

FIA summons Farah Gogi

ISLAMABAD (PPI): Probing into the allegations of money laundering, the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) Thursday summoned Farah Gogi and her husband Ahsan Jameel Gujjar for inquiry on Friday, February 17. The FIA has issued the notice to Farah Gogi and Ahsan Jameel Gujjar. The FIA ordered Farah Gogi and Ahsan Jameel Gujjar to bring FBR records and money transfer documents to explain the fair transactions.



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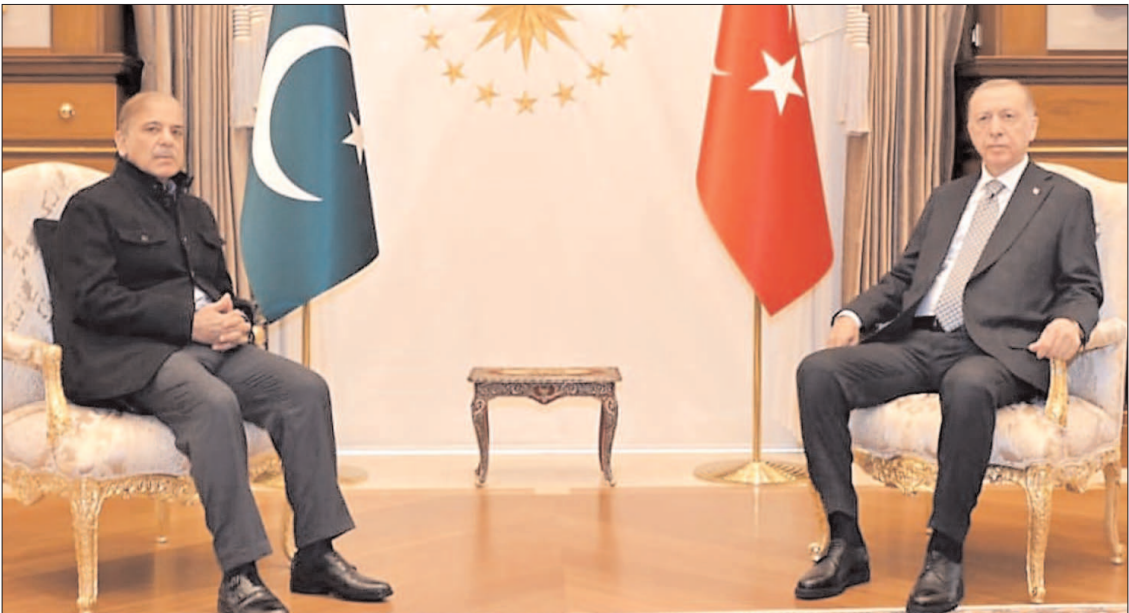
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ANKARA: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif exchanging view with President of Tukiye Recep Tayyip Erdogan.

PML-N decides not to contest NA by-polls

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) has decided not to contest upcoming by-elections on National Assembly vacant seats.

In a statement, PML-N president and Prime Minister (PM) Shehbaz Sharif has instructed candidates of by-elections to withdraw their applications. "PML-N will not contest the elections as decided by Pakistan Democratic Movement," the party's president said in the statement.

A day earlier, it was reported that the Pakistan People's Party (PPP) made it clear to Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) that it will not contest by-elections on vacant NA seats only if Awami National Party (ANP) and Muttahida Qaumi Movement-Pakistan (MQM-P) boycott the upcoming polls.

Khaqan Abbasi meets Maryam Nawaz

LAHORE (INP): Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) senior leader and former prime minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi on Thursday met with the party's Senior Vice-President and Chief Organiser Maryam Nawaz in Lahore.

Matters pertaining to the organizational structure of the party and overall political situation came under discussion during the meeting between two leaders. The meeting was held at the party's central secretariat in Model Town.

The meeting came after rumours started making rounds on social media that Abbasi was quitting the Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) and setting up a new party since he resigned from the party's key post soon after Maryam's election as the senior vice-president and chief organiser. In an interview to a private news channel last week, Abbasi made it clear that his leader is Nawaz Sharif and if Maryam Nawaz elevated to the PML-N's top office, he will consider remaining in the party's fold or not.

"I was named the senior vice president of the Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) when Shehbaz Sharif was arrested in year 2019," Shahid Khaqan said. "When Maryam was given the leadership position and elevated to the Chief Organizer's position, I had tendered my resignation at that time from the party office to the PML-N president," he said. "I could not work further on the party's office, I told."

"I have long-time relations and friendship with Nawaz Sharif, he is my leader, and this relation could not be bonded with Maryam," Shahid Khaqan said. Responding a question to join another party with a straightforward 'No' he said if he had to quit the PML-N he will return to his home as "I have no other home except it".

FO rejects speculations surrounding grossi's visit to Pakistan

Muhammad Asad

ISLAMABAD: Foreign Office Spokesperson, Ms. Mumtaz Zahra Baloch has categorically rejected the speculations surrounding the recent visit of the Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency, Rafael Mariano Grossi to Pakistan. At her weekly news briefing in Islamabad on Thursday, Ms. Baloch told the media that the IAEA deals in the use and regulation of civil nuclear energy, while Pakistan and the IAEA are jointly working in multiple areas including energy, agriculture, health, nuclear medicines, power generation, high yield crops, and drought reduction. According to the Spokesperson, the media's misperceptions are untrue and imaginary, while Pakistan's military nuclear program and nuclear assets have no relations with the IAEA. Responding to a media query regarding recent raids on BBC's offices in India, Ms. Baloch said that those raids were reprisal of BBC's documentary on the Gujrat massacre of 2002 and another manifestation of shrinking space for freedom of media. She said these incidents are a stain on India's so-called democratic credentials. While commenting on the situation in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK), the Spokesperson said that the human rights violations and government's atrocities in IIOJK continue unabated during the past weeks. Pakistan also continues to raise its concerns regarding the prevailing dire situation in the valley along with multiple calls for peaceful and just resolution of the issue under the provisions of the UN Security Council. When asked by *The Frontier Post* about Pak-Afghan relations under the Taliban regime, the Spokesperson was of the view that Pakistan has a persistent policy to develop good neighborly relationships with its neighbors and other countries in the region and around the globe. According to her, Pakistan continues to develop its relations based on mutual

trust and respect but we do not want to build any hierarchy in our relationship. Every relationship is important for us that contribute to the strength of the foreign policy of Pakistan. Ms. Zahra categorically noted that Pakistan and Afghanistan are neighbors having historic cultural and trade ties, while Pakistan intends to enhance its relations with Afghanistan in trade, security, and other fields of mutual interest. According to the Spokesperson, the Pakistani government, NGOs, and charity organizations have dispatched humanitarian assistance to Turkey consisting of 12 cargo flights and 21 NLC trucks, while 2 fights and 12 trucks had been sent to Syria so far. The Spokesperson informed the media that Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif was proceeding on a two-day official visit to Turkey to express solidarity on the behalf of entire Pakistani nation with the government and the people of Turkey at this movement of grief and calamity. To another question she said that the second round of Pak-US mid-level Defense and Security Dialogue was currently underway in Washington, meanwhile, a US interagency delegation will commence its three-day visit to Pakistan today. According to Ms. Baloch, the bilateral engagement would be aimed at the institutionalization of trade and investment, clean energy, health, climate change, security, and other aspects of bilateral interest. To another question regarding the sale of Kashmiri land to non-Kashmitis and Indian nationals, Ms. Zahra said that the Indian government was involved in demographic change in the disputed territory while the government of Pakistan was actively pursuing this issue globally. According to her, Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari has written letters to UN Secretary-General, President UN Security Council, and President OIC to apprise them about the dire situation of human rights and illegal actions of the Modi regime that is seriously undermining the security situation in the region.

Efforts being made to curtail ECP powers, CEC tells SC

ISLAMABAD (Agencies): Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Sikander Sultan Raja on Thursday informed the Supreme Court that efforts were being made to curtail the powers of the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP). The ECP chief made the statement when he appeared before the Supreme Court in a case related to the transfer of former Lahore capital city police officer (CCPO) Ghulam Mehmood Dogar. He was summoned by the apex court to explain the reasons behind the Dogar's removal.

During Thursday's hearing, Justice Ijaz Ul Ahsan asked why the CCPO was removed despite orders of the Supreme Court and what was the hurry in issuing the transfer orders. The lawyer for the Punjab government informed the bench that Dogar was transferred on the orders of the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP).

At this, Justice Ahsan asked what role the ECP has in the transfer of officers. While Justice Mazahar Ali Akbar Naqvi remarked that the ECP's role comes into effect after the elections have been announced. Additional advocate general told the court that they had taken approval from the ECP over Dogar's removal as a caretaker setup had been placed.

"As per the Constitution, elections have to be held within 90 days after a caretaker setup takes over," said the lawyer. At this, Justice Ahsan asked where the ECP was, while Justice Naqvi remarked that half of the officers posted in Punjab had been transferred. "Is there

any district of Punjab where there has not been a transfer," asked Justice Naqvi.

Meanwhile, Justice Ahsan wondered whether the ECP was aware of the Supreme Court's orders on Dogar's posting. "Election Commission is doing everything apart from its job," remarked Justice Ahsan. The bench after issuing the summons adjourned the hearing for an hour.

Once the hearing resumed, CEC Raja appeared before the bench. Justice Ahsan told the ECP chief that the constitution clearly mandates that elections are to be held within 90 days. He added that holding polls is the ECP's job and if they are not held within the stipulated time then it would be a violation of the Constitution. "There is no confusion in the Constitution on elections being held within 90 days," said Justice Ahsan. He also added that in the Constitution it was clear that the interim government is not empowered to remove officers.

The judge also remarked, if a transfer is required then the caretaker government needs to provide concrete reasons. He added that the ECP must examine those reasons and then issue an appropriate order. "Election Commission does not have to follow the orders of the province," said Justice Ahsan. At this, the ECP chief told the bench that if the court wants they can restore Dogar as the CCPO.

The CEC said that the ECP did not allow appointments and transfers in the entire province under a single policy. He added that it was important to transfer some

commissioners, deputy commissioners, regional police officers and others to "ensure free and fair elections". "If the court gives an order then we will not allow the transfers," said Raja. On this, Justice Ahsan remarked that the court will not issue any such orders, adding that they were bound to follow the Constitution.

The issue of delay in Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa also came under discussion during the hearing when the court reminded the ECP chief about his duty to hold polls within 90 days. At this, Sikander Sultan Raja briefed the court about hurdles faced by the commission from different institutions.

"Efforts are being made to curtail the powers of the ECP," said Raja. He added that the army has refused to provide security during polls when requested, and the judiciary has denied providing staff while the government is not giving funds. "ECP's authority is being curtailed. How can free and fair elections be held?" asked the CEC. At this, Justice Ahsan asked whether the electoral body had contacted the government.

The CEC replied that they had informed the government about all the issues faced by the commission. The court then summoned the record of all the transfers, including Dogar's, okayed by the ECP in Punjab. It also asked the CEC to appear again tomorrow (Friday). On his summoning, the attorney general asked the bench if it was not necessary then the CEC can skip tomorrow's hearing.

NEPRA notifies cut in power tariff

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: The National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (NEPRA) on Thursday notified a reduction of Rs2.32 per unit for Ex-WAPDA distribution companies (XWDISCOs) consumers on account of fuel charges adjustment (FCA) for December 2022.

The development comes a day after the federal government dropped a "petrol bomb" on the masses by increasing the price to Rs272 per litre after a hike of Rs22.20. Meanwhile, natural gas tariff was increased sharply by up to 112% for consumers. The negative power tariff adjustment will give some breathing space to the inflation-weary people reeling from the impact of sky-high petrol and gas prices.

According to a notification issued in this regard, the NEPRA directed all XWDiscos to show the adjustment separately in the consumer's bills for February. This shall apply to all consumer categories except: Lifelines consumers; Domestic consumers who consume up to 300 units; Agriculture consumers; Electric vehicle charging stations.

It was also clarified that the negative adjustment on account of monthly FCA applies to domestic consumers having Time of Use (ToU) metres irrespective of their consumption level. "The said adjustment shall be shown separately in the consumers' bills on the basis of units billed to the consumers in the month of December 2022," it read.

The FCA is based on changes in the global prices of fuel and is passed on to consumers under the prescribed rules and regulations of NEPRA and the government of Pakistan. The recommendation proposed by the power distribution companies is approved by NEPRA after a thorough review of the data provided for a month during which the fuel charges were recovered from the consumers. Earlier, the power regulator also notified a reduction of Rs10.8 per unit for the K-Electric consumers for the month of December 2022 which would also be reflected in the consumer bills of February 2023.

SBP forex reserves break falling spree, rise above \$3b

KARACHI (Agencies): The net forex reserves held by commercial banks stand at \$5,509.3 million, \$2,316.4 billion more than the SBP, bringing the total liquid foreign reserves of the country to \$8,702.2 million, the statement mentioned.

The central bank did not mention any specific reason behind an increase in SBP-held reserves. Pakistan is eyeing the crucial loan tranche from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) which would unlock other avenues of funding for Pakistan. Faced with critically low US-dollar reserves, the government had banned all but essential food and medicine imports until a lifeline bailout is agreed upon with the IMF.

Pakistan's economy is in dire straits, stricken by a balance-of-payments crisis as it attempts to service high levels of external debt amid political chaos and deteriorating security. Inflation has rocketed, the rupee has plummeted and the country can no longer afford imports, causing a severe decline in the industry.

Since January, the world's fifth most populous nation is no longer issuing letters of credit, except for essential food and medicine, causing a backlog of raw material imports the country can no longer afford. The logjam coupled with the rupee devaluation has sparked a major decline in manufacturing, including textiles and steel, and building projects.

Pakistan stands with Turkiye: PM

Shehbaz meets Erdogan; expresses condolences over loss of lives in massive earthquake

ANKARA (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif met President Recep Tayyip Erdogan of Turkiye here on Thursday and expressed his heartfelt condolences over the loss of precious human lives in the wake of massive earthquake. The prime minister, who is in Turkiye on a two-day visit to express solidarity with the Turkish people, was received upon arrival at the Presidential Palace by President Erdogan.

Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb, Special Assistant to the PM Tariq Fatemi, and National Disaster Management Authority Chairman Lt Gen Inam Haider accompanied the

prime minister. The prime minister, in a tweet after the meeting, said in a meeting with his brother President Erdogan, he expressed profound condolences to him on behalf of the people and the Government of Pakistan.

"I assured him of our steadfast support to Turkiye. I am confident that under President's leadership, Turkiye will emerge from this catastrophe stronger," he added. Besides meeting President Erdogan, the prime minister will also visit the earthquake-affected areas in southern Turkiye, and interact with the Pakistani search and rescue teams deployed there as well as survivors of the earthquake. He will reiterate Pakistan's firm commitment to stand by the

Turkish people during difficult times and to continue extending all possible support to the ongoing relief effort. The prime minister spoke to President Erdogan on February 6 and assured him of all possible assistance for the rescue and relief efforts in the aftermath of the devastating earthquake that had hit southern Turkiye in the morning on that day.

All available resources have been fully mobilized to help the Turkish people and the prime minister is personally overseeing the relief effort. Pakistan and Turkiye enjoy deep fraternal ties. The two countries have resolutely stood by each other during every trial and tribulation.

LHC dismisses Imran's petition for protective bail

LAHORE (Agencies): The Lahore High Court (LHC) has turned down a petition filed by Chairman Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Imran Khan seeking protective bail in a case related to protests outside the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP).

Justice Ali Baqir Najafi resumed the hearing on Imran Khan's petition seeking protective bail after an Islamabad court rejected former prime minister's bail in a case related to protests outside the ECP following his disqualification in Toshakhana reference.

During the hearing, Justice Ali Baqir Najafi said the petitioner had been summoned for 6:30pm, but he failed to appear. "He [Khan] failed to appear in court despite repeated opportunities extended by the court," the judge said, while reject-

ing the protective bail plea.

Earlier in the day, the Lahore High Court (LHC) warned of issuing a contempt notice to former prime minister Imran Khan on a petition seeking protective bail. Justice Tariq Saleem Sheikh passed these marks after taking notice of different signatures of PTI Chairman Imran Khan on the affidavit and power of attorney submitted in the court.

At the outset of the hearing, former premier's counsel, advocate Azhar Siddiq informed the court that they are pondering over issues pertaining to Imran's health and security. "Former prime minister is meeting with his doctors," he said and assured the court that Imran would be in court. "We request the court to give us some time," prayed the counsel. When the hearing

resumed at 4pm, Imran's counsel Siddiqui told LHC that his client wanted to withdraw the bail application as the Islamabad High Court (IHC) had already granted relief to Imran.

At this, the judge observed that the PTI chief's signatures on the affidavit and power of attorney were different. "This is a very important matter ... I will issue contempt of court notice to you or your client," he warned and adjourned the proceedings again by 6:30pm. The former premier had filed a petition in Lahore High Court (LHC), seeking protective bail after the banking court in Islamabad rejected Imran's bail in a case pertaining to protests outside the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) following his disqualification in the Toshakhana reference.

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‘Lahore to have model cattle market soon’

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Local Government Secretary Dr. Irshad Ahmed has said that Shahpur Kanjran, the biggest cattle market in Lahore, is going to be made a model cattle market. He along with Special Secretary LG Pervaiz Iqbal visited the site to review the cleanliness, overcharging, street lights and other amenities in the market on Thursday. While inspecting the facilities available in the cattle market, the secretary directed the CEO Punjab Cattle Market Management and Development Company Lateef Khan to start work immediately on the model cattle market project, estimate the cost and also get prepare the best layout from Nespak. He further said, "millions of people come to buy and sell animals in Shahpur Kanjran Mandi on Eid-ul-Adha and on normal days. It is our responsibility to provide them with the best facilities like roads, sanitation, sewerage, parking and lighting." The Secretary said that this initiative will double the company's income. He directed that the process of purchasing 418 kanals of land for the model cattle market should be completed soon. On this occasion, the LG Secretary asked the purchasers about over charging and also reviewed the complaint cell, veterinary camp and rescue 1122 camp. Meanwhile, Chief Executive Officer of Punjab Cattle Market Company Latif Khan gave a briefing about the management issues of the Cattle Market and the facilities being provided in the market.

Govt to provide subsidy on 0.2m solar systems

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Energy Minister Imtiaz Sheikh on Thursday said that 0.2 million solar power systems will be provided at subsidised rates for the promotion of low-cost renewable energy across the province. It was decided in a meeting with the World Bank delegation led by Country Director for Pakistan Najy Benhassine, said a statement issued here. The minister informed that households residing in rural areas and intending to install solar systems would be provided with a subsidy of \$160 per unit per house while for urban areas subsidy would be \$110 per unit per house. He said that the scope of the project was being expanded from 10 districts of Sindh to the whole of the province and as many as 200,000 solar systems would be installed under the project. During the meeting, issues related to low-cost electricity

CM inaugurates Spring Festival Plantation Campaign 2023

LAHORE (APP): Caretaker Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi inaugurated Spring Festival Plantation Campaign 2023 by planting a bottle palm sapling in the CM office lawn, on Thursday.

Mohsin Naqvi also prayed for the success of plantation campaign.

The Caretaker CM said that 30 million saplings will be planted during the Spring Festival Plantation Campaign across Punjab. He stated that planting a tree is a national obligation as well as a social responsibility. He urged that everyone should vigorously participate in the plantation campaign and properly look after the trees.

He underscored that planting a sapling is not sufficient but rather its care is important likewise.

Secretary Forests gave a briefing to the Caretaker CM with regard to the

plantation campaign and apprised that the Forests Department has set up 489 nurseries to provide saplings to the masses.

Secretary Information and Culture as well as officials of Forests Department were also present on the occasion.

CM takes notice of explosion incident in Jaffar Express: Caretaker Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi has taken notice of an explosion incident in Jaffar Express near Chichawatni and sought a report from the Inspector General of Police.

Mohsin Naqvi ordered an investigation into the matter. Caretaker CM Mohsin Naqvi directed Commissioner Sahiwal, RPO, Deputy Commissioner and DPO to reach the incident site forthwith and provide best treatment facilities to the injured. He directed to submit a report after investigating the matter.

Hindu pilgrims arrive in Pakistan to celebrate Shivratri

LAHORE (APP): As many as 58 Indian Hindu pilgrims arrived here on Thursday through the Wagah border crossing on a seven-day visit to participate in Maha Shivratri celebrations at the Katas Raj temple in Punjab on Feb 18.

The pilgrims, led by Indian former minister Karan Dev Kamboj, were received by Additional Secretary Shrines Evacuee Trust Property Board (ETPB) Rana Shahid on behalf of Chairman ETPB Habibur Rehman Geelani.

Talking to the media, the secretary said the pilgrims would spend a day in Lahore and then leave for Katas Raj temple where the main celebrations would be held on Saturday. The pilgrims would return to India on February 22. "I welcome the pilgrims coming to

Pakistan not only from India but from all over the world on behalf of the Pakistani government," he remarked.

Karan Dev Kamboj, the head of the delegation, said on the occasion the central celebration of the Shivratri would be held on Saturday at Katas Raj temple along with Deepmala and fireworks. He added that on Feb 19, the pilgrims would return to Lahore from Katas Raj and visit various religious sites including Karishna Mandar Ravi Road and others on Feb 20.

Other members of the delegation expressed their great happiness and pleasure after arriving in Pakistan. They expressed their satisfaction over arrangements made for their facilitation during the visit to Pakistan.

Applicants receive financial relief with Ombudsman Punjab’s intervene

LAHORE (APP): The intervention of Ombudsman Punjab Major (R) Azam Suleman Khan yielded a positive outcome, with several provincial government departments disbursing a total amount of Rs.34,329,081 to helpless applicants across various districts. These applicants had approached the ombudsman office seeking redressal for their long-pending employment-related grievances, such as the non-payment of pension, gratuity, and other employment benefits. The spokesman of the Office of the Ombudsman Punjab reported this in a statement issued on Thursday. While giving details, the spokesman explained that the relevant government departments gave a total

relief of over 12 million rupees to individuals who filed applications seeking payment of family pensions. The relief was provided after the ombudsman office intervened to settle their unresolved issues, he added. Concerned government departments paid out over 18.3 million rupees to individuals who requested payment of arrears of salaries and financial assistance. The payment was made after the ombudsman's office intervened to address their concerns. In a related development, Muhammad Arshad Munir, a resident of Multan, received approximately one million rupees in compensation from the Punjab Industries, Commerce & Investment Department.



LAHORE: Passengers are waiting at the railway station due to the late arrival of the train.

Peoples Bus Service set to start its Operations in Sukkur today

F.P. Report

KARACHI: The much awaited moment of formal launch of People's Bus Service in Sukkur has arrived as Transport & Mass Transit Department government of Sindh has set to start its formal operations in Sukkur on Friday (today) , at 12.00 noon. After success of People's Bus Service in Karachi, Larkana and Hyderabad, people of Sukkur will reap the benefits of the People's Bus Service ride.

The fleet of 10 buses has been allocated for busiest 1st route of Sukkur that would cover the areas between Rohari Railway Station and

Globe Chowk , Lab -e- Mehran Sukkur. The 25 kilometers long route of Sukkur will start from Rohari Railway Station and pass through Beari Stop , Atta Hussain degree college , Dawoo Terminal, SIUT Sukkur, City Point Bus Stop, NICVD , IBA University, New Bus Terminal , Beacon House School, Sabzi Mandi, Pakowla Chowk ,Board Office, Commissioner Office, IBA Public School, 7/11 store bus stop and will culminate at globe Chowk Lab -e- Mehran. The minister for Information Transport and Mass Transit Sharjeel Inam Memon has said that Sindh government of Pakistan People's Party is full filling it's promises with

people and extending it's flagship project in public transport sector to big cities of the province so as to provide people affordable, safe and comfortable commuting facility.

He added that despite the financial pressures and tough economic situation of the country? the PPP Sindh is focusing to provide relief to people of the province.

He said that on the directives of Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari and former president Asif Ali Zardari transport department has envisaged a comprehensive plan to overhaul the public transport system of the province on the modern lines and implementing it on fast pace.

PML-N will steer country out of current crises: Talal

LAHORE (APP): Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz senior leader Talal Chaudhry said on Thursday that the PML-N was the only party which would steer the country out of the prevailing crises and challenges, like in the past. Talking to the media at the party's secretariat in Model Town, he said that the PML-N had a history of serving the people as it completed various mega development projects besides raising living standard of people whenever it was given a chance. Networks of Motorways and highways were

spread besides launch of various electricity generation projects to end power load-shedding in the country, he recalled. He said that the coalition government in centre did not want to put burden on the public, but it was a result of incapability and mismanagement of the previous Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) government, which forced the current government to get a deal from the IMF. Despite pressure and demands by the IMF, the incumbent government agreed to impose very less new taxes through

a mini budget to avoid the country going towards default, he added.

Talal Chaudhry said the public should see that who was responsible for inflation in the country as the IMF deal signed by the previous PTI government was never followed that created tough circumstances for the present government. He said the PML-N paid a heavy political price for recent unpopular steps taken in larger national interest; however, the government would take every possible step to strengthen country's economy.

DMC East makes arrangements for Shab-e-Mairaj, Shab-e-Barat

KARACHI (APP): Administrator DMC East, Syed Shakeel Ahmed and Municipal Commissioner Fahim Khan on Thursday presided over the meeting regard-

ing municipal arrangements ahead of the holy nights Shab-e-Mairaj and Shab-e-Barat and the holy month of Ramadan. In the meeting, various municipal issues

were discussed and it was directed that the concerned departments should prepare a feasibility report for ensuring smooth civic facilities on these occasions.

