

One killed in IED blast F.P. Report

KALAYA: One person was killed and another injured in IED blast at Ghal area of district Orakzai, said Deputy Commissioner Tayab Abdullah on Saturday. Jalil Umer and his brother Shanab Umer were busy at their scrap shop when suddenly IED went off and as a result Jalil Umer died on the spot while Shanab got critical injuries and was rushed to nearby hospital.

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LAHORE: Governor of Punjab Muhammad Baligh-ur-Rehman called on Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif.

Arrest of leading banned BLA leader PM hails ISI for successful operation

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Saturday expressed his heartfelt felicitations to Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) for carrying out a brilliant operation that resulted in the arrest of banned Baloch National Army's founder Gulzar Imam, alias Shambay.

"This operation speaks of outstanding professionalism of our institutions. The arrest will help suppress militancy in Balochistan & usher in a new era of peace," the prime minister posted on his Twitter handle. The ISPR, in a press release, the other day said the leading intelligence agency, in a high profile and successful intelligence operation, apprehended a high value target (HVT) Gulzar Imam, alias Shambay, who was a

Return of SC bill by President 'most unfortunate': Shehbaz

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif Saturday said the return of the Supreme Court bill duly passed by the Parliament was most unfortunate.

In a tweet on social media platform Twitter, he said, "President Alvi returning the Supreme Court Bill duly passed by Parliament is 'most unfortunate'. Through his conduct, he has belittled the august Office by acting as a 'worker of the PTI', one who is 'beholden' to Imran Niazi more than the Constitution & demands of his Office."

hardcore militant as well as founder and leader of banned outfit Baloch National Army (BNA). "He was apprehended after an innovatively conceived, carefully planned and meticulously executed operation, spanning over months on various geographical locations," it was added.

Governor Punjab calls on PM, presents cheque for quake affected people of Turkiye, Syria: Gover-

nor Punjab Muhammad Baligh-ur-Rehman on Saturday called on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif and presented a cheque of donation amount collected for the quake victims of Turkiye and Syria.

During the meeting, the overall law and order in the province and other issues of mutual interest were discussed during the meeting, PM Office Media Wing said in a press release.

Court adjourns hearing of Toshakhana case till 11th

ISLAMABAD (INP): A district and sessions court in the federal capital on Saturday adjourned a petition filed by the election commission for early hearing of the Toshakhana case against PTI chairman Imran Khan till April 11. As Additional Sessions Judge Zafar Iqbal resumed hearing, the former premier's junior lawyer said neither any senior counsel nor Imran Khan had not received summon notice in the case.

Later, the judge sought report from police regarding implementation of the summons and adjourned the hearing for a short period. After the report was submitted, he adjourned the hearing till April 11. The court had summoned Mr Khan to attend hearing in personal capacity but the case was adjourned without any proceedings.

It is recalled that the main case, which was initiated against the former premier after he was disqualified by the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) in the Toshakhana case last year, is adjourned till April 29. Last year, a reference was filed against him by lawmakers from the ruling coalition accusing him of not sharing the details of gifts he retained from Toshakhana in his assets declarations and the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) had concluded in October last year that the PTI chief filed false statements regarding the gifts.

The electoral watchdog subsequently, disqualified him for being dishonest and corrupt and approached the district and sessions court seeking criminal proceedings against Imran Khan for allegedly misleading officials about the gifts.

Ashiyana case: PM files acquittal plea

ISLAMABAD (INP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and his special adviser Ahmad Cheema Saturday filed pleas in an accountability court of Lahore seeking their acquittal in Ashiyana-e-Iqbal Housing Scheme case.

Lawyer Amjad Pervez filed the acquittal pleas on behalf of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Ahmad Cheema. "No corruption was proved in the supplementary investigation report of National Accountability Bureau (NAB)," they stated in their pleas.

"The National Accountability Bureau (NAB) declared [us] innocent in the supplementary investigation report. There is no evidence against us," they added and demanded their acquittal in the case. The co-accused including Nadeem Zia Pirzada and Kamran Kiyani had appeared before the court.

