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## **October 28, 2020: National / International [Current Affairs](#)**

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### **1. Bomb blast leaves eight madressah students dead**

- At least eight students were killed and about 120 others wounded when a timed device went off inside a mosque where a large number of seminary students were attending a class on October 27, 2020 morning.
  - Police said the blast took place inside the main prayer hall of Spin Jumat or White Mosque, located in Dir Colony on Ring Road, at around 8am when seventh grade students from the nearby Zubbairyah seminary were attending a class there.
  - KP police chief Dr Sanaullah Abbasi told reporters at the crime scene that they were investigating the incident. He said about five kilograms of explosives were used in the attack; however, there was no specific alert about this attack.
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### **2. Second Covid wave under way in Pakistan**

- As active cases of Covid-19 surpassed the 11,000 mark, Special Assistant to the Prime Minister (SAPM) on Health Dr Faisal Sultan on October 27, 2020 formally announced that the second wave of the deadly virus has started in the country. He also said that at ime schedule can be set for certain businesses to avoid the spread of coronavirus.
- During a media briefing, the SAPM said the number of Covid-19 cases was increasing every day. `A few weeks ago we were getting 400 to 500 cases per day, but now it has increased to 700 to 750 cases. Moreover, the mortality rate has also increased. Another ratio which is considered is percentage positivity that remained less than two per cent, but

now it has reached close to 3pc,` he said

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### **3. NA body on law passes eight bills in a single day**

- The National Assembly Standing Committee on Law and Justice on October 27, 2020 passed eight out of nine bills, and deferred the last one regarding amendment in criminal law.
  - One of the bills titled: `Pakistan Psychological Council Bill, 2020` was passed by the National Assembly`s Standing Committee on National Health Services (NHS), but the bill was again referred to the committee on law and justice by the house for consideration.
  - Since it was tabled by the committee chairman PTI MNA Riaz Fatyana, as mover of the bill he cannot chair the meeting where his bill was being discussed
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### **4. WAPDA assigned B3 CFR by Moody`s**

- Moody`s Investors Service on October 27, 2020 assigned a first-time corporate family rating (CFR) of B3 to Water and Power Development Authority (WAPDA) and a stable outlook.
  - WAPDA`s B3 CFR is primarily driven by its baseline credit assessment (BCA) of B3, and expectation of a very high likelihood of support from, and a very high level of dependence on, the Government of Pakistan (B3 stable) in times of need, the New York-based rating agency said.
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### **5. Law ministry to establish 30 accountability courts**

- The law ministry will establish 30 accountability courts across the country in the first phase as Prime Minister Imran Khan has approved phase-wise establishment of 120 such courts to expedite disposal of corruption references.
- Pursuant to the Supreme Court`s orders dated July 8 and Oct 21, Minister for Law and Justice Barrister Farogh Naseem briefed the prime minister on establishment of 120 accountability courts across the country, a statement issued by the law ministry said.

## **6. Black Day marked to highlight Indian occupation of Kashmir**

- Black Day was observed on October 27, 2020 in Pakistan; both sides of Line of Control (LoC) and the world over to highlight the illegal and prolonged occupation of Jammu and Kashmir by India through its security forces to perpetrate worst-ever atrocities since August 5, 2020.
  - The Indian Army had invaded the state of Jammu and Kashmir on this day in 1947, in an attempt to subjugate the Kashmiri people. Since then, despite unabated Indian atrocities, New Delhi is unable to break the will of the brave people of Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir, who are struggling for their right to self-determination
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## **7. India, US sign military data pact; China slams Pompeo`s visit**

- India and the US on Tuesday inked a landmark defence agreement that will allow sharing of high-end military technology, classified satellite data and critical information between the two countries widely believed to have China in its cross-hair.
  - The signing of the Basic Exchange and Cooperation Agreement (BECA) between the two strategic partners is expected to further boost bilateral defence and military ties and it comes in the backdrop of India`s tense border standoff with China in eastern Ladakh
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## **8. Indians can now buy land in occupied Kashmir**

- IN A significant move, the Indian government paved the way on October 27, 2020 for people from outside occupied Kashmir to buy land there by amending several laws.
  - The ministry of home affairs notified the `union territory of Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation (Adaptation of Central Laws) Third Order, 2020. The centre has repealed or substituted 26 state laws.
  - In a gazette notification, the ministry omitted the phrase `permanent resident of the state` from the Jammu and Kashmir Development Act, which deals with disposal of land in India-held Kashmir.
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## 9. Saudi Arabia plans to abolish sponsorship system

- Saudi Arabia plans to cancel a foreign worker sponsorship system, known as kafala, and replace it with a new form of contract between employers and employees, a Reuters report said on October 27, 2020.
  - Quoting Maaal, the Arabic language online economic newspaper, the report said that the kafala system that generally binds an expatriate worker to one employer had been in place for seven decades in the kingdom.
  - Rights groups criticise the system and say it leaves workers vulnerable to exploitation. However, Saudi media had said the abrogation of the sponsorship law would lead to limiting the relationship between the employer and the expatriate worker to the employment contract that defines the rights and duties of both the parties.
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## 10. SA to send security team ahead of first Pakistan tour in 13 years

- Cricket South Africa (CSA) announced on October 27, 2020 it will send a security assessment delegation to Pakistan this weekend with a view to the playing in the country in early 2021.
  - If the tour goes ahead it will be South Africa`s first visit to Pakistan since 2007/08 before two subsequent `away` tours were staged in the United Arab Emirates because of security concerns following a 2009 attack on the Sri Lankan team in Lahore
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