<p>PUBLIC NOTICE</p> <p>Application for issuance of Letter of Administration / Succession Certificate by Mr. Jamsaid Ullah Khan with regards to moveable & immovable assets of deceased Mr. Khan Gul Shah citizen number 1110114354807 has been received. Following are declared as legal heirs:</p> <p>1.Safia Gul (Daughter)2.Aisha Bibi (Daughter)3.Gul Chahna Bibi (Spouse)4.Jamsaid Ullah Khan (Son)5.Shah Zeb Khan (Son)</p> <p>On the above application the objections of public at large are invited. Any aggrieved person may approach in person the undersigned for submission of objection (if any) within fourteen (14) days after publication of this notice.</p> <p>INCHARGE SFU, NADRA BANNU-SFU</p>	<p>PUBLIC NOTICE</p> <p>Application for issuance of Letter of Administration / Succession Certificate by Mr. Abdur Rahim with regards to moveable & immovable assets of deceased Mr. Aqleem Khan citizen number 1110140022375 has been received. Following are declared as legal heirs:</p> <p>1.Nazish Bibi (Daughter)2.Farkh Taj (Daughter)3.Almas Bibi (Daughter)4.Afshen (Daughter)5.Nazim (Spouse)6.Abdur Rahman (Son)7.Fahim Gul (Son)</p> <p>On the above application the objections of public at large are invited. Any aggrieved person may approach in person the undersigned for submission of objection (if any) within fourteen (14) days after publication of this notice.</p> <p>INCHARGE SFU, NADRA BANNU-SFU</p>	<p>PUBLIC NOTICE</p> <p>Application for issuance of Letter of Administration / Succession Certificate by Mr. Suhail Ahmad with regards to moveable & immovable assets of deceased Mr. Shabeer Ahmad citizen number 1610112495221 has been received. Following are declared as legal heirs:</p> <p>1.Aiman Shabeer (Daughter)2.Javeria Ahmad (Daughter)3.Shahida Shabeer (Spouse)4.Suhaib Ahmad (Son)</p> <p>On the above application the objections of public at large are invited. Any aggrieved person may approach in person the undersigned for submission of objection (if any) within fourteen (14) days after publication of this notice.</p> <p>INCHARGE SFU, NADRA MARDAN-SFU</p>	<p>PUBLIC NOTICE</p> <p>Application for issuance of Letter of Administration / Succession Certificate by Mr. Arsalan with regards to moveable & immovable assets of deceased Mr. Muhammad Ayub Awan citizen number 1330203699023 has been received. Following are declared as legal heirs:</p> <p>1.Saba Ayub (Daughter)2.Huma Ayub (Daughter)3.Aneela Bibi (Spouse)4.Saqin Khan (Son)5.Naseer Ahmad (Son)6.Muhammad Awas Khan (Son)</p> <p>On the above application the objections of public at large are invited. Any aggrieved person may approach in person the undersigned for submission of objection (if any) within fourteen (14) days after publication of this notice.</p> <p>INCHARGE SFU, NADRA HARIPUR-SFU</p>	<p>PUBLIC NOTICE</p> <p>Application for issuance of Letter of Administration / Succession Certificate by Mr. Muhammad Suleman Ahmed with regards to moveable & immovable assets of deceased Mr. Shabir Ahmed citizen number 1330216091897 has been received. Following are declared as legal heirs:</p> <p>1.Sitara Bibi (Daughter)2.Samina Tabassum (Daughter)3.Mehmouna Khatoun (Spouse)4.Saqin Khan (Son)5.Naseer Ahmad (Son)6.Muhammad Awas Khan (Son)</p> <p>On the above application the objections of public at large are invited. Any aggrieved person may approach in person the undersigned for submission of objection (if any) within fourteen (14) days after publication of this notice.</p> <p>INCHARGE SFU, NADRA HARIPUR-SFU</p>	<p>PUBLIC NOTICE</p> <p>Application for issuance of Letter of Administration / Succession Certificate by Mr. Muhammad Aslam citizen number 1330203874885 has been received. Following are declared as legal heirs:</p> <p>1.Asma Shaheen (Daughter)2.Nusrat Parveen (Daughter)3.Fatima Shaheen (Daughter)4.Resham Jan (Daughter)5.Amna Shahzad (Daughter)6.Muhammad Jan (Daughter)7.Muhammad Akram (Son)8.Bacham Suleman Ahmed (Son)</p> <p>On the above application the objections of public at large are invited. Any aggrieved person may approach in person the undersigned for submission of objection (if any) within fourteen (14) days after publication of this notice.</p> <p>INCHARGE SFU, NADRA HARIPUR-SFU</p>	<p>PUBLIC NOTICE</p> <p>Application for issuance of Letter of Administration / Succession Certificate by Ms. Faiza Bibi with regards to moveable & immovable assets of deceased Ms. Nasreen Bibi citizen number 1330203245460 has been received. Following are declared as legal heirs:</p> <p>1.Faiza Bibi (Daughter)2.Uzma Khursheed (Daughter)3.Abdul Rasheed Awan (Spouse)4.Muhammad Asif (Son)</p> <p>On the above application the objections of public at large are invited. Any aggrieved person may approach in person the undersigned for submission of objection (if any) within fourteen (14) days after publication of this notice.</p> <p>INCHARGE SFU, NADRA HARIPUR-SFU</p>	<p>PUBLIC NOTICE</p> <p>Application for issuance of Letter of Administration / Succession Certificate by Mr. Abid Ayub with regards to moveable & immovable assets of deceased Mr. Muhammad Ayub citizen number 1330279562391 has been received. Following are declared as legal heirs:</p> <p>1.Samina Shaheen (Daughter)2.Naseem Akhter (Spouse)3.Abid Ayub (Son)4.Sajid Ayub (Son)5.Muhammad Arif (Son)6.Abdul Malik (Son)</p> <p>On the above application the objections of public at large are invited. Any aggrieved person may approach in person the undersigned for submission of objection (if any) within fourteen (14) days after publication of this notice.</p> <p>INCHARGE SFU, NADRA HARIPUR-SFU</p>
<p>PUBLIC NOTICE</p> <p>Application for issuance of Letter of Administration / Succession Certificate by Mr. Muhammad Anees with regards to moveable & immovable assets of deceased Mr. Waheed Ur Rehman citizen number 1350305349649 has been received. Following are declared as legal heirs:</p> <p>1.Wajiha Rehman (Daughter)2.Maria Rehman (Daughter)3.Shaista Naz (Spouse)4.Muhammad Anees (Son)5.Muhammad Sharjeel (Son)6.Syed Atiqat Hussain (Son)</p> <p>On the above application the objections of public at large are invited. Any aggrieved person may approach in person the undersigned for submission of objection (if any) within fourteen (14) days after publication of this notice.</p> <p>INCHARGE SFU, NADRA MANSEHRA-SFU</p>	<p>PUBLIC NOTICE</p> <p>Application for issuance of Letter of Administration / Succession Certificate by Mr. Ghulam Qadar with regards to moveable & immovable assets of deceased Mr. Muhammad Adil citizen number 1350139468539 has been received. Following are declared as legal heirs:</p> <p>1.Zaiwan Jan (Mother)2.Ghulam Qadar (Father)</p> <p>On the above application the objections of public at large are invited. Any aggrieved person may approach in person the undersigned for submission of objection (if any) within fourteen (14) days after publication of this notice.</p> <p>INCHARGE SFU, NADRA MANSEHRA-SFU</p>	<p>PUBLIC NOTICE</p> <p>Application for issuance of Letter of Administration / Succession Certificate by Mr. Ijaz Ali with regards to moveable & immovable assets of deceased Mr. Ghulam Anees citizen number 1710296495959 has been received. Following are declared as legal heirs:</p> <p>1.Nasreen Begum (Daughter)2.Sadaf (Daughter)3.Nosheen Begum (Daughter)4.Yasmin Begum (Spouse)5.Ijaz Ali (Father)6.Abbas Ali (Son)7.Fawad Ali (Son)8.Hamid Ali (Son)</p> <p>On the above application the objections of public at large are invited. Any aggrieved person may approach in person the undersigned for submission of objection (if any) within fourteen (14) days after publication of this notice.</p> <p>INCHARGE SFU, NADRA RING ROAD-DSFU</p>	<p>PUBLIC NOTICE</p> <p>Application for issuance of Letter of Administration / Succession Certificate by Ms. Jamsaid Ullah with regards to moveable & immovable assets of deceased Mr. Muhammad Anwar Khan citizen number 1730113700169 has been received. Following are declared as legal heirs:</p> <p>1.Hadia Badar Jamal Khan (Daughter)2.Maria Shoaib (Daughter)3.Muhammad Bilal Anwar (Son)</p> <p>On the above application the objections of public at large are invited. Any aggrieved person may approach in person the undersigned for submission of objection (if any) within fourteen (14) days after publication of this notice.</p> <p>INCHARGE SFU, NADRA RING ROAD-DSFU</p>	<p>PUBLIC NOTICE</p> <p>Application for issuance of Letter of Administration / Succession Certificate by Mr. Jamsaid with regards to moveable & immovable assets of deceased Mr. Muhammad Jamsaid citizen number 4240119851373 has been received. Following are declared as legal heirs:</p> <p>1.Bakhtyar Bibi (Spouse)2.Shazia Bibi (Spouse)3.Hazrat Muhammad (Son)4.Jamsaid (Son)</p> <p>On the above application the objections of public at large are invited. Any aggrieved person may approach in person the undersigned for submission of objection (if any) within fourteen (14) days after publication of this notice.</p> <p>INCHARGE SFU, NADRA NOWSHERA-SFU</p>	<p>PUBLIC NOTICE</p> <p>Application for issuance of Letter of Administration / Succession Certificate by Mr. Hazrat Muhammad with regards to moveable & immovable assets of deceased Mr. Muhammad citizen number 153020380953 has been received. Following are declared as legal heirs:</p> <p>1.Rahmania (Daughter)2.Subhania Bibi (Daughter)3.Sherin Zaidagi (Spouse)4.Bacha Muhammad (Son)5.Hazrat Muhammad (Son)6.Rahman Gul (Son)</p> <p>On the above application the objections of public at large are invited. Any aggrieved person may approach in person the undersigned for submission of objection (if any) within fourteen (14) days after publication of this notice.</p> <p>INCHARGE SFU, NADRA MALAKAND-SFU</p>	<p>PUBLIC NOTICE</p> <p>Application for issuance of Letter of Administration / Succession Certificate by Ms. Bibi Sahib Salam with regards to moveable & immovable assets of deceased Ms. Bibi Anzira citizen number 1410173249080 has been received. Following are declared as legal heirs:</p> <p>1.Bibi Gul Rana (Daughter)2.Farah Rana (Daughter)3.Bibi Masooma (Daughter)4.Bibi Qurat Ul Ain (Daughter)5.Sahib Salam (Daughter)6.Bibi Almas Rana (Daughter)7.Bibi Nazneen Fatima (Daughter)8.Syed Anwar Ul Sadat (Son)9.Syed Sadat Hussain (Son)</p> <p>On the above application the objections of public at large are invited. Any aggrieved person may approach in person the undersigned for submission of objection (if any) within fourteen (14) days after publication of this notice.</p> <p>INCHARGE SFU, NADRA MEGA CENTER PESHAWAR-SFU</p>	<p>PUBLIC NOTICE</p> <p>Application for issuance of Letter of Administration / Succession Certificate by Mr. Shahid Ali Khan with regards to moveable & immovable assets of deceased Mr. Ahmad Ali Khan citizen number 1730116266393 has been received. Following are declared as legal heirs:</p> <p>1.Humera Ali (Daughter)2.Ayesha Ali (Daughter)3.Rabia Ali (Daughter)4.Balqees Ali (Spouse)5.Shahid Ali Khan (Son)6.Noman Ali Khan (Son)</p> <p>On the above application the objections of public at large are invited. Any aggrieved person may approach in person the undersigned for submission of objection (if any) within fourteen (14) days after publication of this notice.</p> <p>INCHARGE SFU, NADRA MEGA CENTER PESHAWAR-SFU</p>
<p>PUBLIC NOTICE</p> <p>Application for issuance of Letter of Administration / Succession Certificate by Mr. Iftikhar Uddin citizen number 1350305349649 has been received. Following are declared as legal heirs:</p> <p>1.Imran Uddin (Brother)2.Kamran Uddin (Brother)3.Ayaz Uddin (Brother)4.Fayaz Ahmad (Brother)5.Iftikhar Uddin (Brother)6.Zubair Khanum (Mother)7.Jawaria Ibrar (Spouse)8.Sumera Tahir (Sister)</p> <p>On the above application the objections of public at large are invited. Any aggrieved person may approach in person the undersigned for submission of objection (if any) within fourteen (14) days after publication of this notice.</p> <p>INCHARGE SFU, NADRA MEGA CENTER PESHAWAR-SFU</p>	<p>PUBLIC NOTICE</p> <p>Application for issuance of Letter of Administration / Succession Certificate by Mr. Muhammad Jehangir with regards to moveable & immovable assets of deceased Ms. Jehan Ara Orakzai citizen number 1730111960518 has been received. Following are declared as legal heirs:</p> <p>1.Laiba Jehangir (Daughter)2.Muhammad Jehangir (Spouse)3.Muhammad Daiman Khan (Son)</p> <p>On the above application the objections of public at large are invited. Any aggrieved person may approach in person the undersigned for submission of objection (if any) within fourteen (14) days after publication of this notice.</p> <p>INCHARGE SFU, NADRA MEGA CENTER PESHAWAR-SFU</p>	<p>PUBLIC NOTICE</p> <p>Application for issuance of Letter of Administration / Succession Certificate by Ms. Safia Bibi with regards to moveable & immovable assets of deceased Ms. Surrya Begum citizen number 1730181663750 has been received. Following are declared as legal heirs:</p> <p>1.Sameena Bibi (Daughter)2.Haseena Bibi (Daughter)3.Amina (Daughter)4.Khan Afsar (Son)5.Aman Ullah (Son)6.Khail Gul (Son)</p> <p>On the above application the objections of public at large are invited. Any aggrieved person may approach in person the undersigned for submission of objection (if any) within fourteen (14) days after publication of this notice.</p> <p>INCHARGE SFU, NADRA MEGA CENTER PESHAWAR-SFU</p>	<p>PUBLIC NOTICE</p> <p>Application for issuance of Letter of Administration / Succession Certificate by Ms. Hasena Bibi with regards to moveable & immovable assets of deceased Mr. Muhammad citizen number 2120138018984 has been received. Following are declared as legal heirs:</p> <p>1.Sameena Bibi (Daughter)2.Haseena Bibi (Daughter)3.Amina (Daughter)4.Khan Afsar (Son)5.Aman Ullah (Son)6.Khail Gul (Son)</p> <p>On the above application the objections of public at large are invited. Any aggrieved person may approach in person the undersigned for submission of objection (if any) within fourteen (14) days after publication of this notice.</p> <p>INCHARGE SFU, NADRA MEGA CENTER PESHAWAR-SFU</p>	<p>PUBLIC NOTICE</p> <p>Application for issuance of Letter of Administration / Succession Certificate by Mr. Muhammad Altaf Khan with regards to moveable & immovable assets of deceased Mr. Munawar Jan citizen number 1420247463615 has been received. Following are declared as legal heirs:</p> <p>1.Nadia Bibi (Daughter)2.Shurshad Bibi (Daughter)3.Ruqia Bibi (Daughter)4.Yasmin Bibi (Daughter)5.Zakia Bibi (Daughter)6.Mahnaz Bibi (Daughter)7.Noro (Spouse)8.Muhammad Altaf Khan (Son)9.Muhammad Ishaq Khan (Son)10.Muhammad Jamsaid Khan (Son)11.Muhammad Daud Khan (Son)</p> <p>On the above application the objections of public at large are invited. Any aggrieved person may approach in person the undersigned for submission of objection (if any) within fourteen (14) days after publication of this notice.</p> <p>INCHARGE SFU, NADRA KARAK-SFU</p>	<p>PUBLIC NOTICE</p> <p>Application for issuance of Letter of Administration / Succession Certificate by Mr. Muhammad Adnan with regards to moveable & immovable assets of deceased Mr. Muhammad Ramzan citizen number 1220119002379 has been received. Following are declared as legal heirs:</p> <p>1.Shehnaila Ramzan (Daughter)2.Anila Shaheen (Daughter)3.Muhammad Afzaq (Son)4.Muhammad Imran (Son)5.Muhammad Adnan (Son)</p> <p>On the above application the objections of public at large are invited. Any aggrieved person may approach in person the undersigned for submission of objection (if any) within fourteen (14) days after publication of this notice.</p> <p>INCHARGE SFU, NADRA DI KHAN-SFU</p>	<p>PUBLIC NOTICE</p> <p>Application for issuance of Letter of Administration / Succession Certificate by Mr. Muhammad Nawaz with regards to moveable & immovable assets of deceased Mr. Muhammad Ashraf citizen number 1330203098725 has been received. Following are declared as legal heirs:</p> <p>1.Sanahar Jan (Daughter)2.Irshad Bibi (Daughter)3.Rasheeda Bibi (Daughter)4.Nisar Muhammad (Son)5.Muhammad Nawaz (Son)6.Nisad Muhammad Khan (Son)</p> <p>On the above application the objections of public at large are invited. Any aggrieved person may approach in person the undersigned for submission of objection (if any) within fourteen (14) days after publication of this notice.</p> <p>INCHARGE SFU, NADRA HARIPUR-SFU</p>	<p>PUBLIC NOTICE</p> <p>Application for issuance of Letter of Administration / Succession Certificate by Mr. Muhammad Waqas Khan with regards to moveable & immovable assets of deceased Mr. Hamayun Khan citizen number 1330231191593 has been received. Following are declared as legal heirs:</p> <p>1.Sumaira Khan (Daughter)2.Aisha Bibi (Daughter)3.Muhammad Waqas Khan (Son)</p> <p>On the above application the objections of public at large are invited. Any aggrieved person may approach in person the undersigned for submission of objection (if any) within fourteen (14) days after publication of this notice.</p> <p>INCHARGE SFU, NADRA HARIPUR-SFU</p>



Caretaker Minister's de-notifying summary: PHC serve notices to respondents

Humayun Khan

PESHAWAR: A Divisional Bench of Peshawar High Court (PHC) comprising of Justice Musarat Hilali and Justice Abdul Shakoore served notices to Chief Secretary Khyber Pakhtunkhwa along with other respondents for issuance of de-notifying summary.

The Counsel Danyal Khan Chamkani Advocate informed PHC that on 25th January, 2023 petitioner has took oath as member of Caretaker Cabinet while Khushdil Khan submitted resignation from government's service on 26th January, 2023. He argued that Khushdil Khan has to

be retired on 14th February, 2023 but he resigned earlier while a summary has initiated for de-notifying the petitioner.

The Counsel argued that Secretary Defense has forwarded letter highlighting Article 63 of Constitution but didn't argued to de-notify Khushdil Khan Malik and added previously government's servants served in the Caretaker Cabinet.

As government's servant doesn't bars petitioner from serving as Member of Caretaker Cabinet while also added that Article 63 is not applicable on petitioner because it can be implied to Parliamentarians.

During hearing Advocate General Khyber Pakhtunkhwa raised objections on maintainability of the Writ Petition while the Divisional Bench of PHC

has issued notices to respondents and adjourned further hearing till 21st February, 2023.

Caretaker Minister Khushdil Khan said that Chief Secretary Khyber Pakhtunkhwa has initiated summary to de-notify him despite addressing Secretary Defense letter in this regard while talking to media personnel at PHC following hearing. Khushdil Khan said that he was nominated in Caretaker Cabinet without his consent.

The Caretaker Minister claimed that didn't assigning portfolio has created doubts for him to pave way for de-notifying him and added that he didn't invited for last cabinet's meeting.

Khushdil Khan added that he has accepted Caretaker Minister to serve the public.

CS directs for providing maximum relief to public

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: Chief Secretary Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Imdadullah Bosal on Thursday directed authorities concerned to devise comprehensive strategy to provide maximum relief to masses during the holy month of Ramadan.

The Chief Secretary issued the instruction while presiding over a meeting to review preparations for the holy month. Relevant administrative secretaries, Utility Store Corporation's representatives and other senior officials attended the meeting.

The Chief Secretary directed district administrations to identify the places for setting up Ramzan bazaars and finalize arrangements for the purpose before the arrival of the holy month.

He asked deputy commissioners to also organize Ramzan dastarkhwan in their respective districts with the support of philanthropists and charitable organisations.

The Chief Secretary directed deputy commissioners to ensure uninterrupted availability of essential commodities at the government's determined prices in the markets across the province.

He also instructed that the administrative officials should remain vigilant and take prompt action against hoarders and profiteers during Ramzan.

Hamza Foundation arranges blood camp

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: Hamza Welfare Foundation Thalassemia Hospital and Blood Transfusion services Peshawar has arranged one day blood donation camp at Iqra National University (INU) Peshawar.

Director Social Welfare Society INU Dr. Adil Adnan Sahib, Ateeq-ul-Rehman RMO and Ibrar Ullah Jan RMO of Hamza Foundation delivered awareness and motivational speech to the students and educational staff members, regarding awareness and prevention of Thalassemia Major disease and its prevention, and also about the importance and benefits of blood donation.

As many as 133 physically fit and healthy volunteer students donated their blood after complete medical checkup, for saving precious lives of 1447 registered poor and underprivileged Thalassemia Major, Hemophilia, Blood cancer and needy patients admitted at different Government and Private Hospitals (Health Care Center, Dr. Zakiya Minhas, RMI, Fauji Foundation etc.) of Peshawar.

Management of Hamza Foundation has thanked VC, Director, entire teaching staff and Students of the INU Peshawar for extending their sincere help and support for saving the precious lives of the ailing humanity of KPK.



PESHAWAR: Caretaker Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Muhammad Azam Khan chairing 1st meeting of Provincial Caretaker Cabinet.

'Energy price-hike a last nail in coffin of industry'

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Textile Mills Association (KPTMA) shows its concerns over rise in the energy prices and claimed that it is the last nail in the coffin of the ailing textile industry of Pakistan in general and KP Textile Industry in particular, on Thursday.

In a statement issued to the print and electronic media after an emergent meeting of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Textile Mills Association convened specially to discuss the drastic increase in energy prices and withdrawal of Regionally competitive Energy Tariff of Rs. 19.99/kWh and a gas tariff

of Rs. 852/- MMBTU for gas will result in complete closure of textile industry of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

Chairman KPTMA, Afan Aziz said that the export oriented textile industry would be badly hit due to reversal in policy of the already committed energy tariff. He further said that 60% of the industry is already closed and the remaining 40% will be closed due to this act of government.

The textile industry will lose all export orders due to higher regional competition and due to increase in energy prices for which industry is not ready at all, he added.

Chairman Afan Aziz and Mohammad Kamran Shah,

Vice Chairman KPTMA in their statement said that export-oriented textile industry is the largest job provider and earning much needed billions of US \$ annually. Due to high energy prices, the textile industry will not only lose their market share in the international market but would also force the remaining 40% textile industry of the province to close their operation.

Closure of industry would lead to massive unemployment resulting in a law & order situation on one hand and loss of export market share and much needed foreign exchange on the other hand.

Chairman KPTMA further added that energy is a

key source of economic growth. Higher costs of electricity and gas directly hurt export-oriented textile industry as they are the key inputs in the production.

In addition to pushing up inflation, the big rise in energy prices will reduce real GDP and productivity. Higher energy prices have contributed to painfully high inflation, forced factories to curtail output or even shut down and slowed economic growth to the point that countries heading towards severe recession. They humbly prayed for restoration of already committed energy tariff and release of stuck up sales tax, income tax and DDT refunds to use as working capital.

Caretaker Minister chair meeting of WSSC

PESHAWAR (APP): Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Caretaker Minister for Local Government, Sawal Nazir Khan Thursday chaired a meeting of Water and Sanitation Services Company (WSSC) that was convened to discuss and ensure provision of clean drinking water to city dwellers.

The meeting was also attended by Secretary Local

Government, Zaheer-ul-Islam and Chief Officer, WSSC, Hassan Nasir.

The meeting pondered over projects relating to provision of potable water to people including water supply to city from Mom and Dam. Addressing the meeting, caretaker minister said that government is working on a plan to further improve performance of

WSSC besides adopting ways to complete ongoing projects utilizing minimum of resources. He also directed WSSC to improve sanitation of the city and devise a strategy to avoid accumulation of rain water in the city aiming maximum facilitation of people. He also directed implementation of strategy to improve beautification of Peshawar city.

Mayor visits science, arts exhibition in City District College

PESHAWAR (APP): Mayor Peshawar, Haji Zubair Ali Thursday visited City District College for Women and inspected the stalls set by students in Science and Arts Exhibition.

He expressed keen interests in projects being displayed in science exhibition and appreciated skills shown by college students in projects.

Principal of the College, Najma Shafiq briefed the mayor about science exhibition and performance of the college.

Speaking on the occasion, city mayor urged students to further hone their skills and prepare themselves to meet the challenges of emerging scenario of science and technology.

Mayor Peshawar, Haji Zubair Ali also advised students to venture in contemporary fields of science and play role for development and progress of the country. He also announced cash amount among students for outstanding performance in the exhibition and provision of ten sewing machines, furniture and twenty computers.



PESHAWAR: Faculty members of leading universities of Peshawar visited Corps Headquarters Peshawar and had an interactive session with Corps Commander on Thursday. Upon arrival, faculty members laid a floral wreath at the Yadgar-e-Shuhada monument and offered Fatiha.

IGP condoled with CTJF's president

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: The Inspector General of Police Akhtar Hayat Gandapur on Thursday visited to Shergarh and offered fete for the late father of Crime and Terrorism Journalist Forum (CTJF) president Azam Gul.

During his visit to Shergarh, he prayed for deceased and offered condolence with bereaved family. On this occasion, in the supervision of DSP Circle Bashir Ahmad Yousafzai and SHO Shergarh Riaz Khan strict security arrangements were take place.

Minister holds meeting

PESHAWAR (APP): Minister of State and Acting President of PPP in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Muhammad Ali Shah has announced that the party would intensify its efforts to organize and mobilize its workers in the province.

Talking to various delegations at the PPP secretariat, he said that the mobilization campaign includes conducting door-to-door campaigns and engaging with the People's Youth, Student Federation, Doctor Forum, Minority Wing, Lawyers Forum, Teachers Forum, and Women Wing, among other groups.

Fatimid Foundation holds blood donation camp

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: A 2 days blood donation camp arranged by Fatimid Foundation at Edwardes College in which large number of students donated blood for patients suffered from various blood disorders.

According to details, 2 days Annual blood donation camp was organized at historic Edwardes College Peshawar in collaboration

with H. M Close Blood Donors Society organized by Fatimid Foundation Peshawar in which more than 150 (both male female) students and teachers donated blood for patients suffered from thalassemia, hemophilia and other blood diseases.

The Principal of Edwardes College, Prof. Shujat Ali Khan, Vice Principal Prof. Naveed Ali Asad, Society incharge

Prof. Zahir Shah Muhammad Zai, Society President Saad Ahmed, General Secretary Umar Zeib, female coordinator Asmay Hasna and other members gave full support to make this camp successful.

On this occasion Prof Dr Nasir Iqbal HOD English Deptt and others speakers said that blood donors are our real heroes who are serving humanity without any greed.

MoU ink between KMU and KMC/KTH

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: MOU signed by Chairman Department of Pathology, Khyber Medical College/Khyber Teaching Hospital, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Muhammad Idrees and Assoc Prof. Dr. Yasar Mehmood Yusufzai, Director Institute of Pathology and Diagnostic Medicine, Khyber Medical University Peshawar.