The Frontier Post

Dr Asim's plea rejected

KARACHI (INP): An accountability court in Karachi has rejected PPP leader and ex-petroleum minister Dr Asim Hussain's petition seeking acquittal in a corruption case. The court on Saturday announced the decision on former petroleum minister's petition. During Saturday's hearing, Dr Hussain and other accused appear before the accountability court. Dr Hussain was facing Rs17 billion corruption reference filed by the NAB in 2015.

President returns SC Bill for reconsideration

Alvi returns Supreme Court (Practice and Procedure) Bill to limit CJP powers unsigned

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Dr Arif Alvi has returned the Supreme Court (Practice and Procedure) Bill, 2023 for reconsideration to the Parliament as per the provisions of Article 75 of the Constitution.

The president observed that the Bill 'prima-facie travels beyond the competence of the Parliament and can be assailed as a colourable legislation'. He said that he thought it fit and proper to return the bill, in accordance with the Constitution, with the request for reconsideration in order to meet the scrutiny about its validity (if assailed in the Court of Law), President Secretariat Press Wing said in a press release on Saturday.

The president said that after an in-depth consideration of the Supreme Court (Practice and Procedure) Bill, 2023, "to provide for the practice and procedure of the Supreme Court of Pakistan", the following aspects required due consideration: - Article 191 of the Constitution empowered the Supreme Court 'to make rules regulating the practice and procedure of the Court'.

Under such enabling provisions of the Constitution, the Supreme Court Rules 1980 had been made and in force duly validated and adopted by the Constitution itself. "These time-tested Rules are being followed ever since the year 1980 - any tinkering with the same may tantamount to interference with the internal working of the Court, its autonomy and inde-

pendence," it was added.

The Constitution was founded on the concept of trichotomy of power - three pillars of the State whose domain of power, authority and functions were defined and delineated by the Constitution itself. The Parliament has also been given the power under Article 67 that stated "subject to the Constitution, a House may make rules for regulating its procedure and the conduct of its business....". Article 191 stated that "subject to the Constitution and law, the Supreme Court may make rules regulating the practice and procedure of the Court". Articles 67 & 191 are akin to each other and recognize the autonomy and independence of each other respectively - barring interference of one into the other's domain.

"Supreme Court of Pakistan is an independent institution as visualized by the founding fathers that in the State of Pakistan 'independence of judiciary shall be fully secured'. With such an objective in view, Article 191 was incorporated and the Supreme Court was kept out of the law-making authority of the Parliament," the president cited another aspect. The fourth aspect said that the competence of the Parliament to make laws stemmed from the Constitution itself.

Article 70 related to 'introduction and passing of Bills' with respect to any matter in the Federal Legislative List - enumerated in the Fourth

Schedule of the Constitution. Followed and further affirmed were the provisions of Article 142(a) that Parliament could make laws 'with respect to any matter in the Federal Legislative List'.

Entry 55 of Part I of Fourth Schedule while empowering the Parliament to make laws in respect of 'jurisdiction and powers of all courts except the Supreme Court' especially excluded the Supreme Court. "Thus, the Bill prima-facie travels beyond the competence of the Parliament and can be assailed as a colourable legislation," it was added.

The constitution conferred the Supreme Court with Appellate Jurisdiction (Articles 185 - 212), Advisory (Article 186), Review (Article 186) and Original Jurisdiction (Article 184). Article 184(3), the focus of the Bill related to the original jurisdiction of the Court - providing for the mode and manner for invoking it and providing Appeal. "The idea may be laudable but can such a purpose be achieved without amending the provisions of relevant Articles of the Constitution - established law is that the provisions of the Constitution cannot be amended by an ordinary law as the Constitution is a higher law - father of laws - a Constitution is not an ordinary law, but rather an embodiment of fundamental principles, higher law, and law above other laws," the president observed.

Pakistan paid \$11b in last 10 months: Ishaq Dar

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Muhamme Ishaq Dar on Saturday said the main reason behind the cancellation of his visit to the United States (US) for the annual and spring meetings of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank was the prevailing political and constitutional situation in the country.

