global stage," he said adding that Pakistan would continue to raise its voice for Kashmiris' freedom, dignity, and justice.

Rana tanveer condemns Indian atrocities

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Industries, Production and National Food Security Rana Tanveer Hussain on Sunday strongly condemned India's atrocities in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) as a reflection of the Modi government's reprehensible mindset.

He marked the 77th anniversary of India's occupation of Kashmir, emphasizing that this day symbolizes the denial of freedom and the right to self-determination for the Kashmiri people, said a news release. He reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to raise its voice for Kashmiri rights until the dawn of freedom emerges in the region. He stressed that resolving the Kashmir issue in accordance with UN resolutions is the only viable solution, urging the international community to play its part.

India has long history of oppression in Held Kashmir: Azam Nazeer

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Law, Senator Azam Nazeer Tatar has said that the Black Day served as a solemn reminder of the tragic events of 1947, when Indian forces unlawfully invaded Srinagar, marking the beginning of a long history of oppression, detentions and tyranny against the innocent people of the region. Since then, India has consistently violated the human rights of the Kashmiri people in the occupied territory, he said in a message on the Kashmir Black Day on Sunday. Today, the minister said Pakistan observes Black Day to protest India's illegal occupation and to urge the international community to honor its commitments under the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) resolutions, which affirm the Kashmiri people's right to self-determination.

The federal minister further highlighted that India continued to commit severe human rights abuses and imposes oppressive laws to tighten its grip over Kashmir's land and resources. Senator Azam Nazeer Tatar called on the global community to press India to end these egregious violations and stressed the urgent need for the implementation of UN resolutions to peacefully resolve the Kashmir issue. APP