The MoU was countersigned by Prof. Zia ul Haq, VC KMU. Prof. Mahmud Aurangzeb, Dean KMC. During MOU signing ceremony Prof. Salim Gandapur, Registrar KMU and Asst. Prof. Dr. Muhammad Siraj,



Medical Director KTH were also present. Department of Pathology KMU and KTH will be supervising the M.Phil

and PhD Scholars of Pathology department KMU for an entire semester of diagnostic work.

Meeting of all CCI soon to improve economic situation

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Caretaker Minister of Industries, Commerce and Revenue Adnan Jalil has said that economic development is actually the guarantor of national stability, but unfortunately we still have a lot of work to do to strengthen our economy and we must work hard day and night for such a national goals.

He was addressing the inaugural session of the investment conference and international trade exhibition as chief guest at a local hotel in Peshawar.

This 3-day exhibition under 2nd Investment Conference and International Expo has been organized by the Pakistan Association of Exhibition Industry, while a large number of heads and representatives of companies related to the real estate and construction sector from across the province were in attendance, in addition to Director General Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Culture and Tourism Authority Bakhtiar Khan, GM Investment Omair Khattak, Director Board of Investment and Trade Iqbal

Ahmed, officials of Sarhad Chamber of Commerce and Industry and founder chairman of the association Khurshed Barlas.

On this occasion, the speakers appreciated the actions and efforts of the caretaker government, especially Adnan Jalil, for the restoration of industry, trade and economy in the province and assured their all out support in this regard.

The caretaker Minister said that if only the tourism is taken, this industry has not been developed that much in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa whereas the nature has blessed this soil as tourism paradise on earth even though in other countries very few tourist places available but all these have been developed enormously for international tourism.

He said all such places and sites abroad have been transformed into tourist hubs and the governments there are earning billions and trillions of dollars from tourism. However, he said that now the caretaker government, including him, is fully engaged on the fast track for developing tourism and other sectors of industry and trade in the

province. He said this is age of public private partnership (PPP) and his caretaker government is encouraging it because any development project can neither be run by the government alone nor can its fruits reach the poor people.

Adnan Jalil further said that he has also called a meeting of all Chambers of Commerce and Industries in addition to many other measures to provide the necessary environment for investment and industrialization and to give strength and energy to the health of industry and economy in the province.

He said challenges faced by our industry will be openly discussed and not only sustainable solutions will be sorted out but also goals will be set up and its achievement will be ensured according to the timeline.

Pakistan Association of Exhibition Industry's Chairman Khurshid Barlas and other construction business and property companies representatives also addressed the event and highlighted the aims and objectives of this three-day international expo and conference on investment in KP.

Paraplegic center to treat clubfoot patients at Peshawar



F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: Clubfoot Home of Paraplegic Center Peshawar, in collaboration with Miracle Foot Hospital, an American international organization, has taken up the joint venture of treatment of clubfoot children. A program has been launched for completely free treatment of thousands of clubfoot children in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa who mostly

belong to poor families.

In this respect, not only the services of best medical experts of Peshawar have been hired, but foreign trainers have also been appointed to train them in the latest manner. As a first step in this regard, a two-day hands-in workshop was organized in a hotel in Islamabad, wherein physiotherapists from Paraplegic Center Peshawar.

MPRC Muzaffarabad

and Chal Foundation Quetta, as well as renowned pediatric orthopedic surgeons from Peshawar participated so that later they can be able to ensure the best treatment of thousands of clubfoot children in the province and henceforth these poor children can be permanently rehabilitated and they become useful and efficient citizens of the society.

It is to mention here that

complete treatment of clubfoot is possible in the latest science nowadays, but it is time-consuming and expensive, leaving many poor children without treatment. Hence the Club-Foot Home of Paraplegic Center Peshawar and Miracle Club-Foot US have come up with a solution to this problem and the later international aid agency provided sufficient financial support for the purpose as well.

The treatment program included free and comprehensive treatment as well as paying travel expenses to poor parents so that no child is left with permanent disabilities due to poverty.

It may also be noted that all the arrangements for the said workshop were made in Peshawar, but due to the recent Police Lines Mosque suicide blast and poor law and order situation, the training workshop had to be shifted to Islamabad.



In brief

One killed in train explosion

CHICHAWATNI (INP): One woman was killed and three others were injured as a result of an explosion which took place in the Jaffar Express near Chichawatni on Thursday. The train was going from Quetta to Peshawar. According to media reports, the explosion in the train took place as soon as it left Mian Chanu and the passengers in the train kept pulling the emergency chain but the staff did not pay attention. Rescue 1122 and the police reached the spot and started the investigation as the nature of the explosion was still unidentified. The deceased and injured were shifted to a nearby hospital. Punjab caretaker Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi took notice of the incident and sought a report from the Inspector General of Punjab Police while ordering an investigation into the incident. The CM directed the Commissioner, the RPO, the Deputy Commissioner and the DPO of Sahiwal to reach the spot immediately and provide the best possible treatment facilities to the injured.

CPO directs arrest of absconders

F.P. Report

MULTAN: City Police Officer (CPO) Multan Mansoor-ul-Haq Rana held a meeting with the in-charge investigation regarding the arrest of a serious criminal advertisement in Police Lines Multan, on Thursday. The plaintiffs in the cases in which the accused criminals have not been arrested so far also participated in the meeting. CPO Multan heard the issues of all plaintiff cases and issued orders for redressal of their grievances. CPO Multan directed the police officers to speed up operations to arrest serious criminals. All available resources should be used to arrest the criminals. He said that effective strategies should be adopted to ensure the arrest of advertising criminals wherever they are. Criminals who have escaped abroad should be prosecuted and issued red warrants so that they can be arrested from abroad according to law. CPO Multan directed that the plaintiffs stay in touch with the cases and provide justice to them according to law. He also asked the prosecuting attorneys to point out as much information as they have about the alleged criminals so that their arrest can be ensured.

Women skill center inaugurated

F.P. Report

CHARSADDA: Chief Commissioner Right to Information (RTI) Farah Hamid with collaboration of PPP Humanity and Khuwendu Kor inaugurated the Women's Skill Center in Shabara Awanabad area of Charsadda. Speaking at the inauguration ceremony, Farah Hamid said that this project is for the welfare of women and its purpose is to stabilize women economically. Women will also get employment opportunities in future. She appreciated Rabab Mehdi's efforts and said that Rabab Mehdi's relief work in this flood affected area is commendable as he volunteered a lot in this area under his help. She said that Peoples for Humanity is doing great work for the welfare of the people. Their partnership with Khandu Kaur will make this project a success. On this occasion, former Regional Commissioner Rabab Mehdi said that we have started this project for all flood affected people in this area. He further said that the purpose of establishing a skill center for women is to stabilize the flood-affected women economically because the role of women in running the society and home is important.



RAWALPINDI: Former federal minister Sheikh Rahsead reach Lal Haveli after released from Jail.

People to come onto roads against DC's transfer

F.P. Report

LOWER DIR: The Dir Qaumi Jirga, political parties and social activists on Thursday demanded the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa caretaker chief minister to immediately cancel the transfer order of the deputy commissioner Lower Dir Muhammad Zubair Khan Niazi who has been transferred to Bajaur district. In their separate statements the DOJ chief Sahibzada Yaqub Khan, JI activist Yaqub ur Rehman, ANP activist Imran Takur, PTI activist Fazal Khaliq and members of the district bar said the present DC had put the district on the right path.

They said that DC Zubair Niazi had resolved some of the decades' old land disputes, launched work on the establishment of public parks and demolished illegal roadsides' encroachments in parts of the district. They said the DC had won the hearts of local residents through his practical steps taken for the area development and peace.

They pointed out that several development projects like the Koto Hydro power project, Talash bypass, Chakdara bypass road, Balambat Children Park, vacating of state lands from the grabbers, Timergara city beautification and renovation of Timergara roads were in progress because of the

active role of the deputy commissioner Muhammad Zubair Khan Niazi. They said the DC had not completed his tenure in the district and was transferred without the consent of local masses. They demanded the chief minister Azam Khan to cancel his transfer in the best public interest. The social activists also announced to stage a protest rally against the DC transfer at Timergara on Friday (today).

Welcome party hoisted: Former provincial minister and PPP leader Mahmood Zeb Khan has said that nursing staff is the backbone in the health sector for it plays a vital role in serving the ailing people. He was addressing a welcome party at the Zeb Nursing College Timergara as chief guest here on Thursday. Prominent poets Muslim Khan Wisal, Umar Said Wafadar and Awal Sair presented their poetry and got applause from the audience. The function was also addressed by Principal of the college Nasir Khan, president of nursing staff association Hidayat Khan and Muhammad Idrees.

Mahmood Zeb said that classes at the Zeb Medical College in Timergara would also start soon as talks were in progress with the authorities of the Pakistan Medical and Dental Council (PMDC). He said that a 800-bed private hospital equipped

with modern appliances and machines would also start functioning soon in the area.

Lauding the services of nurses, he said that they were regarded throughout the world for their humanitarian services. He said that hundreds of posts had been vacant at government and private hospitals in Pakistan and the nurses had a great opportunity to get a respectable job. The former minister said that the private sector played a vital role to enhance and develop the health care facilities. He said that despite the spending of over Rs 2 billion and the passage of 10 years the classes at the Timergara Medical College were yet to start, that was condemnable on the government's part.

Board exams: The chairman board of intermediate and secondary education Malakand Prof Zameen Gul on Thursday told local journalists that the annual SSC examinations would start from April 28 for which all necessary arrangements had been finalized. He said that the examination for grade 9th and 10th under all the educational boards would start the same day. The chairman said that work on the quality question papers' preparation had been started and steps would be taken to make the whole system transparent.

Fundraising campaign reviewed

Shafi Ullah

MINGORA: Commissioner Malakand Saqib Raza Aslam chaired meeting for the relief of earthquake victims of Turkey-Syria in which officials of higher education department, district administrative officers, trade union president Abdul Rahim, Swat Chamber of Commerce and Industry President Rahat Ali Khan, and other officials participated, on Thursday.

In light of the orders of the provincial government, the plan of action for a fundraising campaign for the people affected by the recent earthquake in the Islamic Republic of Turkey and the Syrian Arab Republic was discussed. In the meeting, it was decided to provide an opportunity to the students of colleges and universities, traders, the business community, and the general public to participate fully and generously support affected families in Syria and Turkey.

Trade Union and Swat Chamber of Commerce and Industry assured to provide full support to the district administration in the meeting and one lakh cash assistance was handed over to Commissioner on behalf of the Swat Chamber. While presiding over the meeting, Commissioner thanked the trade union and chamber officials and said that Turkey has fully helped the people of Pakistan in every difficult hour and this is high time to help the affected people of Syria and Turkey in this difficult situation.

17 candidates filed nomination for by-election

F.P. Report

BUNER: As many as 17 candidates filed nomination forms for NA 9 Buner by-elections scheduled on 16 march 2023 before Returning Officer Junaid Saeed in the district elections commission office.

The candidates filed nomination including former Member National Assembly Sher Akbar Khan, Kamran Khan and Mian Moeen-u-Din, PML-N candidates comprised of Haji Safiullah, Haji Subhanullah, Mian Naem-u-Den, Syed Nasar Abas, Dr. Sukhtanul Mulk and Shah Bakht Rawan Khan. ANP candidates Sardar Hussain Babak, Istiqbal Khan, Nisar Khan and Haji Rouf filed nomination forms.

PPP single candidate Saifullah Khan and AWP single candidate Suliman Khan filed nomination papers. However, The JI, JUIF, QWP and PkMAP avoided to even receive nomination forms. Those were filed papers on last

day of submission told media though they were not sure about bye elections due to multiple rumors and just to file the gap.

Moreover, the district election commissioner Aslam Khan told this scribe in NA 9 total registered votes were 543693 out of them male 294329 and female 249374. He shared total number of polling stations were 396 out of them male stations 85 female stations 80 and 231 combined. He further shared that total number of polling both were 1192 out of them 671 for male 521 for female. DEC claimed the staff was preparing all for conducting bye elections on due date as scheduled by the elections commission of Pakistan.

DC chairs anti-drug committee: Deputy Commissioner Shahid Ali Khan on Thursday chaired monthly meeting of anti-drugs committee. The meeting attended by all of members heading departments of health police education social welfare youth

welfare social and rehabilitation organizations and Buner Press Club.

DC shared all of members should play due role in the efforts to protect our new generation from the menace of drugs. He directed awareness drive at tehsil level to create awareness about drugs menace. He directed police to transport addicted to rehabilitation centers and suppliers to prison. The chair directed officers of youth affairs and sports for organizing district level sports festival in March to attract youths towards healthy activities. The chair claimed the already established rehab hospital to be shifted to government building and a government rehab hospital would be established in the district soon.

The chair appealed media for vide publicity so as to discourage drug menace and drug suppliers and to motivate youths to take active part in healthy sports activities and to move forward healthy prosperous and peaceful society.

Proclaimed offenders tracking cell established

Saqib Mushtaq

LODHRAN: District Police Officer (DPO) Lodharan Hussam bin Iqbal set up Proclaimed offender tracking cell regarding the arrests of advertising criminals. Proclaimed Offenders tracking cell is working for arresting and information of undercover absconders. To make the crackdown against the advertisers more effective and faster, the District Police Officers are monitoring the cell themselves and the tracking cells are contacting the complainants for the arrest of the advertising criminals and information.

DPO Hussam bin Iqbal said that the police officers have been ordered to arrest the undercover advertising suspects within the given deadline and the undercover criminals will also be arrested by coordinating with Interpol and the absconding advertisers abroad. Both the police and the citizens are enemies, arresting criminals is very important for maintaining peace and solving crimes

District Police Officer

Lodharan Hussam bin Iqbal set up Po tracking cell regarding the arrests of advertising criminals. PO Tracking Cell continues to work for arresting and information of undercover advertisers. Ordered police officers across the district to immediately arrest the undercover advertisement suspects within the given deadline

Investigating officers should take practical steps using the available technology according to the requirements of the modern age. These views were expressed by District Police Officer Hussam bin Iqbal while holding a crime meeting with the police officers. The meeting was attended by DSPs, SHO's and office staff from across the district and a detailed review of the performance of all police stations was also taken. DPO Hussam bin Iqbal said that to ensure the provision of dignity and justice to every citizen, I will not tolerate illegal detention and pending public complaints at all.

Conduct a strict screen-

ing of habitual criminals, keep a close watch on their movements and activities, and investigate cases and pending applications in a timely manner. Strict departmental punishments for complaints of corruption, negligence, negligence and poor investigation, while rewards will also be given for good performance.

Drug inspector imposes fine on pharmacy

F.P. Report

HANGU: Drug Inspectors RANGU Medical stores and pharmacies that are selling medicines without doctors' prescriptions while imposed fine on one shop. The drug inspector said the shop keeper selling drugs illegally strict action will be taken accordingly. On that Occasion the city Police Station Police Officer (SHO) Fayaz Khan issue warning to all the medicines pharmacies to sell any medicines without doctor's prescription.

Environmental conditions badly affecting honey production in KP

Laraib Athar

It was dawn of spring season, I was coming from Nowshera to Peshawar on G.T Road, when I saw an old man wearing a unique dress, I requested my brother to stop the car, because I wanted to interview him, actually he was 52 years old Ishaq Kaka, who came from Kunar district of Afghanistan for Honey Bee business. We saw that 3-5 hundred feet of field was full of honey bee cotton.

After request of interview Ishaq kaka said that I am doing this business from the last 30 years, it is very good business, but now we are facing a lot of issues, as the people are cutting trees, the production of crops having flower is also decreased, due to that we are forced to shift our bees to another area. Recalling the old days, Ishaq Kaka said that in the old days there were a lot of trees and forests on mountains, which were very much useful for our bees and its production. We used to keep our bees in one of the mountains, there was no tension for their food and water. Besides this the production of honey was also good, but now there are no flowers, so our bees have no food.

Mr. Ishaq kaka was not fully aware of Climate change and its adverse effects on Pakistan, but he knows that due to cutting of trees and overpopulation, we are facing the adverse effects. According to climate researcher in Peshawar University, 42 years old Shukria Durani, Bees are extremely important to agricultural production around the world, and the people involved & associated with the honey business are facing financial difficulties and bidding adieu to the honey business because of the decrease in honey production in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Ms. Durani added that due to deforestation and overpopulation the green fields have been converted into towns and markets, besides

this the use of carbon has also been increased because of the excessive use of automobiles, so all these factors deteriorate air quality badly, which ultimately have serious problems for honey bee's production.

A 60-year-old woman from Kalam, Zarghuna Shah, said that until ten years ago, when I went to collect honey on the rocks with my husband, I could see hundreds of honey bee hives hanging from a distance, we could easily find 30 to 45 Kg of honey per season, we used to collect the honey and sell it in the markets and could easily earn 30-50 thousand per month, which was our livelihood, now it's not possible for us to find even 10 kgs of honey and the earning is bellow from 20 thousand, that's why we are forced to leave honey business and look for other sources of livelihood.

Climate change, which has already affected Pakistan in the form of increased floods, unseasonal rains, and extreme temperatures, has now significantly threatened the bee business, so those associated with the honey business are bidding adieu to the honey business.

Maaz Shah, Beekeeper and Honey Trader from Peshawar's biggest Tarnab Market said, Our tarnab market is famous all over Pakistan and outside Pakistan for its pure honey. Until five years ago, so many beekeepers used to come to this market to sell pure honey that there was no place for them. They used to go to other cities to sell, but gradually the number decreased so much that last year people came to buy pure honey and they did not get pure honey, what they got was so expensive that it was beyond the reach of common citizens.

When we contacted the old beekeepers about why they did not bring honey, they said that due to climate change in our areas bees have disappeared or migrated to other areas, so we couldn't collect more honey. Bees are extremely important to

agricultural production around the world, but due to environmental threats and global warming, it has become more dangerous than ever before. Human activities, carbon pollution, man-made pressure, changes in habitat & biodiversity, increased use of chemicals and pesticides have led to a rapid decline in bee populations in the region.

Jalal Khan, a local farmer, said that some years ago, during the honey season, all my boxes were full of honey and I used to collect 80 to 120 kg of honey, but this year I could get only five kg of honey from one box, while others' boxes remained empty. According to information received through RTI, in 2018 - 19 fiscal year 350 containers of honey, in which 17.K Kg contains one container of Beer honey exported to gulf countries.

450 containers of Phullai Honey produced in 2020 whereas, 10 containers exported to Afghanistan and the remaining containers consumed domestically. In April May 2019 Bumper Crop /yield of Phulai honey was achieved. Moreover, there are different factors in the increase of honey production, which includes climatic conditions if afforestation through different projects like BTTP and 10 BTTP, in year 2022 the production of Honey decreased due to unfavourable climatic conditions like Continuous rains and low Temp. A total 226 bee forms which include 33900 bee boxes were distributed among the different areas of KP by the Directorate of NTFP KP Forest department which estimated annual production of 339000 Kg's per season which is estimated at 170 ton in Spring and 169 Ton in Autumn.

Y. Le Conte & M. Navajas writes in his research on Climate change titled "impact on honey bee populations and diseases" that the European honey bee, Apis mellifera, is the most economically valuable pollinator of agricultural crops worldwide.

There is a large body of data at our disposal indicating that environmental changes have a direct influence on honey bee development. In this research, the authors examine the potential impact of climate change on honey bee behaviour, physiology and distribution, as well as on the evolution of the honey bee's interaction with diseases.

Conservation measures will be needed to prevent the loss of this rich genetic diversity of honey bees and to preserve ecotypes that are so valuable for world biodiversity.

Khyal Khan, who exports large quantities of honey from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa to other cities and some countries as well, says that honey production has declined by 70 percent from last six years, he explained that Selling honey is my family business, my grandfather and my father also used to do the same business, we keep 300 to 500 honey boxes every season and all the boxes were always full of honey but from last 10 years the honey in these boxes started decreasing, there was a time when more than half of the boxes were empty, our honey has decreased by about 70% in last season, we took many measures for it but to no avail, he added that changes in habitat and biodiversity, as well as increased use of chemicals and pesticides, have led to the loss of honey bees in the region.

Sohrab Khan had kept 100 bee boxes on a river bank in Badin, a cold area of Swat, to protect the bees from the hot heat, which were swept away by the flood after heavy rain. Sohrab Khan said that the accident caused a loss of Rs 14 lac. Along with Sohrab Khan, another 20 Mugasbans had a total of 2,000 pits on the banks of this river, most of them also got flooded.

Ifthikhar Khalil, former director non timber forest produce KP said data of affected beekeepers would be collected for financial assistance. "Floods have affected

beekeepers mostly in Swat, Charsadda, Tank, DI Khan and Charsadda and a scetic survey would be required to verify floods damages to four famous honey bees including Apis Cerana (small bee), Apis Dorsata (wild bee), Apis Flori (little bee) and exotic Apis Mellifera."

He said Pakistan has huge potential of producing over 7,500 to 8,000MT honey from about 300,000 colonies per year and diversion of financial resources to flood mitigation was the need of the hour. Admitting climate change's effects on the population of Apis Flori and Apis Dorsata commonly known as "Swat bees", he said Apis mellifera was imported from Australia in 1977 owing to her speedy growth and increased power of honey production.

He further added that a research project was launched at Agriculture Research Institute Tarnab, Peshawar, Faisalabad and National Agriculture Research Centre Islamabad in 1979 to analyze mellifera's properties. Mallifera produces about 20 to 25 kgs honey per box against six to eight kg by native bees two times in a year. "Apis Dorsata has an ability to produce 40kgs to 45 kgs honey from each hive mostly in tall trees and buildings," he said, adding around 120,000 to 150,000 wild bees were busy in one meter-length and half-meter wide comb making 120 degree angle and their honey generation powers affected in case of torrential rains and floods due to loss of plants and destruction of their hives. As a result of all this, the price of honey in Pakistan has increased. Wild honey, which was usually available at Rs 1,400 to 1,600 per kg, is now selling at Rs 3,000 to 4,000 per kg. The prices of honey produced in the home farm were earlier 800 to 1200 per kg, but now they have reached to 2000 to 2500 rupees per kg.

An official of Agriculture Research Institute (ARI) at Tarnab, Peshawar said that the

Government should make special provision of interest-free loans under Islamic banking system to encourage flood-hit beekeepers. "The recent flood have also affected the local bee population scientifically known as Apis florum (Swati small bee) due to loss of bee-flora plants in Swat." There was every possibility of losing an average of five to ten kgs out of 1000 kilogram of honey production if flood preventive measures were not taken for their preservation and protection. He added.

Similarly Pakistan is the country in the region which is emitting less than 1% of carbon to Ozone, but it is included in the top ten countries, which are facing the adverse effects of climate change. Unless authorities take action to protect bees and combat a warming climate, Pakistan's agriculture will also face serious threats.

When we asked former chief conservator of wildlife department Dr Mumtaz Malik, he said: "There is a possibility of losing the wild bees in future if floods mitigation efforts were not made besides proper attention to their preservation and management of natural forest". "Wild bee is a big source of quality honey that needs proper strategy and mechanism to get maximum production and protection from flood and rains," Dr Malik added, further he said that honey business could be developed as a non-wood-forest product for the locals living near forests to raise their income through preservation and protection of wild bees population from floods.

He stressed the need for capacity building of beekeepers to face any situation like flood and raising nurseries of bee-flora plants for promotion of the honey industry. Focus on conservation of Apis Dorsata (wild bee) should be made as it has the ability to produce 35 to 40 kg honey from each comb, he said, adding that the wild bees usually made their nests in tall trees or buildings in reserved forests.



Nikki calls for new Republican leadership as she launches 2024 bid



CHARLESTON, S.C. (Reuters): Former UN ambassador Nikki Haley said it was time to move past "stale ideas" and called for a new generation of leaders at the first stop of her campaign for the Republican nomination for US president in 2024. Haley is just the second declared candidate seeking the Republican nod to challenge Democratic President Joe Biden in 2024, allowing her to stand out in a so-far uncrowded field but also exposing her to former President Donald Trump's anger.

The 51-year-old former South Carolina governor declared her candidacy with a video that called for new party leadership - a veiled jab at Trump, who some Republican leaders blame for the party's disappointing performance in November's midterm elections. "We're ready. Ready to move past the stale ideas and faded names of the past. And we are more than ready for a new generation to lead us into the future," Haley told a crowd of hundreds at the Charleston Visitors Center in the historic city's downtown.

Haley supporters at the

event agreed with her calls for new leadership in the Republican party. "I think Trump can be very polarizing and divisive at times," said Tim Jansen, 54, a Haley supporter from Charleston. "I would like to see a little more tolerance, a little more communication. Flexibility." Haley received an endorsement from prominent South Carolina Republican Ralph Norman, a member of the US House of Representatives' conservative Freedom Caucus who was a staunch supporter of Trump during his presidency.

"It's time for a reset and a new chapter in national Republican politics, and there's no better person to help write that new chapter than our former governor," Norman wrote on Twitter. Haley faces an uphill climb in her bid for the nomination: a Reuters/Ipsos poll released found that just 4% of registered Republicans supported Haley. Trump received support from 43% of registered Republicans in the poll conducted from Feb. 6-13, while 31% said they supported Florida Governor Ron DeSantis, who is expected to launch

a campaign but has not yet done so.

Haley served as South Carolina's governor from 2011 through 2017. The state holds one of the first Republican primary contests. She may not be the only South Carolina Republican eyeing the White House. US Senator Tim Scott, often considered a presidential contender himself, will kick off a "listening tour focused on Faith in America" in Charleston a day after Haley's event, according to a campaign advisory. He will then swing through Iowa, another key early voting state. Haley received national attention in 2015 when, as governor, she called for the removal of the Confederate battle flag from the grounds of the state capitol after the murder of nine black churchgoers by white supremacist Dylann Roof. But she later drew criticism in a 2019 interview when she said the flag represents "service, sacrifice and heritage," adding that its meaning had been hijacked by Roof. If she wins, she would be the first non-white or female Republican presidential nominee.

Jordanian FM visits Syria

BEIRUT (AP): Jordan's foreign minister met with Syrian President Bashar Assad in Damascus, vowing to continue delivering earthquake aid and work to find a political solution to Syria's 12-year conflict, Syrian state media reported. Ayman Safadi's visit to the earthquake-hit country makes him the first Jordanian official to do so since the onset of Syria's conflict in 2011. It marks a new thaw in relations between the two countries and more generally between Assad and the Arab world.

Jordan's King Abdullah II had called Assad last week to express Amman's willingness to send humanitarian aid. Since then, cargo planes and trucks loaded with assistance from the neighboring country have reached Syria to help with relief efforts. The 7.8 magnitude earthquake killed over 1,400 people in government-held areas and displaced thousands more. Safadi also met with Syrian counterpart Faisal Mekdad. "We discussed our bilateral relations and efforts to find a political solution to the Syrian crisis that ends this catastrophe," Safadi said after meeting Mekdad at Damascus airport. "A solution that preserves Syria's unity and sovereignty."

According to a statement from Assad's office, the Syrian president thanked Jordan for its support, and told Safadi that the Syrian people "welcome any positive positions towards them, especially from brotherly Arab countries." Jordan, like most Arab countries since the start of Syria's civil war, reduced diplomatic relations with Syria in 2011. The kingdom also hosted Western-backed opposition groups and took in hundreds of thousands of refugees. Arab and Western countries generally blamed Assad for the deadly crackdown on the protests that erupted in 2011, and supported the opposition in the early days of the conflict, which displaced and killed millions of people.

Assad has since regained much of Syria's territory with the backing of key allies Russia and Iran, and some Arab countries that once shunned him have been slowly rekindling ties in recent years. King Abdullah II and Assad spoke for the first time in a decade in October 2021, discussing cooperation to bolster both countries' ailing economies over the phone. United Arab Emirates Foreign Minister Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan met with Assad in Damascus on Sunday, while other Arab countries close to the United States, most notably Saudi Arabia and Egypt, have delivered aid to Damascus.

UAE pledges additional aid to Syria

DUBAI (AFP): The United Arab Emirates pledged an additional \$50 million in assistance to quake-hit Syria, the official WAM news agency said, bringing the total value of pledges to more than \$100 million. The announcement came more than nine days after the 7.8-magnitude quake struck Syria and Turkey, killing nearly 40,000 people.

It also followed an appeal by the United Nations for \$397 million to help earthquake victims in the war-scarred country, where the disaster has left millions in desperate need of aid. Emirati President Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan "has ordered the provision of an additional US\$50 million as relief aid for quake-affected people in Syria", WAM said. Of the total sum, \$20 million would be allocated to "humanitarian projects in response to the emergency appeal of the United Nations (UN)", the news agency added.

The oil-rich Gulf nation that normalised relations with President Bashar al-Assad's government in 2018 has led Syria's quake response. Last week, the country's president pledged \$50 million to Syria, a day after Prime Minister Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum promised assistance worth \$13.6 million. The UAE has sent 38 planes to Syria carrying more than 1,200 tonnes of food and medical aid, in addition to nearly 2,900 tents, according to WAM.

UN draft resolution calls for ceasefire in Ukraine and peace

UNITED NATIONS (AP): The European Union circulated the resolution to be voted on by the UN General Assembly on the eve of next week's first anniversary of Russia's invasion of Ukraine, calling for a cessation of hostilities and a peace that ensures Ukraine's "sovereignty, independence, unity and territorial integrity."

There are no vetoes in the 193-member world body, so the resolution is certain to be adopted at the end of a high-level emergency special session of the assembly Feb. 23. But the big question is how many "yes" votes it will get. To mark the anniversary, Ukraine asked the EU to draft the resolution in consultation with UN member states, with the aim of gathering strong support from the international community for peace in Ukraine in line with the UN Charter, said an EU diplomat who was not authorized to speak publicly. The charter calls for peaceful settlement of disputes and declares that all countries shall refrain "from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any state."

The General Assembly has become the most important UN body dealing with Ukraine because the Security Council, which is charged with maintaining international peace and security, is paralyzed as a result of Russia's veto power. While the assembly's five previous resolutions on Ukraine are not legally binding - as council resolutions are - they are

important as a reflection of world opinion. The first resolution adopted eight days after Russia's invasion last Feb. 24 demanded an immediate cease-fire and withdrawal of all Russian troops. It was approved by a vote of 141-5 with 35 abstentions.

A second resolution three weeks later blamed Russia for Ukraine's humanitarian crisis and called for protection of civilians and their homes and infrastructure critical to their survival. It was adopted by a vote of 140-5 with 38 abstentions. An Oct. 12 resolution condemned Russia's "attempted illegal annexation" of four Ukrainian regions and demanded its immediate reversal. It got the highest vote of the five resolutions - 143-5 with 35 abstentions. Two other resolutions that suspended Russia from the UN's Geneva-based Human Rights Council and called for Russia to be held accountable for violating international law by invading Ukraine, including paying reparations for damage, deaths and injuries, received fewer "yes" votes - 93 and 94, respectively.

Ukraine initially thought of having the General Assembly enshrine the 10-point peace plan that Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy announced at the November summit of the Group of 20 major economies, UN diplomats said. But this idea was shelved in favor of the broader and less detailed resolution circulated. As one example, while the resolution to be voted on emphasizes the need to ensure accountability for the most

serious crimes committed in Ukraine through "fair and independent investigations and prosecutions at the national or international level," it does not include Zelenskyy's call for a special tribunal to prosecute Russian war crimes. The final draft resolution differs slightly from the original draft obtained Friday by The Associated Press.

It adds a call "for a cessation of hostilities" and refers directly to "the full scale invasion of Ukraine" a year ago, reiterating the need to reach "a comprehensive, just and lasting peace" in Ukraine "as soon as possible" in line with the UN Charter. The draft calls on UN member states and international organizations "to redouble support for diplomatic efforts" to achieve peace on those terms, and supports efforts by UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres and unnamed countries. The proposed resolution reiterates the General Assembly's previous demand that Russia "immediately, completely, and unconditionally withdraw all of its military forces" from Ukraine's internationally recognized borders.

It also deplores "the dire human rights and humanitarian consequences" of Russia's aggression, including its repeated attacks on critical infrastructure with devastating consequences for civilians" and expresses "grave concern at the high number of civilian casualties." It calls for an immediate halt to attacks on Ukraine's critical infrastructure, residences, schools and hospitals.

Gloria Orwoba: Kenyan senator asked to leave over 'period stain'

NAIROBI (BBC): A female Kenyan senator who was asked to leave parliament because of an apparent blood stain on her trousers has told the BBC she was proud to stand up against "period shame". Gloria Orwoba said she had noticed the stain before entering the building. "Since I am always advocating against period shame, I thought I should go ahead and walk the talk," she said.

Some MPs, including another female senator, criticised her, saying she was being disrespectful. During plenary session, Sen Tabitha Mutinda asked the speaker to rule on whether Ms Orwoba had adhered to the house's dress code, saying she found it uncomfortable and inappropriate. "You don't understand if she's on the normal woman cycle or she's faking it, and it is so indecent," said Ms Mutinda. She added there was a better way to raise this issue and this was not setting a good example to young women and girls. Ms Orwoba responded by saying she was disap-

pointed to be questioned over "an accident that is natural... I have stained my clothes".

"I think I'm dressed as per the standing orders - I'm covered, I have a suit, I have collars, I'm just short of a tie," she told the senate, dressed in a white trouser suit. Ms Orwoba said her experience had made her understand the discrimination faced by some girls in Kenya when they are on their period. "We have a girl who killed herself because of the same issue that I'm going through, and now I understand because it is the women who are trying to make this a crime." A male senator also criticised her.

"We have wives and daughters, and they go through these cycles, but it's a matter to be managed personally without exposing it to other people. What Sen Gloria has done to this house is a disgrace, it is a lot of shame to this house. This must not be allowed to happen," said Sen Enoch Wambua. Ms Orwoba said staff at the senate had tried to dissuade her from

entering the chamber. "When I got off the car, a senate staff ran towards me to cover me and begged me to go back inside the car. Since I am always advocating against period shame, I thought I should go ahead and walk the talk." Senate Speaker Amason Kingi ruled that Ms Orwoba should leave the chamber.

"Having periods is never a crime," he said. "Sen Gloria, I sympathise with you that you are going through the natural act of menstruation, you have stained your wonderful suit, I'm asking you to leave so that you go change and come back with clothes that are not stained." After leaving the senate building, Ms Orwoba did not change her clothes. She spoke to the media and then visited a school in the capital, Nairobi, to distribute sanitary pads. The senator is behind a motion pushing for an increase in government funding for free sanitary pads and provision of female hygiene products in all public schools. She said the funding would address "period poverty".

Cambodia placed on watchlist of 'repressive' states

PHNOM PENH (Agencies): Cambodia has experienced a worrying decline in basic freedoms as authorities use the legal system to restrict and criminalise human rights work, youth activism, trade unions, independent journalism, opposition politicians and other voices critical of Prime Minister Hun Sen's government, a leading rights group has warned.

To further strengthen his almost 40-year iron grip on power, Hun Sen recently used the COVID-19 pandemic to implement a state of emergency law that further restricted the fundamental freedoms of Cambodian citizens, said CIVICUS - a global alliance of civil society organisations tracking fundamental freedoms worldwide. "The misuse of the criminal justice system to harass and prosecute human rights defenders, unionists and journalists and the shutting down of media outlets highlights the democratic regression in Cambodia," CIVICUS said in a Cambodia country report released on Thursday.

Hun Sen, the organisation said, had "overseen a systematic assault on fundamental freedoms in Cambodia over the past decade" and the country was now on a watch list of "repressive" countries joining, among others, Iran, Sudan, Zimbabwe, and Peru. "Cambodian human rights defenders and activists continue to face repression," said CIVICUS, which tracks civic freedoms across 197 countries and territories, and "press freedom continues to be at risk in Cambodia with radio stations and newspapers silenced, newsrooms purged and journalists prosecuted, leaving the independent media sector devastated".

Hun Sen ordered the closure of one of the country's last remaining independent news outlets, Voice of Democracy (VOD), after it reported on a story involving his son and heir apparent Hun Manet. Hun Sen said the story on the provision of aid to earthquake-hit Turkey was misreported and had demanded an apology. Despite receiving an apology, he ordered VOD shut down anyway. European Union embassies in Cambodia expressed their concern at Hun Sen's closure of VOD, as did Australia, Canada, the United Kingdom and United States.

The decision to close the news organisation was "particularly troubling due to the chilling impact it will have on freedom of expression and on access to information ahead of the national elections in July", US State Department spokesperson Ned Price said. Responding to international criticism of his closure of VOD, Hun Sen warned foreigners to not interfere in Cambodia's internal affairs.

Cambodia's foreign ministry weighed in, saying the closure of a "rule-breaking" news organisation did "not merit any worry at all" and accused foreign diplomats who had expressed concern as "politically-driven, prejudiced and biased". Josef Benedict, Asia-Pacific researcher for CIVICUS, said the misuse of the criminal justice system and the "systematic attack on civic space in the country" contravened Cambodia's international human rights obligations.

'We should all be very concerned'

NEW YORK (Agencies): Scientists studying Antarctica's vast Thwaites Glacier - nicknamed the "Doomsday Glacier" - say warm water is seeping into its weak spots, threatening its demise and a massive sea rise. Thwaites, which is roughly the size of Florida, represents more than half a metre (1.6 feet) of global sea level rise potential, and could destabilise neighbouring glaciers that could cause a further 3-metre (9.8-foot) rise.

As part of the International Thwaites Glacier Collaboration - the biggest field campaign ever attempted in Antarctica - a team of 13 scientists from the United States and United Kingdom spent about six weeks on the glacier in late 2019 and early 2020. Using an underwater robot vehicle known as Icefin, mooring data and sensors, they monitored the glacier's grounding line, where ice slides off the glacier and meets the ocean for the first time. In one of two papers published in the journal Nature, led by Cornell University-based scientist Britney Schmidt, researchers found warmer water was making its way into crevasses and other openings known as terraces, causing sideways melt of 30 metres (98 feet) or more per year.

UN votes to extend curbs on Houthis

UNITED NATIONS (AP): The UN Security Council voted unanimously to extend the arms embargo on Yemen's Houthi rebels and an asset freeze and travel ban on Houthi leaders and top officials until Nov. 15. The British-drafted resolution also extends the mandate of the UN panel of experts monitoring the sanctions until Dec. 15.

In February 2022, the Security Council expanded an arms embargo on Houthi leaders to include all Houthis, saying they have threatened the peace, security and stability of the war-torn country. After vote, the council met behind closed doors to hear briefings by Hans Grundberg, the UN special envoy for Yemen, and Joyce Msuya, the assistant secretary-general for humanitarian affairs. Yemen, the Arab world's most impoverished country with a population of 26 million, plunged into civil war in 2014 after the Iranian-backed Houthis took over the capital of Sanaa. The internationally recognized government fled and sought support from neighboring Gulf countries.

In March 2015, a Saudi-led military coalition began what turned into a devastating war to restore the government that has killed more than 10,000 people, displaced 2 million and created one of the world's worst humanitarian disasters. The war has deteriorated largely into a stalemate. A UN-backed truce took effect last April and raised hopes for a longer pause in fighting, but it ended Oct. 2 after just six months. Grundberg told the council in January that despite the end of the truce, "the overall military situation in Yemen has remained stable." He said he was encouraged by intensified regional and international diplomatic activity to end the country's eight-year conflict, and he reportedly followed up on those efforts during closed council meeting.

Libya shipwreck: 73 migrants presumed dead

TRIPOLI (BBC): An inflatable rubber boat carrying migrants wrecked off the coast of Libya and 73 people were missing and presumed dead, the UN migration agency said. It was the latest tragedy involving migrants seeking better lives in Europe. The UN International Organization for Migration said in a statement that the disaster took place and that Libya authorities had retrieved 11 bodies.

It said the boat, packed with around 80 migrants, reportedly departed from the village of Qasr al-Akhyar, 80 kilometers (50 miles) east of the capital, Tripoli. The migrants were heading to European shores, it said. The dead included one woman and 10 men, said Safa Msehli, IOM's spokesperson. It was not immediately clear what happened to the vessel but images showed the deflated broken-up rubber boat on shore.

Seven migrants, all men, survived the mishap and made it to Libyan shores, the UN said, and were in "extremely dire conditions." They were taken to a hospital. Qasr al-Akhyar officials shared footage online showing Libya's Red Crescent workers handling

dead bodies that washed ashore. The footage also showed the broken-up inflatable rubber boat. A survivor said in a different video shared by the municipality that scores of migrants were killed in the shipwreck. He said they paid between \$3,000 to \$5,000 each to smugglers to make it ill-fated trip.

In video comments, Salem Awag, the top Qasr al-Akhyar official, called on authorities in Tripoli to step up support to the village to help guard the shore and prevent further crossings. Shipwreck was the latest tragedy in the central Mediterranean Sea, a key route for migrants. The death toll on that route has reached at least 130 migrants this year, IOM said. In 2022, more than 1,450 migrants died, according to the IOM's missing migrants project.

"This situation is intolerable," said Safa Msehli, the organization's spokesperson. She called on governments to increase search and rescue efforts and to "establish clear and safe disembarkation mechanisms as well as safe and regular pathways to migration. Off Libya's shores alone, at least 529 migrants were

reported dead and 848 others missing last year, while over 24,680 were intercepted and returned to a country, according to the IOM. Libya has in recent years emerged as the dominant transit point for migrants from Africa and the Middle East trying to make it to Europe. The oil-rich country plunged into chaos following a NATO-backed uprising that toppled and killed longtime autocrat Moammar Gadhafi in 2011.

Human traffickers in recent years have benefited from the chaos in war-torn Libya, smuggling in migrants across the desert country's lengthy borders with six nations. The migrants are then typically packed into ill-equipped rubber boats and set off on risky sea voyages. European countries have in recent years pushed Libyan authorities and the coast guard to detain and intercept migrants attempting to cross to European shores. Many of those who have been intercepted and returned to Libya - including women and children - are held in government-run detention centers where they suffer from abuse, including torture, rape and extortion, according to rights groups.

Ukraine admitted into UN fund that supports farmers

KYIV (AP): Ukraine's small-scale farmers, who are playing a critical role in feeding the population during the war, will be eligible for funding through the UN's International Fund for Agricultural Development following Ukraine's induction into body, officials said. Small farmers in Ukraine "play a fundamental role in feeding the country" during the war, producing up to 80% of dairy, fruits and vegetables consumed by the population, IFAD said in a statement.

Farmers in the western provinces, where many people have fled to escape fighting in the east, "will require support to meet the increased demand for food," the organization

said. The farms are also an important source of income for an estimated 13 million Ukrainians living in rural areas, as poverty and malnutrition are becoming more widespread, IFAD said. According to a recent report by the UN Food and Agriculture Organization, many people living in rural areas are on the brink of poverty, with 44% living below subsistence levels and 7% suffering malnutrition.

Membership in IFAD will give farmers access to both grants and loans, as well as supplementary funds, officials said. IFAD has provided more than \$24 billion to fund projects in developing countries since 1978. Ukraine's

membership in IFAD - in discussion since 2016 - also recognizes Ukraine's role as a major global producer and exporter of wheat, corn and sunflower oil, as the ripple effects of the war shake the global supply chain.

"Despite the war, Ukraine is still committed to contributing to global food security, to defuse the food crisis and save millions of people from hunger," Yaroslav Melnyk, Ukraine's ambassador to Italy, said after membership was conferred. "However, this requires international assistance and investment, in particular ... support to increase exports and to perform the sowing and harvesting campaigns," he said.

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Iran-China nexus and next

CHINESE leader Xi Jinping hosted his Iranian Counterpart President Ibrahim Raisi during his two-day official visit to Beijing, amid heightened political unrest at home and souring multidimensional tension with the West. According to the details, Xi and Raisi attended the signing of 20 agreements and MoUs to boost bilateral trade and cooperation between their nations. As said, President Xi expressed Beijing's support for Raisi's government and criticized Washington's dominance over global affairs. Chinese Strongman also condemned the external interference in Iran's domestic affairs and vowed to continue China's backing to Tehran in safeguarding national sovereignty and resisting unilateralism and bullying in the face of heightened unrest in its Country. Both leaders reaffirmed working together on issues involving each other's core interests in the region and beyond.

The Islamic Republic of Iran had been a major victim of western diplomatic and economic coercion over the past three decades because of Tehran's alleged involvement in the nuclear proliferation domain and the production of highly enriched Uranium which forms the most crucial part of a nuclear weapon. Tehran always denied those charges and claimed its right to peaceful use of nuclear energy to comprehend its energy and development goals, however western nations particularly Iran's staunch rival Israel did not let no stone unturned to defame, disrupt and destroy Iran's nuclear ambitions. Thus, Iran has long been embattled with the worst effects of trade and financial sanctions imposed by the United States and western governments along with a permanent blockade of access to the global banking network since 2018.

Historically, a convergence of interest, as well as the sameness of foes has brought most of the Washington rivals to one table and forged a wide-ranging consensus between China, Russia, Cuba, Venezuela, North Korea, and Iran. All those nations face western economic and trade sanctions and are in an effort to reduce the effect of western embargo through mutual cooperation and trade. Currently, Iran is chasing a 25-year strategy agreement with China to cooperate in developing oil, industry, trade, IT, and security cooperation. At the same time, Tehran has a historic relationship with Moscow and currently, both nations are working to strike a 25-year strategic deal to boost their energy cooperation, defense, and security cooperation along with the construction of an international North-South Transit Corridor (INSTC), that will connect the Eurasian economies with Iran and Central Asia through road and rail links in the future. There had been a tremendous uproar against the use of Iranian armed military drones by the Russian troops in the war in Ukraine, prompting a fresh wave of hostility in the west.

Over the past two decades, a unipolar world largely remained unstable and faced multiple challenges including a controversial war on terrorism (WoT), unilateral invasion against Iraq and Afghanistan along with the rise of the so-called Arab Spring that shattered the peace in the entire Middle East and North African (MENA) region. In fact, weak nations had always suffered blackmail from powerful countries however the absence of alternatives makes them helpless and vulnerable. The ongoing US-Russia rivalry and Washington's strategic competition with Beijing have paved the way for a bipolar world, that is likely to resist the belligerence of aggressors and will create balance in the universe.

How Tunisia can regain its luster

WHAT happened to Tunisia? It is once again in political limbo. This time, however, not many seem to care. After 2011, when President Zine El-Abidine Ben Ali was toppled, Tunisians thought the West's cheering - not to mention its material assistance - would last forever.

It became a case of mutual disappointment. While Tunisians were hoping their EU partners would have enough imagination to go beyond the type of support usually associated with European Neighborhood Policy programs, Europe and the US were expecting Tunisia to forge ahead with political and economic reforms. It did not.

For more than a decade, wariness about social upheaval hindered economic reforms in Tunisia; and, in July 2021, President Kais Saied put an end to the political process, which he blamed for the country's ills, as he started to rule by decree.

Tunis' worst fears of abandonment were confirmed in December, when the International Monetary Fund decided to indefinite-

ly postpone discussion of a \$1.9 billion loan package that was supposed to help meet Tunisia's budget needs and open the door to additional loans. Today, Tunisia haplessly waits for the IMF to reschedule its executive board meeting and for foreign donors to come through.

Many blamed Tunisia's inept diplomatic lobbying and its lack of clear commitment to economic change for the reluctance of partners to step in. The just-announced change at the helm of the Foreign Ministry provided some hope that the country's diplomacy could be starting to shed some of its lethargic demeanor. World Bank Vice President for MENA, Ferid Belhaj, tried to reassure Tunisians recently that foreign donors might still come forward.

While Tunisian authorities often seemed tempted to deny that a crisis even existed, Western nations have been focused on their own concerns - especially the Ukraine war and related defense spending and energy plans. Any money that is going to Tunisia today is being allocated for emer-

gency needs, not long-term programs.

Europeans and Americans maintained a wait-and-see attitude toward Tunisia's stuttering process. Although Washington has not halted foreign assistance - nor has it vetoed the IMF loan - US policymakers have signaled their intent to slash economic and military assistance.

The US may also suspend a \$500 million Millennium Challenge Corporation grant for an infrastructure project, out of concern for what it sees as Tunisia's democratic back-sliding. Sen. Chris Murphy, a member of the US Senate Foreign Relations Committee, said last month: "I do not believe the US should provide the Tunisian government with additional support until there is a significant democratic course correction in the country."

The West's quandary is fueled by Tunisia's fuzzy political outlook, which is compounded by the opposition's divided ranks and the Tunisian public's political

indifference, as demonstrated by the 11 percent voter turnout in recent parliamentary elections.

As American academic Daniel Brumberg pertinently noted: "The No. 1 obstacle to democracy in Tunisia is ... the overwhelming estrangement of everyday Tunisians from the state, from any idea of formal politics, and from a widely despised political elite."

Some Tunisian populists have used their country's predicament to call for a foreign policy realignment toward China. In December, Saied attended the Arab-China summit in Saudi Arabia. Chinese President Xi Jinping told the Tunisian leader that Beijing "firmly supports Tunisia in pursuing a development path suited to its national conditions (and) opposes interference by external forces in Tunisia's internal affairs."

That might have been what Saied wanted to hear, but it is unlikely those words will determine Tunisia's future trajectory. China's ties to Tunisia are mostly limited to trade and

Beijing is ill-equipped to replace Tunis' Europe-based partnerships.

It may be easy for Tunisia's populists to redraw the map of their country's alliances, but geopolitical realities are stubborn.

For the West, the luster of Tunisia's democratic experience may have faded but not its geostrategic value. The location of Tunisia in the middle of the Mediterranean underpins the resilience of the country's ties to Europe and the US. However, there is no escaping the presumption that the future of Western attitudes toward Tunisia will likely hinge on its leaders' ability to convince their interlocutors of their commitment to democracy and economic reforms.

Barring that, Tunisia's options are quite limited. The country has turned to its immediate neighbors, with mixed results. Tunis, which depends on energy supplies from Algeria, has received crucial credits from its neighbor, including a \$300 million loan in December.

But in turning to their region, Tunisians are torn

between awareness of their country's dire needs and their acute sense of pride. Many felt humiliated when dozens of trucks loaded with food items crossed the border from Libya in January. For decades, it was Libya that sought Tunisian food imports.

Others were shocked to hear that Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni had spoken with Algerian President Abdelmadjid Tebboune about Tunisia's troubles in the same breath as Libya, Mali and other hot spots. This reinforced the view among many Tunisians that the West's only interest in their country is in preventing havoc from spilling over into Europe - particularly in the form of illegal migration.

Ultimately, it is up to Tunisians to prove that their country matters to them. That will not happen through unbridled emigration and indifference to public life. For Tunisia to regain its international radiance, it must first sort out its mostly self-made crises. Only then will it be seen as a viable partner and not just as a country seeking the goodwill of foreign donors.

After their ‘racial reckoning’, a Black anti-colonial rousing

Yannick Giovanni Marshall

racism.

But what if a new perspective is indeed timely? Or if not new, but one dusted off from traditions older than the waiting for the American Enlightenment and its promised land of Civil Rights and equality - one drawn for the more thoughtfully pessimistic slave revolt? What if a hope that is not tangled in the beards of slave owners moonlighting as presidents and merchants of children - held up, to this day, as the founders of liberty - has arrived at its moment? A hope in the tradition of that section of the people not operating on slave-master's time and not waiting for those who are addicted to horse-whipping people to see that "it wudn't right"?

Anti-colonial hope is the hope of those who have not accepted "their place". It is the philosophy of impatience, of a boundary setting borne out of the radical disagreement with colonial society's position that Black life and Black thought is meaningless. That is, with the white supremacist position. It is not only the position of those with burner social media accounts or with nothing to lose who replied to the Black Lives Matter movement with Black Lives Do Not Matter. Or those who mocked the killing of George Floyd, acting out kneeling on his neck in an attempt to prolong the pleasure of the killing just as those of previous generations removed bones from the charred remains of lynching victims to keep as souvenirs.

It is the position of those who speak about African American Studies having no value and out of the other side of their cheek say that Western civilisation should be praised and must be a required course. It is the position of those who say of the killed - Eric, Trayvon, Sandra, Michael, Ahmaud and the thousands unnamed - that they were criminals and not martyrs. And of their

killers - who used the complaints filed against them as coasters and falsified incident reports - that they are innocents, heroes, and to be excused for human error. The chasers are the frightened; the chased are the aggressors. The murdered "were no angels".

It bears repeating, those who say this would lynch angels. To excise Black voices like a back-talking tongue and remove the record of Black pain is a more sophisticated, more expertly crafted Holocaust denial. Never the crude Holocaust denial of neo-Nazis, but a glossing over corpses to produce the revisionist story of America, the Good. To ban Black Studies is to deny Black lives the right to speak without the use of too heavy, too obvious a muzzle. To declare that the slave cannot testify. To disappear the historical record of white supremacy and put in its stead Nazi-sanctioned history, the only history the state's racist base will accept. Settler-colonialism produces a population incapable of doing otherwise.

It is the position, also, of the Democrats. Those who state openly and uncontroversially that the congresspeople who give speeches at white nationalist conventions are their friends. Who are forever frozen in the gesture of reaching a hand over to the "other side of the aisle" to those desperate to keep the flame of Jim Crow alive. Who order our submission through "unity" with a side that still executes our innocent and gleefully ignores exculpatory evidence. And it is the position of the liberals calling for "police reform" in a voice growing increasingly tired and meek and indistinct from the conservative's obligatory "thoughts and prayers" after a mass shooting. Not that police reform is to be taken seriously. The state has beaten

Black and Indigenous people to a pulp on behalf of settler society, and in concert with it, for centuries, everywhere.

The call for anti-bias training and bodycams is not a call for change. On the contrary, it is evidence that the society intends to protect the status quo. It is the act of covering up the pattern in the prisons and streets of the settler-colonial world from Australia to Alaska with a tarp of false hope. "Perhaps if we tinker with recruitment and representation or add a Civilian Review Board justice will roll down like the waters." Meanwhile the ex-president, the darling of lynch mob society, is reportedly winning hearts once again with promises of hangings, guillotines and televised "group executions" if re-elected in 2024. But something is failing. The media spokespeople, the academics and esteemed cable news panel guests are no longer being believed when they speak of shocking breaks in trust, failures in training, disappointments in those who are "supposed to protect" or whatever answer they pull out of the raffle basket to suppress the Black proletarian anger at the latest killing.

Racists and liberals come together in the belief that Black people are cursed to carry some generational cross of always suffering at their hand. And we have been forced this since birth, trained to see our brutalisation as unfortunate "tragedies" and the anti-Black pogrom as "just the way things are". But things are faltering. People are waking up. Yes, they are woke. Woke. A stolen term with which both racists and liberals lampoon Black radical ideas and a Black temperament no longer accepting the way things are. The people are rejecting the old "democracy is slow" calm-

down trick in the time of fast fascism. They are no longer tolerating the servile position, proving humility to be deserving of the deliberately ambiguous "change".

Woke. This generation's term to replace the "rebellious Negroes" and "dirty rotten abolitionist" and "uppity" and "radicalised Blacks" slurs we forced out of date. A term no one doubts would have been spat at students jailed for sitting in segregated cafes. And by the same sorts of people. Flung with the same vitriol and with the same purpose as the N-word at the schoolchildren integrating apartheid schools. A term used as a licence to scrub this history from the textbooks and, like a vase of flowers placed over a crime scene, a patriotic history placed atop it. One describing those enslaved in the torture chambers of the colony's industrial cotton fields as "happy farmers". Lying. The best colonist's history can do.

Wokeness, tarred and feathered. Students are warned away from it. Academics rush to deny it. Woke ideology - laughable and ineffectual - and yet, it must be made illegal. Black thought must be conspired against by the government and its client educational institutions, mocked on air and at colonist kitchen tables, in a desperate attempt to hang on, by tooth and claw, to the society gutting the Black poor.

It is the last attempt to shoo away the anti-colonial rousing and kneecap the Black radical imagination. But their strength is flailing and the social order built by slave masters is burning up. The anti-colonial future is bursting forth. A future that escaped from the clutches of white racism. An anti-colonialism not only to be read in police stations burning like slave-master homes but in the Palestinians resisting eth-

nic cleansing, in the voices of the Indigenous people ordering #landback, in the patriarchs being shut up, in the sanctioned peoples defying extortion, in the workers unionising everywhere. Even the seas and the sun are in revolt.

At the front line of anti-colonialism, as always, is a militant unapologetic Pan-Africanism. A borderless solidarity among those whom the colonial world branded the lesser. Not only refusing to sit in but tearing out the back of the bus. Taking the wheel of a new, swarthy-skinned future as unexpected as it is inevitable. After the colonial society's "racial reckoning" that led, predictably, to nowhere, their staged conversations solving nothing, achieving nothing but ratings and profits for the class that aid and abet lynch mob society, Black anti-colonial recognition is spreading. Racism is not, as is often sworn, a tragic legacy impinging on the enlightened "better" present. It is a choice.

Having an anti-Black world is a choice. Society has chosen to remain the same. And now fewer and fewer of us are satisfied to stay on the porch, knocking at the door, peeping through the blinds, hoping to catch a glimpse of freedom.

It was too much to knock once. Knocking for the whole day is absurd, much less knocking for - how many years has it been? Anti-colonialism says those who remain pleading at the door are at best irresponsible. In any case, they should stay there. There is no building a home with those still draped in the hides of slavery. No racial reckoning for the world's Rhodesias. The masters have chosen to remain masters. And those racist forgers shrieking about reform and training and reckonings have lost their audience. Welcome to the era of no more.

Suffering Syrians feel fenced off from help

Tala Jarjour

A post shared by a friend on Facebook read: "Three empty chalets by the sea in Latakia, if you know people needing a place to stay please give them my number." "Our church has reopened its basement shelters, for those with nowhere to go" read another, this time from Aleppo, a city that had no shelters in 2010.

As the estimated number of lives lost to the Feb. 6 earthquakes in Türkiye and Syria started to rise, so too did the cries for help. These two posts, and others which appeared promising, were soon drowned out by appeals for news about lost loved ones. An epic tragedy is gradually unfolding.

That the areas affected are larger in Türkiye than they are in Syria is a fact of geography; so are the numbers of people whose lives were devastated, along with the buildings they inhabited until early last week. But on the local scale, every corner that the earthquake has touched is living a tragedy

of epic proportions. On the Turkish side, politicians assert, the damage would overwhelm any government. One can only imagine how much more difficult it must be for a fragmented country, across the border, whose economy and infrastructure have been all but destroyed by more than a decade of intractable war and suffocating sanctions.

Sanctions, meant to bring those holding power in Syria to concede, have in reality brought the embattled population to its knees. Poverty is estimated at a whopping 80 percent, but for many it is malnutrition, the lack of electricity and running water, or the scarcity of medication that are proving fatal. This winter in particular, large swaths of the population have been struggling to find or afford fuel for heating. The 200 percent devaluation of the Syrian pound against the US dollar last summer was further exacerbated by another 20 percent over the course of the early

winter weeks. It was hard to imagine how much worse things could get.

The announced number of people confirmed to have died continues to rise by the thousands. Between stomach-churning number increases and headlines about messages of solidarity pouring in from world leaders, only the Turkish president is mentioned as a recipient. No condolences for the ruler in Damascus, who has been persona non grata in international political circles for more than a decade now. Politics, I think naively, must prevent leaders of countries who have severed diplomatic ties with Syria from stating public support. Surely, I say to myself and to others, the urgent rescue aid pledged from around the world will not stop at the borders. But stop at the borders it did, for a crucial, fatal week. I am struggling to comprehend.

On the one hand, a report said the UN needed an

appeal for help from inside the country to move in. On the other hand, a reporter inside Syria said the government had issued calls for help from the UN and other international bodies but received none. I struggled to understand.

Meanwhile, stories about people hearing their loved ones crying for help from under the rubble, pleading for rescue aid, gradually faded into the background. The nightmares, the guilt, the trauma upon trauma those survivors must experience will take generations to heal. Ten days on, parts of Syria are yet to receive any aid. Survivors, miraculously, continue to be found. But 10 days is the limit for many rescue teams, meaning their mission is coming to a close.

The disbelief caused by a catastrophic earthquake pales in comparison to that caused by human inaction. The slowness, and in some cases continued lack of

announced aid to the beleaguered citizens of Syria, is shocking. Aid agencies, people in the know reveal, are thinking twice before moving in, although nothing evident should stop humanitarian aid from crossing the borders. Time is tight, and so are sanctions. But the lack of political will remains the most difficult thing to comprehend. Like most bureaucratic hurdles, logistical details put cogs in the wheels of life, even in calamity. On the ground, people are helping people. Schools, churches, mosques and community halls have been opened across Syria, and volunteers are working to distribute any aid they receive.

People who have managed to leave their homes are now afraid to go back, as buildings continue to collapse. After many nights in freezing temperatures, thousands are in danger of losing their lives. With the number of deaths now in the tens of thousands, the loss of life among survivors

risks becoming even more catastrophic, the World Health Organization warns.

Meanwhile, pictures from Aleppo show a disproportionate glimpse of the misery and hope. Elderly women, in full outdoor clothing and under thick bedding, crouch over rows of tight wooden classroom desks. Meager slabs of bread are handed out by volunteers.

A small boy huddles in the corner under a blanket. As he looks up while being handed half a piece of bread, the frozen shock on his face is unmistakable. Syrians stopped expecting the world to acknowledge their suffering a long time ago. A temporary and partial lifting of sanctions has been announced by the US Congress, loosening, if only for a while, the noose on aid. But after a week had passed with those holding aid wringing their hands at the fences, it is hardly believable to a little boy in Aleppo that someone is really extending a hand.

Quintet’s solid statement on Israel signals new opportunity for peace

Dr. Abdel Aziz Aluwaisheg

ISRAEL'S announcement on Sunday that it is advancing about 10,000 settlement units and intends to normalize nine illegal outposts in occupied Palestinian territories has elicited universal condemnation. Opposition to this outlandish move has unified the international community at a time of deep divisions over Ukraine and the China-US rivalry. The evolving consensus could help jump-start peace talks.

Before this announcement, the new Israeli Cabinet's uncompromising rhetoric had reignited tensions in the Occupied Territories and alarmed Israel's neighbors and its few remaining friends.

The joint statement issued on Tuesday by the foreign ministers of France, Germany, Italy, the UK and the US signifies renewed unity on the Israel-Palestine conflict. Alarmed by the potential destabilizing consequences of Israel's decision, the five ministers said that they "strongly" opposed these unilateral moves because they "undermine efforts to achieve a negotiated two-state solution" and "impact the viability of the two-state solution and stability in the region at large."

The five countries, all close allies of Israel, called for a "comprehensive, just, and lasting peace in the Middle East," because "Israelis and Palestinians both deserve to live in peace, with equal measures of freedom, security, and prosperity." The five countries reaffirmed their commitment to having the establishment of a "sovereign, viable Palestinian state" living alongside Israel.

The UN secretary-general, the EU, Saudi Arabia, Norway, Turkey, Jordan, Egypt and many others have issued similar statements.

The latest moves by Israel will further increase its isolation and provide fresh evidence of its institutionalized

disenfranchisement of the Palestinians, politically, socially and economically. There is a growing consensus that its treatment of the Palestinians amounts to an apartheid regime, similar to that of South Africa before 1994, which the world united to end. Major human rights organizations, including those in Israel, have criticized this regime and called for its abolition.

In January 2021, B'Tselem, Israel's main human rights group, issued a report documenting how Israel's treatment of the Palestinian population under its control amounted to "apartheid," as defined by international law. Following B'Tselem's lead, Human Rights Watch, the US' largest human rights organization, published a report in April 2021 documenting Israeli law and practices toward Palestinians. The 213-page report concluded that "Israeli authorities are committing the crimes against humanity of apartheid and persecution against millions of Palestinians." Its systemic policies of "movement restrictions, land expropriation, forcible transfer, denial of residency and nationality, and the mass suspension of civil rights" constitute the crime against humanity of apartheid as defined in the 1973 UN Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of Apartheid.

Then, last year, Amnesty International, the largest global human rights organization, which is based in the UK, issued a similar report, concluding that Israel's policies amounted to a form of racial segregation and institutionalized discrimination, or apartheid. The organization's 278-page report and 90-minute course on the subject provide ample evidence proving the case. Amnesty has called on its 7 million

plus members to protest these policies.

Israel's new decisions are unintentionally throwing a lifeline to the Iranian government, which is facing popular protests at home due to its treatment of women and international ostracization for breaches of its nuclear obligations. Hezbollah and other Iran-supported groups have also been struggling to regain relevance in the face of popular dissatisfaction. With the new Israeli moves, Iran and its proxies have a cause to champion to regain the upper hand.

Israel is at a crossroads: Does it want to be integrated in this region or to try to live by the sword and rule over Palestinians under a cruel occupation amounting to apartheid? The Arab Peace Initiative, proposed initially by Saudi Arabia and later adopted by the Arab League, offers full normalization with Israel in exchange for a two-state solution along the 1967 borders. While it may be tempting, given the current balance of power, to continue dispossessing the Palestinians economically and disenfranchising them politically, Israel needs to consider the long-term consequences at home and abroad of such self-defeating and anachronistic policies.

This is a good moment to mobilize for peace talks. The international community appears united in disapproving of Israel's settlement policies and may be ready to take action to restore the peace process. The five-nation statement issued on Tuesday presages likely unity at the UN Security Council, as the US may join the rest of the permanent members if presented with a text reaffirming the council's position on settlements and outlining a practical plan to jumpstart talks between Israel and the Palestinians, a first step toward

meaningful engagement.

Last summer, President Joe Biden signaled a significant change in the US approach, which could bring it into consensus with the rest of the UNSC permanent members and thus enable action to unlock the conflict. While visiting Bethlehem, Biden called for a two-state solution along the pre-1967 lines as "the best way to achieve an equal measure of security, prosperity, freedom and democracy for the Palestinians as well as the Israelis." He added: "The Palestinian people deserve a state of their own that's independent, sovereign, viable and contiguous."

In December 2016, the UNSC adopted Resolution 2334, with US acquiescence, which could serve as a basis for new mobilization at the UN. It reaffirmed that "the establishment by Israel of settlements in the Palestinian territory occupied since 1967, including East Jerusalem, has no legal validity and constitutes a flagrant violation under international law and a major obstacle to the achievement of the two-state solution and a just, lasting and comprehensive peace." It also called for "credible negotiations on all final status issues in the Middle East peace process."

The current atmosphere at the UNSC could help. The inauguration of the new Israeli Cabinet in December and violent events since have attracted the council's attention, with it so far holding two emergency sessions to discuss the situation. Considering that many of the new outposts Israel plans to legalize are built on private Palestinian land, it is possible that the courts could delay their legalization, although they would probably continue expanding regardless. But that delay could give Palestinians and the international community time to mobilize to stop the legalization and also to resume peace talks.



Understanding the protests in Peru

Omar Coronel

OVER the past two months, Peru has seen a historic wave of protests and escalation of violence. Unrest erupted after President Pedro Castillo was removed from power and his vice president, Dina Boluarte, took power. Demonstrations across the country have called for her resignation, but Boluarte has responded with hostile rhetoric and a heavy-handed crackdown. So far, at least 60 people have been killed in the upheaval.

The situation in the country is quite complex. To understand what is happening, we have to look at old rural-urban, racist, and classist faultlines which are currently feeding the growing polarisation in Peruvian society.

In 2021, Pedro Castillo, a rural school teacher with no prior political experience, won the presidential elections in Peru. He ran as a member of Peru Libre (PL), a radical left-wing party which he had only recently joined. Castillo's victory was historic, as it marked the first time in the history of the Peruvian Republic that a true man of the people was elected as president. He represented a rural, working-class and Indigenous population that had long been excluded from high positions of power.

That created high hopes for Castillo's presidency, which he was not able to meet; in fact, it is no exaggeration to say that his time in office was disastrous. Corruption and incompetence undermined the state's capacity to implement public policy. The turnover in his cabinet was record-breaking, with 78 ministers appointed in just 16 months. In Congress, Castillo did not have the support of a majority and his legislative agenda was repeatedly blocked by the right-wing opposition; he also faced the threat of impeachment twice. In the public sphere, the mainstream media sided with the opposition and started attacking the president and his allies.

Some key social organisations, such as the Workers General Confederation of Peru (CGTP) and the National Agrarian Confederation (CNA), continued to support the government despite its problems, as they feared the right-wing coalition would take power if Castillo were to fall. This is why, despite his mistakes in government, the president still had an approval rating of 31 percent in November 2022, while Congress had just 10 percent. On December 7, Castillo tried to stop a third attempt to impeach him by dissolving Congress, but failed. He was removed from office, arrested and replaced by Boluarte, who had been expelled from the PL in January 2022 and who had aligned herself with the right-wing opposition.

Boluarte's move was seen by many on the left as a betrayal. Her intention to stay in power until 2026 further flamed public anger, as only 8 percent of the public supported her decision. The people who first took to the streets were Castillo's supporters, including members of national organisations, such as CGTP, agrarian federations, peasant vigilante committees, and the teachers' union, among others. They were joined by peasant communities in the south and central Andes, who had overwhelmingly voted for the deposed presi-

dent. These initial protests which called for the dissolution of Congress, new general elections, and Castillo's release were still relatively small. But Boluarte's government responded with brutal force and aggressive right-wing rhetoric, calling the protesters "terrorists". The protests indeed became more violent in certain areas, but the police response was disproportionate, resulting in the deaths of 22 citizens, including four minors, in December. This heavy-handed response only motivated more people to join the protests. Among them were university students, the Human Rights Movement, one of the largest social movements in Peru, and groups who had previously been critical of Castillo.

In January, the continuing hostile rhetoric by the government and the massacre in Puno province, in which 17 people were killed in one day, further radicalised the protest movement and encouraged many to travel to Lima to demonstrate at the seat of power. This massive mobilisation across the country had not been seen since the 2000 protests against authoritarian President Alberto Fujimori.

These protests have highlighted issues of racism, classism, and centralism, which have created significant divisions within society and which have remained unaddressed for decades. Tensions between the rural poor and Indigenous people and the rich elites in Lima have historically run high - and for a reason. Illiterate people in Peru did not have voting rights until 1979; this meant that the rural and Indigenous population was overwhelmingly disenfranchised for most of the 20th century.

Just as they finally gained the right to vote, these communities were terrorised by a wave of violence triggered by the Shinning Path insurgency in rural areas and the brutal response of the government in Lima. In the 1990s, Fujimori's authoritarian government further marginalised Indigenous and peasant communities by centralising the country and using a politics of fear to stave off dissent, especially in regions with larger Indigenous populations. Since the political system in Peru finally opened up in the 2000s, the country's poor and Indigenous people have struggled to organise politically and make their voices heard. They have been consistently underrepresented in Congress and state institutions. Whenever they have protested to express their political grievances, the political elite in Lima has dismissed their demands, labelling them as ignorant and easily manipulated.

This has also been reflected in the government's insistence on labelling the protesters as members of the Shinning Path or agents of a foreign government. Some local leaders of the protests were associated with the Shinning Path in the past, but the group is not actively leading the protests. Its only surviving military faction, the Militarized Communist Party of Peru, operates in the rainforest as a protector of narcotraffic organisations and has no presence in the demonstrations.

Such accusations thrown are deeply offensive to the protesters from rural areas and some of the organisations, as many of them had confronted and defeated the Shinning Path in the countryside in the late 1980s. The government has also blamed neighbouring Bolivia for the protests, but there is no concrete evidence of this connection besides political sympathy and cultural ties between the Aymara people on both sides of the border.

The divisive rhetoric of the government has been confronted by an unprecedented outpouring of cross-class and cross-country solidarity, which came to the fore in the protest march in Lima. Protesters from across the country raised funds in their hometowns to travel and stay in the capital. When they arrived, they were welcomed and supported by Lima-based organisations and individuals. Some residents of the capital even opened their houses to host the protesters.

More than two months after taking power, Boluarte still refuses to step down. According to polls, support for the protests was at 59 percent at the end of January. Some 74 percent demand the president's resignation; 73 percent are calling for new elections this year; and 69 percent want a new constitution. Attempts to centralise protest demands have so far failed. While some protesters aim to rebuild the country through constitutional reform that would change the economic model and establish Peru as a pluralist state, others only seek a return to democracy and institutional changes. The one shared goal among the protesters is the resignation of Boluarte and early elections.

If she does resign and early elections are held, protests for a Constituent Assembly and justice for victims will likely continue, but most protesters will demobilise. If the new government avoids arbitrary repression and holds a fair election, the demands may be incorporated into the campaign. On the other hand, if the president maintains power solely through repression, it is probable that protests of significant magnitude will continue, characterised by fluctuating intensity, particularly in Lima and the southern regions. The perception of impunity on one side and support for authoritarianism on the other will energise radical actors.

The weakness of Peru's political actors makes it difficult to imagine the consolidation of an authoritarian regime, but there are other paths we must fear. Even if Boluarte resigns peacefully or transfers power following elections, Peru still faces underlying structural issues. It has weak overall state capacity and meaningless political parties that produce politicians who lack the motivation to be accountable to their constituents. A system full of political amateurs has generated endemic instability that makes the country ungovernable.

Peru is a cautionary tale for democracies with a flawed political system. Reforms, though necessary, will take time to produce substantial change. Therefore, it is time to explore innovative ways to engage civil society organisations in the reform debate and give the people a sense of being heard and having an impact on political decisions, or else democracy risks losing its significance.

Aljazeera

Xenophobic delirium: The US’s race-making operation in Mexico

Belén Fernández

IN the historic centre of the city of Tapachula, located in Mexico's southern state of Chiapas near the border with Guatemala, sits a golden statue of Benito Juárez, the first Mexican president of Indigenous origins, who died in 1872. Behind the statue is a wall featuring a quote from Juárez in capital letters, the English translation of which is: "Among individuals as among nations, respect for the rights of others is peace".

It is an ironic backdrop, to say the least, for the scene currently playing out in Tapachula. The city not only hosts Mexico's largest immigration detention centre, where I myself was imprisoned for one night in July 2021, but also effectively serves as an open-air jail for countless refugee seekers from Haiti, Central America, and beyond - many of whom are endeavouring to reach the United States but find themselves trapped in indefinite limbo and extreme precarity in Chiapas.

Of course, many of those on the move have been forced to flee their homes thanks in good part to the US habit of inflicting political and economic suffering on its fellow nations. So much for "respect for the rights of others". Nor, to be sure, is it very respectful for the US to insist that Mexico perform its anti-migrant dirty work.

The attendant paucity of respect for individual rights has bred an abuse-ridden landscape in southern Mexico that merely adds insult to injury for people who have already risked their lives to get this far. As the Washington Office on Latin America noted in a report (PDF) last year, asylum seekers struggling to survive in Tapachula "face abuses by authorities ranging from arbitrary detention to extortion to other forms of violence". The report went on to specify that "Afro-descendant migrants" were among those facing "particular situations of risk and discrimination". Indeed, Haitian asylum seekers in Mexico are frequent victims of assault, including armed attacks on their camps. In August 2021, the internet was shocked by footage of Mexican security forces manhandling a Haitian father with a child in his arms.

Haitians comprise a significant portion of Tapachula's refugee-seeking population - and you do not have to look too hard to see the discrimination. For example, when I returned to the city for a one-week visit in January, I ordered beetroot juice from a Mexican woman whose juice stall is located just behind Benito Juárez Park, where numerous Haitians and asylum seekers of other nationalities spend their days and nights waiting for their fates to be decided by the bureaucratic powers that be. No sooner had I received my beetroot juice and spilled it all over myself than I was being regaled with tales of alleged Haitian transgressions in Tapachula. These, according to the juice vendor, ranged from being "dirty" to having "no culture" to presiding over a veritable occupation of the city and subjugation of its native population.

The racism of the woman's charges was mundane, unabashed - even upbeat - and was of a piece with the xenophobic delirium that passes for news in certain local media outlets, which get off on hyping the spectre of invading hygiene-challenged Haitian

hordes. The day before my arrival, it turned out, there had been an extensive operation in the vicinity of Benito Juárez Park to remove Haitian vendors selling food, clothes, and other items - who were then displaced to another area of the city. A big show had been made, with elements of the Mexican National Guard and the municipal police overseeing the dramatic sweeping, mopping, and scrubbing of downtown streets that had never exactly been known for spotlessness in the first place.

I learned of the operation when, continuing on from the juice stall in search of an avocado, I came upon a handful of police deployed across the street with riot shields. In response to my inquiry as to whether there was some sort of trouble, a policewoman grinned broadly and assured me it was just "limpieza" - a word that means "cleaning" but that naturally acquires more sinister undertones in racialised contexts.

Later I spoke with a young man from rural Haiti, who had thus far spent two months and 11 days in Tapachula and who showed me a map on his mobile phone of all of the countries he had traversed to get there - starting from Chile, many thousands of kilometres away. To cross the notorious Darién Gap, he said, he had taken a boat from Colombia and then walked for five days through the Panamanian jungle, which had entailed seeing a lot of corpses and being robbed of \$200 by an armed assailant. The final country on his map was the US, but there was no telling how much additional torment would be required to get there. After all, as a Haitian in

Mexico, he was not only criminalised as an "illegal migrant"; he also had to contend with the added layer of persecution on account of skin colour - a combination that has at times proved lethal.

And yet the fundamental blame for the whole nasty setup lies with racist US border policies - blame that multiplies exponentially if you consider that the US has spent more than a century doing its best to make Haiti unliveable. Following an episode in 1914 in which US Marines rolled up to Port-au-Prince and stole half the country's gold reserves for safe-

keeping on Wall Street, the US continued to profit at Haiti's expense by invading and brutally occupying it, propping up despots and torturers, backing coups, and militating to keep Haitian wages down. But the beauty of imperialism is that, in the end, you do not have to worry about "respect for the rights of others". In her 2021 book *Border and Rule: Global Migration, Capitalism, and the Rise of Racist Nationalism*, scholar Harsha Walia documents how the US's "interdiction and detention of Haitian refugees during the 1980s and 1990s" - which included shipping them to the illegal US offshore penal colony known as Guantánamo Bay - "laid the groundwork for the US onshore and offshore immigration detention system in place today". Immigration detention, writes Walia, is ultimately a "race-making regime" - one that perpetuates a social order predicated on categorical inequality. And as race-making proceeds apace in the US's outsourced open-air jail of Tapachula, that seated statue certainly has a lot to contemplate.

and relay the relevant information in real time to member states, enabling them, in turn, to neutralize the threat. By sharing intelligence and early-warning and procurement systems that talk to each other, the US and the GCC will build a more integrated air defense system to address the gaps that state and nonstate actors exploit through the use of ballistic missiles and unmanned aerial systems.

Similarly, at sea, we will build toward a common operating picture. We are sailing both crewed and autonomous ships and sensors to create a shared picture of a range of activities for the multinational naval coalition in the region to see and use to respond to threats. Already this year, these efforts have resulted in the removal of both illicit drugs and illegal weapons from waters within the region.

Through their unique partnership, the US and the GCC are both willing and able to actualize a security architecture that can underpin a more secure Middle East. This cooperation is needed now more than ever to deter, counter and respond to the most pressing threats facing our nations - in the air, at sea and, increasingly, in other domains. We hope that our initiative will pave the way for similar lines of work among the GCC member states and with others in the region and beyond.

Arab News

Dana Stroul

the GCC and affirmed the US' commitment to the Middle East. Not only did the president reiterate that the US will remain an active, engaged partner in the Middle East, but he also reminded us that America's interests are interwoven in the successes of this region. The Jeddah communique reaffirmed the strategic guidance to the GCC-US Defense Working Groups: Our objective is to advance a more secure, stable and prosperous region through integration and cooperation.

The challenge for the defense and military leaders meeting in Riyadh this week is to move from vision to action, realizing our shared goal of increased cooperation to promote security and stability. We have committed to increase cooperation in two areas: First, by integrating our air defenses and, second, by expanding cooperation at sea. There is no doubt that now is the time to take action - our assessment of the threats is aligned, and the opportunities from new and emerging technology makes integration more cost-effective and faster than at any other time. Importantly, we are approaching this integration as a purely defensive regional measure.

The US will maintain a meaningful force presence in the region in order to support integration and multilateral cooperation. The tens

of thousands of US forces stationed at many bases across the region offer an important platform for our efforts to promote stability across the region.

We also discussed the importance of interoperability. We must accelerate steps now to ensure that our militaries can work together jointly in times of peace and in times of crisis. This is how we will increase deterrence and enhance cooperation. We are setting the conditions now for this integration, ensuring that we can share intelligence in real time, monitor a common air picture 24 hours a day and sail together in multinational task forces at sea. And as we take these steps, we also ensure that the US military can dynamically flow in and out of the region and seamlessly integrate with our partners' navies, air forces and land forces.

Together we laid out our shared understanding and commitment in a summary of this week's working group activities. To achieve this vision, the US and GCC militaries will continue the robust schedule of military exercises, subject matter expert exchanges, intelligence and information sharing, and military acquisitions to increase integration. What might success look like?

We are rapidly working toward the day when a regional air defense system can sense an airborne threat

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SCCI rejects proposed additional tax measures through ‘mini-budget’

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: Sarhad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SCCI) president Muhammad Ishaq ‘out-rightly’ rejected the proposed ‘mini-budget’ through a Finance (Supplementary) Bill 2023, terming the additional taxation measures worth Rs170 billions, will unleash a new inflation wave in the country.

Ishaq, during an informal talks/interviews with media persons here on Thursday after analyzing some salient features of the proposed ‘mini-budget’ said a storm of inflation will come after imposing billions of rupees new taxes, through which not only the business community but every citizen of the country would be adversely affected.

He added the cost of industrial production would be escalated as a result of imposing ‘heavy taxes’.

The SCCI chief criticized the rulers for bringing the national economy on the brink of complete

destruction.

He viewed it has been made quite difficult but impossible to run industries and businesses after a whopping increase in prices of electricity, gas and petroleum commodities.

Businessmen are in great trouble owing to anti-business policies of the incumbent government, Mr Ishaq said.

He added unavailability of raw materials to industries in wake of non-opening letter of credits (LCs) by commercial banks has further aggravating the situation.

He castigated that unilateral policies of the government have added to difficulties of the business community on a daily basis, which is highly ‘condemnable’ and ‘unbearable’.

Ishaq came down hard on those who made towering claims that they would put the economy in the right direction and bring down dollar rates, saying that instead of taking corrective measures, the country has brought on edge of

economic bankruptcy.

On the other hand, the SCCI chief said the government has swelled its cabinet, rising up to over 80 members, terming it as a negation of the proposals aimed at to reduce the public expenditures which were crafted by the National Austerity Committee.

“Is the brigade of ministers and special advisors not injustice to a country and its people which is sinking into foreign debts”?

Ishaq said if the government was serious about reviving the economy it should make drastic reduction in the ‘non-development’ budget.

He asked to announce special incentives and facilities for boost up to promote industrial, trade and commercial activities.

The chamber president also came down hard on politicians for not ‘prioritizing’ the economy, business, trade and exports.

He noticed Pakistan has been made economically bankrupt during the last 10 months.

The SCCI chief expressed apprehensions that business, industries and trade would be completely halted if the government couldn’t stop enforcing ‘anti-business’ policies as a result of that the unemployment will be further increased in the country.

Ishaq asked for utilizing the eminent potentials and natural resources to get rid of the country from clutches of IMF and make Pakistan as economically a self-reliant country.

The chamber president advised the government to take chambers and relevant stakeholders on board before formulation of policies so that they would have long-lasting impacts toward revival of the crippling national economy.

He warned against taking aggressive steps if the government didn’t shun anti-business policies forthwith, saying that any responsibility will be rested upon the present government for commotion and unrest in the country.



ISLAMABAD: Fruit dealers busy in purchasing seasonal fruit oranges from Islamabad Fruit and Vegetable Market.

LSMI output falls by 3.68% in 1st half

ISLAMABAD (APP): The output of the Large Scale Manufacturing Industry Sector witnessed a decline of 3.68% during July-December (2022-23) compared to the same period of last year, the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) reported.

According to the provisional quantum indices of Large Scale Manufacturing Industries (LSMI) for December 2022 released by PBS, on a Year-on-Year (YoY) basis, the big industry production decreased by 3.51% in December 2022 when compared with December 2021.

However, on Month-on-Month (MoM) basis, the industrial output increased by 12.38% in December when compared to the production of November 2022.

The main contributors towards overall negative growth of 3.68% were food (0.36%), tobacco (0.60%), textile (2.75%) garments (4.06%), petroleum products (0.80%), cement (1.04%), pharmaceuticals (1.21%), and automobiles (1.36%).

The production in July-December 2022-23 as compared to July-December 2021-22 has increased in wearing apparel (4.06%), leather products (0.04%), furniture (1.43%), and other manufacturing (0.15%).

It is pertinent to mention here that the provisional quantum indices of Large Scale Manufacturing Industries (LSMI) for December 2022 with the base year 2015-16 have been developed based on the latest data supplied by the source agencies including the Oil Companies Advisory Committee, Ministry of Industries and Production, Ministry of Commerce and Provincial Bureaux of Statistics (BoS).

Shipping activity at Port Qasim

KARACHI (APP): Two ships Maersk Brooklyn and Wide Juliet carrying containers, berthed at Qasim International Containers Terminal on Wednesday while three more ships, Explorer America, Sosochochina and One Altair carrying coal, mogas and containers also arrived at the outer anchorage during the last 24 hours.

A total of seven ships were engaged at PQA berths during the last 24 hours, out of them two ships, MSC Lisbon and Maersk Brooklyn left the port on Thursday morning, and four more including MilahaRasLafan, Fairchem Sword, Wide Juliet and Hafnia Shanghai were expected to sail in the afternoon.

A cargo volume of 113,339 tonnes, comprising 73,508 tonnes imports cargo and 39,831 tonnes export cargo, including containerized cargo carried in 2,925 containers (582 TEUs imports and 2,343 TEUs export) was handled at the port during last 24 hours.

There were eight ships at the outer anchorage of Port Qasim, out of them, five including Ocean Autumn, One Altair, Irenes Ray, Explorer America and Aurelia scheduled to load/offload condensate, containers, coal and palm oil, were expected to take berths at FOTCO, QICT, PIBT and LCT on Thursday.

PSX’s 100-index loses 248 points

ISLAMABAD (APP): The 100-index of the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) witnessed bearish trend on Thursday, losing 248.21 points, a negative change of 0.60 percent, closing at 41,078.65 points against 41,326.86 points the previous day.

A total of 141,865,637 shares were traded during the day as compared to 137,377,503 shares the previous day, whereas the price of shares stood at Rs.7,438 billion against Rs. 6.115 billion on the last trading day.

As many as 320 companies transacted their shares in the stock market; 90 of them recorded gains and 203 sustained losses, whereas the share price of 27 companies remained unchanged.

The three top-trading companies were WorldCall Telecom with 13,499,143 shares at Rs 1.21 per share; Maple Leaf with 11,712,356 shares at Rs.22.15 per share, and Meezan Bank with 7,235,853 shares at Rs.96.63 per share.

Fafhan Maize witnessed a maximum increase of Rs.349.00 per share price, closing at Rs.8,799.00, whereas the runner-up was Reliance Cotton with a Rs.45.64 rise in its per share price to Rs.655.00.

Pak Tobacco witnessed a maximum decrease of Rs.48.85 per share closing at Rs.801.15; followed by Js Global Cap with Rs.20.44 decline to close at Rs.343.56.

Rupee recovers Rs 1.01 against dollar

Pakistan rupee appreciated by Rs 1.01 against the US dollar in the interbank trading on Thursday and closed at Rs 264.37, against

the previous day’s closing of Rs 265.38.

According to the Forex Association of Pakistan (FAP), the buying and selling rates of dollars in the open market were recorded at Rs 266 and Rs 268.85 respectively.

The price of Euro decreased by 97 paise and closed at Rs 283.22 against the last day’s closing of Rs 284.19.

The Japanese Yen lost one paise to close at Rs1.97, whereas a decrease of Rs 2.01 was witnessed in the exchange rate of the British Pound, which was traded at Rs 318.65 as compared to its last closing of Rs 320.66.

The exchange rates of Emirates Dirham decreased by 28 paise to close at Rs 71.97 and Saudi Riyal decreased by 23 paise Rs 70.49.

FBR plans to launch ‘Pakistan Raises Revenue’

F.P. Report

KARACHI: FBR plans to launch technology enabled outreach initiative under PRR (Pakistan Raises Revenue Program) through mobile tax facilitation stations to bring routinely used taxation services closer to the taxpayers’ doorstep.

FBR fielded a Mid Term Review (MTR) of the World Bank funded PRR Program in October and November of 2022. Program’s savings would be utilized in launching IT enabled outreach initiative in the area of taxpayer facilitation and behavior nudges to promote tax culture.

These interventions include, among other things, enhancing taxpayers’ access to FBR’s systems and solutions at or close to their own doorsteps with the aim to minimize the need to have them visit tax offices all across the country for routine processes in the similar fashion as NADRA’s mobile vans.

In an effort to reach out to taxpayers in emerging economic centers in tehsils, districts and areas having limited accessibility, these 155 mobile tax facilitation stations will be standard/non-luxury vans. The

implementation of the initiative will be in accordance with government priorities and policies including Federal Cabinet’s circular dated 7th July 2022 which outlined the austerity measures for F.Y 2022-23 and allows for procurement of such utility vehicles. Once the revised PC-1 is approved by CDWP and ECNEC, this initiative will be implemented in a phased manner.

The services offered at these mobile tax facilitation stations will include routinely needed processes including tax registration, Income/Sales Tax return filing, payment of taxes through bank card machines, applications for CPR correction and correction/updates to taxpayer profiles etc. FBR plans to equip these mobile tax facilitation stations with all the required equipment including bank card machines, internet facility, biometric verification machines and tablets.

The investment in upgraded IT infrastructure, electronic monitoring through scanners, track and trace system and ease of access to FBR systems by the taxpayers will move FBR further towards the path of a modern and progressive revenue organisation.

Paris stock market joins London

LONON (AFP/APP): The Paris stock market hit an all time high on Thursday after London’s record-breaking run on economic recovery hopes as inflation eases away from sky-high levels.

The Paris CAC 40 index jumped 1.1 percent to a record 7,387.29 points, beating a peak hit last year by just a few points.

It comes after London’s benchmark FTSE 100 index struck a record at 8,047.06 points Thursday, a day after passing 8,000 for the first time.

Indices are rising as traders expect central banks, notably the Federal Reserve and Bank of England, to soon bring an end to a policy of raising interest rates aimed at cooling inflation. This was weighing on the dollar Thursday, analysts said.

Official data this week showed annual inflation rates easing in Britain and the United States, although they remain around historic-high levels.

Traders are cheering other data releases, including strong US jobs and retail numbers, in addition to strong earnings from some of the world’s biggest companies in recent weeks.

Net profit at European aircraft manufacturer Airbus soared to a record level in 2022 despite supply chain problems limiting its ability to increase production.

ICMA and SCCI sign MOU

F.P. Report

SIALKOT: The MOU signing ceremony between Institute of Cost and Management Accountants (ICMA) and Sialkot Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SCCI) was held at SCCI’s office.

ICMA is a professional accounting body that specializes in delivering high-standard education, professional training, research & development activities that are aimed to improve business efficiency.

Sialkot Chamber of Commerce & Industry is mandated to facilitate the business community of Sialkot by creating ease-in-doing businesses which has led to the business development of Sialkot city. The city is well-known for its wide range of exports in various sectors such as Sports Goods, Leather Products, Livestock, the Clothing Industry, Kitchenware,



surgical Instruments, among others.

As technology and ways of doing business are fast changing there is a greater need for professional training and know-how in order to stay competitive. ICMA has all the resources

to provide Corporate Training and Professional Certifications to members of SCCI.

Abdul Ghafoor Malik, President SCCI signed the MOU on behalf of SCCI and Zia ul Mustafa, Chairman Strategic Board

Lost & Found

I have Lost the original ownership documents of Diabetes Association KP, Anyone who found is requested to return to the following address. Dr. Zia UI Hassan, President, Diabetes Association, KP.

I have lost my two national passport having number 1st - YQ1793621 and 2nd - YQ1793622 somewhere. If any one finds please send it to Farman Ali Mohmand S/o Habib Khan R/o Gul Pur Kalay Tehsil Takht Bhai District Mardan.

signed on behalf of ICMA. MOU has been signed for Corporate Training, Joint Promotions, Events & Branding, Research & Development and Infrastructural Support of ICMA facilities.

The objective of the

MOU is to jointly undertake Corporate Trainings, Research and Development input on the policy framework of government and joint promotion & events. Muhammad Yasin Senior Member ICMA was also present during MOU.

Secy Industries visits Peshawar Economic Zone

PESHAWAR (APP): Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Secretary Industries Amer Sultan Tareen visited the Peshawar Economic Zone the other day, said a press release issued here on Thursday.

Amer Sultan, who is also the Chairman Board of Directors (BoD), KP Economic Zones Development & Management Company (KP-EZDMC), reviewed the progress made by various industrial units, including FF Steel, Northern Bottling Company and ZRK Industries.

During his visit, the provincial secretary also

interacted with the management of these units, and was briefed about the issues being faced by them.

Amer assured them of his support and cooperation in addressing their concerns. He also lauded the management on the progress made by those units.

He also appealed the industrialists to contribute generously in the fund for earthquake victims in Türkiye and Syria. He emphasized the need for the community to come together and support the brotherly countries in this challenging time.

Court Notice

IN THE COURT OF SAIMA RAZZAQ CIVIL JUDGE.VI BANNU, Suit No. 123/1, institution 18.11.022 Next date of hearing is 20.02.2023. Title: Mst: Umer zada vs Sher Zaman etc To: 2, Yousaf Khan S/o Badi al Zaman R/o Abroad 7, Secretary Revenue KP Peshawar. 8, Mst: Pari Zada D/o Badi al Zaman w/o Razat ullah Khan R/o Nizam kalla Nizam Bazzar Bannu. 9, Umer Shada D/o Badi al Zaman w/o Manzor Husain R/o Munzini District Kark. The defendants are informed through this notice to appear in this court on 20.02.2023. After this no excuse would be accepted and ex-parte proceedings shall be initiated against you. Given under my hand and seal of this court.

PFC to take part in six-day Algiers expo

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistani Furniture Council (PFC) will take part in a six-day Algiers expo starting from June 19 to discover business opportunities and explore new market access for Pakistani products.

While talking to a delegation of industrialists led by Zeeshan Elahi Arain, CEO of Marvel Cables here on Thursday, Chief Executive Officer PFC Mian Kashif Ashfaq said that PFC along with ChenOne would be participating in this mega event.

He said ChenOne would also exhibit its high-quality international standards products to capture their share in the global market.Ashfaq

said it was an excellent opportunity to showcase Pakistani products and develop business deals with international buyers.He said, “Over hundreds of Pakistani companies will be exhibiting

their products which included textile, garments, leather garments, sportswear, women’s and kids’ wear, pharmaceuticals, surgical and dental instrument, and sports goods engineering.”

استخبارتی نامہ۔ بعد ازاں جناب مہربان وزیر صنعت اور تجارت نے ایک ہنگامہ کوٹ۔ 1۔ خبر بخشناں پشاور فیڈرل جیولری پیکس فیئر 7 حیات آباد پشاور

مذکورہ پر آکسفورڈ کے پاس اور جہانم اندر 15 مہرہات ڈاشیں جن کرنا ہوگی اگر کسی بھی شخص ادارے کے چائینا اور

مذکورہ پر آکسفورڈ کے پاس اور جہانم اندر 15 مہرہات ڈاشیں جن کرنا ہوگی اگر کسی بھی شخص ادارے کے چائینا اور

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In brief

Intercollegiate hockey trophy

SARGODHA (APP): The Government Degree College for women Mela Mandi team won the final hockey match of Intercollegiate Girls Games organised by the Higher Education and Sports Department here on Wednesday. According to the details, the match was played between the Government College for women Chandni Chowk and Government Degree College for women Mela Mandi, which was won by the Government Degree College by defeating the opponent team by 1-0, and won the trophy. Sherash Rana scored the only goal of the match. On this occasion, the players said that the credit of our victory goes to sports teacher Madam Ayesha Siddiqua, who gave us such good training and provided all kinds of support, under her supervision our college would win more trophies.

Badminton Championship

PESHAWAR (APP): Deputy Commissioner Gold Cup Badminton Championship under the umbrella of District Administration and District Sports Officer Charsadda was underway at Abdul Wali Khan Sports Complex on Thursday. Deputy Commissioner Charsadda Dr Qasim Ali Khan was the chief guest on the occasion who formally inaugurated the Championship wherein more than a hundred players from Peshawar, Charsadda and Nowshera were taking part. District Sports Officer Tahsin Ullah Khan and Miss Nousheen were also present. Deputy Commissioner Charsadda Dr Qasim Ali Khan in his address that vigorous measures were being taken for the promotion of sports in the district. He said, "Charsadda is blessed with international standard facilities and that is why opportunities have been given to the players to come and play." He hoped that they would avail the golden opportunity by showing their best skills. He said, "The series of such events will continue in the future and we will continue to support them."

Physical Disability T20 Cricket C'ship

ISLAMABAD (APP): Peshawar and Abbottabad were victorious in the matches of the ongoing 8th National Physical Disability T20 Cricket Championship here at Bhutto Ground on Thursday. In the first match, Peshawar defeated Lahore by a huge margin of 139 runs and qualified for the finals of the event. Peshawar would now face Multan in Karachi in the final. Batting first, Peshawar scored 188 runs for all 10 in the allotted 20 overs. Rahmat scored 39 runs with the help of 4 fours and a six while Atif scored 34 runs with 6 fours and Babar added 27 runs. For Lahore, Shahid Vito and Bilal bagged three and two wickets, respectively. In reply, Lahore were gone for only 49 runs for 6. Muhammad Shabbaz made 23 runs while for Peshawar, Osama bowled 6 out of 12 runs while Atif got 3 wickets by giving only 4 runs. Osama was declared man of the match. Regional Head Peshawar Sajid Khan awarded Osama a cash reward along with trophy. Regional Head Lahore Javad Ashraf was also present on the occasion. In the second match, Abbottabad outplayed Islamabad by 93 runs. Abbottabad scored 173 runs for the loss of 8 in 20 overs. Opener Faisal Hayat played an aggressive innings of 83 off 53 balls with the help of 5 fours and as many sixes.

Muneeba's maiden century guides Pakistan to win over Ireland

LAHORE (APP): Muneeba Ali's century powered Pakistan to a 70-run victory over Ireland for their first win of the ICC Women's T20 World Cup 2023.

The wicketkeeper-batter became the first Pakistani woman to hit a hundred in a T20 international to propel her side to 165 for five, said the information made available here on Thursday by the International Cricket Council. In reply, Ireland stuttered as Nashra Sundhu picked up four wickets for 18 from her four overs as Orla Prendergast and Eimear Richardson's contributions were not enough to stop their second defeat.

Opener Muneeba led the charge for Pakistan, scoring 33 of the 44 runs she and Javeria Khan put on for the first wicket before Javeria was run out by Mary Waldron. Captain Bismah Maroof added only four runs to the 68 not out she made against India as Arlene Kelly's fingertips just clung on to a low catch to reduce Pakistan to 55 for two. The wicket brought out Nida Dar, who unusually played the patient role next to Muneeba, who brought up her half-century from 40 balls by surviving the first of two drops by Louise Little.

Muneeba began to put on show for the crowd, as she brought up Pakistan's one hundred by pulling

Laura Delany on one knee for the second of back-to-back boundaries.

Nida was not to be out done, dancing down the wicket to smash Cara Murray for six, but she could only watch as Muneeba raced past her best score of 75 to become Pakistan's highest scorer in T20Is. With eight balls of the innings remaining, Muneeba brought up her maiden T20I hundred, the sixth scored in ICC Women's T20 World Cups.

In an eventful over, the hundred partnership followed a ball later, before Muneeba departed for 102 from 67 off Leah Paul's final delivery, and was welcomed back to the dug out with a standing ovation and a hug from a beaming Bismah. Nida and Ayesha Naseem also fell in the final over but it did not remove the skipper's smile as Pakistan set Ireland 166 to win. Ireland's lost steady wickets due lapses of concentrations, starting with Amy Hunter, who departed in the second over as Nashra took a fine catch over her shoulder.

Nida bowled four dot balls in a row and then had Gaby Lewis caught behind by Muneeba, who was never far from the action at Newlands. Prendergast gave Ireland a platform with a fluent 31, including back-to-back boundaries, but her

luck ran out when she was caught by Sadia Iqbal for Nashra's second wicket. Tubha Hassan then took her first World Cup wicket by dismissing Delany for eight.

Richardson was searching for a partner, but could only watch on as Little was stumped by Muneeba for three. However, unperturbed, the right hander started to find the boundary consistently, taking 16 runs off Aliya Riaz's first over.

However, she was next to depart when attempting a scoop, before Javeria caught Waldron to give Nashra her best figures of four for 18 and reduce Ireland to 89 for seven.

Unlike Ireland, Pakistan were sharp in the field, as Kelly departed for just one thanks to a low catch from Aiman Anwer.

Murray and Paul were the final two victims as Pakistan wrapped up the victory with 21 balls remaining.

Scores in brief
Pakistan beat Ireland at Newlands, Cape Town by 70 runs

Pakistan 165/5 in 20 overs (Muneeba Ali 102, Nida Dar 33; Arlene Kelly 2/27, Laura Delany 1/20)

Ireland 95 all out in 16.3 overs (Orla Prendergast 31, Eimear Richardson 28; Nashra Sundhu 4/18, Nida Dar 2/5)

Player of the Match: Muneeba Ali (Pakistan)

Ghazala Ansari Ladies Golf Tees Off

LAHORE (APP): The 2nd Ghazala Ansari Challenge Cup Ladies Amateur Golf Championship commenced here on Thursday at the Lahore Gymkhana Golf Club, under the overall supervision of Dr Asma Afzal Shami, the chief organiser of the event. Tournament Director Mrs Bela Azam is responsible for the conduct of the championship, ably assisted by the Chief Referee Mrs Munazza Shaheen.

Addressing the press con-

ference here at Gymkhana Golf Club, Dr Shami expressed great satisfaction at the fact that, since last few years, ladies golf in Pakistan has developed to a point where seven exclusive ladies amateur championships are included in the PGF Annual Golf Calendar. She stated that last year, a series of ladies golf championships were organized to honour the memory of our ladies golf icons of yester years, who were the true pioneers of

Ladies Golf in Pakistan and their epic achievements have made them our Role Models." Ex-President PGF, Gen. Hilal, commented, "Highlighting the tremendous accomplishments of yesteryear champions is an innovative idea and will certainly inspire Junior Girls to excel in Golf." The first such event was successfully organized by Dr. Shami in Peshawar in December 2021 to honour the memory of the late Ms Soni Wali.



SARGODHA: A view of football match played between Punjab College Joharabad and Superior College Joharabad during Inter Collegiate Football Tournament .

Attack-minded England take control of first Test in New Zealand

MOUNT MAUNGANUI (AFP/APP): High-octane batting and a precocious day-one declaration put England in control of the first Test against New Zealand in Mount Maunganui on Thursday.

The Black Caps limped to 37-3 at stumps in the day-night Test at the Bay Oval, having been thrust on to the back foot by England's swashbuckling 325-9 declared.

The tourists raced to their total in just 58.2 overs -- boosted by blistering half-centuries to Ben Duckett and Harry Brook -- as England opened the two-Test series with the sort of attacking approach, dubbed "Bazball", that has carried them to nine wins from their past 10 Tests under coach Brendon McCullum. England captain Ben Stokes instructed his lower-order batsmen to throw the bat before calling them in, leaving 18 overs to bowl at the Black Caps under lights with a new pink ball.

The play worked as Tom Latham, Kane Williamson

and Henry Nicholls departed before reaching double figures. Evergreen seamer James Anderson took 2-11, including the key wicket of Williamson following an lbw review. Opener Devon Conway will resume on 18 and nightwatchmen Neil Wagner on four, with a deficit of 288 runs staring at them on Friday.

It was a grim response to an England innings that featured 48 fours and one towering six from Brook off the bowling of New Zealand captain Tim Southee, who was lashed for 2-71 from 13 overs.

New Zealand's depleted attack fought back midway through the second session when Ollie Pope, Joe Root and Stokes fell in quick succession, allowing debut pace bowlers Blair Tuckner (1-72) and Scott Kugeleijn (2-80) to claim their maiden Test wickets.

However, momentum was snatched back by the in-form Brook, who accelerated to 89 off 81 balls, supported by 38 from Ben

Foakes. Playing just his fifth Test, the 23-year-old Yorkshireman Brook was poised to become only the second England batsman after Ken Barrington in the 1960s to hit centuries in four consecutive Tests.

However, he played on to Wagner (4-82), the veteran seamer benefiting from England's wild approach to the end of their innings.

Like Brook, Duckett was a revelation during the 3-0 series win in Pakistan in December and he maintained his hot streak with a rapid-fire 84 off 68 balls.

The hard-hitting opener had a chance of scoring England's fastest Test century -- surpassing Gilbert Jessop's 76-ball knock against Australia in 1902 -- before he fell to Tickner late in the first session.

Southee, leading his country at home for the first time, asked England to bat with the hope of exploiting the pink ball's swing on a green-tinged pitch that had been covered for days because of Cyclone Gabrielle.



KARACHI: A view of PSL match between Karachi king and Islamabad United.

Major upsets in ITF Pakistan World Junior Tennis Championships

ISLAMABAD (APP): Major upsets were caused in the semi-finals of the ITF Pakistan PPL - Syed Dilawar Abbas World Junior Tennis Championships as top seed players were seen off by their opponents at PTF-SDA Tennis Complex Islamabad on Thursday.

The 4th seed Vlada Guryleva of Russia eliminated top seed Zeynep Erbakan of Turkey in a thrilling three-set Girls Singles first semi-final 1-6 6-2 7-5.

In the second semi-final, unseeded Yejun Lee of Korea toppled 3rd seed Defne Erbakan of Turkey 6-1, 6-0 to make it to the final.

In the Boys Singles 1st semi-final, unseeded Yuan Lu of China qualified for the final as he edged passed 2nd seed Cem Atlamis of Turkey, who left the match due to a health issue.

In the second semi-final, 6th Seed Kamonpanyakorn Thadpong of Thailand eliminated 3rd seed Bugra Ockoc of Turkey in straight sets 6-2, 6-0.

Boys Singles Semi-finals: Yuan Lu (CHN) bt Cem Atlamis (TUR) 3-0 (Retd.); Kamonpanyakorn Thadpong (THA) bt Bugra Ockoc (TUR) 6-2, 6-0.

Girls Singles Semi-finals: Yejun Lee (KOR) bt Defne Erbakan (TUR) 6-1, 6-0; Vlada Guryleva (RUS) bt Zeynep Erbakan (TUR) 1-6, 6-2, 7-5.

Boys Doubles Quarter-finals: Keagan Jonathan (MAS) / Jihwan Kim (KOR) bt Mahatir Muhammad Khan (PAK) / Nadir Mirza (PAK) 6-2, 6-3; Cem Atlamis (TUR) / Mikhail Khodorchenko (RUS) bt Teetawat Tavachphongsri (THA) / Kamonpanyakorn Thadpong (THA) 4-6, 7-5, 10-4.

Girls Doubles Quarter-finals: Taira Abildayeva (KAZ) / Vlada Guryleva (RUS) w/o Polina Bershteyan (RUS) / Lilya Piskun (RUS); Anastasiya Kim (KAZ) / Jinshu Xia (CHN) bt Defne Erbakan (TUR) / Zeynep Erbakan (TUR) 2-6, 7-6(5) 10-7.

Islamabad United sail to victory over Karachi Kings

KARACHI (Monitoring Desk): Islamabad United Thursday defeated Karachi Kings by four wickets in the fourth match of the Pakistan Super League's (PSL) eighth edition at the National Bank Cricket Arena in Karachi.

Colin Munro and Azam Khan powered Islamabad United to a victory over Karachi Kings, the second defeat on their home ground. Opting to bowl first, the Shadab Khan-led Islamabad restricted Karachi to a target of 174 runs before chasing down the target in 18.2 overs.

Chasing the decent target, Munro put Islamabad in control after hitting 58 runs off just 28 balls, while Azam smashed a blistering 44 runs off 28 balls.

Munro hit five boundaries and five maximums before being bowled out, following a mix-up between him and Azam.

Mohammad Amir and Musa Khan gave Karachi early breakthroughs.

The left-arm pacer, Amir, sent Hassan Nawaz (7) packing with a short

delivery after the young batter hit him for a four.

Meanwhile, Musa, who previously represented Islamabad, got the better of the dangerous batter Paul Stirling after he scored four runs. After the two pacers claimed two quick wickets, skipper Imad Wasim bowled Rassie van der Dussen for 31 runs to break the 59-run partnership between the South African and Colin Munro.

For Karachi, Musa and Amir took two wickets, while Imad claimed one.

Earlier, Haider Ali starred as Karachi Kings set Islamabad United a 174-run target. Haider completed his half-century to put Karachi Kings in a strong position after losing Sharjeel Khan.

The batter hit seven fours and two maximums to score 59 runs off 45 balls. But, he fell to Faheem Ashraf. The former Peshawar Zalmi batter took on Islamabad's skipper Shadab Khan, hitting him for boundaries. The all-rounder conceded 40 runs and went wicketless. Following Haider's

departure, Wasim struck twice in an over by taking Matthew Wade's and Imad Wasim's wickets. The Australian batter could score only 18 runs, while skipper Imad, who smashed 80 runs in Karachi's opener against Peshawar, was sent back for a golden duck. The right-arm pacer put a halt to the Karachi Kings' effort to score big against Islamabad.

Meanwhile, Shoaib Malik, who scored 18 runs, fell to Ruman Raees.

After a fiery start, opener Sharjeel Khan (34) was sent back to the pavilion by Tom Curran.

To begin proceedings, experienced pacer Ruman Raees announced his comeback to Islamabad United by giving his side an early breakthrough. The left-arm pacer bowled James Vince (4) with an extraordinary in-swinging delivery on the last bowl of his first over. For Islamabad United, Wasim, Ruman Raees and Curran took two wickets each, while Ashraf claimed a scalp.

Measures afoot for promoting squash in KP: Dawood Khan

PESHAWAR (APP): President of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Squash Association and Secretary Higher Education Dawood Khan Thursday said that steps are being taken for the promotion of squash in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, which had the honor of producing seven world champions of squash.

He said this while talking to APP after meeting with the concerned officials of the education department in order to start the squash competitions at the grassroots level and especially involving the school's kids.

He said a comprehensive plan has been chalked out to have more competitions in different age groups this year which is why more

focus has been given to having competitions at the U9, U10, U11, U13, and U15 levels.

He said two of the international Circuit-I Boys and Girls Tournaments would be organized in Peshawar to give ample opportunities to our upcoming players to improve their respective ranking. He also appreciated Noor Zaman and Hamza Khan for their stunning display during the recently held Asian Junior Championship where Pakistan finished with the gold medal.

Flanked by squash legend Qamar Zaman and the officials of the Education Department, he said that the search for talent was started from the grassroots

level and the Education Department gave full cooperation in this regard, for which he is grateful.

The talent is being sought, we picked the best players from the schools and gave them training in the Qamar Zaman Squash Complex inside Peshawar Sports Complex besides conducting matches between them. "We got good players, they will be further groomed and this process will continue in the future," he added. Dawood Khan said that they are planning for international squash competitions in Peshawar and in this regard there will be a discussion at the government level, the governor and the chief minister will also be discussed.



LAHORE: A view of match between Master Paints vs Ds Polo during AR Developers Jinnah Gold Cup 2023.



In brief

MD PBM holds 'Khuli Katchehri'

ISLAMABAD (APP): Managing Director Pakistan Bait-ul-Mal (PBM), Amir Fida Paracha on Thursday conducted an open court 'Khuli Katchehri' here at PBM's Head Office, in order to resolve the general public matters on a priority basis. The Managing Director, in the presence of PBM Officers, listened to the queries and complaints of the applicants and gave directions to the concerned officers for immediate remedy. On the occasion, provincial and regional Directors were also got engaged online for the prompt solution of the underlined issues in the respective districts. The MD took immediate notice of poor and deserving persons and resolved the numerous issues of deserving students, patients, disabled persons and other needy persons. Moreover, he also entertained complaints related to the administrative measures of the organization. During the session, more than 50 persons were provided relief in resolving their issues. Speaking on the occasion, Amir Fida Paracha said that the main objective of the open court was to bridge the gap between the administration and beneficiaries for taking resilient measures to solve their problems.

Cheetah enters home

ISLAMABAD (NNI): A cheetah injured a man after it entered an under-construction house in Phase-II of Islamabad's Defence Housing Authority (DHA) on Thursday. Issuing instructions for the area residents following the incident, Assistant Commissioner (AC) Rural Zukhruf Fida Malik said that people were advised to stay indoors since a cheetah had been spotted in the residential area of the DHA. He said that teams of the wildlife department and the ICT administration were trying to trace the animal. The AC further said that parks and other recreational spots would remain closed unless the beast was traced.

Continue supporting quake victims: Patel

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for National Health Services Abdul Qadir Patel on Thursday said that Pakistan's medical team would serve the earthquake victims with full dedication and commitment in Syria and Türkiye. During a meeting with the Syrian envoy, the minister said that Pakistan would continue to extend support to both the countries. A 10-member medical team from Pakistan was serving quake affected people in Türkiye and Syria, he added. Patel extended heartfelt sympathies to the peoples of Türkiye and Syria over the human and material loss in the wake of the recent devastating earthquake. He said that Islamabad would not leave Türkiye and Syria alone in this testing time.

Mother Languages Literature Festival

ISLAMABAD (APP): The three-day "Pakistan Mother Languages Literature Festival" will be held at the Pakistan National Council of the Arts (PNCA) from February 17 to 19. The event will have parallel sessions on all three days. The festival would be organized by Indus Cultural Forum (ICF) in collaboration with PNCA. Adviser to the Prime Minister for Political, Public Affairs, National Heritage and Culture Engr Amir Muqam will inaugurate the festival while well-known scholars and language experts would participate in the festival.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for National Health Services Abdulqadir Patel called on Ramez Alraee, Ambassador of Syrian Arab Republic.

Tarar asks for constituting medical board to examine IK's health

ISLAMABAD (APP): Special Assistant to the Prime Minister (SAPM) on Interior Attaullah Tarar on Thursday said a medical board should be constituted to examine PTI chairman Imran Khan, who was constantly skipping appearances in different court cases with lame excuses of bad health.

"Supreme Court of Pakistan and Lahore Court should take notice of delaying tactics of Imran Khan for not appearing before the courts by constituting a medical board comprising best doctors from public and private hospitals to determine the health condition of PTI chairman," he said while addressing a news conference.

He said that the board should determine whether Imran Khan's health condition allowed him to appear before the courts in pending cases or not.

"A factual report based on facts should be presented in the court about Imran's health condition."

The SAPM said there were reports that Imran Khan was managing fake

medical reports to present in the courts. "Imran Khan is fit for all other activities except appearing before the courts" he expressed astonishment.

The SAPM demanded holding case hearings against Imran Khan on day to day basis besides live broadcasts of their proceedings so that the nation could know about his real face. He said hearing of a case against Imran Khan had been delayed six times, while this facility was not available for the common men. He was of the view that this facility was available for "Ladla" only, adding "Imran Khan wants that the courts should walk to his home and give him a clean chit". He said Imran Khan was in the habit of taking relief by sitting at home, and now the PTI chairman had started begging the courts not to summon him.

He recalled that Imran Khan was used to making a joke about Shehbaz Sharif who was suffering from severe pain in his back, but now he (IK) felt fear to appear before the courts

and was making lame excuses to skip the proceedings.

Tarar said Imran Khan had been using different tactics and resorted to technicalities for the delay, instead of giving arguments and facing the courts.

He said Imran Khan managed to delay his foreign funding case with the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) for six years and the same tactics were being used in the Toshakhana and Tyrian White cases.

He said on one side Imran Khan had announced "Jail Bharo Threek" (fill the jail movement) while on other side he was approaching the court for protective bail.

The SAPM said the PTI leadership considered itself as 'untouchable' but it would have to face accountability for all the wrongdoings. Attaullah Tarar said an affidavit was submitted in the court declaring an aunt of Tyrian White as her guardian but Imran Khan had now challenged the jurisdiction of the court instead of facing it.

Sajid Turi calls on UAE counterpart

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development Sajid Hussain Turi called on his UAE counterpart Dr Abdul Rahman bin Abdul Manan Al Alwar, on the sidelines of the 'World Government Summit' in Dubai.

The Pakistani delegation, led by Turi, discussed bilateral relations and employment opportunities for Pakistanis in the United Arab Emirates, according to a press release.

Issues of mutual interest also came under discussion. Turi also highlighted the issues faced by Pakistani workers in the

UAE, including their working conditions and the overall welfare of the Pakistani community.

Both sides explored ways to further enhance the existing cooperation between the two countries in the field of employment.

Sajid said, "Pakistan and the UAE share a strong bond based on brotherhood, religion, culture and trade."

Both the dignitaries agreed to jointly address the issues of Pakistani community and workers in the UAE. Dr Abdul Rahman appreciated the contribution of Pakistani workers in the Emirates economy, and assured the delegation that his min-

istry would be committed to protecting the rights of workers and ensuring their welfare.

Sajid Turi said, "The UAE is home to the largest number of Pakistani manpower and we are keen to provide more workforce to the UAE to meet its requirement."

The meeting concluded on a positive note, with both the sides agreeing to continue their collaboration and work towards ensuring the protection and welfare of Pakistani workers in the UAE. Meanwhile, on the sidelines of the Summit, Sajid Turi also held meetings with various other delegations and ministers.

HEC invites applications for accreditation of National Research Journals

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Higher Education Commission (HEC), Pakistan has invited applications for accreditation of Pakistan-based research journals for the year 2023-24 (July 1, 2023-June 30, 2024). The applications can be submitted at research.hec.gov.pk before March 13, 2023.

HEC facilitates national research journals published by registered entities through financial support and capacity building to enhance their academic and publication standards.

These entities include universities/degree awarding institutions (DAIs), public sector Research and Development (R&D) organisations and non-profit academic societies with the mandate for research and having registration with the Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) and/or Registrar of Societies only.

National research journals complying with HEC requirements for accreditation are recognised annually through an open call. Applications are invited for the above-said year from all Pakistan-based research journals, which meet the minimum eligibility criteria.

The entities applying for accreditation must have valid ISSN, Journal Title, functional website, editorial or advisory board with composition of PhD degree holders in relevant field or FCPS/FRCSMCPS degrees for medical journals and strong research and publication background.

The journal must be owned by a university/DAI, R&D organisation, private society, or NGO. It must have published minimum five original research articles per issue and at least two review reports of each article.

The editor of the journal will provide a recommendation letter from the head of the institution in case of an approved educational institution or R&D public sector organisation.

The journals owned by non-profit academic societies with the mandate for research will be considered only after registration with SECP and/or Registrar of Societies.

The journals listed in removed Directory of Open Access Journal (DOAJ) or Australian Business Deans Committee (ABDC) will not be considered for accreditation. For updates, the applicants may visit research.hec.gov.pk

'Imran responsible for prevailing economic crisis'

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister Javed Latif of Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) Thursday criticised that the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI)'s chief Imran Khan was responsible for the prevailing economic crisis and that his politics was based only on lies.

Talking to a private news channel, Mian Javed said that inflation and unemployment had also broken all records under the PTI-rule and now the time has come for the leadership of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf to be accountable before the masses. "The coalition government has taken over to help the country come out of hardships," he said adding "the situation created by Khan's government had dragged us to the edge of destruction."

Replying to a question, he said that when the PML-N tenure ended in 2018, the dollar-rupee parity stood at 116 but when the PTI regime was removed through a vote of no-confidence one dollar was equal to Rs189.

PNCA to hold child art show start today

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan National Council of the Arts (PNCA) will hold an exciting art show featuring works by children, here from February 17-18.

The show is being organized by Discovering New Artists (DNA) in collaboration with PNCA. This is the 9th Art for Change -International Child Art Exhibition for the 140+ child artists who have been selected as best artists among the 6,500+ art submissions from private, public, and under-resourced schools from 15 different countries across the globe.

Art for Change - International Child Art Exhibition is a collection of paintings on canvas with compassion and care for a noble cause. These art pieces are the most recent works of the junior artists depicting the theme 'Colors of Nature, Girls Education, and Innovate the Future.' The team of Discovering New Artists tried its best to make 'Art for Change - International Child Art Competition and Exhibition' a refreshing and fruitful experience for both the volunteers and the children, said the organizers.

Supporting Kashmir cause need of hour: Kaira

ISLAMABAD (APP): Adviser to the Prime Minister on Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit Baltistan, Qamar Zaman Kaira has said that the time has come to support the people of Kashmir with unity and show solidarity with them at all levels.

He expressed these words while addressing a seminar titled "Commemorating Solidarity with Kashmiris" organized by Iqbal International Institute for Research & Dialogue, IRD of International Islamic University Islamabad (IIUI) held at Allama Iqbal Auditorium, Faisal Masjid Campus on Thursday.

Adviser to the Prime Minister said that the Pakistani nation should highlight the Kashmir cause at international forums by spreading the strapping message of supporting their right to self-determination. Addressing participants of the seminar Qamar Zaman Kaira said that Kashmir is a jocular vein and an integral part of Pakistan, adding the whole nation is endorsing the Kashmir cause from generations to generations.

Reiterating the government's resolve to support Kashmiris, Qamar Zaman Kaira said that people from all walks of life including officials, students, journalists and all Pakistanis were supporting the just demand of Kashmiris for the right to self-determination. He added that Kashmir cause is a matter of human rights. He said India is using different tactics to suppress the freedom struggle of Kashmiris but it will not succeed in its nefarious agenda.

Former Diplomat Abdul Basit briefed the seminar participants about the historical background of Kashmir cause and highlighted the efforts of Pakistan in this regard at the international level, Abdul Basit urged students to highlight the issue on Social Media through various networks to raise awareness in the international community for justice.

Prof. N.B Jumani, Vice President (A&F) of International Islamic University Islamabad lauded the role of Iqbal International Institute for Research and Dialogue for conducting such seminars and conferences on core issues.

Addressing the seminar participants, Dr. Jumani said that training of youth is vital for highlighting the issues at international forums while future generations must be provided an opportunity to use these platforms to highlight such issues, he added. Brig (R) Dr. Muhammad Khan, Director (Academics), Professor of the Department of Politics & IR at International Islamic University Islamabad delivered a keynote speech during the seminar. He added that the primary focus of this solidarity is the people of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK), who have undergone massive human rights violations at the hands of Indian security forces.

Speakers of the seminar reiterated that Pakistan values the sacrifices of thousands of Kashmiris in the pursuit of freedom and right to self-determination and Pakistan will continue to raise its voice for the Kashmir cause at all international forums till the attainment of their basic right to self-determination and freedom in accordance with the relevant UNSC resolutions.

Zaman Bajwa, Executive Director Youth Forum for Kashmir, Dr. Kamran Kazmi, In-Charge Department of Urdu, IIUI, Shaikh Abdul Mateen, Secretary General Huriyat Conference, IIUI also addressed the seminar.

A large number of university students participated and interacted with the speakers of the seminar during the question answer session. At the end of the seminar commemorative shields were presented to guests of the seminar.

Govt releases over Rs 14b for 113 housing sector projects

ISLAMABAD (APP): The government has so far released funds amounting to Rs 14.252 billion, under the Public Sector Development Programme (PSDP 2022-23) against a total allocation of around Rs 18.737 billion to execute 113 different projects aimed at ensuring the availability of affordable residential facilities.

Out of the total authorization/disbursement of Rs 14,252.66 million, around Rs 3,191.77million have been utilized on the housing sector projects during a seven-month period (July-January) of the current fiscal year, according to official data available with APP.

The budgetary allocation included Rs 12,273.329 million for 107 ongoing projects and Rs 1,711.875 million for six new schemes. As per the PSDP document, an amount of Rs 523.168 million had been earmarked for rehabilitation and construction roads of Hyderabad City (20 development schemes). Similarly, an amount of Rs 486.159 million had been kept for the construction of metal roads in different areas of District Bahawalpur (24 develop-

ment schemes, while Rs 406.211 million were specified for construction of black top roads, Purana Duki and Rabbat villages, District Duki.

Regarding the new development schemes, an amount of Rs 1,000 million was allocated for rehabilitation and construction of roads in SITE Industrial Estate, Karachi. An amount of Rs 250 million had been earmarked for construction of carpet road from Kot Sher to Jajoki, District Gujranwala. Likewise, Rs 239.875 million would be kept for balance liabilities of 2018.

NUST launches Climate Action Plan to mitigate impacts of climate change

ISLAMABAD (APP): The National University of Sciences and Technology (NUST) on Thursday organised first-ever Partnership for Climate Action (PCA-2023) conference in from February 14 to 16. The conference titled "Science for Sustainability," was held in collaboration with Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), German Red Cross, Pakistan Red Crescent, International Federation of Red Cross, International Rescue Committee and Welt Hunger Hilfe.

The prime objective was to bring together and connect youth, academia and other stakeholders to build meaningful partnerships towards addressing climate change challenges.

The conference also provided an opportunity to NUST to showcase its climate resilient technologies for potential deployment and commercialisation, and closely engage with stakeholders from the Government and Development Sector to

accelerate progress towards a sustainable future. In his welcome remarks, NUST Pro-Rector Research, Innovation & Commercialisation Dr Rizwan Riaz said that the university took its social responsibility seriously and had aligned all its core functions to the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

Most significantly, he maintained, the NUST was proactively engaged in developing innovative technologies and devices to address the challenges of climate change. He also highlighted the importance of Partnership for Climate Action – a platform to share best practices, collaborate on new initiatives, and leverage collective resources to drive progress. He added that the NUST Climate Action Plan was an important step towards making a real impact.

The three-day event spanned across climate action policy simulation, youth activity, expert panel discussions, conference and exhibition, followed by the launch of Climate Action Plan and MoU signing.



ISLAMABAD: Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Religious Harmony Maulana Tahir Mahmood Ashrafi addressing a press conference at Jamia Masjid Maaz Bin Jabal.

Police arrests 7 drug dealers

KABUL (Agencies): Counter-narcotics police arrested Seven drug dealers in four provinces of the country. The Ministry of Interior in a statement said that the counter-narcotics officers in four provinces cleared an acre of land from poppy cultivation and arrested 7 drug dealers. The drug dealers arrested from the provinces of Kabul, Parwan and Uruzgan. The Interior Ministry's statement said that one acre of land was cleared from poppy cultivation in Farahroud district of Farah province.

Forces discovered ammunition

KABUL (Agencies): The Ministry of National Defense said that their forces recovered a large number of ammunition in Maidan Wardak. A person arrested with the recovered ammunition from Maidan Shahr the capital of the province, said the Ministry in statement. The recovered ammunition includes 8,500 heavy weapon shells and 4,500 light weapon shells. The detainee sent to relevant authorities for further investigation, added to the statement.

9m students studying in schools, varsities



KABUL (TOLOnews): The acting foreign minister at a ceremony marking the 34th anniversary of the withdrawal of Soviet forces said that Islamic Emirate has made some progress and achievements, and currently million students are studying in schools and universities. "Today 9 million students are studying in schools and universities and it's a big difference," said Amir Khan Muttaqi,

acting minister of Foreign Affairs. Meanwhile, some women criticized the Islamic Emirate and said that they are concerned about the closing of schools and universities for women. "We are disappointed, and we are concerned that universities should not be closed like schools," said Hassina Raufi, a student. Meanwhile, some residents of the capital stressed the need for education and

called on the Islamic Emirate to open universities for girls. "We call on the government to take positive steps in this regard," said Abdullah, a Kabul resident. "Education is obligatory for women and men," said Abdul Hafiz, a Kabul resident. Earlier, the Islamic Emirate decreed a ban on female students from attending schools and universities.

115 roadblocks removed since political change

KABUL (Pajhwok): Since the August 2021 political change in the country, concrete security barriers have been removed from 115 roads, streets and pavements, an official said. Many roads that had been closed by government officials and powerful individuals in the past have been reopened in Kabul to facilitate the movement of vehicles and pedestrians. Niamatullah Barakzai, a representative of the Kabul municipality, told Pajhwok that some streets and roads were blocked on the pretext of security by officials of the former government. He said the Kabul municipality at that time was not allowed by the government to remove such roadblocks set up in various parts of Kabul. But after the political change in the country, the Kabul municipality shared the issue of security barriers with officials of the IEA, who directed the municipality to remove these barriers, a process that began from the Defense Ministry. In general, a total of 115 barriers have been removed

from roads and streets of Kabul city and the routes were open for pedestrians and traffic, Barakzai said. "Now, all these roads and streets are open, such roads and streets are not for private use of anyone, no one is allowed to close such routes under any reason and pretext," he said. Barakzai did not give a timeframe, but said the remaining roadblocks would be lifted as well. Kabul residents appreciated the municipality's move to remove security barricades from roads, calling it a good step for urban order. Toopan Sultani, a resident of Sherpur area of Kabul city, told Pajhwok that officials of the former government had built these security barriers on streets and on roads which created problems for the public. Sultani said majority of such streets and roads were now open for the people and he asked the government to reconstruct the destroyed roads as well. Firdaus, a resident of Wazir Mohammad Akbar Khan area, told Pajhwok that

people would face many difficulties crossing the security barricades which had been removed now. He asked the municipality to redouble its efforts for maintaining urban order, remove the remaining security barriers and to pave with asphalt the dirt streets. Some drivers also welcomed the removal of security barricades from roads and it resolved many problems they faced earlier. Rahamtullah, a taxi driver, said some streets and roads had been closed by security barriers in the past, they had to face problems reaching to their destination. "Those problems have been solved and traffic congestion has also decreased in the city," he said. He asked the municipality to create more facilities for the residents of Kabul city. Officials of ex-government had closed many roads and streets in important parts of Kabul city such as Wazir Mohammad Akbar Khan, Sherpur, Shahri-i-Naw, Qalai Fathullah, Karti Seh, Karte Chahar, Karte Parwan and some other locations.

Saif al Adel new leader of Al Qaeda, says report

KABUL (TOLOnews): A United Nations team said that after the killing of Ayman al-Zawahiri in Kabul, Saif al Adel has become the new leader of the network. According to a report in the Washington Examiner, the new leader of Al Qaeda is Saif al Adel — a long-time jihadi who has spent years operating in Iran under the protection of the Iranian regime. According to the Examiner, the UN monitoring team said its member countries had "flagged that al-Zawahiri's evident presence in Kabul had been an embarrassment for the Taliban, which is seeking legitimacy as a governing authority, and that Al-Qaeda chose not to exacer-

bate this by acknowledging the death." However, the Islamic Emirate said that these reports are untrue and that the Islamic Emirate has been the target of similar accusations for the past 20 years. "Sadly, these are charges that have been made over the past 20 years, but they do not match the current situation in Afghanistan," said Suhail Shaheen, the head of the Islamic Emirate's political office in Qatar. "Regarding Zawahiri, I should say that the case is not related to Afghanistan. No result was found by the committee which was appointed to investigate the claims. What did they decide after all? It doesn't

belong to the Afghans," said Zabiullah Mujahid, a spokesman for the Islamic Emirate. Some political analysts have different views on this. "The Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan is seeking recognition for their government, and, for this reason, it cannot confirm the American claim that Ayman al-Zawahiri was killed in Kabul," said Najiburahman Shamal, a political analyst. "It's just a project, nothing more. If Ayman al-Zawahiri was indeed killed in Afghanistan, the Americans and the Taliban should display the body to the press and prove that it was Ayman al-Zawahiri," said Aziz Marij, another political analyst.

On anniversary of Soviet pullout, Afghans recount atrocities

KABUL (TOLOnews): Some Afghans who witnessed the former Soviet Union's invasion of Afghanistan have traumatic stories of the brutality and terror of the Red Army. They said that soldiers of the former Soviet Union massacred citizens, including women and children. Former jihadist commander Ahmad Ali Ghordarwazi fought former

Soviet forces. After years of fighting in Herat against the former Soviet forces, he became commander of a large army of soldiers. "Consider the Ukraine-related videos; Afghanistan was the same way. They used their artillery, bombers, and missiles. For a week, they bombed a little village day and night," Ghordarwazi said. "Our friends were mar-

tyred in hundreds of places, our friends have been martyred. In the Khandaq region of Paktia's Zurmat, Russian forces came there and martyred many people," said Mohammad Karim, a resident of Paktia. Abdul Salam Sadat, a resident of Nimruz province, said that Soviet soldiers killed 25 of his family members and his relatives.

In Kapisa, 40-year-old feud comes to an end

MAHMOOD RAQI (Pajhwok): Two families have ended their 40-year-old enmity in the Nijrab district of central Kapisa province. A gathering marking reconciliation between the families of Nawab Khan and Saddam was held in Mahmood Raqi, the provincial capital. Governor Qari Ehsanullah Baryalai said: "It's a pleasure for us to show the world our victory in combat and in peace-time, as well as our ability to resolve rifts among Muslims."

He stressed the need for unity and cohesion among Muslims. The elimination of differences and prejudices was the need of the hour, he said. Sheikh Maulvi Ehsanullah, chief of Ulama Council, hailed peace and reconciliation between the families as a good achievement of the Islamic Emirate government. "The ground for peace and reconciliation between families and the end of differences has been paved by the sacrifices of mujahideen," he commented. Maulvi Sediqullah Sayyad, director of border affairs, welcomed the end to the enmity, saying: "My department has been able to resolve 42 such disputes in more than one year."

22 tankers of low quality oil returned back to Iran

KABUL (Agencies): The country's National Standards administration says that about 22the tankers of low-quality oil returned back to Iran exported lately from that country. 22 tankers of low-quality oil (diesel and gasoline) that did not meet the standards of the administration were returned to Iran at Islam Qala port in Herat province. The National Standards Administration has taken practical steps to prevent the importation of low-quality oil, said the administration in a statement. The national Standards administration asks all traders to import quality goods to the country, otherwise they will face the same legal action.

An oil storage cost over 100m Afs opened

KABUL (Agencies): Acting Finance Minister, Mullah Hidayatullah Badri, during his visit to Baghlan, opened a 300 ton oil storage in Pul Khumri the capital of Baghlan with a cost of 102 million Afghans. Finance Minister, at opening ceremony of the oil reservoir, said government plans to build factories and provide more job opportunities for the people, adding that in the next four years, 80% of Afghanistan's gas needs will be met. The general director of petroleum products, Engineer Naseer Ahmad Rahimi, called the opening of this reservoir very important in terms of increasing the government's revenue and price control.

Appellate Court reviews 5,000 cases' in 10 months

JALALABAD CITY (TOLOnews): The Nangarhar Appellate Court said that during the past 10 months, it has reviewed nearly 5,000 cases. According to these officials, some people in connection with these cases have been given execution sentences, lengthy prison terms, and body part amputations; however, these sentences have not yet been carried out. They say that following

the public whipping of 30 people, crime has decreased in the province. "We have decreed that this person should be killed and that person should have his hand cut. This person needs to be whipped. Three courts must rule on it, and after those three courts, Amir al-Muminin should read it and sign it, his signature is necessary," said Mawlawi Kalimullah, the chief of the Nangarhar Appellate Court.

Meanwhile, a number of Nangarhar residents expressed their concerns about the theft and kidnapping incidents in the province and urged the authorities to pay attention. "Armed thieves recently stole the phone of one of my friends in the Ulfat Mina neighborhood and stabbed him," said Safiullah Karimi, a resident of Nangarhar. "A traffic officer's home is just next to us. Robbers

broke into the man's home wearing private clothing and took his wife's gold jewelry and his family members' cell phones," said Mekayel Farooqi, another resident of Nangarhar. According to Nangarhar residents, crime will decrease dramatically if young people are given employment opportunities in addition to receiving harsh punishments for their crimes.

Mujahid: We should always listen to people's legitimate demands

KABUL (TOLOnews): Acting Defense Minister Mawlawi Mohammad Yaqoob Mujahid said, "We should always listen to the legitimate demands of the people and try to gather this nation around us, and then we and our nation will cooperate in every development." The acting defense minister said that they want to create a government that all Afghan people want. He said that "in the light of such a government, we want to live freely and without any physical, intellectual, or religious invasion."



"They (Afghans) must be committed to Afghanistan's prosperity, reconstruction and a strong system and not allow Afghanistan to be involved in challenges once again. We should never be arrogant and proud. We should always listen to the legitimate demands of the nation and try to gather this nation around us and then we and our nation will cooperate in every development, and will progress and prevent any possible disaster and not become a victim of the evil goals of foreigners," he said. A large number of Islamic Emirate senior officials, including the acting defense minister, attended the event marking the 34th anniversary of the Soviet Union's withdrawal of troops from Afghanistan. Amir Khan Muttaqi, the acting foreign minister, said

during the event that the current government wants to have diplomatic and economic ties with the international community. Muttaqi stressed that the world cannot tolerate Afghanistan's progress. "We will defend our country, but we also want to have good ties with the world. We want economic, commercial, and diplomatic relations. While we were negotiating with the Americans in Qatar, we were also fighting with them. At that time, we informed them that we would not allow any of you

in military uniforms in Afghanistan, but if you come for business and politics, come and have relations with us like other countries. We will also make the announcement today," Muttaqi said. The acting Minister of Petroleum and Mines, Shahabuddin Delawar, at the ceremony asked the officials of the Islamic Emirate to support the legitimate demands of the people. He emphasized that although achieving freedom is important, so is preserving it.

"A minister, a governor, a district governor, a judge, or whoever it is--- must support the legitimate demands of our people," Delawar added. "Soviet, KGB, and American slaves, there are and will be such individuals in any style and at any time," said Khalil Rahman Haqqani, the acting minister of refugees and repatriation. Nearly 2 million people were killed and thousands more were left disabled during the former Soviet Union's more than nine-year presence in Afghanistan.

Herat's Jadea-i-Lelami market stallers complain high rents

HERAT CITY (Pajhwok): Market stallers of the second hand items in western Herat province have complained against poor market condition and high rents of their stalls saying they were unable to pay their rent. Ali Ahmad, one of the stallers of Jada-i-Lilami in Herat City, told Pajhwok Afghan News Company that had the construction contract of Jada-i-Lilami charged them monthly rent 3,500 afs. He added market stalls are made in a way in which there is no place for an individual and did not deserve this amount of rent to be paid for. Nasir, another staller said, due to the low sales, paying that much rent is back breaking for them while they are forced to pay

the rent from their pocket money. "Stalls in this shape worth only 1,500 afs monthly rent each, but we are asked for 3,500 afs monthly rent, one stall occupied 1.5 meters of area, the vendor cannot sit in it", Nasir said. "We were not asked for stalls rent rent in the past but now we are asked for it while we are not offered any services by the contracting company, some vendors said. However some of the shopkeepers also complain from a chaotic situation in front of their shops, the peddlers made it very crowded for the pedestrians, they said. Abdul Wahab, one of the shopkeepers said, stalls were taken from the

road and placed on footpath which made it very hard for the pedestrians to walk. He said shopkeepers has to pay their rent as well, so the stallers must be provided a special place because it hampered the view of the entire city, Abdul Wahad said. Officials of the Contracting Company said, about 700 of market stalls have built in Jadae Lelami Froshi, the stalls at the northern side of the road are charged 3,500 afs monthly rent while the stalls at the southern side are charged 3,000 afs monthly rent. Said Nazir Hashimi, the administrative director of the contracting company told Pajhwok Afghan News, they have decreased

the rent of every stall 500 afs according the dwindling market situation of the market. Mohammad Nasir Yarmal, the spokesman of the municipality said, the rent of every stall decreased up to 30 percent according to the market condition. Building these stalls were a good step towards jobs generation for the youth, Yarmal said. It is worth mentioning that Jadae Lelami Froshi is one of the most crowded parts of Herat city where the jewelry and clothing markets are also situated. Stallers had asked the government to help them with decreasing the duty and the rents of the stalls. They believe the punched rents on these stalls were back breaking for them.

Armed forces raided a private TV network in Afghanistan

KABUL (Khaama Press): A group of Taliban members stormed Tamaddon TV network's compound in Kabul on Tuesday, and harassed the employees of the media organization, according to official sources. Islamic Emirate members entered the compound at around 4:30 pm on Tuesday and conducted a search operation in all the departments, according to Afghan Independent Journalist Association met with Kabul Police Chief Commander Khalid Zadran at the Tamaddon TV compound and shared the complaints with the relevant authorities. Mr. Zadran assured that a comprehensive investigation is underway and the findings will be shared with the head of Tamaddon TV and AIJA in a timely manner. Besides condemning the incident in which jour-

nalists and media workers were harassed, AIJA has asked for a thorough investigation and suggested the relevant organizations to prevent such raids in the future. It is also stated that in case of violation of rules by media outlets, relevant entities (Ministry of Information and Culture and Media Violation Commission) should take action. Previous also, the Taliban members had stormed media organizations in Afghanistan — threatened media workers and journalists. On certain occasions, they even detained and persecuted journalists. Taliban authorities have

warned the media outlets that their publications and programs should be Islamic, and avoid using negative thoughts against the ruling regime. Since the Taliban's return to power in August 2021, the group is accused of arbitrary arrest and abuse of dozens of journalists and media workers. The group has imposed tough restrictions on media outlets, especially on women journalists. In 2006, the Tamaddon TV network was founded by Ayatullah Asif Mohseni, a prominent Shia leader in the country who died in 2019. The network airs programs in Farsi and Pashto.



KARACHI: President Dr. Arif Alvi addressing the 20th convocation ceremony of Iqra University.

Failure in submission of comments for conduct of polls PHC to decide petition on available records on Monday

Humayun Khan

PESHAWAR: A divisional bench of Peshawar High Court (PHC) comprised of Justice Ishtiaq Ibrahim and Justice Syed Arshad Ali has provided to more days to Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa for submission of reply for holding elections within 90 days while adjourned further hearing till Monday (20 February), on Thursday.

During hearing of writ petitions filed by Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) seeking elections within 90 days, Justice Ishtiaq Ibrahim observed that court has ordered Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa to submit reply if anyone may submit or not the reply but PHC will decide the case on available record on 20th February because it is constitutional matter.

PTI's chairman lawyer Qazi Muhammad Anwar, Shumail Ahmad Butt and Moazzam Butt Advocates appeared on behalf other PTI's members while Advocate General Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Amir Javeed appeared for provincial government and Mohsin Kamran appeared for Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP). PTI's chairman counsel argued that government referring that ECP should consent with Governor

but it is other matter and added that election commission can announce schedule for elections.

It is constitutional matter and election should be held within 90 days while ECP reply didn't available on file, Shumail Ahmad Butt argued. PTI lawyer also objected submission of reply by Advocate General Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on behalf of Governor because he is representative of provincial government.

In the meantime, Justice Ishtiaq Ibrahim remarked that PHC has ordered Advocate General to submit reply on behalf of Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa as Principal Law Officer and added that if necessary Governor will nominate his counsel.

Advocate General Amir Javeed informed that reply was delayed because Governor was busy from two days while added that he has informed Principal Secretary in this regard. He assured PHC that comments on behalf of Governor should be submitted within days.

However, Justice Syed Arshad Ali remarked that it is important case and a constitutional issue, court will provide opportunity to everyone while counsel for petitioner Moazzam Butt Advocate Governor playing delaying

tactics in this regard and added that court should ensure it.

Former Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Shah Farman argued on the rostrum that activities for holding elections should be initiated at least 54 days earlier to smoothly concluded the process and added that time is completed on 23rd February while requested for fixing the hearing on Monday. He requested PHC to direct Governor to announce schedule for election of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Assembly.

After hearing Senator Shibli Faraz said that PTI is confronting with politicians whom neither accepting constitution nor law and claimed that anyone involved in treason is liable for imposition of Article 6 while addressing media personnel. He claimed that Iqram Khan Durrani is running the province rather than caretaker Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

Former Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Shah Farman claimed that announcement of date for election is the responsibility of Governor neither of the ECP. He added that only 54 days are remaining for conducting otherwise high treason will committed against Constitution of Pakistan.

Court returns reference against Nawaz to NAB

LAHORE (INP): An accountability court on Thursday returned a plot allotment reference against former prime minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif and others to the National Accountability Bureau (NAB).

The court held that the matter did not fall under its jurisdiction as per amended National Accountability Ordinance (NAO). Accountability Court Judge Rao Abdul Jabbar passed the orders while disposing of seven different applications, filed by Yousaf Abbas and other relatives of Nawaz Sharif, against auction of assets, owned by the former prime minister.

Yousaf Abbas and others had filed applications, stating that the court declared Nawaz Sharif as an absconder over non-appearance in the matter and ordered to auction his properties. They submitted that their rights would also be affected if the properties of the former premier were auctioned. They submitted that after the new amendment, the case did not fall within the jurisdiction of NAB and the accountability court, as the amount involved in the reference was less than Rs 500 million. They submitted that the order, passed by the court for auction of the assets owned by the former prime minister, could not be implemented since it lacked jurisdiction to hear the case. They asked the court to immediately suspend its order for auction of the assets.

Buzdar gets interim bail in assets case

LAHORE (PPD): An accountability court in Lahore on Thursday barred the National Accountability Bureau from arresting former Punjab chief minister Sardar Usman Buzdar, accepting his interim bail in an inquiry into amassing assets beyond means and a call-up notice by NAB till February 27.

In his request, the former chief minister said that National Accountability Bureau had summoned him in amassing assets beyond means inquiry.

He said he feared he could be arrested. So he needed interim bail. Usman Buzdar personally appeared in court and pleaded for interim bail. Barrister Momin Malik advanced arguments on behalf of Usman Buzdar. The court granted Buzdar interim bail till February 27 and asked NAB not to arrest the former chief minister. The court directed the former chief minister to submit two surety bonds of five lac rupees each.

Over 70 PTI MNAs move LHC

LAHORE (Agencies): More members of the National Assembly (MNAs) belonging to the Pakistan Tehrik-e-Insaf (PTI), who had resigned en masse in April 2022 following the ouster of the party's government after voting on the no-trust motion, challenged acceptance of their resignations in the Lahore High Court (LHC).

They cited the NA speaker, the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) and others as respondents in their petition. Over 70 PTI MNAs, including Fawad Chaudhry, Shah Mahmood Qureshi, Pervaiz Khattak and Asad Umar, told the Lahore High Court (LHC) that the speaker did not listen to their viewpoints before accepting their resignations.

And the ECP, too, did not waste a minute and de-notified them, read the petition. "Therefore, it is prayed to the court to declare the acceptance of PTI lawmakers' resignations null and void," the petition concluded.

rejected twice by Islamabad's sessions court which prompted Sheikh to approach the IHC seeking his release. The plea was heard by Justice Mohsin Akhtar Kayani.

At the outset of the hearing, Rashid's counsel Salman Akram Raja informed the court about a statement given by his client.

22 KP police officers transferred

E.P. Report

PESHAWAR: The Inspector General of Police (IGP) Khyber Pakhtunkhwa in a major reshuffle of police officers including District Police Officer (DPOs) issued the orders of the transfer/posting of 22 officers, said a notification issued here on Thursday.

According to the notification, Mr. Irfan Tariq PSP (BS-19) District Police Officer (DPO) Mansehra has transferred and posted as Deputy Commandant Elite Force, KP while Mr. Imran Shahid PSP (BS19) DPO Haripur has been closed to CPO for further posting.

Mr. Zahoor Babar (PSP) BS-18 SSP Coordination Capital City Police (CCP) Peshawar has been posted as new DPO Mansehra while Mr. Abdul Rasheed PSP (BS-18) DPO Mohmand has been put at the disposal of the Counter-Terrorism Department (CTD) KP, Mr. Tariq Sohail PSP (BS-18) DPO Upper Dir has also been put at the disposal of CTD KP,

Mohammad Omar Khan (PSP) (BS-18) DPO Nowshera has been posted as DPO Haripur.

Furthermore, Mr. Muhammad Imran PSP (BS-18) DPO Shangla has been transferred and posted at Kurram replacing Abdul Samad Khan PP (BS-18), who has been put at the disposal of Commandant Elite Force KP, Mr. Iqram Ullah PSP (BS-18) DPO Dir Lower has been transferred and posted as DPO Lower Chitral, Mr. Nasir Mahmood PSP (BS-18) DPO Lower Chitral has also been transferred and posted as DPO Nowhera, Mr. Tariq Iqbal PP (BS-18) SSP RRF Peshawar Region as DPO Lower Dir, Mr. Sajjad Ahmad Sahibzada PP (BS-18) DPO Charsadda has been transferred and posted as DPO Shangla while Mr. Muhammad Arif PP (BS-18) Director Police School of Explosives Handling, Nowshera has been transferred and posted as DPO Charsadda, Mr. Mohammad Ayaz PP (BS-

18) who was posted as Additional SP Haripur has been posted as DPO Mohmand, Mr. Mushatq Ahmad PP (BS-18) SP Investigation Lower Dir has been posted as DPO Upper Dir, Mr. Muhammad Khalid PP (BS-18) SP Investigation Lower Chitral has been transferred and posted as DPO Upper Kohistan.

Similarly, Mr. Tahir Iqbal PP (BS-18) DPO Upper Kohistan has been put at the disposal of CTD KP, Mr. Muhammad Ishfaq PP (BS-18) SP Investigation Abbottabad has also been transferred and posted as DPO Lower Kohistan, Mr. Tariq Mahmood (PP) (BS-18) DPO Lower Kohistan has also been put at the disposal of CTD KP, Mr. Nazir Khan PP (BS-18) DPO Orakzai has been transferred and posted as DPO Bajaur while Mr. Nazir Ahmad PP (BS-18) SP CTD Hazara Region has been posted as DPO Orakzai, Shaukat Ali PP (BS-18) DPO Bajaur has been posted as Director Police School of Explosives Handling Nowshera.

IHC grants bail to Sh Rashid in Zardari remarks case

ISLAMABAD (Agencies): The Islamabad High Court (IHC) has granted post-arrest bail to former interior minister Sheikh Rashid's in a case related to claims he made on television that former president Asif Ali Zardari was involved in a fresh assassination plot against PTI chief Imran Khan.

The IHC bench approved

the bail application of the former minister against the submission of a surety bond of Rs50,000. The Islamabad police had arrested the former interior minister on Feb 2 after which the court had granted the police his two-day physical remand. A similar case was filed against him in Murree on Feb 3.

Earlier, Rashid's post-arrest bail plea had been

available resources.

Muhammad Azam Khan said Sasta Bazaars would be established in Ramzan besides measures to control prices of food items. He also directed authorities to ensure fair distribution of government flour across the province and to ensure availability of wheat stocks in the province during Ramadan. The cabinet also decided to send 20,000 quilts to earthquake victims directing Finance Department to release Rs.50 million

PESHAWAR: A meeting of provincial cabinet chaired by Caretaker Chief Minister, Azam Khan here Thursday decided to deduct one day salary from employees of grade 17 and above including autonomous institutions and cabinet members for relief of earthquake victims of Syria and Türkiye.

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caretaker cabinet members, Chief Secretary, Additional Chief Secretary and administrative secretaries of the relevant departments. He said that mandate of caretaker government is clearly stated in Election Act and caretaker government would remain committed to its constitutional and legal responsibilities. He said that in view of financial difficulties faced by the province, the caretaker provincial government would strictly follow austerity policy and judicious use of

President for enrolling over 20m out-of-school children

F.P. Report

KARACHI: President Dr Arif Alvi has called for bringing over 20 million out-of-school children back to schools and providing them with opportunities to grow and excel in life. He regretted that about 10% of Pakistan's population had been deprived of their fundamental right, which was a great loss to the nation.

The President said that the youth and the elite had the resources and the capacity to help and uplift this neglected segment of society, adding that it was the moral responsibility of the educated youth and the elites to support these underprivileged children in getting education to make them productive and responsible citizens of the country.

The President expressed these views while addressing the 20th Convocation Ceremony of Iqra University, held in Karachi, on Thursday. Mr Naveed Lakhani, the Chairman of Hussain Lakhani Group, Ms Erum Asad, the Vice Chancellor of Iqra University, the alumni, the faculty members, and the parents of graduating students were present at the occasion.

Addressing the ceremony, the President said that health and education were the essential foundations for the nation's socio-economic development, and urged Pakistani universities to equip their students with employable skills, developing their analytical and critical thinking abilities to help them succeed in their personal and professional lives.

The President urged the students to follow the path of unity, faith, and discipline as propounded by Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah during their academic as well as professional life. He said that students must focus on improving their dealings with fellow humans in society and fulfilling the "Huqooq ul Ibad", besides developing effective communication skills in order to become successful in life.

The President urged the students to become lifelong learners and keep updating their knowledge and skills to keep pace with the rapidly changing world. He said that Pakistan had great expectations from its youth, and they needed to work for the socio-economic uplift of their country. He added that the youth must adopt the latest technology and focus on innovation, research and

development to keep themselves and their country abreast with the exponential changes taking place in the field of Science and Technology, especially in the IT sector.

The President highlighted the need for adopting emerging technologies and modern education to put the country on the fast track of development. He advised the graduating students to inculcate discipline and high moral values, fulfil their duties toward their country and serve it with dedication and passion.

The President said that approximately 60% to 80% of the youth in colleges were under mental stress, and advised the youth to live a balanced life and take care of their physical as well as mental health and well-being. He urged the students, faculty and alumni of the university to fulfil their social, religious and moral responsibilities along with the pursuit of professional excellence. President Dr Arif Alvi also distributed the gold medals among the students for their excellent academic performance. More than 800 students from different disciplines were awarded degrees and medals at the convocation ceremony.

Alvi for improving business climate of the country, restoring business confidence: President Dr Arif Alvi has called for improving the business climate of the country and restoring business confidence by reviving the confidence of the people in the political system through elections. The President expressed these views during a meeting with a delegation of Overseas Investor Chamber of Commerce and Industry (OICCI).

The President stated that the country needed the right and timely interventions, and Pakistan needed to keep pace with the world and make fast and timely decisions. The President further stated that political ownership was the key for positive change. This broad ownership is only possible through elections, he added. Speaking on the potential of IT sector in Pakistan, the President stated that he has remained the biggest proponent of IT sector development in Pakistan. President Alvi asserted that Pakistan was a goldmine of untapped human intellect. The IT sector was dependent not on the national but international infrastructure and it allows for a decentralized workforce. This is something that Pakistan can take advantage of, even in these trying times.

Sana urges CJ to take notice of Elahi's alleged audio leak

E.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah on Thursday urged Chief Justice of Pakistan Umar Ata Bandial to take notice of a recent audio leak purportedly involving former Punjab chief minister Parvez Elahi.

Addressing a press conference in Islamabad, the interior minister called for a forensic test of the leaked audio. The minister urged the CJ to bring the culprits to justice. "If the former Punjab CM is found guilty after the forensic, then the matter should be presented before the judicial committee," he added.

The interior minister said the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) will be tasked to arrest the Pakistan Muslim League-Quaid (PML-Q) leader after the forensic

audit of the audio conversation. "Prima facie, Parvez Elahi should be arrested after the registration of a case," said Sanaullah. He maintained the FIA has been directed to consult the Ministry of Law and Justice.

He said it was not the first audio leak as such conversations have been leaked on multiple occasions but no action was taken, so that's why the former CM "fearlessly [tried to] manage" the top court of the country. On the occasion, the minister also played the censored leaked audio clip in which the PML-Q leader can be purportedly heard discussing the cases being heard in the top court.

Referring to the audio leaks, Sanaullah said he censored the leaked audio clips as he did not want to reveal the identity of the

superior court judge before forensic analysis. "How courageously he [Elahi] was managing the country's top court. I will request the chief justice to take notice of this," he added.

Speaking on the occasion, the minister criticised the PTI's chief for not appearing in the hearing despite the court orders. "It is obligatory for everyone to show respect and dignity for the courts, but Imran, despite repeated summons, is not appearing before the court and violating the law," he added. He appealed to the CJ to take notice of the PTI chief's remarks for allegedly mocking the judiciary. Responding to a question, the interior minister said that he would discuss the matter with the government to immediately arrest the PTI chief.

'Egoistic Imran showing sheer disregard for law'

E.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb said on Thursday that the person, who had rendered the law of the land as the law of the jungle, had been defying and sheer disregard for the Constitution and the law for the last two days.

The entire nation and the world had been witnessing the drama staged by the person, who had no regard for the judicial system, the minister said in posts on her Twitter handle, criticising Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf Chairman Imran Khan. It seemed that the entire system of justice was helpless in the face of the stubbornness, arrogance, and egoistic nature of the PTI leader, she added.

'Imran should dare to lead Jail Bharu movement'

E.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Climate Change, Senator Sherry Rehman on Thursday said former prime minister Imran Khan should show some courage and lead his "Jail Bharu" drive (prison filling up movement) instead of scapegoating his party workers. In a flurry of tweets, the federal minister lambasted the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chief for circumventing his detention through medical bail. Senator Rehman said Imran Khan was not presenting himself and his party leaders but the workers for Jail Bharu drive. "Tehreek-e-Insaf has announced that 200 workers will present themselves for arrests in Lahore and 200 in Peshawar.

The minister said the ego of Imran Khan, apparently a mentally unstable person, was higher than the Constitution, law, and courts. She said it was an irony that the person, who used to make a mockery of the diseases of his political opponents and their

platelets counts, besides ridiculing the critical patients in not distant past, today became an 'elderly, frail and sick'. The icon of ego and arrogance should better obey the Constitution, law, and court directives, she remarked.

KP Cabinet decides to deduct one day salary of employees for relief

E.P. Report

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for the purpose. The cabinet further decided that medical and rescue teams would also be sent to Türkiye, if required.

The Caretaker Provincial Cabinet also approved the provision of 6 kanals of government land to the Intelligence Bureau at cost for setting up an Intelligence Bureau office in Upper Chitral district, ex post facto sanction to notification of Task Force for Diamer Bhasha Dam Project with special powers to

appoint members of various security agencies including Pakistan Army and other institutions for the protection of Diamer Bhasha Dam Project and the local and foreign workers working in it.

The caretaker provincial cabinet confirmed board decision to hand over charge of CEO of KP Board of Investment and Trade to Secretary Industries, allotment/transfer of 37 kanals two marlas land for crematoriums of Hindu/Sikh communities in

Peshawar and Nowshera districts and 6 kanals and 5 marlas of government land for Christian graveyards in Kohat district to Augaf Department.

Other decision of cabinet included nomination of Secretary Labor Department/Chairman Workers Welfare Board to represent Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province in governing body of Workers Welfare Fund managed by the Federal Ministry of Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development.