However, the said he was attending virtual review meetings, where a team of senior officials comprising the Governor State Bank of Pakistan, the Secretary of Finance, the Secretary Economic Affairs Division and other authorities concerned was attending the mandatory sessions as per the schedule, in complete coordination with him.

Addressing a press conference, the minister categorically rejected the speculative reports circulating regarding the cancellation of his official visit to the US and participation in the meetings of the IMF and World Bank. Ishaq Dar said he cancelled his visit under the directives of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif after a political and constitutional crisis emerged followed by the decision of the Supreme Court of Pakistan in a case regarding the polls in Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

He said the court had directed the federal government to ensure the provi-

sion of Rs21 billion to the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) before April 10, 2023, for finalizing the arrangements for the election of the Punjab provincial assembly. The minister said the apex court had also directed the ECP to submit a report on the provisions of funds by April 11, adding that under such a situation, it was the responsibility of the Finance Ministry to look into the matter and fulfill its responsibilities.

Besides, the Ministry of Defence was also asked to apprise the court about the security arrangements. The minister said Pakistan was a sovereign country and fulfilled all its international commitments, despite tough economic conditions, adding that \$11 billion had been paid to international financial institutions.

He reiterated the firm resolve of the government to fulfill all the commitments that were made with other institutions within the given timeframe. Dar said that he had also attended the meetings of the IMF when Pakistan was facing global economic sanctions due to a nuclear test, but some analysts were portraying a strange picture, which he said was against national interest.

He said that some internal and external elements were trying to push the country into crisis and spreading rumours of default and about the IMF program. The Finance Minister said that he along

with his delegation held meetings with IMF and invited them to visit Pakistan by October 2021, adding that due to unknown reasons, the IMF delegation visited Pakistan on January 31, 2023 for the 9th review. He said it was a 10-day review, and as a result, some prior actions including Rs 170 billion taxation were taken. He said that the last government of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf has not fulfilled its commitments but rather fixed mines for the next government, which was clearly expressed by its leader.

He said at the time of the 8th review, some friendly countries had provided support to Pakistan for covering its external account gap, adding that now this time one of the friendly countries had confirmed to provide \$2 billion, whereas confirmation of \$1 billion from another country was awaited. Dar expressed the firm hope that after the confirmation the staff-level agreement would be finalized, adding that the government has completed its work.

The Finance Minister further informed that all the questions of the fund about the proposed subsidy scheme of petroleum for small cars and motorcycles were also discussed as it was not part of any budgetary measures. He reaffirmed the commitment to bring the country out of economic crisis and put it back on track for development and prosperity.

PML-N issues show cause notices to Mehtab, Zafar F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz Khyber Pakhtunkhwa here on Saturday issued show cause notices to Sardar Mehtab Ahmad Khan, Iqbal Zafar Jhagra, Arbab Khizar Hayat, Farid Mufakir Khan and Esal Khan for violating the party discipline.

They were accused for revolting against the Party's decisions, making conspiracy to divide the Party in KP into two factions, giving statements in print and electronic media against the Party leadership and making insulting speeches at different places.

They were removed from the Party offices by the President PML-N KP and were directed to give reply of the show cause notice either personally or in writing within 15 days. In case of failure, their basic membership with the Party would be canceled.

The show cause notice, signed by PML-N KP General Secretary Murtaza Javed Abbasi, said that PML-N had given them important positions in the Party and the government but despite of it, they revolted against the Party's decisions and violated the discipline of the Party.

Oct would be good option for polls: Sana

ISLAMABAD (PPI): Interior Minister Rana Sana Ullah Khan on Saturday said keeping in view the financial position of the country, holding of general elections in October would be a good option for the government.

Talking to a private news channel, he said the judiciary should constitute a full court bench to hear plea of political parties regarding the elections. The Interior Minister said political groups have made a request to the Supreme Court for constituting a larger bench to listen to the genuine complaints of public representatives regarding elections in Punjab.

He said the government is engaged in compiling the census, and the security personnel have also been deployed for security of the staff collecting the census data. The Interior Minister said the government will provide security and financial resources to the Election Commission of Pakistan to hold transparent elections in October.

