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PM urges India to resolve Kashmir dispute as per UN resolutions

ONLINE

MUZAFFARABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif has reaffirmed Pakistan's unflinching and continuous political, diplomatic and moral support to Kashmiris in their just struggle for right to self-determination.

Addressing the Azad Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly in Muzaffarabad today, he paid glowing tributes to the Kashmir martyrs and Hurriyat leadership for rendering matchless sacrifices for independence.

He said the founder of the nation Quaid-e-Azam had already declared Kashmir as a special vein of Pakistan.

Shehbaz Sharif said our Kashmiri brothers and sisters are rest assured that Pakistan will never sit back and watch silently while Kashmiris continue to suffer Indian atrocities.

He said India must end the implementation of black laws, extrajudicial killings of Kashmiri youth, incarceration of Hurriyat leadership, changing demography of IIOJK.

The Prime Minister warned that being a nuclear power, our quest for peace must not be construed as our weakness.

He urged India to come to the amicable settlement of the lingering Kashmir issue in line with UN resolution and wishes of Kashmiris.

He said that it is the obligation of the international community, peace and justice loving nations and organizations to put pressure on India to allow the Kashmiri people to freely determine their own future.

The Prime minister said we will divert all resources for speedy development of AJK and providing better traveling, health and education facilities to the people of the state.

He also announced the opening Danish Schools in different districts of AJK.



COAS General Syed Asim Munir express solidarity with people of Kashmir during his visit on Kashmir Solidarity Day.

Pakistan stands with Kashmiris in their legitimate struggle: COAS

APP

MUZAFFARABAD: Army Chief General Syed Asim Munir has reaffirmed that Pakistan will always stand by Kashmiris in their just and legitimate cause against state-sponsored repression and oppression. He expressed this resolve during his visit to Muzaffarabad today, where he paid homage to the sacrifices of the martyrs.

Interacting with the notables and veterans of Kashmir, the Army Chief reiterated Pakistan's steadfast support for the people of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir.

He further remarked that without any doubt Kashmir will be free one day and part of Pakistan as per the free will and destiny of the people of Kashmir. He said Indian atrocities and rising Hindutva extremism only strengthens the resolve of Kashmiri people in their struggle for self-determination.

Earlier, upon arrival at the Jammu and Kashmir Monument, he laid floral wreath at the Martyrs' Monument and offered rich tributes to the unparalleled sacrifices of the Shuhada.

While paying homage to the martyrs of Kashmir, the Army Chief also commended the unwavering dedication, professional excellence, and combat readiness of the deployed officers and soldiers in the face of challenging operational conditions in Kashmir. He lauded their high morale and vigilance, emphasizing the importance of maintaining peak operational preparedness to deter and counter any hostile provocations. General Syed Asim Munir expressed complete confidence in the battle readiness of the Armed Forces. He reaffirmed that no act of aggression would go unanswered and underscored Pakistan Army's commitment to defend the nation's sovereignty and territorial integrity with full resolve.

4 killed, 5 injured in Sorab district traffic accident: hospital official

NEWS DESK

QUETTA: Four people died, while five others were injured in a traffic accident on Wednesday in Balochistan's Sorab district, an official said.

Civil Hospital Sorab Medical Superintendent Dr Saleem

Mastoi told Dawn.com, "The bodies of four people and five injured were moved to the government hospital after an accident took place on the Karachi-Quetta National Highway in the general area of Sorab."

"A woman was also among the injured and after providing immediate medical assistance, all of them were referred to the trauma centre in Quetta."

MS Mastoi added that the accident happened when two passenger vehicles — one coming from Karachi while the other belonging to a local citizen of Sorab — collided.

"The condition of the injured is out of danger, while the bodies of the deceased

have been handed over to the police after necessary action, so that they could be given to the families," Mastoi said.

Accidents resulting in the loss of life on the Quetta-Karachi highway are fairly common, mainly due to the violation of traffic rules.

Fazl urges world to take notice of India's illegal occupation of Kashmir

INP

ISLAMABAD: Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (JUI-F) chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman has urged the international community to take notice of India's illegitimate occupation of Kashmir.

In his statement on Kashmir Solidarity Day, Rehman said that India's negative attitude and stubbornness are obstacles to the implementation of the United Nations resolutions. He added that the UN has failed to fulfill its responsibilities regarding the right to self-determination in Kashmir.

He said the UN has taken no concrete steps to implement the

1948 and 1949 resolutions in seven decades. The international community should take notice of India's unlawful control over Kashmir.

The JUI-F chief further emphasised that February 5 is a day of struggle against oppression, support for justice, and the freedom movement.

"When will the United Nations, which was established in the name of justice, take action for Kashmir?" he questioned.

He called the Indian oppression the darkest chapter in history while asserting that the blood of Kashmir's martyrs will not be in vain.

President Zardari, Xi Jinping hold talks to strengthen bilateral ties

President vows that extremist attacks on Chinese nationals will not undermine Pakistan-China's long-standing ties

ONLINE

ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari met with the President of the People's Republic of China Xi Jinping, at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing, on Wednesday.

At the meeting, the two leaders discussed the positive trajectory of the bilateral relationship, regional and international issues of common interest, and opportunities to even further expand the scope of bilateral partnership, especially through continued high-level exchanges. Underlining the enduring friendship between the two countries, they also reaffirmed support for each other on the issues of core interest.

President Zardari reaffirmed Pakistan's steadfast commitment to its All-Weather Strategic Cooperative Partnership with China and underlined the unique, time-tested and special relationship between the two

countries. He also commended China's exemplary development, progress and prosperity, calling it a manifestation of the vision of the Chinese leadership and the dynamism of the Chinese people.

President Zardari also paid rich tribute to President Xi Jinping for China's profound contributions to global development under the Belt & Road Initiative (BRI). He termed China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) as a shining model of the BRI's visionary concept of win-win cooperation.

Both sides also discussed the high-quality development of CPEC 2.0 and its vital role in promoting regional connectivity, shared benefits and common prosperity, including through partnerships with other countries. They underlined the significance of people-to-people linkages and cultural exchanges for strengthening the China-Pakistan Community of Shared Future in the New Era.

Pakistan was pushed to backwardness, now stability therein is good omen: Nawaz Sharif

ONLINE

LAHORE: PML-N president Mian Nawaz Sharif has said Pakistan was pushed to backwardness and now stability in the country is a good omen.

He said this during meeting with members of Punjab Assembly (PA) here Wednesday.

Members of PA from districts Gujranwala, Narowal and Sialkot met him and Maryam Nawaz.

The overall situation of the country and public service projects in Punjab came under discussion in the meeting.

Defence minister Khawaja Asif, senator Pervaz Rashid, Rana Sana Ullah, senior minister Punjab Maryam Aurangzeb and

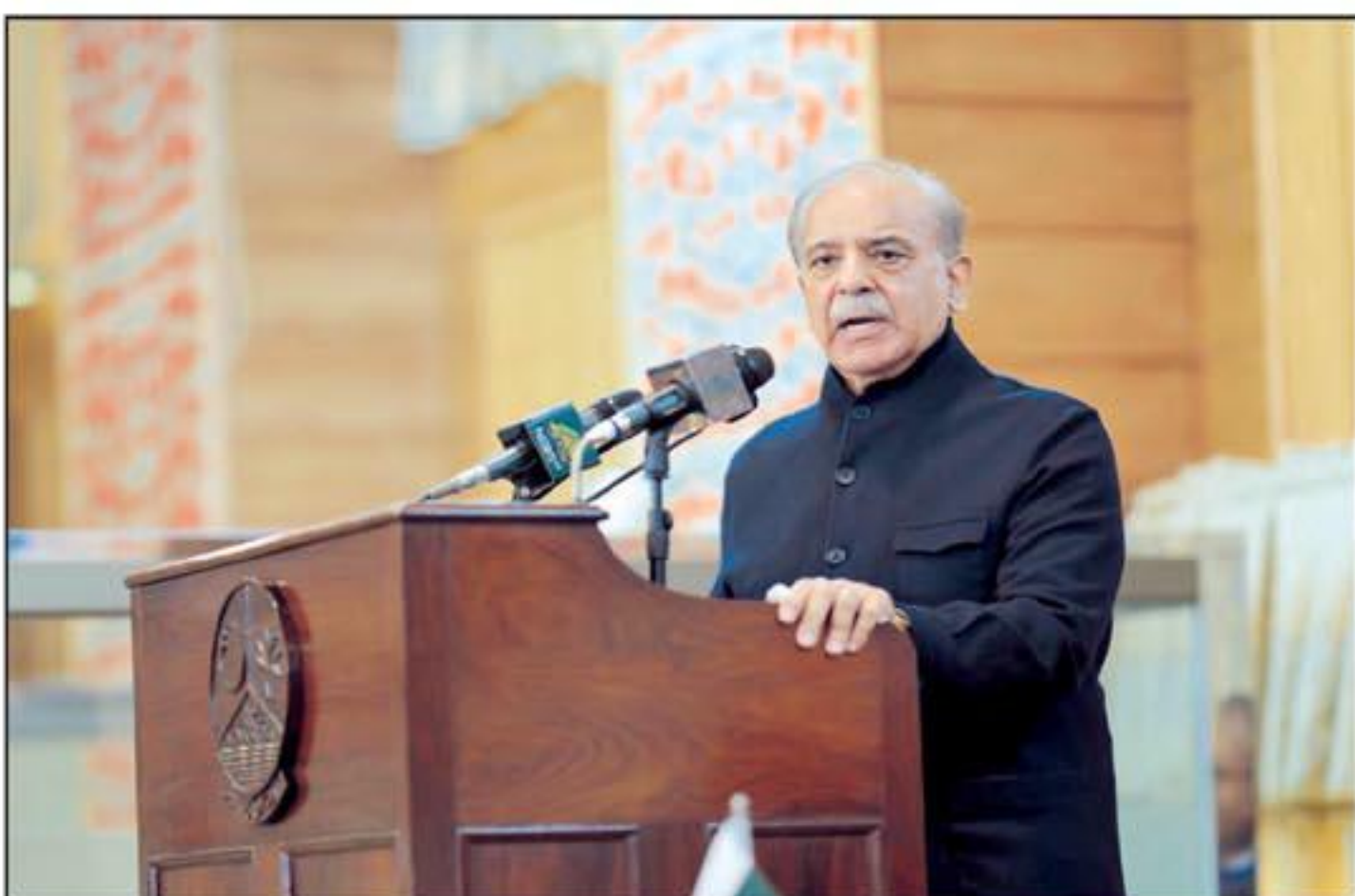
Rashid Nasrullah were present on the occasion.

Nawaz Sharif said while talking to MPAs fall in inflation is symbol of economic betterment. Rise in stock exchange is reflection of confidence of investors and business community.

Prime Minister (PM) Shehbaz Sharif is working hard. Maryam Nawaz is working in Punjab with the spirit of mother and daughter.

MPAs paid tribute to Maryam Nawaz for her development projects and public service projects saying "Mian Sahb Maryam Nawaz has introduced programs for revival of every community in a year."

Maryam Nawaz said "I feel more responsibility being daughter of Nawaz Sharif".



MUZAFFARABAD: Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif addressing the AJK Legislative Assembly on Kashmir Solidarity Day.

Pakistan, China agree to enhance intelligence sharing in meeting of security czars

ONLINE

BEIJING: Pakistan and China agreed to further improve mutual intelligence sharing in a meeting between their interior ministers on Wednesday.

The development came in a meeting between Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi and his Chinese counterpart Qi Yanjun during the former's visit to Beijing. Naqvi is part of a delegation led by President Asif Ali Zardari that landed in China a day ago and also includes Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar, Senator Saleem Mandviwala, and Dr Asim Hussain.

The interaction between Naqvi and his Chinese counterpart lasted two hours and came in the backdrop of attacks on Chinese personnel working in Pakistan that have angered China, which has pushed the federal government to begin formal negotiations for a joint security management system.

Pakistan's ongoing counter-terrorism efforts remain a key topic of discussion between the two countries due to the rising frequency of attacks targeting Chinese nationals working in Pakistan.

Of the major attacks that have targeted Chinese citizens in Pakistan since 2021, the biggest one was when at least 12 per-

sons, including nine Chinese engineers and two Frontier Corps personnel, were killed when a bus was attacked near the Dasu hydropower plant in KP's Upper Kohistan district in July 2021.

Aside from vowing to enhance intelligence sharing between the two nations, the interior ministers also discussed cooperation to further secure the border between the two countries, in addition to the use of modern technology for police and paramilitary forces.

The two officials also led a detailed discussion on acquiring modern equipment and technology for the police from China. Cooperation with the National Police Academy was also discussed by the two officials who further decided to increase cooperation between the Beijing Police and Islamabad Police. They also expressed satisfaction over a meeting of the Joint Working Group in January in which the two sides had reaffirmed their commitment to high-quality development of the second phase of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) with an emphasis on industrialisation, special economic zones, clean energy, agriculture and livelihood projects.

President Zardari, top Chinese official underscore time-tested Pak-China ties

Meanwhile, President Zardari underscored the time-tested and all-weather friendship between the two countries which continued to grow in depth and scope over the decades in a meeting with Zhao Leji, chairman of the Standing Committee of National People's Congress and China's third highest-ranking official behind President Xi Jinping and Premier Li Qiang.

The two officials underlined "strategic mutual trust" as the cornerstone of their bilateral relationship and emphasised the importance of continued high-level exchanges to further deepen ongoing practical cooperation between the two countries. The two sides also discussed the high-quality development of CPEC's second phase with a particular emphasis on promoting cooperation in science and technology, renewable energy, infrastructure and agriculture sectors.

They described CPEC as a "shining example of people-centric development with its focus on win-win cooperation, shared benefits and common prosperity".

At the president and the Chinese officials also discussed opportunities to strengthen institutional linkages, including through parliamentary exchanges and participation in the CPEC Political Parties Joint Consultative Mechanism, to further solidify bilateral cooperation.

Kashmir Solidarity Day observed

ONLINE

ISLAMABAD: Kashmir Solidarity Day was observed Wednesday to express the whole-hearted support of Pakistani nation to the just struggle of Kashmiri people for their inalienable right to self-determination under the UN resolutions.

It was a public holiday Wednesday. In connection with Kashmir Solidarity Day, a rally was taken out from Foreign Office to D-Chowk in Islamabad Wednesday.

The participants raised full throated slogans in support of Kashmiri people. They were also carrying banners highlighting Indian atrocities against Kashmiri people.

Addressing the rally, Acting Chairman Senate Syedaal Khan said Pakistan has always extended moral, political and diplomatic support to the Kashmiri people.

Minister for Petroleum Musadik Masood Malik condemned Indian barbarism and atrocities in illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir. He said Pakistan will continue to raise voice against blatant human rights violations in the occupied territory. He said the Kashmiri people want freedom from India.

Chairman Kashmir Committee Rana Muhammad Qasim Noon called for resolution of Kashmir dispute in accordance with the UN Security Council resolutions.

Deputy Convener APHC AJK Chapter Farooq Rehmani thanked Pakistani leadership and people for always extending firm support to Kashmiri people.

Chairperson Peace and Culture Organization Mushaal Hussein Mullick also organized a rally in Islamabad in connection with Kashmir Solidarity Day.

People belonging to different walks of life participated in the rally and raised slogans in support of Kashmiri people.

Addressing the rally, regretted that the international community has never held India accountable for its war crimes in illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir. She said Pakistan is the ambassador of Kashmiri people. She said the relationship between Pakistan and the Kashmiri people is eternal.

Posters and billboards have been displayed around important avenues, airports, and railway stations to highlight the plight of Kashmiri people and expose Indian atrocities.

In Muzaffarabad, the Special Session of AJK Legislative Assembly was held to express solidarity with the oppressed people of the Indian Illegally Occupied Kashmir.

Pakistan reaffirms unwavering support for Kashmiris on Solidarity Day: Mohsin Naqvi

APP

ISLAMABAD: Federal Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi has said in his message on Kashmir Solidarity Day that every Pakistani stand with the Kashmiri people, and the Pakistani nation expresses complete solidarity with the Kashmiri people.

Interior Minister said that Kashmir is Pakistan's jugular vein, and Pakistan supports the legitimate rights of its Kashmiri brothers on every forum. He stated that India's illegal occupation is a hindrance to the freedom of the Kashmiri people.

Mohsin Naqvi stated that Pakistan wants a solution to the Kashmir issue through the United Nations, and the Pakistani government and people will continue to provide political, moral, and diplomatic support to the Kashmiris. He further said that Pakistan will always be part of their struggle by becoming their voice.

The Interior Minister emphasized that the Kashmiris have the right to decide their own future. He stressed that the Kashmir issue is not only a problem for the Kashmiris but for the entire region, and without resolving the Kashmir dispute, the dream of sustainable peace in the region cannot become a reality.

Sanaullah praised the Kashmiri people's sacrifices and resilience in the face of Indian oppression and barbarity. "The entire Pakistani nation stands in solidarity with our Kashmiri brothers and sisters, and we pledge our moral, diplomatic, and political support for their freedom struggle," he said.

He also condemned India's actions in Kashmir, emphasizing that depriving the Kashmiri people of their right to self-determination is a cruel and inhumane act, said a statement issued here.

I urge the international community to pressure India to implement UN resolutions and grant Kashmiris their fundamental right to self-determination, he said. Sanaullah expressed optimism that the Kashmiri people's struggle will ultimately succeed, and they will exercise their right to self-determination.

Pakistan seeks to strengthen ties with Afghanistan: Barrister Saif

INP

PESHAWAR: Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa Information Advisor, Barrister Dr. Muhammad Ali Saif, met with Afghanistan's Acting Ambassador to Pakistan, Molvi Sardar Ahmad Shakeeb.

The meeting also saw the participation of senior politicians Muhammad Ali Durrani and Maulana Fazlur Rehman Khalil. During the meeting, Barrister Dr. Saif handed over a special message from the founding leader of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), Imran Khan, for the Afghan leadership. The message expressed Imran Khan's best wishes and brotherly goodwill for the people of Afghanistan.

Dr. Saif emphasized that the message from Imran Khan conveyed Pakistan's unwavering support and goodwill towards Afghanistan. He also reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to fostering bilateral ties based on mutual trust and cooperation.

Both parties agreed on enhancing the relationship between the people of Pakistan and Afghanistan through greater interaction and mutual understanding.

Barrister Dr. Saif shared his vision of organizing a delegation of tribal and political leaders, as well as scholars, to visit Afghanistan in an effort to strengthen cultural and political ties between the two nations. Acting Ambassador Molvi Sardar Ahmad Shakeeb reciprocated the goodwill by expressing his gratitude to Imran Khan, Chief Minister of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Ali Amin Gandapur, and the delegation for their positive gesture.

He commended their efforts in strengthening Pakistan-Afghanistan relations, which he said were vital for regional stability and prosperity. The Acting Ambassador stressed that the strengthening of bilateral relations would benefit both countries and their people. He also acknowledged the role played by the Pakistani leadership in improving the situation in the region.

The meeting underscored the shared interest in peace, stability, and prosperity between the two nations, with an emphasis on fostering cooperation at all levels. Both sides expressed their commitment to maintaining peaceful and cooperative relations going forward.



QUETTA: Provincial Education Minister Raheela Hameed Khan Durrani addressing a seminar on the occasion of Kashmir Solidarity Day.

Governor Tessori Pays Glowing Tribute to Resolute Struggle of Kashmiri People

APP

KARACHI: The Sindh Governor Kamran Khan Tessori, paying glowing tribute to the unwavering struggle of Kashmiri people, Wednesday said that the right to self-determination is the fundamental right of Kashmiris and the entire Pakistani nation supports their struggle for a just cause.

The governor, while addressing the ceremony held here at the Governor House Karachi to mark Kashmir Solidarity Day, urged the international community to take notice of Indian atrocities in the illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir. The ceremony was attended by consuls general of different countries, leaders of minority communities and others, said a statement issued here.

Governor Sindh further said that the founder of the nation, Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah, had said on the first day of the establishment of Pakistan that Kashmir is our jugular vein and we should make our strategy according to the words of the father of the nation. "Even today, the entire nation stands united as one voice on the issue of Kashmir," Tessori said and stressed on the urgent need of highlighting the issue of Kashmir.

Trump, Xi set to speak on US-China tariff battle

By Khawaja Farooq

WASHINGTON: US President Donald Trump and Chinese counterpart Xi Jinping were expected to speak by phone, after slapping tariffs on each other's economies in an escalating trade war.

However, President Trump said on Tuesday evening he is in "no rush" to speak with Xi Jinping.

Trump spoke to reporters at the White House a day after Washington and Beijing exchanged new tariffs hitting the world's two biggest economies.

Beijing said it was imposing levies on imports of US energy, vehicles and equipment in a return salvo minutes after Trump's threatened tariffs on Chinese goods came

into effect.

Trump suspended tariffs on Mexico and Canada on Monday for a month after they vowed to step up measures to counter flows of the drug fentanyl and crossing of undocumented migrants into the United States.

Stock markets wavered on Tuesday as investors braced for volatile market activity in the coming weeks over Trump's threatened tariffs on the three biggest US trading partners.

"Let's see what happens with the call today," Trump trade adviser Peter Navarro, a veteran of the US president's first term, told news outlet Politico.

Asked if Trump could halt the tariffs on China too, he added: "It's up

to the boss.

I never get ahead of the boss, that's why I'm sitting here.

Trump imposed fresh 10 per cent tariffs on Chinese goods, on top of levies that were already in place against America's biggest economic competitor.

Mexico and Canada had faced 25pc tariffs.

White House Press Secretary Karoline Leavitt said on Monday that Trump was due to talk to Xi, but said on Tuesday that "I don't have any updates on when that call will take place".

"He is not going to allow China to continue to source and distribute deadly fentanyl into our country, that was the reason for this tariff," Leavitt told reporters outside the West Wing.

Türkiye supports resolution of Kashmir issue for regional peace: Ambassador Neziroglu

APP

ISLAMABAD: Türkiye's Ambassador Irfan Neziroglu on Wednesday expressed his country's unwavering support to the resolution of Kashmir issue for regional peace. "We reaffirm our unwavering support to resolution of Kashmir issue on the basis of justice," he said in his message on 'Kashmir Solidarity Day'.

He called for resolution of the Kashmir issue within the framework of the United Nations resolutions and in line with the aspiration of Kashmiri people.

The Turkish ambassador stressed that resolution of Kashmir issue was key to stability and peace of the region.

For lasting peace in the region, a solution to Kashmir is necessary in accordance with UN resolutions, and the voice of Kashmiris cannot be suppressed through force: DG PID Shafqat Abbas

By Maqsood Khalid

Lahore: Director General Press Information Department Lahore Shafqat Abbas has said that for lasting peace in the region, a solution to Kashmir is necessary according to UN resolutions. The voice of Kashmiris cannot be suppressed through force. UN resolutions are very clear that Kashmiris will be given the right to self-determination through a free and transparent referendum so that they can decide about their future. He expressed these views while addressing a seminar organized by the Press Information Department on Tuesday in con-

nection with Kashmir Solidarity Day to be celebrated on February 5. The speakers of the seminar included senior journalist and analyst Mujeeb-ur-Rehman Shami, renowned analyst Salman Ghani, Dr. Arsha Saleem, Sajjad Ali, Tariq Ghauri, Hurriyat leader Mushtaq Ahmed, Syed Muhammad Mehdi, Deputy Director PID Laiq Bajwa, while officers, civil society employees and other members also attended the seminar. Director General PID Shafqat Abbas welcomed the participants of the seminar and said in his welcome address that today we are all gathered here to express solidarity with the Kashmiris.



HYDERABAD: Workers of Sunny Tehreek participating in a walk on Kashmir Solidarity Day.



DUBAI: Pakistan Ambassador to UAE Faisal Niaz Tirmizi visiting Pakistan Pavilion at AI Everything Global 2025.



Gill says World Cup triumph, not Australia loss, defines India

SPORTS DESK

NAGPUR: Reigning T20 World Cup champions India have been in top form across all formats, vice-captain Shubman Gill said on Tuesday, dismissing his side's Test defeat in Australia as a one-off.

Rohit Sharma's men clinched the T20 crown in South Africa last year, seven months after they ended the most recent ODI World Cup at home as runners-up.

But a 3-0 Test whitewash at home to New Zealand in October-November, followed by the 3-1 defeat in Australia last month, saw star cricketers including Sharma and Virat Kohli come under scrutiny for their poor batting form.

"One series does not define the form of the whole team," Gill told reporters ahead of the first of three One-day Internationals against England starting in Nagpur on Thursday. "Definitely we did not play as per our expectations in the Australian series, but still we played some good cricket," the top-order batsman said.

"One match and one day doesn't define us... we should keep all those things in mind."

The three ODI matches, which follow India's 4-1 T20 series victory over England, come ahead of the 50-over Champions Trophy starting on February 19. Sharma and Kohli, who both retired from T20 cricket after the World Cup win, return to the ODI set-up and Gill said the team is upbeat.

However, he also warned the three matches against a "good" England team were not a practice run for the Champions Trophy. Gill, 25, is seen as a potential future leader for India whenever Sharma, 37, retires from ODI and Test cricket.

He said being deputy to Sharma had been one of the main challenges of his international career since 2019.

"I take it as a challenge to lead my way, firstly with my performance and then definitely in the field if Rohit bhai would want my opinions," Gill said. "What are the plans for

certain batsmen, certain bowlers, how to take on certain oppositions — just learning that is a big curve for me." Wrist-spinner Varun Chakravarthi has been added to the ODI squad after he was named player of the series in the T20s with 14 wickets in five matches against England.



LAHORE: Pakistan players share a light moment during the team's intra-squad practice match at the Ghani Glass ground.

Returning Fakhar struggles to make impact in scenario match

SPORTS DESK

LAHORE: Pakistan's preparations for their Champions Trophy title defence as well as the preceding tri-nation series began in earnest when their training camp began in the serene surroundings of the Ghani Glass ground.

Tucked in the centre of a housing community, all eyes at the venue were on returning Pakistan opener Fakhar Zaman but he showed signs of rust as the squad played two scenario matches in the afternoon.

All-rounder Faheem Ashraf, whose selection was widely panned, also failed to make an impact, giving away plenty of runs while Khushdil Shah, whose return was questioned, showed some batting form.

Fakhar, making a comeback to the team for the first time since the ODI World Cup in November 2023, made just 11 and 13 in his two tryouts with the bat — being caught both times.

The 34-year-old, who starred in the final of the last edition of the Champions Trophy, will likely open the innings for Pakistan alongside Babar Azam after the hosts were rocked by injury to dashing youngster Saim Ayub while Abdullah Shafique was axed.

Babar had mixed outings. The star batter was dismissed for a duck in the first, lbw to Shaheen Shah Afridi, but then turned on the style in the second game, belting 40 off 31 balls with seven hits to the fence.

Kamran Gulam was the highest scorer across the two matches with an innings of 79 off 40 balls with three sixes and 11 fours while Khushdil made 42 in the lone innings he played, belting three sixes and four fours.

Others including Salman Ali Agha and skipper Mohammad Rizwan were also among the runs.

"The batters seemed to be quite happy with the pitch

because they were coming back from tough tours of Australia and South Africa," said Pakistan head coach Aaqib Javed.

"The idea of holding scenario matches was to recreate the situation of an international match so that the batter can see the value of his wicket."

Among the bowlers, Faheem suffered badly, conceding 43 runs in the three overs he bowled while Abrar Ahmed, the lone specialist spinner in the squad, gave away 48 runs in five overs in the second scenario game.

Pace spearhead Shaheen Shah Afridi found his line and length but fellow fast bowlers Haris Rauf and Naseem Shah look to be finding their strides.

"We used the same ball across the two matches keeping in view how it is used in an ODI game," reflected Pakistan assistant coach Azhar Mahmood.

Pakistan will continue their camp on Wednesday with another session planned for the evening. They will put their skills to the test in the tri-nation series against New Zealand and South Africa ahead of the Champions Trophy.

"It's the ideal scenario for us to get into gear for the Champions Trophy which will have all the strong teams," added Aaqib.

New Zealand are set to arrive in Lahore on the wee hours of Wednesday with South Africa to follow on Feb 7. The series runs from Feb 8-Feb 14 with the Champions Trophy slated to begin on Feb 19 with the opening match between Pakistan and New Zealand in Karachi.

Work across the three venues for the Champions Trophy — Karachi's National Stadium, Gaddafi Stadium in Lahore and the Rawalpindi Cricket Stadium — continues with it being the first ICC tournament being hosted in the country since the 1996 ODI World Cup.

Eliasch offers 'hope' and big revenue growth for IOC

SPORTS DESK

PARIS: Johan Eliasch has told AFP that if elected Olympics chief he would offer an essential quality in a "divisive world" — that of "hope" — and also the hard-headed business sense to significantly increase the revenues of a "phenomenal brand."

The 62-year-old president of the International Ski Federation (FIS) was the surprise candidate when seven declared their desire to succeed Thomas Bach as president of the International Olympic Committee (IOC), probably the most powerful person in global sport.

The Anglo-Swedish billionaire businessman and noted environmentalist says the campaign is likely his "last hurrah" and he will leave if he has been successful when the 100-plus IOC members vote on March 20 in Greece.

While he hopes for a positive outcome personally — he was "very encouraged" by the feedback after his presentation to fellow members last Thursday — hope is also his message to the sporting world.

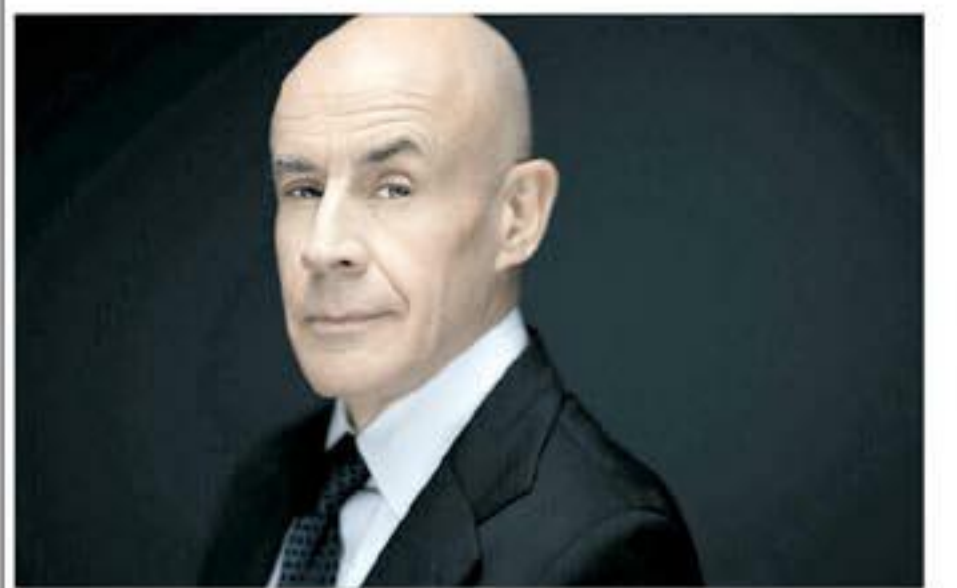
"Sport has a magic ability to unite people in peace, working together, doing things together," he said in an interview during a stopover in Paris on his way to the World Skiing Championships in Saalbach, Austria.

"Hope is the other big thing for me here, and that is the belief that anything is possible.

"Kids believing that if they work hard enough, they can do anything. In the disruptive and divisive world that we live in, we need hope.

"Hope that things will get better or hope that we can do things better. So hope is kind of the most precious commodity we have, really."

Eliasch, who listed sustainability and the IOC retaining its political neutrality as crucial pillars of his programme, believes "expectations are so high" owing to the manner in which revenues have grown during Bach's 12 years in charge.



However, he says all those facets can be more than matched, if the right person is at the helm — but if the wrong person is in charge, the IOC risks "falling from the top floor to the ground. We have to increase revenues, we have to increase distributions," he said.

"Here I'm not worried because it's such a phenomenal brand, fantastic brand, that we can do a lot more with it.

"As president, I will do a lot more with it to significantly increase the revenues and the distributions and the profits. "That's something that I've done in the International Ski Federation." Eliasch, who says he has been inspired on his Olympic journey by sporting feats including the decision by high jumpers Gianmarco Tamberi and Mutaz Barshim to share gold in Tokyo in 2021.

Member APNS

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Kashmir question

ALMOST eight decades since Pakistan and India became sovereign states, the Kashmir issue remains unresolved, bedevilling ties between the neighbours, with the people of the disputed region unable to exercise their right to self-determination.

Moreover, since the events of August 2019, India has tightened its grip over the occupied territory, removing the limited rights the held region had under the Indian constitution. Though the hard-line BJP government may think the Kashmir dispute is a thing of the past, the fact is that the territory remains internationally disputed, and no amount of constitutional tinkering and attempts to alter occupied Kashmir's demography by New Delhi can change this reality.

The BJP government may like the world to think that it has transformed held Kashmir into a proverbial heaven on earth, but the dark reality of the Indian occupation cannot be hidden.

While Pakistan has long been raising the Kashmir issue at international forums, neutral observers, too, have pointed out the Indian state's excesses in the disputed region.

For example, Human Rights Watch has said that journalists in IHK remain vulnerable to state violence, including physical assault and the threat of "fabricated criminal cases". It adds that "hundreds of Kashmiris", including journalists and human rights activists, remained in detention.

On the other hand, Amnesty International has also criticised India's "arbitrary detentions" and "stringent anti-terror laws" in IHK. It also says that repression in the region has escalated since Article 370 was scrapped in 2019. These descriptions are a mere glimpse of the ugly reality of the occupied region.

The fact is that the only principled and peaceful solution to the Kashmir dispute remains the plebiscite the UN Security Council called for in 1949, after India had taken the Kashmir case to the world body.

Over the decades, no Indian government has taken any serious steps to implement the UN's resolution, with the result that the Kashmir dispute has become a source of permanent discord in the sub-continent.

However, until there is a long-term solution in light of the aforementioned resolution, an alternative option for peace in Kashmir and the entire sub-continent would be the implementation of the four-point plan hammered out during the Musharraf era. That scheme envisaged a 'soft' LoC, with free movement of people and goods across Kashmir, and eventual demilitarisation.

If both sides, particularly India, are serious about peace, reviving this formula could be the starting point for fresh negotiations. The important thing is to continue the dialogue process, on bilateral disputes as well as the Kashmir issue, and move beyond rigid positions. On Kashmir Solidarity Day today, Pakistan should reaffirm its support for the people of Kashmir. It should also keep the door open for India in case it decides to resolve the Kashmir question through dialogue.

By Irfan Ahmed Rind

Worrying findings

THE recent uproar over the abysmally low pass rates in the Higher Secondary Examination conducted by the Board of Intermediate and Secondary Education Karachi has exposed deep flaws in our educational system. Students and parents argue these results unfairly disadvantage Karachi's youth, especially compared to higher pass rates in other provincial BISEs. This disparity has reignited the divisive Karachi versus interior Sindh debate, which obscures the systemic issues plaguing examination boards.

Instead of addressing the operational inefficiencies of BISEs, discussions often devolve into accusations of resource encroachment and ethnic bias. Critical questions about why examination boards are failing and what reforms are needed are sidelined.

In 2016, my research group analysed a decade of exam papers from English, mathematics, and science across five provincial BISEs. The findings were troubling: most questions tested rote memorisation instead of higher-order thinking skills, many were repeated from previous years, and some textbook chapters were entirely ignored. These practices contradicted the national curriculum's objectives.

These findings were presented to Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah, who, in 2017, commissioned a performance audit of one BISE. The audit, conducted by education experts from Sukkur IBA University, uncovered significant systemic issues. One of the key problems was the presence of underqualified staff, with many

employees lacking the necessary qualifications and continuing to rely on outdated methods. The process of paper setting was equally flawed, as senior teachers, without formal training or access to essential tools like a 'table of specifications', often resorted to recycling questions from previous years.

Karachi's HSE results mirror a broken system.

Adding to the inefficiencies, the research cell of BISE was found to be completely inactive. This left the board without the ability to make data-driven decisions to enhance the system. The assessment process was also deeply compromised, as teachers were expected to check 60 scripts within an eight-hour shift, allowing a mere 36 seconds per question, which significantly impacted the accuracy and fairness of grading. Furthermore, the grievance redressal mechanism was ineffective, offering students only the option to request a recount of their marks, with no provision for a re-evaluation to address potential marking errors. These systemic failures underscored the need for reforms in the examination system.

Our recommendations included training staff, creating item banks, implementing rubrics, introducing e-assessment systems, and engaging third parties for quality assurance. We also suggested reducing the weightage of intermediate marks in university admissions to discourage rote learning and corruption. Unfortunately, these proposals remain largely unimplemented.

Reformist efforts at individual BISEs have often led to dramatic but necessary reductions in pass rates. For example, Muhammad Abbas Baloch,

as commissioner of Hyderabad, implemented strict measures against cheating during the 2019 BISE Hyderabad examination, resulting in only 50 per cent of students passing. Similarly, Nisar Ahmed Siddiqui, as commissioner of Sukkur, oversaw the 1992 BISE Sukkur examinations to curb malpractice, leading to historically low results. While these fluctuations triggered a backlash, they reflect the impact of addressing entrenched issues in a flawed system.

A recurring challenge is the lack of coordination among BISEs. Each board operates independently, leading to inconsistencies in practices and outcomes. Natural variations in regional challenges can explain some disparities, but consistent pass rates across disconnected BISEs often indicate systemic inefficiencies rather than genuine achievement. A province-wide overhaul is essential to establish common standards and ensure fair assessments without compromising integrity. The root problem lies in the politicisation of education. Genuine progress requires shifting the focus from rhetoric to policy changes that ensure transparency, rigour, and fairness in assessments. If BISEs resist reforms, calls to shift exams to a third party will intensify. One can only hope that such demands stem from a genuine effort to improve the examination system rather than serving as another political gimmick. As a society, we must demand accountability and resist the temptation to politicise education. The students of Karachi — and Sindh at large — deserve an examination system that fosters merit and critical thinking. Without comprehensive reforms, the cycle of mediocrity and division will continue, depriving students of the future they deserve.

By Mahir Ali

Flood alert

WITH malice towards none" and "justice for all" are justly among the best remembered phrases of the second inaugural address by America's first Republican president, just weeks before he was assassinated. Abraham Lincoln also wanted "to bind up the nation's wounds" and to "achieve and cherish a just and lasting peace among ourselves and between all nations." The inclinations of the latest Republican president — I'm probably being too optimistic there, but one lives in hope — could broadly be summed up as the opposite. But even "malice towards all" is not a consistent objective. The vaunted 25pc tariffs against imports from Mexico and Canada were paused this week after minor concessions from their heads of government, while Xi Jinping was reportedly next on the calling list, and a tête-à-tête with proclaimed war criminal Benjamin Netanyahu also pending at the time of writing.

The leading Israeli genocidal maniac was the first head of government to receive an invitation to the White House, which just might help to remind bodies such as Arabs for Trump of their idiocy. Their favoured candidate continues to insist on the ethnic cleansing of Gazans — possibly followed in his imagination by the rebuilding of the occupied territory as a tourist zone by the Saudis and Emiratis, in collusion with presidential son-in-law Jared Kushner.

The first Trump term's ruling method was spelt out by Steve Bannon: "All we have to do is flood the zone. Every day we hit them we three things. They'll bite on one, and we'll get all our stuff done ... But we've got to start with muzzle velocity." The strategy hasn't changed much, but this

time there is a co-president Bannon despises. Elon Musk's tentacles are all over government departments, and his initial target appears to be USAID — which may not be quite as benign as its liberal defenders pretend, but has occasionally pursued commendable goals.

Trump's tariffs on hold as tantrums carry on.

Perhaps because of that, Musk — reared in apartheid South Africa — sees it as "viper's nest of radical left Marxists who hate America", while his putative boss says "it's run by radical lunatics, and we're getting them out".

Radical lunatics have indeed been unleashed in the US, but don't count on the Democrats to get them out. The supposed opposition's tendency to kowtow to the slightly new order is not a surprise. Since at least the 1990s, Democrats have deemed it opportune to abide by the neoliberal Thatcher-Reagan consensus of the preceding decade, with neither Bill Clinton nor Barack Obama striving for any policies that might convince the electorate that their lives would substantially improve under a Democratic administration. Their successor Joe Biden perished by failing to recognise that he was a creature of the past.

So is Trump in many ways, but it's harder for the average American to acknowledge the continuity, and appreciation of the assumed difference lapses into 'he does what he says'.

He doesn't, but that's a fair enough criticism of his predecessors and adversaries, who either evade their stated agenda or ignore it once in power. Kamala Harris gave no indication that she would be any different, which helps to explain last year's out-

come.

Some greeted Trump's triumph in the vain hope that his governing impulses would differ from his vile campaign rhetoric. It hasn't exactly turned out that way. Nor is there any solace to be found for those who assumed that the chaos of his first administration would not be replicated in 2025. The main difference is that this time there is hardly any visible congressional or extra-parliamentary opposition. Sure, a sensible judge has halted the president's unconstitutional attempt to rescind birthright citizenship, and the clampdown on federal funding has been lifted in some quarters. But will anyone notice, amid the deportations of immigrants and asylum-seekers and the rest of the unfolding neo-fascist agenda, some of it straight out of the wretched Heritage Foundation's Project 25, which Trump claimed to know nothing about?

More than 100 years ago, Rosa Luxemburg cited fellow German communist Friedrich Engels as pointing out that bourgeois society faced "either transition to socialism or regression into barbarism". The latter has been evident for a while. A decade or so later, the imprisoned Italian intellectual Antonio Gramsci pronounced his verdict, declaring that "the old is dying and the new cannot be born; in this interregnum a great variety of morbid symptoms appear". The Slovenian public intellectual has appropriately interpreted the latter segment as: "Now is the time of monsters."

Trump isn't the only one. They stretch across the globe, from Meloni and Orbán to Milei and Modi, among others. But perhaps we should focus our attention on those who facilitate them, which would leave out very few countries in the world.

DAILY MIRROR

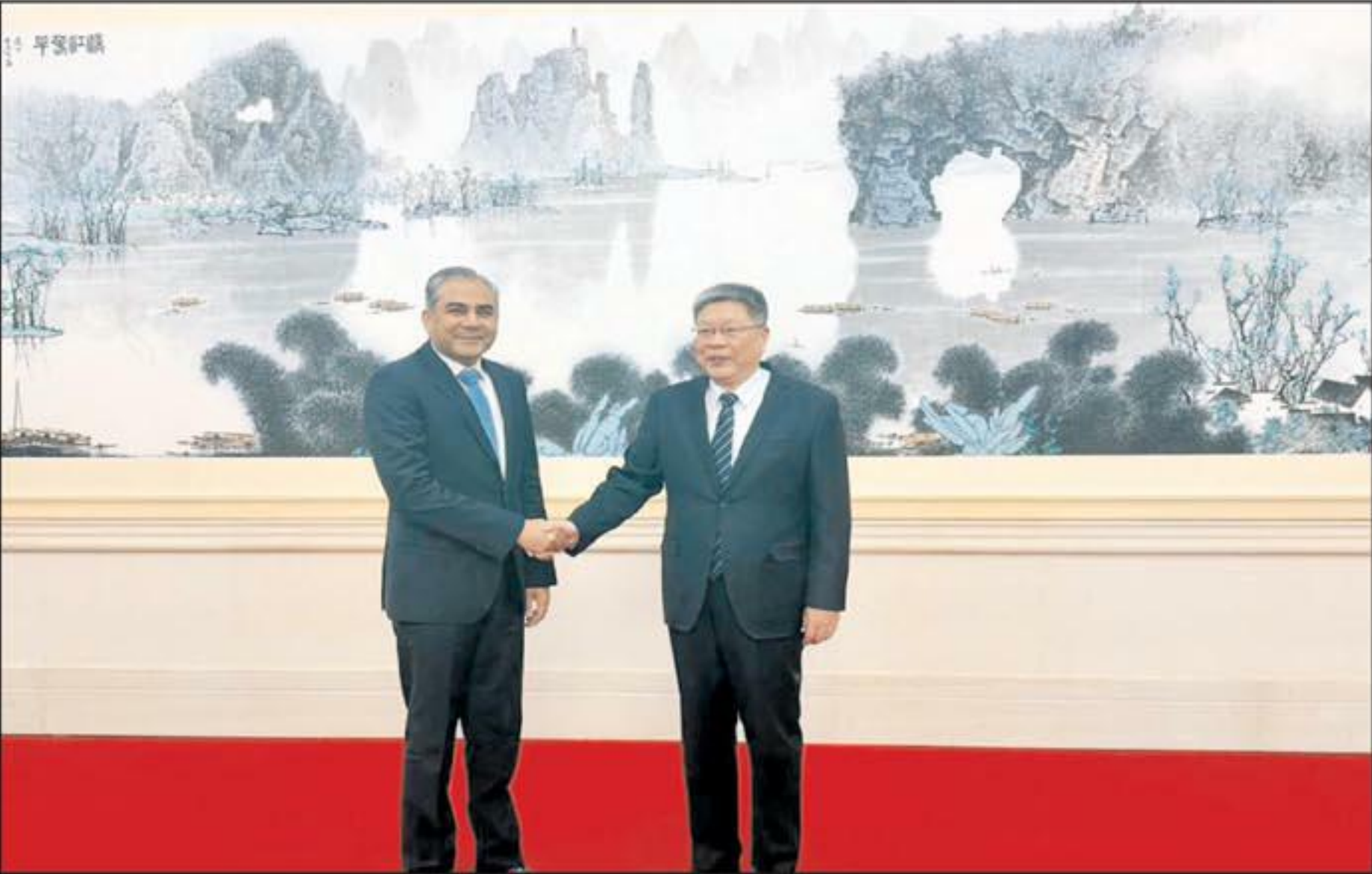
Pakistan vows to stand with Kashmiri people: Speakers

APP

ISLAMABAD: Acting Chairman of the Senate (Sena-tor) Syedaal Khan Nasar, on the day of 'Kashmir Solidarity Day,' said that the global community should raise the voice of oppressed Kashmiri people. He was addressing the rally at D-Chowk on Wednesday. Talking to APP, he said, "Peace is not merely the absence of conflict but rather is a dynamic and participatory process that requires dialogue, mutual understanding, and the ability to accept and respect differences." He said that the UN must fulfil its obligations for the resolution of the long-standing issue. He further added, "Pakistani people stand with Kashmiris from every corner of the world for their solidarity to obtain the right of self-determination." On the occasion, "All Parties Hurriyat Conference (APHC) leader Farooq Rehmani has said that for the last seven decades, innocent Kashmiris have been facing the brutalities of Indian forces in Indian-occupied Kashmir (IIOJK) for the right of self-determination.

Farooq Rehmani said that purpose of the Kashmir Freedom Movement was to resolve the Kashmir issue according to the UN resolution, and India was bound to ensure transparent elections in IIOJK, but India didn't fulfil the commitment and illegally sustained oppression in Kashmir. "On the other hand, Indian troops atrocities are rising day by day on innocent Kashmiri people, which is a serious violation of human rights." "Today, the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) remains one of the most militarized zones in the world. Kashmiris are living in an environment of fear and intimidation," he regretted. "Pakistan will continue to offer its unwavering moral, diplomatic, and political support to the Kashmiri people till the realization of their right to self-determination, as enshrined in the relevant UN Security Council resolutions," Rana Qasim Noon said on this occasion. Chairman of the Parliamentary Committee on Kashmir, Rana Qasim Noon, said, "The sacrifices of Kashmiris are part of a long and unforgettable struggle for freedom." Rana Qasim Noon said the oppression in Kashmir continues, with gross

human rights violations taking place daily. He condemned the actions of the Indian forces in the region, citing extrajudicial killings, cases of sexual violence, and the unlawful detention of Kashmiri leaders in remote prisons. Qasim Noon also shared India's policy of demographic engineering, noting that four million fake domiciles have been issued to facilitate illegal settlements. He urged the United Nations to honor its commitments and grant Kashmiris their right to self-determination. On this occasion, Zamurad Khan, Chairman of Pakistan Sweet Homes, has said that Pakistan vowed to stand with the people of IIOJK till they get the right to freedom. Pakistani cuisine recipes He demanded to resolve the Kashmir issue according to the UN resolution and conducting a fair and free election in Kashmir and asking its people how they want to shape the future of Kashmir. Former Special Assistant to Prime Minister Mushaah Hussien Malik and people from different walks of life were part of the rally, including APHC leaders, human rights activists, Pakistan Sweet Home children, and civil society.



BEIJING: Federal Minister for Interior and Narcotics Control Minister Mohsin Naqvi meets with his Chinese counterpart Qi Yanjun.

Tarar reiterates pledge to continue moral, political, diplomatic support for Kashmiris

INP

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Information, Broadcasting, National Heritage and Culture Attaullah Tarar on Wednesday reiterated the pledge that Pakistan would continue moral, political, and diplomatic support to the oppressed Kashmiris. In a special speech televised by PTV on the occasion of Kashmir Solidarity Day on February 5, he strongly condemned the atrocities being committed against the people of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir.

The unprecedented sacrifices of the brave Kashmiri men, women, and children will never go in vain as the blood of Kashmiris was sacred blood.

"The Kashmiri people are continuing their struggle for their fundamental rights," he said adding that they should be given the right to self-determination in accordance with the resolutions of the United Nations.

The minister said that ongoing atrocities being committed against the Kashmiri people should end immediately.

Kashmiris valiant nation, will never bow before any tyrant: Mashal Malik

ONLINE

ISLAMABAD: Mashal Malik wife of Hurriyat leader Yasin Malik has said Kashmiri is not coward but a valiant nation and it will never bow before any tyrant. She said this in her message on occasion of Kashmir Solidarity Day here Wednesday. She held the biggest weapon of Kashmiris is blood of martyrs. The sacrifice of martyrs gives us energy that we should stand by truth. She underlined that India is killing Hurriyat leaders. Youths and elderly are being sent to jails. Indian terror net work has spread in the entire world. Recently my mother was got martyred by Indian terrorists network through slow poisoning.

Imran Khan letter in the name of army chief is charge sheet: Senator Irfan Siddiqui

ONLINE

ISLAMABAD: PML-N senator Irfan Siddiqui has said Imran Khan so called letter in the name of army chief is a charge sheet which represents old thinking of Imran Khan about army.

"at the time when army is rendering sacrifices of lives in war on terror and its jawans and officers are embracing shahadat, writing letter on this pattern and saying that some gulf has been created between people and armed forces is highly deplorable, he said this while talking to a private TV here Wednesday. Receipt to this letter will not come what to speak of its reply, he added.

No one has either seen this letter or read it. It is not known it is in the beak of which pigeon and it will descend when and what wall. He disclosed Imran Khan had written a letter to Gen Asim Munir in the beginning of 2023 which was sent to army chief through president Arif Alvi. But neither its receipt came nor reply.

Senior politician Javed Hashmi was awarded long term punishment for reading letter with reference to the army. This so called letter is demonstration of extreme despair and frustration of PTI founder.

Some time he knocks one door and some time other door. Some times he begins talks and some time he treads on other way without giving any reason. It is not know who are those people and where are they sitting who want to serve their interests through such letters. Imran Khan terms their letter his own letter without thinking.

Imran Khan should know that there is only one way before his party and it is way of serious dialogue. Purposeless letter writing has neither given nor will give some thing to him in future.

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Romina Khurshid reaffirms strong support for Kashmir's struggle on solidarity day

ONLINE

ISLAMABAD: On the occasion of Kashmir Solidarity Day, Coordinator to the Prime Minister for Climate Change, Romina Khurshid Alam has reaffirmed unwavering support for the people of Jammu and Kashmir in their long-standing struggle for self-determination, justice, and human rights.

In her message, Romina Khurshid underscored that Kashmir Solidarity Day serves not only as a reminder of the ongoing atrocities faced by the Kashmiri people under Indian occupation, but also as an important occasion to reiterate Pakistan's firm commitment to their cause. She emphasized that Pakistan stands in full solidarity with the Kashmiri brothers and sisters as they continue their peaceful struggle for their inalienable rights, which remain denied by the Indian government.

Romina stated that Kashmir Solidarity Day is a significant occasion that highlights the plight of the Kashmiri people while also calling upon the international community to uphold the rights of Kashmiris to freedom, dignity, and justice.

She reminded the global community of its obligations to recognize the legitimacy of the Kashmiri people's demands for self-determination as enshrined in international law, particularly the United Nations resolutions on Kashmir.

"The Kashmiri people have endured immense suffering over the years. Pakistan will continue to advocate for their rights until they are fully realized," said Romina Khurshid Alam in her statement.

"We salute the unwavering resilience and courage of the Kashmiri people, who continue to struggle for their right to self-determination in the face of grave adversity.

Pakistan will keep raising their voice on every international forum, ensuring the world does not ignore their struggle for justice and peace," she added.

Romina Khurshid stated that the hearts of Pakistanis and Kashmiris beat together. She emphasized that every Pakistani stands united with the people of Kashmir in their rightful struggle for justice and self-determination.

This solidarity reflects Pakistani people's unwavering commitment to supporting the Kashmiri people in their pursuit of freedom, dignity, and peace, and to raising their voices on international platforms until their legitimate rights are fully realized.

J&K dispute resolution, essential for lasting peace in S. Asia: DPM/FM Dar

APP

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Mohammad Ishaq Dar on Wednesday said that Pakistan consistently maintained that a peaceful resolution of the Jammu and Kashmir dispute in accordance with the relevant UN Security Council resolutions and wishes of the Kashmiri people, which was essential for a lasting peace in South Asia. Pakistani cuisine recipes

"The United Nations must honor the commitments it had made 77 years ago and take steps for implementation of the Security Council resolutions on Jammu and Kashmir. For its part, Pakistan will continue to lend its full moral, diplomatic and political support for the Kashmiri people's struggle to achieve self-determination," the DPM/FM said on the occasion of Kashmir Solidarity Day.

Every year, he said the 'Kashmir Solidarity Day' was observed to express Pakistan's unwavering support to the Kashmiri people's just struggle for realization of their inalienable right to self-determination.

The relevant UN Security Council resolutions provided that the final disposition of Jammu and Kashmir would be made in

accordance with the will of the people, expressed through the democratic method of a free and impartial plebiscite conducted under the auspices of the United Nations, he added.

The deputy prime minister/foreign minister said however, over the last seventy-seven years, India had made consistent efforts to suppress the wishes of the people of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK).

"India's illegal and unilateral actions of 5 August 2019 were a blatant violation of international law including the UN Charter, 4th Geneva Convention, and the relevant UN Security Council resolutions," a press release quoted the DPM/FM as saying.

Dar further said that India had since been engaged in efforts to further strengthen its control over IIOJK. However, the genuine aspirations of the Kashmiri people could not be undermined through domestic legislation, judicial verdicts or administrative actions.

"Today, India has created an environment of fear and intimidation in IIOJK. The number of political prisoners remains in thousands. Properties of the dissenters are being confiscated as a means of punishment," he added.



ISLAMABAD: A march organized as part of the 'Kashmir Solidarity Day'. The group departed from the Pakistani Foreign Ministry building and marched towards D-Chowk Boulevard.

Kashmiris' struggle for freedom destined to succeed: Ahsan Iqbal

APP

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Professor Ahsan Iqbal on Wednesday paid tribute to the people of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) for their relentless struggle to claim their legitimate right to self-determination, in line with the resolutions passed by the United Nations Security Council (UNSC).

In a special message marking Kashmir Solidarity Day, he said the freedom of Kashmir from Indian oppression was an undeniable truth and Pakistan would always stand with the people of Kashmir in their just cause.

Today, Ahsan Iqbal remarked, that the

entire nation of Pakistan was reaffirming its commitment to unwavering solidarity with its Kashmiri brothers and sisters, who continued their fight for self-determination in accordance with the UNSC's resolutions and against India's oppressive occupation.

The minister said the Kashmiri people were engaged in an unprecedented and historic struggle for freedom and their sacrifices kept the flame of freedom alive. "I am confident that the day will come when their dreams will be realized."

"On Kashmir Solidarity Day, the people of Pakistan honor the immense sacrifices made by the Kashmiri people, who have endured brutal Indian oppression and tyranny for more than 75 years.

In shock announcement: Trump says US wants to take over Gaza Strip

By Khawaja Farooq

WASHINGTON: President Donald Trump said the US would take over the war-ravaged Gaza Strip and develop it economically after Palestinians are resettled elsewhere, actions that would shatter decades of US policy toward the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Trump unveiled his surprise plan, without providing specifics, at a joint press conference on Tuesday with visiting Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

The announcement followed Trump's shock proposal earlier on Tuesday for the permanent resettlement of the more than two million Palestinians from Gaza to neighbouring countries, calling the enclave — where the first phase of a fragile Israel-Hamas ceasefire and hostage release deal is in effect — a "demolition site".

Trump can expect allies and foes alike to strongly oppose any US takeover of Gaza, and his proposal raises questions whether Middle East power Saudi Arabia would be willing to join a renewed US-brokered push for a historic normalisation of relations with US ally Israel. The US taking a direct stake in Gaza would run counter to longtime policy in Washington and for much of the international community, which has held



that Gaza would be part of a future Palestinian state that includes the occupied West Bank.

"The US will take over the Gaza Strip, and we will do a job with it too," Trump told reporters. "We'll own it and be responsible for dismantling all of the dangerous unexploded bombs and other weapons on the site."

"We're going to develop it, create thousands and thousands of jobs, and it'll be something that the entire Middle East can be very proud of," Trump said. "I do see a long-term ownership position and I see it bringing great stability to that part of the Middle East."

Asked who would live there, Trump said it could become a home to "the world's people". Trump touted the narrow strip, where Israel's military assault in response to Hamas' Oct 7, 2023 cross-border attack has levelled large swaths, as having the potential to be "The Riviera of the Middle East".



QUETTA: Activists of Jamaat e-Islami hold a march on the occasion of 'Kashmir Solidarity Day'.