

Pakistan pushes UNSC for ‘just and lasting’ settlement of Kashmir dispute

Newyork(News Desk) Pakistan has urged the UN Security Council (UNSC) to fulfil its responsibility by ensuring the implementation of its own resolutions on the Jammu and Kashmir dispute. In August 2019, Modi's ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) had revoked occupied Kashmir's special status by repealing Article 370 of the Indian constitution. The country's Supreme Court had upheld that order in December 2023. Soon after the elections in November last year, the legislative assembly of IoK had called for the restoration of the region's special status but Modi rejected that demand. The two coun-

tries saw a heated exchange in January this year as the military strongly reacted to the Indian army chief calling Pakistan the “epicentre of terrorism”. Special Assistant to the Prime Minister (SAPM) and Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Tariq Fatemi told a high-level UNSC meeting on Monday that it was the council's responsibility to ensure the right to self-determination “for the Kashmiri people, and promote a just and lasting settlement of the Jammu and Kashmir dispute by taking measures to implement its own resolutions”. Pakistan reminded that the Jammu and Kashmir dispute

remains on the agenda of the UNSC and awaits a just and final settlement in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the Security Council that promised the Kashmiri people the right to self-determination through a UN-supervised plebiscite, a press release by the Pakistan Mission to the UN said. According to the Associated Press of Pakistan, Fatemi made these remarks while speaking at the UNSC high-level open debate on the ‘Maintenance of International Peace and Security: Advancing Adaptability in UN Peace Operations — Responding to New Realities’. The UNSC statement continued, “Pa-

kistan emphasised that it was the responsibility of the Council to ensure the realisation of that right for the Kashmiri people, and promote a just and lasting settlement of the dispute by taking measures to implement its own resolutions. “Highlighting the importance of the UN peacekeeping operations as being cost-effective instruments to maintain international peace and security, [Fatemi] mentioned that the UN Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan, established in 1949, exemplified the observation and monitoring type of operations for inter-state conflicts.”



President Asif Ali Zardari conferring Sitara-i-Basalat upon Captain Syed Amir Raza.

Three held for gang rape of woman in Lahore

LAHORE: (News Desk) The Chuhng police on Monday arrested three suspects for allegedly gang-raping a woman in Lahore while raids were being conducted to nab another rapist who had fled the scene. The police acted following the complaint of a girl who alleged that four suspects allegedly gang-raped her in a house and threatened her with dire consequences for reporting the matter to the police. The arrested suspects were identified as Waseem Akram, Shahzad and Adnan while the police were raiding for the arrest of their accomplice Arshad. A spokesperson for the police said that one of the suspects called the girl from Sahiwal in Lahore and then took her to a house of his close relative. Meanwhile, he said, he also called his three accomplices to reach there. Later, they allegedly gang-raped the girl. Following her complaint, Lahore DIG Operations Faisal Kamran ordered the SP Saddar and the SHO Chung to trace and arrest the alleged rapists.

Met Office warns of drought in three provinces



RAWALPINDI: (News Desk) The Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD) has issued a drought alert for Sindh, Balochistan and Punjab due to scant rainfall. According to the alert issued on Monday, drought conditions would persist in Sindh, southern parts of Balochistan and lower eastern plain areas of Punjab. This was despite the recent rainfall spells that have improved drought conditions in central and upper parts of the country. The mean temperature during March 2025 in the lower half of the country was 2-3 degrees Celsius above normal. The consecutive dry days in some areas of the southern region even exceeded 200 days. Alert issued for Sindh, Balochistan and Punjab; mean March temperature 2-3°C above normal. The current weather and seasonal climate outlook were likely to exacerbate and intensify the drought situation in the affected areas. In Sindh, a moderate drought situation is likely in Padidan, Shaheed Benazirabad, Dadu, Tharparkar, Umerkot, Khairpur, Hyderabad, Jhal Magsi, Sibbi, Nushki and Washuk. In Punjab, the affected areas will be Bahawalnagar, Bahawalpur and Rahim Yar Khan. The alert stated that PMD's National Drought Monitoring & Early Warning Centre (NDMC) was monitoring the situation.

Many booked in Karachi as police break up BYC protest

Karachi(News Desk) The Sindh government on Tuesday detained Baloch Yakjehti Committee (BYC) leader Sammi Deen Baloch and four others for 30 days under the Maintenance of Public Order (MPO) following the group's protest in Karachi. Karachi police on Monday detained Sammi and several others for violating Section 144 and used force to break up the BYC's protest against the recent arrests of its leadership and a crackdown on its Quetta sit-in. The BYC had announced a protest at the Karachi Press Club (KPC) against

the “illegal detention” of its key leaders, including Dr Mahrang Baloch who was arrested on Saturday along with 16 other activists from their protest camp in Quetta, a day after claiming that three protesters had died due to police action. In Karachi, Artillery Maidan police booked Sammi and five other detained activists under Section 188 (disobedience to an order duly promulgated by a public servant) for violating Section 144. According to Tuesday's order by the Sindh government's home department, a copy of which is avail-

able, the Sindh inspector general of police (IGP) had recommended had recommended a 30-day detention period for Sammi, Razzak Ali, Abdul Wahab Baloch, Shehdaad and Sultan. The order stated that the five were “instigating [the] public to block roads and organise sit-ins in Karachi, which may disturb peace and tranquility and can create serious law and order problems”. It went on to say that the presence of the five people “is likely to pose grave threat to the public safety and can cause breach of peace and tranquility.” The order further said that

the Sindh government “has sufficient reasons to believe that the five people [should] be arrested and detained for a period of 30 days from the date of arrest”. Their custody shall be placed under the Central Prison Karachi senior superintendent, the order read. Other protesters detained on Monday were identified as Abdul Wahab, Mustafa Ali, Shahzad Rab, Hamza Iftikhar and Sultan Hamal. The FIR registered on the complaint of a policeman stated that about 35-40 men and women arrived at Fawara Chowk and attempted to enter the Red Zone.

President confers military awards on 44 officers

ISLAMABAD: (News desk) President Asif Ali Zardari on Monday conferred insignias of military awards upon 44 officers of the armed forces. The presidential investiture ceremony was held at the Aiwan-i-Sadr in connection with Pakistan Day and attended by the Senate chairman, ministers, senior officers of the armed forces, government officials and families of the recipients of the awards. The recipients of Hilal-i-Imtiaz (Military) included Air Marshal Shakeel Safdar, Major Gen Tahir Masood Ahmed, Major Gen Sohail Sabir, Major Gen Fuad Ahmed Siddiqui, Major Gen Zeeshan Ahmad, Major Gen Sohail Ilyas, Rear Admiral Muhammad Hussain Sial, Major Gen Syed Mukarram Hussain, Major Gen Iftikhar Ahmed Satti, Major Gen Ghulam Shabeer Narejo, Major Gen Shahid Pervaiz, Major Gen Muhammad Asim Khan, Major Gen Nadeem Yousaf, Major Gen Ghulam Muhammad, Major Gen Noor Wali Khan, Major Gen Muhammad Naem Akhtar.

50 Afghan children sent back through Torkham on ‘humanitarian’ grounds

KHYBER: (News Desk) As many as 50 captured Afghan children were sent back to their country by the Pakistani authorities via the Torkham border on ‘humanitarian’ grounds late on Sunday evening after the intervention of a tribal jirga. Local police official Adnan Khan told Dawn that those children, including 17 girls, were seized at Torkham border point after they trespassed into the Pakistani territory by cutting the fence near the main border crossing while taking cover of the darkness after sunset. He said that most children were less than 10 years of age, with none of them possessing any legal travel documents. “We wanted to book them under the 14 Foreign Act but had to submit to the demand of the local jirga members who had requested their repatriation without any legal action as they're mostly minors. The jirga insisted that the children shouldn't be sent to jail,” he said.

No anti-state activities will be tolerated: Bugti

QUETTA: (News Desk) Balochistan Chief Minister Sarfaraz Bugti on Monday said that the state's writ would be maintained in the province at all costs and no closure of highways and anti-state activities would be tolerated in the province. Presiding over a meeting on the overall situation of the province on Monday, the chief minister said that strict action would be taken against those government employees who are found involved in anti-state propaganda and activities. At the beginning of the meeting, prayers and fateha were offered for the people martyred in terrorist incidents in the province. The chief minister issued directives to all commissioners and district officers to identify those employees who are involved in anti-state activities and take legal action against them. Announces interest-free loans for youth. Mr Bugti said that national anthem would be sung and national flag hoisted in all educational institutions of Balochistan and head of those institutions not complying with the government's orders will have to resign. The CM said that implementing the state writ is the constitutional responsibility of every government official and any official not willing to work according to the government's policy should voluntarily resign from his post. He said extortion would not be tolerated at any checkpoints in Balochistan and if any such complaint is received, the SHO or Levies' risaldar concerned would be immediately arrested. He directed district officers to promote government policies in public gatherings and inform the people that the government is providing ample opportunities for education and development of the youth of Balochistan.



Special Assistant to the Prime Minister (SAPM) and Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Tariq Fatemi speaks at a high-level UNSC meeting in New York, US

Gwadar observes shutter-down strike on BNP-M's call to support BYC

Gawwadar(News Desk) A strike was observed in Gwadar on Tuesday in response to the Balochistan National Party-Mengal's call to support the Baloch Yakjehti Committee (BYC)'s recent protests against the police crackdown and arrest of its leaders. All businesses, banks, shops and petrol pumps in

the city were closed. In Ormara, a city 270 kilometres away from Gwadar, a complete shutter-down strike by the traders' association was under way to protest against the arrests and cases registered against all BYC women leaders, including Dr Mahrang Baloch, Bebo Baloch and Sammi Deen Baloch.

A strike observed in Pasni on Tuesday in response to the Balochistan National Party-Mengal's call — Photo by Sajid Noor This comes a day after the Karachi police detained BYC leader Sammi Deen Baloch and several others during a protest against the recent arrests of BYC leadership and a crack-

down on its Quetta sit-in. On Friday evening, the police used tear gas and water cannons, and fired blank shots to disperse BYC protesters, who had staged a sit-in on the Sariab Road near the University of Balochistan, against alleged enforced disappearances, including its leader Bebarq Baloch.

SCBA chief, Fazl discuss issues of Balochistan

ISLAMABAD:(News esk) Jamiat Ulema-i-Islam (JUI-F) chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman has assured the lawyers' fraternity of his full cooperation for the restoration of peace, progress and development in Balochistan, as both sides agreed that the only viable solution to the issues lies in a democratic approach. Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA) President Mian Muhammad Rauf Atta, accompanied by Balochistan High Court Bar Association President Mir Attaullah Langove,

met the JUI-F leadership at the residence of party's provincial president Senator Maulana Abdul Wasay on Monday, as part of his ongoing meetings with national leaders on Balochistan issue. Without elaborating, Mr Rehman said there were areas in his constituency which had been ‘vacated even by the army’. “Whose writ will be there and who will be occupying a war-ravaged place with no presence of the police and the army?” he asked. The JUI-F chief warned that five to seven districts

in Balochistan were “in a position to announce independence”, adding that the UN would recognise them the next day in such a case. Similarly, he claimed that there was no government's writ in the southern parts of KP where police checkpoints had been closed down and the police officials were under a siege of the “armed groups” controlling the area. Opposition leader of the Balochistan Assembly Mir Younas Aziz Zehri was also present. Taking the floor, the JUI-F chief

alleged police were being “made in closed doors by those who are above the government, above politicians and above the parliament and we are not allowed, even for a moment, to give any proposal”. Alleging that there has been no writ of the state in Balochistan and KP, he said armed groups were in a state of war in both provinces. “Had I asked the prime minister [Shehbaz Sharif] as to what is happening in the tribal areas, he would have simply stated that he doesn't know,” said Mr Rehman,



ernment over its failure to establish civilian authority. The discussion centered on the deteriorating law and order situation in the province that has led to wider unrest, an increase in insurgent activities, and

road closures that have directly impacted the daily lives of ordinary citizens. The SCBA president urged the JUI-F chief to play an active role in uniting all leaders of Balochistan on a single platform to find a long-term solutions.