Two soldiers martyred, four injured in Bara blast

F.P. Report

RAWALPINDI: An improvised explosive device exploded on vehicle of Security Forces in general area Bara, Khyber District on Saturday. Resultantly, Naib Subedar Hazrat Gul (age 37 years, resident of Lower Dir) and Sepoy Nazir Ullah Mehsud (age 34 years, resident of South Waziristan) embraced Shahadat.

Sanitization of the area is being carried out to eliminate any terrorists in the area. Pakistan's Security Forces are determined to eliminate the menace of terrorism and such sacrifices of our soldiers further strengthen our resolve.

Soon after the mishap, reinforcement of forces was rushed to the site and with help of locals shifted the bodies and injured soldiers



to the nearest health center for medical aid. The deceased were identified as Subedar Hazrat Gul and Naik Nazir whereas the wounded were known as Naik Muqarrab, Sepoy Haris, Sepoy Niaz and Sepoy Wajid. Naik Muqarrab was stated to be in precarious condition. Vehicle of the forces was

also destroyed in the offense, the official said. A massive search operation had been launched in the area to trace the culprits, the official said. According to Khyber Pakhtunkhwa police information in the last three months a total of 25 attacks had been filed in which 125 were martyred and 212 got injured.

Fazl also joins litany, demands CJP to step down

ISLAMABAD (INP): PDM leader and JUI chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman has also joined the litany demanding Chief Justice of Pakistan Justice Umar Ata Bandial to step down after the demand was made earlier by PML-N supremo Nawaz Sharif, Maryam Nawaz and PPP Chairman and Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari.

Taking to his Twitter handle on Saturday, Maulana Fazl said: "The way Chief Justice Umar Ata Bandial has divided the prestigious institution like the Supreme Court with his controversial decisions and the way he has put the country and the state in a crisis after pitting the supreme institution of the country against the

Parliament, the only solution now lies in his resignation. He should resign now without any delay."

On Friday, PML-N supremo tweeted: "Courts take nations out of crises and not push them into crises. The Chief Justice imposed a minority decision on the majority decision. The Chief Justice who has sullied his position and violated the constitution in order to further the PTI agenda, should resign immediately to stop the further rot."

Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto tweeted: "With Justice Minallah's note we now have 4 justices on record. It is clear the CJs opinion is the minority judgement. The CJP & SC must act immediately to undo this

unconstitutional bench fixing. This is only way the dignity of the Supreme Court can be restored. "The 3 member decision is not worth the paper it is written on. If the CJP cannot get his court in order and remedy this mockery of justice then perhaps he should allow someone else to take the responsibility of CJP."

Maryam Nawaz wrote: "No CJ has ever been accused of such misconduct. His tilt towards PTI is glaring. CJP Bandial must resign." Minister for Information and Broadcasting Mariyum Aurangzeb said that the note of Justice Athar Minallah was a question mark on Supreme Court's proceedings in the Punjab polls case.



PTI conspired against country by dissolving assemblies: Tarar

LAHORE (APP): Special Assistant to Prime Minister Attaullah Tarar said on Saturday that a conspiracy was hatched by Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) against the country when the then deputy speaker Qasim Suri announced dissolution of the National Assembly unconstitutionally.

Later, two provincial assemblies of Punjab and Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa were also dissolved by the PTI government illegally, he added.

Addressing a press conference at Model Town, he said that the assembly could not be dissolved after a no confidence motion was presented in the house. It was unprecedented in the history that the votes cast in favour of the Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) alliance candidate in the Punjab province were not counted and the members were also

de-seated, he added.

The SAPM recalled that no meeting of the PTI parliamentary party in Punjab was held, and an attempt was made to rewrite the Constitution just to facilitate a political party. He said that it was surprising that elections were announced in Punjab where as no decision was taken on Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa (KPK) assembly.

He said elections should be held across the country simultaneously as the PTI had nothing to do with the country and it was bent upon spreading chaos and anarchy in society. He said the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) was never afraid of going into elections; however, it wanted that level playing field should be ensured for all parties.

The SAPM said the Parliament termed the Supreme Court decision an

interference in its affairs, while Justice Athar Minallah said in his dissenting note that suo motu notice should be taken by keeping in mind intentions of the petitioner. He said that the Parliament was the supreme institution of the country and it had passed a resolution over the court judgment.

He said not only the major political parties called for a full court bench on the Punjab polls' issue, but it was also the opinion of four SC judges, who stated that the case had become controversial and it was imperative to form the full court bench in order to maintain people's trust in courts.

Tarar regretted that the powers of suo motu were being used by the apex court mostly over political matters which was equal to intervention in political affairs. Justice Minallah

also said that the judges should keep them aside from political parties, he added. In view of the current circumstances, the chief justice of Pakistan should resign from the post, he demanded.

He said that the PML-N had respect for the judiciary; however, the apex court had become controversial like it was never before. To a question, he said the law-enforcement agencies had arrested a terrorist in Balochistan which would help eliminate such elements who were creating unrest in the country. He lauded the role and bravery of the law enforcement agencies which carried out a successful operation.

To another query, he said that all political parties in the ruling alliance were united and decisions were being taken with consultation.

Punjab CM orders steps to launch the "Mera Pyara" app immediately

LAHORE (PPI): Caretaker Punjab Chief Minister Syed Mohsin Raza Naqvi Saturday ordered to immediately launch "Mera Pyara" app designed to reunite the lost children and people with their families.

A meeting was held at the CM Office in Lahore under the chair of Chief Minister Naqvi to review the progress on "Mera Pyara" app. Under the direction of the chief minister, a record management system has been developed for the app.

Naqvi ordered steps to

launch the "Mera Pyara" app immediately and directed that the app should be made foolproof and as authentic as possible.

During the briefing, it was informed that a special child or a person can also be registered on the "Mera Pyara" app if he is gone missing. A report could also be launched on the app about a missing child or a missing person. In this way, the search for missing and recovered children will be possible through this app.

In the briefing, it was

further informed that 2,629 missing children have been registered in Punjab while 259 children have been recovered and 25 missing children have been successfully reunited with their families.

If illiterate people can't write a report on the app, they can go to the police front desk, shelter home and police service center to lodge their report. The missing children or persons can be reunited with their families through their photos, color, race and finger-

prints. In the last stage, the DNA test of the parents and missing children would be conducted.

Provincial ministers Amir Mir, Dr Jamal Nasir, chief secretary, IG police, Lahore CCPO, primary & secondary health secretary, Punjab Forensic Science Agency DG, DIG operations, chief traffic officer, Punjab Safe Cities Authorities MD, Child Protection Bureau Welfare Bureau DG and other concerned authorities participated in the meeting.

Gaps in Prosecution Rate in Pakistan

E.P. Report

RAWALPINDI: Gaps in Prosecution Rate in Pakistan Over the past 2 decades, Pakistan has suffered huge losses due to terrorist attacks.

However, despite terrorist attacks, the judicial proce-

dures & activeness remain negligent with respect to terrorists' prosecution.

Terrorism-Related Deaths:

According to GoP and SATP data since 2000 more than 30,000 terrorism related incidents resulted in more

than 80,000 casualties (both killed and injured). Alone security forces have suffered more than 6000 shahadats and 20,000 injured.

Financial Loss:

According to GoP, Pakistan has suffered 152 billion USD in losses due to

terrorism.

However, where all segments of state have put up a resilient fight to defeat this menace, on the judicial front, ironically, Pakistan records one of the lowest conviction rates in the world.

Despite repeatedly experiencing offenses through acquitted terrorists, we continue to make the same mistake over and over again. As per PPRC research, of the 17 "high profile" terrorist acts in Pakistan (e.g. Marriott Bombing 2008), all suspects (without exceptions) have either been acquitted or released on bail.

In addition, terrorist suspects who had earlier been apprehended by security agencies and produced before the court of law and later released by the court on some pretext were later found involved in several key terrorist attacks.

Examples in this regard include:-

Terrorist attacks in Quetta 2016-17

Chinese Consulate attack 2018

Data Darbar attack 2019

Pakistan, despite being frontline state in the War on Terror over the past two decades, has seen one of the lowest comparative conviction rates in cases pertaining to terrorism.

According to independent figures of US Institute for Peace (USIP), the conviction rate for casualties registered under the Anti-Terrorism Act (1997) across Pak has been only 8.7%, while the states like UK, China & Japan recorded the rates at 88.0%, 99.0% & 99.9% respectively. Despite untiring efforts and sacrifices, security agencies share the most burden of the blame for security situation, whereas a major fraction of the problem rests with the way the law and its application treat the terrorists.

CTD arrests eight terrorists

LAHORE (APP): The Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) Punjab on Saturday arrested eight alleged terrorists of banned outfits during operations.

According to the spokesman, the CTD Punjab conducted 21 intelligence based operations in different districts of the province to effectively deal with any untoward incident of terrorism in which 21 suspects were interrogated and eight alleged terrorists were arrested with weapons, explosives and other prohibited materials.

The arrested terrorists include Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan members Akhtar Nawaz, Fawadullah, Faqeer Muhammad, Asif Nawaz, Ziaur Rehman and Atiq Ahmed, ISIS members Muhammad Usman and Bashir, he added.

The spokesman said that 2.53 grams of explosives, one IED, one hand grenade, 3.5 feet of prima card, 15 feet of protective fuse wire, four detonators, a tape, three phones, four magazines of banned organization, nine books, 22 stickers, seven banned books, two receipt books, one match box and Rs 26,420 in cash were recovered from the possession of the accused.

The spokesman added that 402 combing operations were conducted during this week with the help of local police and security agencies, in which 22,921 people were checked, 118 suspects arrested, 89 FIRs registered and 28 recoveries were made.

CPE urges PM Shehbaz to resign for violating Constitution

LAHORE (NNI): Former Chief Minister of Punjab and Central President of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf Chaudhry Parvez Elahi Saturday met by former federal ministers, members of National and Provincial Assembly and ticket holders at his residence.

They were included; former federal minister Chaudhry Wajahat Hussain, Mian Munir, Khalid Wasim, Rai Mansab Ali Khan, Rafiqat Gilani, Rao Abdul Rahman, Zulfiqar Ghuman, Fakhr Nadeem, Sardar Hashim, Malik Faisal Munir, Chaudhry Shahid Parvez, Azmat Khan Niazi, Riaz Khan Niazi along with other leaders.

Ch Parvez Elahi said that the Chief Justice upholds the Constitution, therefore, there is no

question for his resignation.

"Shehbaz Sharif who is violating the Constitution should resign before asking the Chief Justice of Pakistan for the same," he said.

Parvez Elahi added that the government looked into its own neck, those who demanding resignation of Chief Justice are themselves absconders. How can Nawaz Sharif demand the resignation of Chief Justice, he wants to repeat the history of 90 once again, if the PDM government does not change its unconstitutional behavior, the people will take direct action against it.

Ch Parvez Elahi said that Shahbaz Sharif is destroying the image of the institutions only to avoid the election. Our institutions are not so weak that they cannot provide security in a

provincial election. Our army is the best army in the world which is capable of dealing with every challenge, Pakistan armed forces have defeated the enemies of the country and terrorists on every front, the Supreme Court has decided to hold elections after seeing the report of the institutions.

Ch Parvez Elahi further said that the PML-N is so afraid of PTI and Imran Khan's reputation that it will be a big deal if it fills its own candidates in the election. Insha-Allah soon there will be no successor to the puppet caretaker government in Punjab, the officers who executed the illegal orders of the caretaker government should be ready to bear the consequences, Zill-e-Shah's killers Rana Sanaullah and Mohsin Naqvi will be brought to justice.



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Scaled bids (in accordance with PPRA Rule No. 36(b) are invited by below mentioned office for the following requirements in Pak Rs.:-

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01	Procurement of Bird Repellent System for PCAA Airports. I/T No. HQCAA/1992/188/XXLN	3,000/-	Rs. 52,950,000-	03/05/2023 1100 Hours	03/05/2023 1130 Hours Log. Center (S) (Log. ANS Branch)	02/05/2023	F.O.R

Bids may be submitted as per conditions set out in Bidding documents downloadable from the website www.caapakistan.com.pk & www.ppra.org.pk and obtainable physically from the address given below on any working day between 0900 Hrs to 1230 Hrs by paying Bid Fee (non-refundable) through deposit slip in Account No. 6-1-2-20614-714-115525 (Title of account "Pakistan Civil Aviation Authority") in Habib Metropolitan Bank Ltd. Star Gate Branch Karachi and submitting the request letter along with bank deposit slip, proof of Active Taxpayer, GST/NTN certificates of the bidder. No Bidding Documents would be issued on the Bid opening date. Bids must be dropped in Bid drop Box placed at under mentioned office by or before due date as per schedule.

Note: All bidders downloading the bidding document from website shall immediately inform PCAA through request letter (along with proof of active taxpayer list [ATL for sales tax and income tax] of FBR) at the address below for inclusion in subsequent communication. PCAA will not be responsible for any lack of communication or non-receipt of information by bidders due to ignorance / violation of this instruction.

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PCAA reserves the right to accept/reject any or all bids due to cogent reasons which will be communicated to bidders on request. This advertisement is also available on PPRA website at www.ppra.org.pk, and CAA website www.caapakistan.com.pk.

Warning: Any financial instrument submitted by bidder, if found fake or got dishonored at any stage would result in blacklisting and legal action as per law.

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Pakistan Civil Aviation Authority requires services of qualified individual to fill the following vacant post on **contract basis for three (03) years (extendable)** where selection will be made purely on suitability and merit:-

Post	No. of Seats	Prescribed Qualification	Quota & Pay Scale	Age Limit
Director Flight Standards (EG-09)	One (01)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minimum Intermediate or equivalent from recognized Education Board. Must hold a valid ATPL. Not less than 6000 Hrs. as Pilot in-Command of Civil or Military Air Transport Aircraft (above 40,000 Kgs). Flying experience on wide body aircraft is desired and preferred. Should have held previous appointment in Commercial Airline as Examiner (SFE / TRE). At least 20 years of professional experience in Aviation. Appointments in operational management as an airline pilot/ military transport pilot shall be given preference. Experience of working relationship with industry stakeholders and international aviation organizations shall be given preference. Experience of carrying out statistical analysis of aviation activities and monitoring of airlines reliability program shall be given preference. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Merit Lump Sum Package of Rs.1,400,000/- per month with 05% annual increment (Negotiable) 	Maximum 62 years (Including all age relaxations)

*The above position announced vide **advertisement No.01/2023** is hereby withdrawn.

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(c) In case a candidate does not upload the above documents with the online application form, his/her application will be rejected.

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Note:

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- Only locals of the district are eligible to apply, however, preference will be given to candidate from Tehsil in which the field is located.
- The acquisition of consultancy services will be for a period of (01) year
- Revocation of the consultancy services from either party must be on a notice of at least two months.
- The consultancy rates quoted above shall be exclusive of all applicable taxes.
- The candidates will present/produce all credentials (in original) at the time of interview.
- Application / profile complete in all respect must reach the undersigned within 15 days after publication of this advertisement. The profile must contain attested copies of CNIC, all documents/testimonials and experience certificates.

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Only solution to crisis polls across country same day: Governor

PESHAWAR (INP): Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Haji Ghulam Ali has proposed a solution to the current constitutional and political crisis in the country. He believes holding elections in the entire country on the same day is the key to resolving the crisis. To achieve this, all stakeholders should sit together and discuss the matter, and whatever decision is made by the Supreme Court should be accepted, he said while talking to a private Tv channel.

However, the governor notes that the situation in his province is different from that in other parts of the country. Incidents of

terrorism occur every day in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, hence the PTI that is calling for snap polls should be asked whether it is feasible to conduct an election campaign under these conditions.

Governor Ali says he only has to fix a date for the elections, while it is the federal and provincial governments, as well as the election commission, who have to organize the exercise. He says he has sent a letter from the caretaker provincial government to the Election Commission of Pakistan and the Supreme Court to address these concerns.

The KP governor says

decisions about the elections must be made calmly, as the real stakeholders in this situation are the people of the province, the police force, and the electoral staff.

He asks the PTI to explain whether they will be able to conduct an election campaign in this situation. "Can they organize election campaigns in Wana, Kurram, Bajaur, Mohmand, Khyber, and other areas of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa at this time?" he questioned the PTI.

Everyone wants the elections to be held, for which the KP governor believes that all political parties should sit together and discuss how to ensure this.



PESHAWAR: Employees of WSSP protesting over non payment of salaries. — F.P. photo by Ghulam Murtaza

KP lawyers demand full court to decide Punjab and KP election case

PESHAWAR (APP): The senior lawyers of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa here on Saturday demanded the formation of a full court to decide KP and Punjab assemblies election case after the dissenting note of senior judge of the supreme court, Justice Athar Minallah.

They said that Justice Athar Minallah has raised serious questions and the formation of a full court was now inevitable to clear all the issues and controversies related to the case.

Gohar Rehman Khattak, former President of Peshawar Bar Council and member Peshawar High Court Bar Association told APP that the observations passed by Justice Athar Minallah was of serious nature and demanded the formation of a full court comprising all judges of the Supreme Court to remove the prevailing confusion in this high profile case.

He said that Justice Minallah has agreed with

Justices Syed Mansoor Ali Shah and Jamal Khan Mandokhail, who penned the dissenting note in the suo motu case.

He said the courts should show extreme restraint in matters which involve political stakeholders.

He said it was also in the interest of SC to make a review of the high profile case and give full opportunities to all political parties including PDM, PTI and Election Commission of Pakistan in full court.

Esa Khan, former Advocate General KP said that full court was the best solution to address all the issues raised by Justice Athar Minallah, Justice Syed Mansoor Ali Shah and Justice Jamal Khan Mandokhel.

He said Justice Athar Minallah also questioned the move to dissolve provincial assemblies and asked if such conduct is in consonance with the scheme of constitutional democracy.

Esa Khan said that Justice Athar Minallah has confirmed that the Supreme Court's suo motu of delay of Punjab and KP election was dismissed by 4-3 judges. He said that the intent of the political party that dissolved the assemblies should also be critically examined.

He said political parties should address political problems through dialogue and inside the Parliament rather than bringing it to courts. He said that political unity was required for a transparent and free election. Without political dialogue and unity, he said elections in KP and Punjab would be unproductive. Would PTI accept the election results if it lost the polls in Punjab, he questioned.

He underscored the need for immediate initiation of political dialogue among the government and PDM imperative to take the country out of economic and political challenges.

CECOS University students visit Zakori Industries

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: The students of CECOS University visited Zakori Industries (Pvt.) Ltd. - a leading manufacturer of adhesive tapes, here on the other day. During their visit, the students received a detailed tour of the factory to learn about the production process of adhesive tapes.

The tour was led by experienced professionals from Zakori Industries, who explained each and every step of the manufac-

turing process.

The students CECOS University were shown the raw materials used to create adhesive tapes and were taken through the different stages of production, including rewinding, cutting, slitting and packaging.

The students had the opportunity to ask questions and engage in discussion with the professionals, allowing them to gain a deeper understanding of the subject matter.

The visit was organized by the university to pro-

vide its students with practical learning opportunities and to help them see the industrial and real-world applications of their academic knowledge.

The students were enthusiastic and expressed their appreciation for the opportunity to learn about the manufacturing process of adhesive tapes.

They noted that the visit inspired them to pursue career in the industry and gave them a valuable insight into the practical aspects of their field of study.

Jhagra issued show cause notices

PESHAWAR (APP): The Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz Khyber Pakhtunkhwa here on Saturday issued show cause notices to Sardar Mehtab Ahmad Khan, Iqbal Zafar Jhagra, Arbab Khizar Hayat, