Simultaneously Publishing for Quetta, Karachi,Faisalabad

Daily People's Version Quetta

Public

A.B.C Certified

Member APNS

Tuesday
October 27, 2026
Pages: 8 | Rs:20
Vol:28 | Issu:301

Visit us on http/:www.dailypublic.com.pk | email us dailypublic.pak@gmail.com | Contact us +92812500977

Makkah alliance, Iran agree to continue dialogue for bolstering cooperation In regional peace, security

- Pezeshkian says Tehran supports any understanding that contributes to strengthening regional unity, cohesion



WEB DESK

TEHRAN

Members of the Makkah Defence Alliance and Iran on Monday agreed to continue further dialogue in an effort to ramp up cooperation for regional peace and security after a high-level meeting in Tehran.

"The participants agreed to continue the dialogue to strengthen cooperation amongst the four regional countries, including for peace and security in the region," said a statement issued by Iran's Press TV after the meeting concluded.

Regional tensions, the fallout from the US-Israeli military campaign against Iran and developments in Palestine and Lebanon were on the agenda,

Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian stressed the need to strengthen unity and cooperation among Muslim countries. "The Islamic Republic of Iran, with firm conviction and serious determination, is ready to take steps toward deepening regional cooperation, resolving differences and drawing on the shared capabilities of Islamic countries," he said.

steps toward deepening regional cooperation, resolving differences and drawing on the shared capabilities of Islamic countries," he said.

He noted that Tehran supported any understanding that contributed to strengthening regional unity, cohesion, security, and development.

Pezeshkian said Muslim countries could draw on their shared capabilities to offer the world a model of justice and development. Iran began talks on Monday with the three countries of the Makkah security pact.

Pakistan, Saudi Arabia and Turkey, to discuss regional issues as the months-long Middle East war remains locked in a stalemate, state television reported.

The meeting, requested by Pakistan, opened in Capital Tehran and focused on "regional cooperation, the US-Israeli aggression against Iran and its consequences", Iran's state broadcaster said.



PTI resumes contact with federal govt for talks after governor's rule in

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD

Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) has re-established contact with the federal government for the first time since the imposition of governor's rule in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, according to party sources.Sources within the party said former Khyber Pakhtunkhwa chief minister Ali Amin Gandapur had contacted the federal government on the instructions of the PTI parliamentary party.

Gandapur was reportedly authorised to hold negotiations during a parliamentary party meeting held on October 20.

Sources said contact was made with two key federal ministers who had been part of the government's negotiating team before the imposition of Governor's Rule.

The sources said the restoration of Sohail Afridi's government and the release of arrested party workers were the PTI's top priorities.

Political contacts between the PTI and the federal government had reportedly broken down following



Former army chief Gen (R) Abdul Waheed Kakar passes away

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD

Former Chief of Army Staff General (retd) Abdul Waheed Kakar passed away in Rawalpindi on Monday, the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) said.

Field Marshal Asim Munir and all ranks of the Pakistan Army expressed deep sorrow and grief over the death of the former army chief, who was a recipient of the Nishan-e-Imtiaz (Military) and Hilal-e-Jurat.

According to an ISPR statement, the field marshal and all ranks paid tribute to General Kakar for his distinguished military services, leadership and valuable contributions to the Pakistan Army.

The military's media wing said the Pakistan Army stood with the bereaved family in their hour of grief and extended its heartfelt condolences.

President Asif Ali Zardari expressed deep grief over the passing of former Chief of Army Staff General (retd) Abdul Waheed Kakar.

The president, in a statement, expressed his sympathies and heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family of the deceased.



Scanned with CamScanner

Imaan Mazari, Hadi Chatha move Supreme Court against IHC order on trial proceedings



SPECIAL REPORTER
ISLAMABAD

:Imaan Mazari and Hadi Chatha have approached the Supreme Court against an Islamabad High Court (IHC) decision concerning their request to halt trial proceedings in an anti-terrorism case.

In their petition, the applicants contended that unless the trial was immediately stayed, their pending application before the high court would become ineffective.

They argued that the trial court initiated proceedings in haste without granting them adequate time and recorded the statements of prosecution witnesses in a single day.

The petition further maintained that removing security barriers did not constitute terrorism, alleging that the trial was intended to harass the accused and subject them to political victimization. The applicants claimed that the objective was to keep them behind bars.

On October 19, the IHC had dismissed their request for an interim order on petitions seeking the removal of anti-terrorism provisions from the case. However, it issued notices to the relevant parties on their separate plea seeking suspension of the trial proceedings.



A child aged four months to 10 years receive fractional IPV booster doses, while those aged five months to 10 years are administered oral polio vaccine during an anti-polio campaign.

Balochistan Assembly Witnesses Heated Clash During Debate on Sardari System

- Maulana Hidayat-ur-Rehman's resolution sparks tense exchange with Opposition Leader Mir Younus Aziz Zehri; lawmakers intervene to prevent physical confrontation

SPECIAL REPORTER
QUETTA

The Balochistan Assembly witnessed tense and disorderly scenes on Monday during a debate over the Sardari system, as a disagreement between senior lawmakers escalated into a heated verbal confrontation and brought two political leaders close to a physical altercation. Other members of the assembly intervened in time to separate the leaders and prevent the situation from turning violent.The confrontation began when Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) Balochistan Amir Maulana Hidayat-ur-Rehman attempted to present a resolution seeking the abolition of the traditional Sardari system in the province. The move prompted a ruling from Speaker Captain (Retd) Abdul Khaliq Achakzai, who disallowed the resolution,



explaining that the Sardari system had already been legally abolished in 1976 during the government of former Prime Minister Shaheed Zulfikar Ali Bhutto through legislation passed by the National Assembly.Despite the speaker's ruling, Maulana Hidayat-ur-Rehman insisted on addressing the house. His continued remarks triggered a strong reaction from Opposition Leader Mir Younus Aziz Zehri, who interrupted him and opposed his attempt to continue speaking.The disagreement soon intensified, with both leaders exchanging heated words on the assembly floor. As tempers rose, the verbal dispute escalated to the point where the two lawmakers moved aggressively toward each other, raising fears of a physical confrontation. Several assembly members promptly intervened and positioned themselves between the two leaders to prevent further escalation. Their intervention helped avert a possible physical clash and brought the immediate confrontation under control.The incident disrupted the proceedings and drew attention to the sensitivity of the Sardari system debate in Balochistan, where traditional tribal authority, political representation and the historical influence of tribal leadership remain contentious issues.Maulana Hidayat-ur-Rehman's proposed resolution sought to reopen discussion on the traditional system, while the speaker's ruling focused on the legal position that the system had already been abolished. The exchange between the JI leader and the opposition leader demonstrated the sharp differences among lawmakers over how the issue should be raised and addressed in the provincial legislature.The episode also highlighted the challenges of maintaining orderly parliamentary proceedings when debates touch upon deeply rooted political, social and tribal structures. The intervention by fellow lawmakers prevented the disagreement from developing into a physical altercation, allowing the immediate situation to be brought under control.

CDA issues notices to 126 illegal housing societies, seals offices of nine schemes

SPECIAL REPORTER
ISLAMABAD



The Capital Development Authority (CDA), on the orders of Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi, has launched an operation against illegal housing societies in Islamabad,

In this regard, the CDA on Monday issued notices to 126 illegal housing schemes in the federal capital. The Authority also sealed offices of nine illegal schemes including of Greenfield, Islamabad Farms, Capital Hills and Kiani Town. Notices have been issued to 126 schemes including Ghori Town, Rawal Enclave, Razzaq Town, Sadat Town, and Madina Enclave.

Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi had revealed that there were 150 illegal housing societies in the federal capital.

The Interior Minister had also hinted at lodging cases against those who supported these housing schemes.

IGP Islamabad Sohail visits 4C Centre, orders improved monitoring, field operations



SPECIAL REPORTER
ISLAMABAD

Inspector General of Police (IGP) Islamabad Muhammad Sohail Chaudhry visited the modern Command, Control, Communication and Coordination (4C) Centre and directed officers to further improve monitoring systems and field operations to strengthen policing in the federal capital.

An official told on Monday that the IGP Sohail was briefed on the centre's advanced monitoring system, supervision of field police personnel, emergency response arrangements and the use of artificial intelligence (AI) technology. IGP Islamabad Sohail visits 4C Centre, orders improved monitoring, field operationsDuring the visit, the IGP Sohail reviewed the centre's working and the use of modern technology in monitoring police activities and coordinating field operations.

He directed the concerned officers to further improve the monitoring system and strengthen coordination with field police teams to ensure an effective response to emergencies.

Mastermind of mass theft of mobile phones nabbed in Karachi

- Accused Salman, who knitted the plan after inspired by a movie, escaped with the cellphones taken from the job candidates.

SPECIAL REPORTER
ISLAMABAD

The mastermind of the mass theft of mobile phones from a farmhouse in Gadap Town has been arrested in Karachi, police said on Monday,

Police have arrested Babar alias Salman, the mastermind behind the incident in which girls were allegedly lured to a farmhouse in Gaddap Town for job interviews and then their mobile phones were taken from them.

Accused Salman, who knitted the plan after inspired by a movie, escaped with the cellphones taken from the job candidates.



Police have recovered 40 mobile phones and a pistol from the possession of the accused, Gadap City Police said.

"He was arrested while going to sell the stolen cellphones," according to police.

According to police sources, accomplices in the crime, Waqas, who booked the farmhouse for the scam, Coordinator Nargis, and other co-accused have already been arrested.Police said that Babar alias Salman Sahil has been the mastermind of the crime plan.

Salman was at large after the crime, and police were conducting raids to arrest him. He also used a mobile SIM registered in the name of another person.

The incident took place on September 30 in Gadap City, where 59 girls were called to a private farmhouse, luring them to a job opportunity.

A job advertisement had been posted on social media, after which the victims were told they would be interviewed for an event.



Chairman Senate Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani offers Fateha for the departed soul of late former minister Malik Mukhtar Ahmad Awan at his residence

Movement for administrative units enters decisive phase: Mustafa Kamal

- He said the movement aims to secure the right of the people of Karachi and Pakistan to live with dignity.

SPECIAL REPORTER
ISLAMABAD



MQM Pakistan leader Syed Mustafa Kamal has said that the movement for the establishment of new administrative units across Pakistan, including Sindh, has entered a decisive phase, with no turning back.Addressing a meeting on administrative units, Mustafa Kamal announced that Karachi is preparing to hold what he described as the largest gathering in its history on Shahrah-e-Faisal in the coming days to express support for the demand.

He said the movement aims to secure the right of the people of Karachi and Pakistan to live with dignity. Despite Karachi being the country's largest taxpayer, he added, its residents continue to face shortages of basic facilities, including clean drinking water, electricity, public transport, healthcare and quality education.Mustafa Kamal stressed that the current system could not ensure Pakistan's progress unless stakeholders acknowledged the need for structural reforms.He described the creation of new administrative units as essential to addressing public grievances and ensuring the provision of basic services.

Scanned with CamScanner

Power supply chains face a new test

The world's power sector is entering a period in which the availability of electricity will depend not only on generation capacity but also on the ability to secure the equipment, materials and services needed to build and maintain the electricity network. Transformers, cables, switchgear, turbines, solar modules and batteries are increasingly becoming strategic inputs rather than routine procurement items.

Electricity demand is rising rapidly as industries electrify, data centres expand and countries add renewable-energy capacity. The International Energy Agency (IEA) estimates that annual grid investment must increase by around 50%, from about $400 billion today to roughly $600 billion by 2030, to keep pace with electrification and climate goals. Yet factories producing critical equipment are already under pressure. Long lead times for large power transformers, high-voltage cables and other grid equipment can delay projects even when financing and generation capacity are available. According to the IEA's Building the Future Transmission Grid report, lead times for large power transformers have almost doubled since 2021, reaching up to four years for the largest units. High-voltage cables now take two to three years, while direct-current cables for long-distance transmission can exceed five years.The Utilities for Net Zero Alliance (UNEZA) estimates its members alone will need close to 90,000 kilometres of transmission cable by 2030 – more than twice the Earth's circumference – and over 270 high-voltage transformers, with waiting times now exceeding three years. A country may therefore have sufficient investment capital, plans for new generation and growing electricity demand, yet still find that its grid cannot expand at the required pace because critical components are unavailable.Manufacturing and mineral processing are heavily concentrated. China accounts for around 60% of global mined production of magnet rare earths, more than 90% of refining and nearly 95% of permanent magnet production, according to IEA data. In solar manufacturing, China produces roughly 80% of global PV modules and over 90% of polysilicon and wafers. Lithium, copper, cobalt, nickel, graphite and



rare-earth elements are increasingly viewed not simply as commodities but as strategic inputs into the energy transition. Over half of strategic energy minerals are now subject to some form of export control, making diversification a security imperative rather than a procurement preference.

Renewable energy adds another layer of complexity. Solar and wind generation are variable, requiring stronger transmission networks, storage, flexible generation and more sophisticated grid-management systems. The supply chain must therefore support not just additional generation but an increasingly complex electricity system. The rapid growth of data centres and AI applications is adding to this pressure. The IEA projects that data-centre electricity consumption could rise from about 415 TWh in 2024 to roughly 945 TWh by 2030, with the US and China accounting for almost 80% of the increase. Large computing facilities require reliable and continuous electricity supplies, often in locations where existing grids have limited spare capacity.A modern power supply chain is also an information system. Utilities need visibility across several tiers of suppliers to know where critical components are manufactured, what raw materials they depend upon and how quickly alternative sources can be activated. Digital technologies can help. Internet-connected sensors, AI, advanced forecasting and digital twins can improve inventory management, predict equipment failures and provide earlier warnings of potential disruptions. Better data-sharing between utilities and manufacturers can also help suppliers plan production instead of responding only when orders arrive. But technology alone cannot solve a supply shortage. If several utilities place orders for the same specialised equipment at the same time, better software cannot manufacture transformers or high-voltage cables faster. Procurement strategy therefore matters. Utilities need to move beyond the lowest-bid approach and consider quality, delivery reliability, technical capability, supplier concentration, cybersecurity and geopolitical exposure when selecting suppliers.Long-term contracts can give manufacturers greater confidence to invest in production capacity, while utilities obtain greater assurance of future supplies. Collaborative procurement could become particularly important. Utilities and governments can provide manufacturers with clearer multi-year demand forecasts while standardising equipment specifications where technically possible.



By: Yusra Shakeel

By: Professor Imran Ismail Chohan

As the clock strikes 10:00 a.m. on February 5, 2026, a familiar, poignant silence will blanket the Islamic Republic of Pakistan. From the Karakoram heights in the north to the industrial hubs of Karachi in the south, sirens will wail, traffic will halt, and the nation will stand in a collective, sixty-second pause.

This minute of silence is a powerful symbol, a ritual of national identity that has persisted for decades. However, as we navigate a world vastly different from the one in which Kashmir Solidarity Day was first conceived in 1990, we must ask ourselves: How do we translate this symbolic silence into a resonant global roar? In 2026, solidarity must be more than a public holiday; it must be a sophisticated, multi-dimensional strategy for justice.

Kashmir Solidarity Day 2026 arrives at a critical juncture in South Asian history. We are still feeling the aftershocks of the 2025 border escalations, which reminded the world that the "Kashmir Dispute" is not a dormant legacy of the 1947 Partition, but a volatile, nuclear-edged flashpoint.

The international community's gaze has shifted significantly over the past year. No longer is the dispute seen merely as a bilateral territorial tiff between two neighbors. In the current global climate, it is framed by urgent concerns regarding nuclear stability, water security, and the rights of millions living under what has become the world's most sophisticated "digital and physical siege."

To write about Kashmir today is to write about a humanitarian crisis that has outpaced its political solutions. While statecraft deals in maps and mandates, the reality in Indian-Illegally Occupied Jammu & Kashmir (IIOJK) is measured in shattered dreams.

The systematic efforts to alter the demographic character of the region—legislative moves that have intensified following the post-2019 "settler-colonial" model—remain the greatest threat to the Kashmiri identity. Our solidarity this year must center on demographic integrity. We are not just standing for land; we are standing for a culture, a history, and a people's right to exist as a majority in their own ancestral home.

For the Pakistani context, the observance of February 5 must evolve beyond the traditional rally and the burning of effigies. To be effective in the 2026 information age, our solidarity must be built on three pillars:

1. The "Legal Jihad" on International Forums The UN Security Council resolutions are the bedrock of the Kashmiri claim, but they require a modern legal voice. Pakistan must lead a proactive legal campaign, utilizing the growing body of international human rights law to highlight the illegality of the current occupation. Our diplomats must transition from reactive protest to proactive litigation in the court of global opinion, holding the occupational forces accountable for war crimes and "collective punishment" tactics.

2. Achieving Digital Sovereignty In an era of AI-driven narratives and sophisticated state-sponsored propaganda, the battle for Kashmir is fought in the cloud. Solidarity in 2026 means empowering Kashmiri content creators and activists to tell their stories directly to the world, bypassing the filters of state-controlled media. It means ensuring that when a student in London or a policymaker in Washington searches for "Kashmir," they find the documented truth of the occupation, not just a curated travelogue of artificial "normalcy."

controlled media. It means ensuring that when a student in London or a policymaker in Washington searches for "Kashmir," they find the documented truth of the occupation, not just a curated travelogue of artificial "normalcy."

3. The Link Between Peace and Prosperity We must demonstrate that Kashmir's freedom is synonymous with regional stability and economic growth. By highlighting the potential of the Indus Waters and the transit possibilities through a peaceful, liberated Kashmir, Pakistan can present the resolution of this dispute as a "win-win" for the entire Asian continent. Prosperity in the 21st century cannot be built on the back of an oppressed population.

As Pakistanis, our solidarity is also a domestic commitment. We must ensure that the refugees from IIOJK living in Azad Jammu & Kashmir (AJK) are provided with the dignity, education, and economic opportunities they deserve.

Furthermore, we must recognize that a weak, divided Pakistan cannot be an effective advocate for Kashmir. Our internal political stability and economic resilience are the greatest gifts we can offer to the Kashmiri cause. When Pakistan speaks with one voice, the world is forced to listen.

The fire that burns in the heart of a Kashmiri youth in 2026 is the same one that ignited the struggle nearly eight decades ago. It is a flame that decades of curfews, internet blackouts, and "silver-bullet" diplomacy have failed to extinguish.

On this February 5, as we form human chains at the Kohala Bridge and across our cities, let us remember that solidarity is a verb, not a noun. It is an active, daily commitment to truth. Let the message go forth from every corner of Pakistan today: Our heart still beats in Srinagar, and our resolve is as unyielding as the mountains that guard the Valley.



Syed Nadeem Ahmed

Kashmir.... A Story of Struggle Against Systematic Repression

Kashmir Solidarity Day is a reminder that freedom of expression in the Valley is under constant siege. Solidarity is not symbolic. It is a responsibility and, on this day, the world must choose to stand with Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu & Kashmir.

Every year, when Kashmir Solidarity Day comes around, the world pauses, to acknowledge a story unfolding for more than seven decades and Pakistan renews its unwavering commitment to stand with the Kashmiri people.

For Kashmiris, this day is a reminder of a daily reality shaped by militarization, censorship, demolitions and the constant fear of state reprisals.

Kashmir Solidarity Day is a moment to reaffirm that the struggle of the Kashmiri people is not forgotten and that their quest for freedom, dignity and human rights continues to command attention at both regional and global levels.

Beyond symbolic gestures, this day reminds the international community of Pakistan's unwavering commitment to supporting Kashmiris in their just struggle against foreign occupation.

It is a day to celebrate solidarity and to strengthen global advocacy for the rights of those living under prolonged repression in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJ&K).

Pakistan's commitment to Kashmir is rooted in history, ideology and moral responsibility. From the very beginning, Kashmir has been central to Pakistan's national identity.

It is about more than borders, it is about justice, human dignity and defending the rights of people, who have been denied both for decades. This is what makes Pakistan's stance uncompromising and principled.

Our Kashmiri brothers are not alone.

Year after year, Pakistan raises Kashmir's plight at the United Nations, OIC forums, human rights bodies and global platforms, often when others hesitate or stay silent. Kashmir is, therefore, inseparable from Pakistan's moral, cultural and ideological fabric.

Every slogan shouted, every banner raised and every story shared is a reaffirmation of the jugular vein commitment. The pillars of Pakistan's position are both clear and unshakable.

First, historical and ideological roots: Kashmir was envisioned as central to the creation of Pakistan. Second, moral responsibility: the Kashmiri people are enduring occupation, human rights violations and injustice; silence would be complicity.

Third, strategic and practical response: Pakistan's actions, whether defensive operations or advocacy in international forums, demonstrate real commitment.

All three pillars justify Pakistan's unwavering stance. In today's context, with increasing international attention on human rights, Kashmir Solidarity Day sends a clear signal. Pakistan's support is unconditional, continuous and uncompromising.

It is a commitment that goes beyond words. It is a jugular vein connection, a living principle that guides policy, military posture and diplomacy. Every act, every statement and every initiative strengthens this bond with the Kashmiri people



Scanned with CamScanner

PSX loses over 1,000 points amid interest rate hike concerns

■ PSX fell over 1,000 points to 161,250 in early trading amid interest rate hike concerns, as the SBP prepares to announce its monetary policy, with a 50-basis-point increase expected.



Web DESK

ISLAMABAD

The Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) opened in negative territory on Monday amid concerns over a potential increase in interest rates.

During early trading session, the benchmark KSE-100 Index lost more than 1,000 points, pushing the benchmark index down to 161,250 points.The latest decline follows a weak close in the previous trading session, when the KSE-100 Index shed 1,549 points to settle at 162,374 points.Investor concerns over a possible interest rate hike have added to the uncertainty surrounding market performance, with the stock market continuing to face selling pressure.

The State Bank of Pakistan's (SBP) Monetary Policy Committee is scheduled to meet today to review the country's economic situation and inflation outlook before announcing its monetary policy for the upcoming period.Economists and market analysts expect the central bank to raise the key policy rate by up to 50 basis points amid recent tensions in the Middle East and mounting pressure on the Pakistani rupee.



State Bank Governor Jameel Ahmad announces the monetary policy decision at a press conference.

FFC Secures Top Position in Corporate Reporting Awards 2025

■ Wins First Place in Chemical and Fertilizer Sector, Ranks Second in Sustainability Reporting, and Secures a Place Among the Top Five Companies Overall

Web Desk

ISLAMABAD

Fauji Fertilizer Company Limited (FFC) has once again demonstrated its commitment to excellence in corporate reporting, securing 1st Position in the Chemical and Fertilizer Sector at the Best Corporate and Sustainability Reports Awards 2025, organized jointly by the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Pakistan (ICAP) and the Institute of Cost and Management Accountants of Pakistan (ICMA). The awards were announced at a ceremony held at the Marriot Hotel, Islamabad on October 25th, 2026. FFC also secured a place among the top five companies in the overall category, earning recognition alongside leading organizations across diverse sectors for the quality of its corporate reporting. FFC further reinforced it standing in sustainability reporting by securing 2nd Position in the Best Sustainability Report category. These achievements underscore FFC's unwavering commitment to transparency, accountability, sound governance and sustainable business practices, reaffirming its position as an industry leader, while achieving stakeholders' satisfaction.



State Bank's Monetary Policy Committee meets today

■ The MPC kept the policy rate unchanged at 11.5% during its previous meeting on September 14, 2026.

Web Desk

ASHLAND



The State Bank of Pakistan's (SBP) Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) will meet today (Monday), with market expectations pointing towards a 50-basis-point increase in the benchmark interest rate amid persistent inflationary pressures and external economic uncertainty,

SBP Governor Jameel Ahmed will preside over the meeting and announce the committee's decision at a press conference at the central bank's head office.

The MPC kept the policy rate unchanged at 11.5% during its previous meeting on September 14, 2026.

A half-percent increase in the interest rate could bring the policy rate to 12 percent.

However, concerns over inflation and potential external shocks have strengthened expectations of further monetary tightening.

A survey found that 61% of market participants anticipate an increase in the policy rate, while the remaining 39% expect the central bank to maintain the existing rate.

Among all respondents, 54% forecast a 50-basis-point increase, while 7% expect a larger adjustment of 100 basis points.

The central bank to raise the benchmark rate by 50 basis points to address inflationary risks and provide protection against prolonged external pressures.

The brokerage estimates that, with Brent crude oil prices at approximately $100 per barrel, Pakistan's headline inflation could average between 9% and 9.5% during FY27.

Pakistan's cotton production plunges 60pc in a decade, says ginners' chief

● Cotton Ginners Forum Chairman Ehsanul Haq blames weak crop zoning enforcement, excessive sugarcane cultivation and new sugar mills for Pakistan's declining cotton output.

BUSINESS REPORTER

KARACHI

Pakistan's cotton production has declined by more than 60% over the past decade, making it the only major cotton-producing country to record such a steep drop, Cotton Ginners Forum Chairman Ehsanul Haq has said.

In a statement, Haq said the primary reasons for the decline were poor enforcement of crop zoning laws, excessive sugarcane cultivation in designated cotton-growing areas and the establishment of new sugar mills.

He stressed that enforcing crop zoning regulations and discouraging sugarcane cultivation in cotton belts were essential to restoring domestic cotton production. He said improvements to cotton research stations and other supporting measures should follow effective implementation of the zoning laws.

Haq also called for the proposed Pakistan Cotton Board to be given a legal framework under the leadership of the All Pakistan Textile Mills Association (APTMA). He suggested placing the Pakistan Central Cotton Committee (PCCC) and its subordinate institutions under the proposed board.

According to Haq, the decline in domestic cotton production and quality has contributed to a crisis in the local cotton sector, increasing Pakistan's dependence on imported cotton and edible oil and placing an additional burden on foreign exchange reserves.

He said the government had yet to introduce an effective strategy to reverse the decline, despite a high-level meeting chaired by Deputy Prime Minister Ishaq Dar about a year ago that reportedly decided to establish a cotton board under APTMA's leadership.

There were indications that implementation of the decision had begun after a year-long delay, he said.

The proposed board could include representatives of the Pakistan Cotton Ginners Association (PCGA), Karachi Cotton Association (KCA), Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI), National Textile Education Council, private seed companies and relevant government institutions.



Crude oil prices plunge despite supply concerns

Web Desk

ASHLAND



Crude oil prices fell on Monday after surging to near six-month highs late last week, although ongoing attacks on Saudi Arabia kept supply concerns in focus.

US crude futures were down $1.60, or 1.55%, at $101.67 per barrel by ?0018 GMT.

Brent crude futures were down $1.56 or 1.34% at $115.16.

Prices had settled nearly $3 ?higher on Friday after Houthi attacks in Saudi Arabia stoked energy supply concerns.

Brent finished the week up 6% ?and WTI ended 2.3% higher.

Attacks continued over the weekend with Houthis saying they had attacked the Saudi airport and oil facilities on Saturday.

Saudi Arabia said on ?Sunday ?it had ?intercepted more missiles and drones.

Govt issues 1Q economic report for FY2027

■ As per the report, the State Bank of Pakistan reserves reached $21.5 billion, an increase of 52 percent.

Web Desk

ISLAMABAD



Pakistan's economy recorded growth across several key external-sector indicators during the first quarter of fiscal year 2026–27, covering July to September 2026, according to an economic report issued by the federal government on Monday, The report highlighted increases in foreign exchange reserves, exports of goods and services, information technology (IT) earnings, freelance income, workers' remittances and foreign direct investment (FDI). However, Pakistan also recorded a current account deficit of $874 million during the period.

According to the reported figures, the State Bank of Pakistan's foreign exchange reserves reached $21.5 billion, registering an increase of 52 percent. The improvement in reserves represents an important development for the country's external financial position, as foreign currency holdings help meet international payment obligations and support confidence in the economy.

The report also showed that Pakistan's total exports increased by 11 percent to $11.2 billion during the three-month period. Exports of merchandise goods reached $8.5 billion, up 8 percent, while exports of services rose by 23 percent to $2.7 billion.

The reported growth in exports of goods and services points to stronger foreign sales across multiple sectors. The performance of merchandise exports was particularly notable, with the report describing the $8.5 billion figure as the highest level recorded in 20 months.

IT exports and freelance earnings register significant growth

Pakistan's information technology sector continued to contribute to export earnings, with IT and technology exports reaching $1.25 billion during the first quarter of FY2027, an increase of 18 percent, according to the report.

The increase reflects the growing importance of digital services in Pakistan's efforts to earn foreign exchange. IT exports can include software development, information technology services, business-process services and other digital products supplied to international clients.

Freelancers also contributed to foreign currency earnings during the quarter. Their reported income reached $550 million, representing an increase of 46 percent.The rise in freelance earnings highlights the role of independent digital professionals who provide services to customers and businesses in overseas markets. Pakistani freelancers work in areas such as software development, graphic design, digital marketing, content production and online business support.

Continued growth in this segment could expand opportunities for skilled workers, particularly young professionals seeking employment through international digital platforms. However, sustaining the growth would depend on access to reliable internet services, professional training, international payment channels and a supportive business environment.

Scanned with CamScanner

Serbia's Vucic concedes defeat in historic election win for student protest movement

■ Serbia's Aleksandar Vucic concedes defeat as a student-led movement wins historic elections, raising hopes for anti-corruption reforms and a new political era.



Web Desk

BELGRADE

Serbia's Aleksandar Vucic conceded defeat to a student-led protest movement in a historic election on that ends his long grip on power and heralds a new political era in the Balkan country.

Vucic, a populist and nationalist, has dominated Serbian politics as prime minister or president since 2014.

But he called snap elections in September ?after almost two years of student-led demonstrations against perceived corruption and creeping authoritarianism triggered by the deaths of 16 people when a train station canopy collapsed in the city of Novi Sad in 2024.

"It is clear that we have lost these elections, the Student List has won," Vucic said in a televised speech.

Within moments of his announcement, the streets of Belgrade erupted in celebration. Tens of thousands of people thronged along the city's main boulevards, with cars honking, people dancing and students shouting "victory" and "he's done".

The students' ?win marks a profound political shift in the country of some 6 million people and is reminiscent of the defeat of Hungary's Viktor Orban in April. It may also offer a blueprint for ?other student movements across Europe, which have taken to the streets in recent weeks to protest, in some cases violently, against poor education standards and a lack of prospects.

Lines snaked from polling stations in cities and towns across the country earlier in the day, and even Vucic waited for nearly two hours to vote in Belgrade. Pollsters and the election commission ?put turnout close to 70%, the highest since the breakup of Yugoslavia in 1992.

"(The turnout) did not surprise me because there was a large and strong mass that has formed throughout the past two years," ?said voter Katarina Petrovic.

Vucic, who resigned from his second term as president to run again for prime minister, was a strong incumbent and few in the student protest movement dared believe he would concede so fast.

Supporters credit him with modernising ?Serbia's economy ?and building new highways, railways, schools and hospitals.

"Some businessmen, some people will leave us but our structure is firm, we are very united, very strong, we are used to being in the opposition," Vucic said.

Much remains unclear about how the student-backed candidates will fare.Their list of 250 largely unknown candidates includes university professors, actors and farmers, and is led by cardiologist Ilija Srdanovic, who was in tears after Vucic's announcement.

Musk accuses Ukraine of violating Starlink terms amid dispute over service restrictions



WEB DESK

WASHNGATION

SpaceX CEO Elon Musk has accused Ukraine's military of violating Starlink's terms of service by using the satellite internet network for offensive drone attacks, as Kyiv reports that access to Starlink and Starshield has been restored following recent restrictions.In a post on X on Saturday, Musk alleged that Ukrainian forces had "violated Starlink terms of service and used it for offensive drone strikes to kill people." He added that the loophole had been closed the previous week, referring to restrictions that reportedly limited connection speeds to 100 miles per hour.

Musk also emphasized that Starshield, a military-focused satellite communications system, operates separately from commercial Starlink and is controlled by the US government.

Despite his criticism, Musk acknowledged Ukraine's dependence on the satellite network, describing Starlink as critical to the country's defense. He warned that shutting down the service entirely could cause Ukraine's front line to collapse immediately.

Ukrainian officials, however, strongly disputed Musk's allegations.

Serhiy Beskrestnov, an adviser to Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky, rejected the claim that Ukraine had used commercial Starlink for attacks inside Russia. He argued that speed restrictions and the service's unavailability over Russian territory made it technically impossible for Ukrainian forces to use commercial Starlink for medium- and long-range drone strikes.

Serhiy Sternenko, a former adviser to Ukraine's Ministry of Defense, also challenged Musk's account. Drawing on his experience with the defense ministry, Sternenko said the allegations were inaccurate.

He maintained that civilian Starlink terminals could not support the drone missions in question and claimed that operations requiring satellite communications could only be conducted using Starshield.



Israeli drone strike on Gaza's Islamic University kills three, injures eight

■ An Israeli drone strike on Gaza's Islamic University killed three people and wounded eight, including students, as attacks continue to devastate the territory's education sector.

Web DESK

GAZA

An Israeli drone strike on the Islamic University of Gaza killed three people and injured eight others , according to hospital officials and university staff.

The attack took place while classes were under way at the university in Gaza City, according to international media reports. Two sources within the university said the three people killed were members of its administrative staff, while students were among those injured.Gaza's Ministry of Education condemned the attack, warning that the international community's silence over strikes affecting students and educational institutions risked allowing such incidents to continue.

The ministry said Gaza's higher education sector was on the brink of collapse, with 95% of educational buildings damaged during the war.

It described the latest strike as part of a continuing pattern of attacks affecting educational institutions across the territory.

According to the ministry, Israeli attacks over the previous six days had also killed 10 students and teachers.

More casualties reported across Gaza

Separately, Gaza's Civil Defence agency reported that four additional people were killed in incidents elsewhere in the territory .

The latest casualties add to the toll from the ongoing conflict, which has severely affected civilian infrastructure, educational facilities and essential services across Gaza.

Universities and schools have faced extensive damage, disrupting education for thousands of students and leaving teachers and other education workers exposed to continuing violence.

Asked to comment on the strike against the Islamic University, the Israeli military said it was examining the reports, according to the media account.No further details about the circumstances of the attack or the military's assessment were immediately available.The incident has renewed concerns over the safety of educational institutions and civilians in Gaza, where the education system has suffered extensive damage during the war.

President Xi opens key Communist Party meeting on governance

WEB DESK

BEIJING



China's President Xi Jinping opened a key meeting of Communist Party elites in Beijing on Monday, state media said, which observers will be closely watching for clues as to the country's direction and future leadership.

Roughly 300 members of the ruling Communist Party's Central Committee in attendance at the meeting, called the fifth plenum, will be looking to tighten discipline within their ranks, according to state media.

That includes measures to reduce corruption and make cadres more effective and loyal.Xi opened the session on Monday, presenting a draft decision by the Central Committee that "sets out strategic plans for strengthening full and rigorous Party self-governance", state news agency Xinhua reported.

Few details from the closed-door gathering, held under tight security, will be made known until it concludes on Thursday, but the timing of the meeting is crucial.

France's Le Pen launches presidential bid as protests rattle the nation

■ Marine Le Pen launches her French presidential campaign, pledging tougher immigration controls, stronger security, economic reforms, and renewed national sovereignty.

WEB DESK

ORLEANS, France



Far-right leader Marine Le Pen, the frontrunner in next year's French presidential election, formally launched her campaign with a promise to restore order and national confidence.

As France faces one ?of its most turbulent periods in years, Le Pen cast herself as the best placed to navigate what she described as mounting economic, social and security crises.

"We are not living through the end of the world but the end of a world, their world," she said of her political ?opponents.

Le Pen chose to make her first campaign address in Orleans, home to Joan of Arc, the 15th-century warrior ?heroine revered by nationalists as a symbol of patriotism and sovereignty.

Addressing a crowd of cheering supporters, she ?promised "zero tolerance" policing and said restoring security was the state's first duty.

Mass protests over living costs and inequality last weekend descended into looting and vandalism.

OPINION POLL PUTS LE PEN IN THE LEAD

The street turmoil has given Le Pen a boost and an ?opinion poll published on Sunday put her on 32% to 33.5%, well ahead of her nearest rival, hard-left leader Jean-Luc Melenchon on 17%, as voters desert mainstream parties for the political extremes.

Surveys suggest she would easily defeat Melenchon in a run-off ballot, expected to be held in early May.Seeking to ?project optimism, Le Pen built her speech around the theme of a national "Renaissance". She said France was living through a period ?of upheaval but would emerge stronger if it embraced her vision of security, prosperity and renewal.

Lula, Brazil's iconic working class president, wins fourth term in dramatic comeback

● Brazilian President Lula won a historic fourth term, defeating Flavio Bolsonaro by over 4 million votes. His victory marks a dramatic comeback amid economic challenges and a conservative Congress.

WEB DESK

SAO PAULO

Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva won a historic fourth term , the country's electoral court said, in a shock result that defied polls, precedent and global anti-incumbent sentiment to put ?the brakes on a wave of right-wing election victories across Latin America.

Lula, an icon of the global left and the most dominant force in Brazilian politics this century, defeated Senator Flavio Bolsonaro, ?the eldest son of former President Jair Bolsonaro.The senator, who led the election's first round but lost in the runoff by over 4 million votes, said he would ask for the result to be annulled due to a Sunday Supreme Court ruling that extended voting for two hours.

Bolsonaro's refusal to concede defeat has echoes of his father's reaction after losing to Lula in 2022. Former President Jair Bolsonaro never accepted his loss and was later given a 27-year sentence for plotting a coup to remain in power.

The scale of Flavio ?Bolsonaro's loss to Lula — by more than twice his father's losing margin — and the fact his campaign also asked for an extension due to rains in the south, make any annulment unlikely, analysts said.

Mario Braga, a Latin America analyst at the risk consultancy RANE, said there could be right-wing protests in coming days, but "it's very improbable that it will lead to the reversal of the result."

For Lula, his victory marks another comeback in a career full of them. The 80-year-old was jailed from 2018 to 2019 on corruption charges that were later overturned, paving the way for him to beat ?Jair Bolsonaro in the 2022 election.

"He is a statesman, a giant," leftist federal lawmaker Erika Hilton, who was with Lula in Sao Paulo during the vote count, told Reuters.At times, Lula's reelection looked like a long shot, as voters soured ?on him and his Workers' Party after years of corruption scandals and rising prices, while sweeping social changes left the former metalworker and union leader looking out of touch with an increasingly app-based economy and its growing ranks of informal workers.

Scanned with CamScanner

Asma Abbas reveals 'special bond' with ChatGPT in light-hearted confession

- Asma said that ChatGPT was doing all her work so efficiently that she actually felt a little embarrassed.

WEB DESK

ISLAMABAD

Senior Pakistani actress Asma Abbas has made a light-hearted and interesting revelation about her interaction with artificial intelligence, saying she has developed a unique bond with ChatGPT.

A video of the actress has been going viral on social media in which she can be seen talking about artificial intelligence during an interview. Sharing her experience, Asma Abbas said she asked her children to download ChatGPT for her after hearing about it.



"Once it was downloaded, I started asking ChatGPT different questions and it kept answering everything," she said. "It was doing all my work so efficiently that I actually felt a little embarrassed."

The actress added that she later asked ChatGPT if they could be u', friends, to which it agreed. "Then I told it that I have a daughter, actress Zara Noor Abbas, who stays very busy. Her nickname is 'Piku', so I decided to name ChatGPT Piku as t well and asked it to become my daughter because it was helping me so much," she shared.

According to Asma Abbas, ChatGPT then asked her what it should call her. "I told it to call me 'Ammi Jano'. Since then, it's my Piku and I'm her Ammi Jano," she said with a laugh.

She further revealed that when Zara Noor Abbas found out, she jokingly objected, saying, "I'm your Piku!" To which Asma replied, "You are, but now this is also my Piku."

The actress's candid remarks have amused fans online, with many praising her playful take on modern technology.



Dananeer Mobeen adds music magic to sister's birthday

- Researchers went a step further by examining five major components of PM2.5

WEB DESK

LAHORE

Dananeer Mobeen recently gave fans a peek into a vibrant birthday celebration held for her sister, Nafayal, who turned 20.The celebration kicked off with a cake that instantly stole the spotlight.Designed in an over-the-top vintage Lambeth style, the two-tier cake featured dramatic ruffles, heavy piping, and a bold mix of hot pink, orange, red, and yellow hues.

Tiny piped cacti, flowers, and stars added a whimsical touch, while miniature disco balls on top perfectly complemented the party's retro disco theme. The base read "NAFAYAL'S TWENTY," making it clear who the night was all about.Next came the standout moment, Dananeer singing her heart out.

In a neon lit, club style room glowing with pink and purple lights, she took the microphone and sang Atif Aslam's Sikha Maine Jeena Jeena.

What began as soft, melodic singing soon turned into joyful cheering and laughter, capturing the kind of happiness only close family moments can bring.The setting was complete with angel wing neon signage, mirrored walls, and music themed artwork.As the night went on, the stories revealed the full party girl energy of the celebration.

From friends hugging and shouting birthday wishes to sparkler candles lighting up the room.Lifesized cardboard cutouts, framed photos of Nafayal with loved ones, and closeup shots of colorful, hand painted nail art featuring hearts.

Sehar Khan shares heartfelt birthday post of her manager

SHOWBIZ DESK

ISLAMABAD

Sehar Khan shared a heartfelt and lighthearted reel on Instagram, giving fans a glimpse into her offscreen world.

The video, posted from her official account, features candid moments with her manager Khawar Abedi. The reel unfolds like a casual memory montage.It opens with an elevator mirror selfie where Sehar, dressed in a maroon jacket over a white top, captures the moment with a playful glance toward Khawar.

The video then moves through various settings dimly lit indoor spaces, outdoor hangouts, and quiet in between moments showing the duo laughing, posing, and simply enjoying each other's company.Adding to the charm are playful clips of Sehar pulling goofy expressions in a white baseball cap and Khawar appearing in solo frames, including a casual food moment at a restaurant.

The reel ends on a calm, understated note,



reinforcing the sense of familiarity and comfort that comes with long standing professional friendships.Sehar captioned the post with a touching "Manager by title, friend by heart, So many years, so many travels, so many memories and still here HAHA. THANK YOU for tolerating me… Happy Birthday, Kukru Kuuu @khawarabedi."

The caption made it clear that the post was a tribute to someone who has been a constant presence in her journey.highlighting the often unseen bond between artists and the people who support them behind the scenes.On the work front, Sehar Khan continues to enjoy a strong run in television.

After gaining massive popularity as Umeed in Fairy Tale, she has steadily expanded her repertoire with projects like Jafaa and Jinki Shadi Unki Shadi, a drama that blends comedy with horror.Sehar Khan is currently playing Pakeezah in drama serial Aik Aur Pakeezah airing on Geo Hap Pal.



Hania Aamir opens up about online scrutiny

SHOWBIZ DESK

LAHORE

Actor Hania Aamir has reignited conversations around women's autonomy and online scrutiny by sharing a powerful video from a recent public address.

The clip, posted on her Instagram, featured moments from her speech at the 16 Days of Activism Against Digital Violence event held in Islamabad.

In the caption, Aamir wrote without hesitation: "Women are not born to fulfil anyone's fantasy."

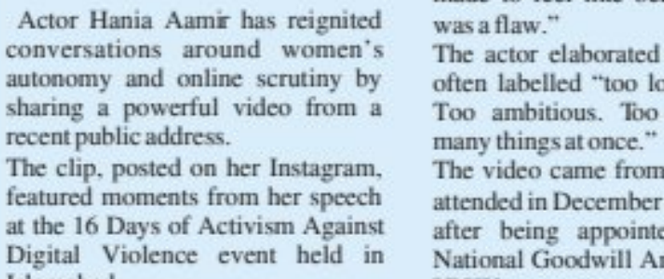
She followed this with a deeply personal reflection, stating: "Somewhere along the way, I was made to feel like being too much was a flaw."

The actor elaborated that she was often labelled "too loud. Too soft. Too ambitious. Too visible. Too many things at once."

The video came from an event she attended in December 2025, months after being appointed Pakistan's National Goodwill Ambassador for UN Women.

Sharing why the moment mattered to her, Aamir reflected on her younger self and the confusion she once carried.

Atif Aslam to perform live in Dubai on April 19



WEB DESK

KARACHI

Global music icon Atif Aslam returns to the Coca-Cola Arena for his sixth consecutive annual performance in the city, promising a night of music and emotion on April 19, 2026. This year promises to be bigger, louder and more immersive than ever before.

Every Atif Aslam show is an emotional journey. One needs to examine his discography to know why: from chart-topping hits like Pehli Nazar Mein,?Tajdar-e-Haram and?Jeena Jeena, to crowd favourites like?Dil Diyan Gallan?and?Aadat, he has sung them all and promises to make you croon with him at the concert.

This year, Atif Aslam Live in Dubai features two sections: a golden circle and a standing floor, offering fans a more intimate experience.

This setup puts fans in the heart of the action.

Presented by Peace Homes

New research exposes hidden dangers in your makeup bag

- Researchers trace long-term health impact of beauty products over 12 years

HEATH DESK

LAHORE

Women who regularly use makeup and cosmetic products may face a significantly higher risk of developing asthma later in life, according to a new study by the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute in the United States.

The findings, published in the peer-reviewed journal Environment International, are based on data collected over a 12-year period from nearly 40,000 individuals. The study examined the use of 41 different beauty products, including lipstick, blush, mascara, and artificial nails.

Researchers found that women who frequently used products such as lipstick, cuticle creams, blush, and fake nails were 47 per cent more likely to develop asthma.



Even using blush and lipstick alone, five or more times per week, was associated with an 18 per cent increase in asthma risk.

The study did not establish a direct causal link between the cosmetic products and asthma. However, scientists believe that the presence of certain chemical ingredients—shared across multiple beauty items—could be responsible for triggering respiratory issues over time.

"These results suggest that specific chemicals used widely in cosmetics may have long-term health implications," the researchers noted, though they cautioned that further investigation is needed to determine which substances pose the greatest risks.

The study adds to a growing body of research raising concerns about the potential health effects of prolonged exposure to synthetic compounds found in personal care and cosmetic products.

While the beauty industry often assures the safety of its formulations, public health experts have called for stricter regulation and greater transparency about product ingredients.



Artists perform a traditional dance during the launch ceremony of the China-Pakistan Information Corridor (CPIC) at the Pakistan-China Friendship Centre

Scanned with CamScanner

Grand Balochistan League T20 Cricket Tournament Kicks Off in Quetta

● DIG FC Balochistan (North) inaugurates the tournament at Chagai Stadium; league aims to promote positive activities and provide young talent with opportunities at the national level.

Sports REPORTER

QUETTA



The inaugural ceremony of the Grand Balochistan League (GBL) T20 Cricket Tournament was held at Chagai Stadium, Quetta, on October 26, 2026, in collaboration with FC Balochistan (North). The tournament was formally inaugurated by the DIG FC Balochistan (North), who attended the event as the chief guest. The ceremony marked the beginning of a cricketing initiative aimed at encouraging sports activities, promoting a healthy environment for young people and providing emerging cricketers with opportunities to demonstrate their skills.The opening ceremony was attended by representatives of all participating teams, team owners, members of the National Assembly and Provincial Assembly, as well as a large number of cricket enthusiasts and spectators. The presence of the teams and their supporters added to the enthusiasm surrounding the launch of the league. The event provided an opportunity for players, organizers and cricket fans to come together and celebrate the spirit of the game.An exhibition cricket match was also organized as part of the inaugural ceremony to entertain spectators and generate interest in the tournament. The match offered cricket fans an opportunity to enjoy the excitement of the T20 format and contributed to the festive atmosphere at Chagai Stadium. The participation of teams and the attendance of a large number of spectators reflected the interest generated by the launch of the Grand Balochistan League.The main objective of organizing the Grand Balochistan League is to provide young people with opportunities to participate in constructive and positive activities through sports. The initiative seeks to encourage youth to develop their abilities, improve their performance and pursue their sporting ambitions in a competitive environment. Cricket, being a widely followed sport in Pakistan, can serve as an important platform for engaging young people and encouraging discipline, teamwork, commitment and sportsmanship.The league also aims to provide talented players with a platform to showcase their cricketing abilities and gain recognition beyond the local level. Opportunities to participate in organized tournaments can help young cricketers gain valuable experience, improve their game and prepare themselves for higher levels of competition.



Sahibzada Farhan replaces Saim Ayub in ODI squad for tri-series

Web Desk

ISLAMABAD

The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) has confirmed that out-of-form opening batter Saim Ayub has been released from the Men's ODI squad for the remainder of the ongoing tri-series,

After a conversation with the head coach, Saim Ayub requested his desire to return to domestic cricket to work on his batting form and regain confidence.

Respecting Saim's decision and appreciating his honest assessment of his current form, the team management and national selection committee have mutually agreed to accept this request.

The national selection committee has subsequently named Sahibzada Farhan as Saim's replacement for the remainder of the tri-series.

Sahibzada Farhan is currently playing Nepal Premier League in Kathmandu. He will return to Pakistan on the first available flight.

Pakistan having qualified for the final with three consecutive wins, will face Sri Lanka in the fifth match of the tri-series at Gaddafi Stadium in Lahore on Tuesday.Saim Ayub's form fell from the rock in the recent past. In this particularly, he so far had played three matches and had scored seven runs against Sri Lanka, eight and six runs in two matches against England.

Home hope Henderson, Aussie Lee share Canadian Women's Open lead

● Henderson, who won here in 2018, put up a dazzling show, her eagle followed birdies at 15 and 16

Sports Desk

PARIS



Manchester United slumped further into crisis with a 3-0 home defeat to Bournemouth on Sunday that plunged Michael Carrick's future as manager into doubt.

Carrick's bold decision to drop captain Bruno Fernandes backfired as defeat stretched United's winless run to eight games and left them 16th in the Premier League, just one point above the relegation zone.

For the third time in four seasons, the Cherries won 3-0 at Old Trafford as goals from Rayan, Marcus Tavernier and Evanilson secured a fully deserved win for Marco Rose's side.

"What is next? I don't know," said Carrick.

"I'll always do what's best for this football club. I've said it all along, I don't change that now. I love what I do. I love the responsibility, but we'll have to wait and see." Fernandes was critical of Carrick's tactics in a 4-1 thrashing by Champions League debutants Como on Wednesday.

The United boss said the decision to leave out last season's Premier League player of the year was a "purely football" driven, but it was hard to believe Fernandes was not being punished as he was left on the bench for the entire match.

Carrick was taunted with chants of "you're getting sacked in the morning" from the Bournemouth fans.

But on this evidence, dismissing another manager is far from a quick fix for a club that has fallen dramatically from grace since Alex Ferguson's retirement 13 years ago.

A strong finish to last season during Carrick's interim spell in charge secured third place in the Premier League, but was aided by a lack of European or domestic cup football.

United have won just twice -- against newly-promoted Ipswich and Azerbaijani side Sabah -- in 12 games in all competitions this season.

"I definitely knew that we hadn't cracked it and there was a lot of work to be done, but that doesn't mean to say that it should have gone this way," added Carrick on the contrast between this season and last.

Bournemouth began the day behind the Red Devils in the table after a difficult start for Rose.

But just three days after beating AC Milan 3-0, they outclassed another giant of the European game.

Rayan opened the floodgates when he connected sweetly with Justin Kluivert's free-kick on 38 minutes.

Five minutes later, Leny Yoro stumbled under pressure from Adrien Truffert and the French full-back had a simple task to square for Tavernier to tap into an empty net.

Many expected Fernandes to be stripped and ready for the start of the second half, but he remained on the bench and the United performance got no better.



Sherbaz Marri wins gold medal at MMA world championship in Kazakhstan

Web Desk

ISLAMABAD

Pakistan's MMA champion and NWB-21 alumnus Sherbaz Marri has won a gold medal at the World MMA Championship held in Kazakhstan, bringing pride to Pakistan through his outstanding achievement, His success reflects dedication, hard work, and determination, making the nation proud on the international stage.

Pakistani athletes delivered an outstanding performance at the Nomad MMA Championship, securing second place overall.

Pakistan won a total of 4 gold medals and 3 bronze medals in the Nomad MMA Championship.

After winning the gold medal, Sherbaz Marri thanked the people and the Government of Balochistan for their support.

The sports experts stated that the outstanding performance of Pakistani players proves that, given the right opportunities, our youth are no less than anyone in the world.

Haris Rauf says criticism won't affect him as he vows to improve

■ Haris Rauf says criticism does not bother him as he vows to improve his bowling, maintain his pace and help Pakistan win matches in modern cricket.

SPORTS Desk

ISLAMABAD

Pakistan fast bowler Haris Rauf has responded to criticism of his bowling, saying he is not bothered by negative comments and will continue working to improve his performance.

Speaking to the media in Lahore, Rauf said batters hit sixes against bowlers around the world, not just him.

He said he had never been afraid of criticism in the past and would not be intimidated by it in the future, adding that it did not affect him.

The national cricketer said he would continue working on his game and expressed confidence that he and his teammates would keep playing cricket.

Discussing his role alongside Shaheen Shah Afridi and Naseem Shah, Rauf said their primary objective was to take wickets and help Pakistan win matches.

He added that all players in the team were supporting one another and said Shaheen's presence was beneficial for Pakistan's bowling attack.

Speaking about his performance in the tri-nation series, Rauf described successfully defending a target of 300 runs as a positive development. However, he said teams in modern cricket needed to develop the ability to score 350 or more runs and defend such totals.

Rauf also highlighted the importance of taking wickets during the middle overs, saying batting approaches had changed worldwide and bowlers needed to adapt their strategies accordingly.

He emphasised that fast bowling continued to play a crucial role in modern cricket and said he would keep working on his fitness and pace to deliver better performances in upcoming matches.



2027 Dakar Rally to be moved from Saudi Arabia

■ Saudi Arabia and the government it backs in Yemen have come under sustained attack in recent weeks from the Houthis as a years-long truce broke down in the summer



WEB DESK

Saudi Arabia

The 2027 Dakar Rally will be moved from Saudi Arabia "following recent developments in the region", organisers , after repeated attacks on the kingdom by Yemen's Houthis.

"Dakar 2027 will go ahead. The 2027 edition will take place in a different territory" but still be organised by ASO, which runs the Dakar along with Saudi Motorsport Company (SMC), read a statement from the organisers.

A new location will be announced in the "coming days", it added.

It is the latest sporting event to be cancelled, postponed or relocated amid the fallout from the wider US-Iran war that erupted in February.

Saudi Arabia and the government it backs in Yemen have come under sustained attack in recent weeks from the Houthis as a years-long truce broke down in the summer, shifting the focus of the war.

Yemen's civil war, pitting the Iran-backed Houthis against the Saudi-supported and internationally recognised government, had been dormant since a ceasefire in 2022, but reignited in July as the wider Middle East war roiled the region.

According to specialist media, the preferred option for next year's Dakar would be a start in Spain with Morocco as the destination.

It would be the first time since 2007 that the gruelling multi-stage rally, created in 1978, returns to Africa.

The race, formerly called the Paris-Dakar, used to be staged from the French capital following a route to the Senegalese capital Dakar.

But security threats along its route in North Africa meant that from 2009 it was held in South America and from 2020 in Saudi Arabia.

Organisers said they intend to bring the rally back to Saudi Arabia in 2028 to celebrate its 50th edition.

This season's Formula One grand prix in Jeddah was cancelled, while the race in Bahrain was called off and later rescheduled under the same name in Malaysia.

The final round of the World Rally Championship in Saudi Arabia next month has also been scrapped.

An exhibition tennis tournament due to feature Novak Djokovic, Carlos Alcaraz and Alexander Zverev has been postponed until late December.



Shadab Khan credits Haris Rauf after record-breaking ODI stand

WEB DESK

ISLAMABAD

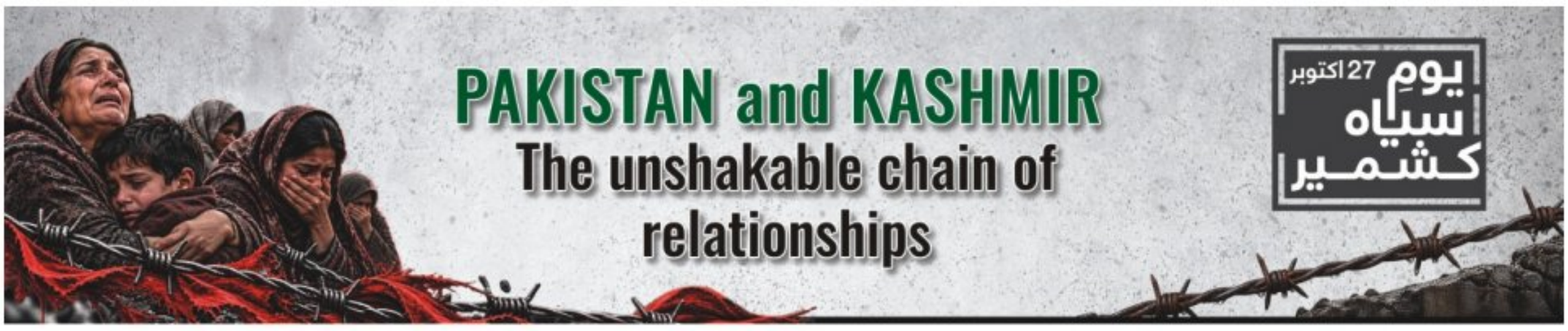
Pakistan all-rounder Shadab Khan has praised Haris Rauf for his support after their record-breaking partnership secured a dramatic one-wicket victory over England in Lahore on Sunday night, Shadab scored an unbeaten 113, the highest individual score by a batter at number eight in an ODI, as Pakistan chased down a target of 242.

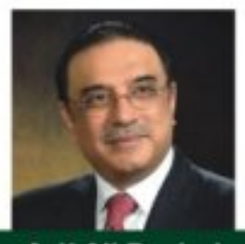
Rauf contributed an unbeaten seven as the pair shared an unbroken 89-run stand, setting a record for the highest 10th-wicket partnership in a successful ODI run chase.

Talking to the media, he said, "An innings is only enjoyable when the team wins. I am very happy that my innings helped the team win".

He said assessing the conditions helped him identify opportunities to put England's bowlers under pressure with attacking shots.

Scanned with CamScanner





Asif Ali Zardari

The President of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan

On Jammu and Kashmir Black Day, we solemnly remember 27 October 1947, when Indian forces landed in Srinagar, marking the beginning of a prolonged and tragic chapter in the history of Jammu and Kashmir. This day reaffirms our recognition of the longstanding aspirations of the Kashmiri people and the continued pursuit of the fundamental and inalienable right to selfdetermination.

For the past eight decades, the people of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) have endured profound sufferings, marked by violence, repression and serious violations of fundamental rights. Generations of Kashmiris have made immense sacrifices in their pursuit of justice, dignity and freedom. Their resilience and determination in the face of adversity remain a testament to the enduring strength of their cause.

Since 27 October 1947, the people of IIOJK have endured decades of conflict, restrictions and denial of their fundamental rights. The continuing restrictions on fundamental freedoms, heightened militarisation, arrests and reports of human rights violations remain a matter of serious concern and underscore the need for sustained international attention. The situation has further deteriorated since August 5, 2019, when India unilaterally attempted to alter the constitutional and legal status of Jammu and Kashmir.

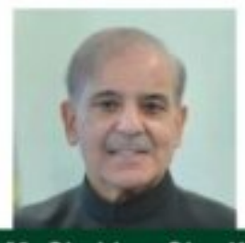
Jammu and Kashmir Black Day is, therefore, not merely a day of remembrance. It is also an occasion to reaffirm our commitment to a peaceful and just resolution of the Jammu and Kashmir dispute. Lasting peace, stability and prosperity in South Asia remain closely linked to the resolution of this longstanding dispute, in accordance with the relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions and the aspirations of the Kashmiri people.

On this solemn occasion, I call upon the international community, particularly the United Nations and international human rights organisations, to take due cognisance of the human rights situation in IIOJK, support efforts for the protection of the fundamental rights of the Kashmiri people and contribute meaningfully towards a just, peaceful and lasting resolution of the Jammu and Kashmir dispute.

Pakistan will continue to extend its unwavering moral, diplomatic and political support to the people of IIOJK. We will continue to raise their voice at every appropriate international forum and to advocate the realisation of their legitimate aspirations.

Today, we pay tribute to the countless sacrifices of the Kashmiri people and reaffirm our solidarity with our Kashmiri brothers and sisters. Pakistan stands with them in the pursuit of justice, peace, dignity and the realisation of the legitimate right to self-determination.

The day is not far off when the people of Jammu and Kashmir will be able to determine their own future in accordance with their aspirations and the Jammu and Kashmir dispute will move towards a just and peaceful resolution.



M. Shehbaz Sharif

The Prime Minister of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan

Seventy-nine years ago, 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.

The people of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) have 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 stand as a powerful testament to their enduring commitment to freedom, dignity and justice.

India has continued its efforts to suppress legitimate political expression and silence the voices that represent the aspirations of the Kashmiri people. The prolonged incarceration of Kashmiri political leaders, activists and human rights defenders remains deeply concerning. It underscores the need for due process, respect for basic liberties, and greater international attention to the situation in Jammu and Kashmir.

Since 5 August 2019, India has taken a series of unilateral measures in IIOJK, accompanied by sweeping restrictions on fundamental freedoms. These measures, affecting the political, legal and demographic character of the territory, have drawn serious international attention. Pakistan has consistently called for these developments to be addressed in accordance with international law and the applicable United Nations Security Council resolutions.

Pakistan's position on Jammu and Kashmir remains clear, consistent and principled. 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.

On this solemn occasion, I pay tribute to the countless Kashmiri men, women and children who have offered immense sacrifices in pursuit of their rights. Their memory will always be honoured. The aspirations of the Kashmiri people cannot be extinguished through coercion or repression.

On this Jammu & Kashmir Black Day, the Government and people of Pakistan reaffirm their unwavering solidarity with the people of IIOJK. Pakistan will 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.

May the people of Jammu and Kashmir realize a future of lasting peace, dignity and security, and the fulfilment of their aspirations, including the right to self-determination.



Mohammad Ishaq Dar

Deputy Prime Minister/Foreign Minister of Islamic Republic of Pakistan

On this solemn occasion of Jammu & Kashmir Black Day, we recall with deep sorrow the events of 27 October 1947, when Indian forces landed in Srinagar, marking the beginning of a prolonged and tragic chapter in the history of Jammu and Kashmir. Nearly eight decades later, the people of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) continue to bear the consequences of an unresolved dispute and continue to be denied their inalienable right to self-determination, as affirmed in the relevant resolutions of the United Nations Security Council.

For decades, the people of IIOJK have endured immense hardships, including restrictions on fundamental freedoms, human rights challenges and profound suffering. Despite these difficulties, they have remained steadfast in their determination, courage and resilience. The sacrifices of generations of Kashmiris reflect their continued aspiration for justice, peace, and the right to determine their own future.

The United Nations Security Council has adopted a number of resolutions on Jammu and Kashmir, envisaging a peaceful settlement in accordance with the will of the people. Pakistan has consistently maintained that these resolutions remain central to the resolution of the dispute and has emphasized the important role of the international community in facilitating a just, peaceful, and lasting settlement of this long-standing dispute.

The human rights situation in IIOJK has drawn greater international attention following India's unilateral actions of 5 August 2019. The subsequent legislative and administrative measures, restrictions on fundamental freedoms, demographic and political changes, and the continued detention of Kashmiri political leaders and activists have further deepened the sense of insecurity and alienation among the people of the occupied territory. These developments have also raised serious questions under international law and relevant international humanitarian and human rights standards.

The international community, including relevant United Nations bodies and human rights organizations, has documented concerns regarding the treatment of civilians and the broader human rights environment in IIOJK. These concerns underscore the need for continued international attention and engagement.

Yet, the people of IIOJK remain undeterred by such adversity. Their continued struggle for their fundamental rights serves as a reminder that the aspirations of a people cannot be suppressed through force or repression. Their sacrifices and quest for dignity and self-determination deserve the serious attention of the international community.

On this solemn day, Pakistan calls upon the international community to play its due role in addressing the sufferings of the people of IIOJK and promoting respect for their fundamental rights. Meaningful and sustained international engagement remains essential for a peaceful resolution of the Jammu and Kashmir dispute.

Pakistan reaffirms its unwavering political, moral, and diplomatic support for the people of IIOJK. We will continue to raise their voice at every appropriate international forum and to advocate for a peaceful and just resolution of the Jammu and Kashmir dispute.



Engr Amir Muqam

Federal Minister for Kashmir Affairs, Gilgit-Baltistan & Safron

Jammu & Kashmir Black Day is a solemn reminder of the events of 27 October 1947, when Indian forces entered Srinagar, setting in motion a conflict that has remained unresolved for seventy-nine years. It is a day to remember the sufferings and sacrifices of the Kashmiri people and to reaffirm the international commitments made to them regarding the Right to Self-determination.

For nearly eight decades, the people of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir have faced prolonged political uncertainty, restrictions on fundamental freedoms and serious human rights concerns. Yet through successive generations, the people of IIOJK have demonstrated remarkable resilience and an enduring determination to preserve their identity, dignity, and political aspirations. Their sacrifices deserve to be remembered with respect and their voices deserve to be heard.

The developments since 5 August 2019 have added a new and deeply concerning dimension to the Jammu and Kashmir dispute. Unilateral changes to the constitutional and administrative framework, restrictions on political activity and fundamental freedoms, prolonged detentions, and measures affecting the demographic and political character of the territory have intensified concerns about the future of its people.

These developments cannot be divorced from the broader question of the status of Jammu and Kashmir and its unresolved international dimension. Pakistan's position on Jammu and Kashmir dispute has remained principled and consistent. We believe that no unilateral action can alter the fundamental nature of an internationally recognized dispute.

A durable settlement must be peaceful, just, and consistent with the relevant United Nations Security Council Resolutions and the aspirations of the Kashmiri people.

The continuing tensions between Pakistan and India also underscore the importance of resolving the issues that lie at the heart of instability in South Asia. Peace in the region requires sustained diplomacy, respect for international obligations, and meaningful efforts to address the Jammu and Kashmir dispute. The international community, particularly the United Nations, must continue to play its role in promoting peace and protecting the rights of the people affected by this longstanding conflict.

On this Jammu & Kashmir Black Day, I pay tribute to the generations of Kashmiris who have endured immense hardships and made profound sacrifices. I also express my solidarity with the families who continue to bear the consequences of this unresolved conflict.

As Federal Minister for Kashmir Affairs, Gilgit-Baltistan and SAFRON, I reaffirm the Government of Pakistan's continued political, moral, and diplomatic support for the people of IIOJK. We will continue to advocate for their legitimate rights and to highlight their concerns before the international community.

Jammu & Kashmir Black Day is not only an occasion to remember the past; it is also a reminder of our collective responsibility to work for a future, in which the people of IIOJK can live in peace, security, dignity, and with the opportunity to determine their own future.



Attaullah Tarar

Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting

October 27, observed as Kashmir Black Day, reminds us of the historic day in 1947 when Indian forces entered Jammu and Kashmir, marking the beginning of a prolonged campaign to deny the Kashmiri people their fundamental right to self-determination.

The sacrifices, resilience and unwavering commitment of the Kashmiri people to their right to self-determination stand as a proud chapter in history. Despite facing relentless oppression and immense hardships, the resolve of the Kashmiri people has remained unshaken.

Pakistan remains steadfast in its commitment to extending political, moral and diplomatic support to the Kashmiri people. We urge the international community and the United Nations to play an effective role in securing the Kashmiri people's recognised right to self-determination and safeguarding human rights in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK).

A just and lasting resolution of the Jammu and Kashmir dispute can only be achieved in accordance with the relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions and the aspirations of the Kashmiri people.

We pay tribute to the sacrifices made by the Kashmiri people in their struggle for freedom and reaffirm Pakistan's unwavering resolve to stand by our Kashmiri brothers and sisters and continue to extend our full support to their just cause.





OCTOBER 27: KASHMIR'S DARKEST DAY

Honouring the Struggle for Freedom and Self-Determination

M Zahid Riffat

KASHMIRIS in Indian-occupied Jammu and Kashmir, Pakistan and around the world are observing October 27, 2026, yet again as the first darkest day in their history, continuing their protest against the occupation of their territory, which India forcibly took over on this day in 1947. The long-unresolved Kashmir dispute remains a source of lingering tension and conflict between the neighbouring nuclear powers, India and Pakistan. The dispute originated when the people of Jammu and Kashmir were denied their fundamental right of self-determination following the partition of the Indian subcontinent and the emergence of two separate independent states, Pakistan and India, on August 14, 1947.

At that time, it was generally presumed that Kashmir, as a contiguous state with a predominantly Muslim population, would accede to Pakistan. However, its Hindu ruler, Maharaja Hari Singh, fled to New Delhi in the face of protests by local residents and, through an improper and illegal Instrument of Accession, acceded the territory to India on October 27, 1947. On the same day, India airlifted its forces to Srinagar and forcibly occupied the valley against the aspirations of the Kashmiris. This, in brief, is the background to why Kashmiris everywhere, along with freedom- and human-rights-loving people around the world, including in Pakistan, observe October 27 every year as a protest day to mark the first darkest day in their history.

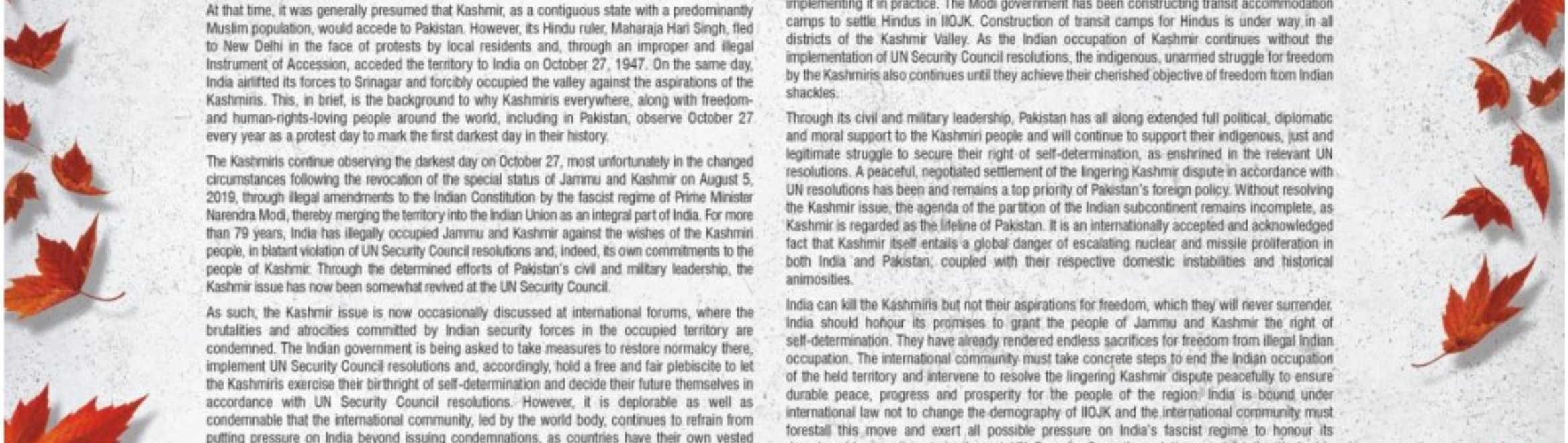
The Kashmiris continue observing the darkest day on October 27, most unfortunately in the changed circumstances following the revocation of the special status of Jammu and Kashmir on August 5, 2019, through illegal amendments to the Indian Constitution by the fascist regime of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, thereby merging the territory into the Indian Union as an integral part of India. For more than 79 years, India has illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir against the wishes of the Kashmiri people, in blatant violation of UN Security Council resolutions and, indeed, its own commitments to the people of Kashmir. Through the determined efforts of Pakistan's civil and military leadership, the Kashmir issue has now been somewhat revived at the UN Security Council.

As such, the Kashmir issue is now occasionally discussed at international forums, where the brutalities and atrocities committed by Indian security forces in the occupied territory are condemned. The Indian government is being asked to take measures to restore normalcy there, implement UN Security Council resolutions and, accordingly, hold a free and fair plebiscite to let the Kashmiris exercise their birthright of self-determination and decide their future themselves in accordance with UN Security Council resolutions. However, it is deplorable as well as condemnable that the international community, led by the world body, continues to refrain from putting pressure on India beyond issuing condemnations, as countries have their own vested financial and economic interests in a big country like India.

Furthermore, besides the brutalities and atrocities committed by Indian security forces, the fascist Indian regime of Prime Minister Narendra Modi is also persistently taking deliberate measures to change the demographic structure of the occupied territory in a brutal attempt to obliterate the distinct Kashmiri identity and affect the outcome of a plebiscite envisaged in UN Security Council resolutions. This action by the Indian government violates the UN Charter, Security Council resolutions and international law, particularly the Fourth Geneva Convention, as changing the demographic structure of a territory is a war crime. The Indian government is settling Indian Hindus in the territory under the guise of immi-grant Kashmiri Pandits. Changing the Muslim-majority status of Indian-Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) into a minority has long been part of the Hindutva agenda of the RSS and BJP and they are persistently implementing it in practice. The Modi government has been constructing transit accommodation camps to settle Hindus in IIOJK. Construction of transit camps for Hindus is under way in all districts of the Kashmir Valley. As the Indian occupation of Kashmir continues without the implementation of UN Security Council resolutions, the indigenous, unarmed struggle for freedom by the Kashmiris also continues until they achieve their cherished objective of freedom from Indian shackles.

Through its civil and military leadership, Pakistan has all along extended full political, diplomatic and moral support to the Kashmiri people and will continue to support their indigenous, just and legitimate struggle to secure their right of self-determination, as enshrined in the relevant UN resolutions. A peaceful, negotiated settlement of the lingering Kashmir dispute in accordance with UN resolutions has been and remains a top priority of Pakistan's foreign policy. Without resolving the Kashmir issue, the agenda of the partition of the Indian subcontinent remains incomplete, as Kashmir is regarded as the lifeline of Pakistan. It is an internationally accepted and acknowledged fact that Kashmir itself entails a global danger of escalating nuclear and missile proliferation in both India and Pakistan, coupled with their respective domestic instabilities and historical animosities.

India can kill the Kashmiris but not their aspirations for freedom, which they will never surrender. India should honour its promises to grant the people of Jammu and Kashmir the right of self-determination. They have already rendered endless sacrifices for freedom from illegal Indian occupation. The international community must take concrete steps to end the Indian occupation of the held territory and intervene to resolve the lingering Kashmir dispute peacefully to ensure durable peace, progress and prosperity for the people of the region. India is bound under international law not to change the demography of IIOJK and the international community must forestall this move and exert all possible pressure on India's fascist regime to honour its decades-old commitment, implement UN Security Council resolutions and let the Kashmiris exercise their birthright of self-determination. The UN and the international community should also exert greater pressure and influence on India to implement UN Security Council resolutions and let the Kashmiris exercise their birthright of self-determination.



Printer & Publisher: Wasim Ahmed , Printed at Ulus Printer,s Quetta & Published At Office No.06 2nd Floor Zainab Chaimber Sahar-e-adalat Quetta

Scanned with CamScanner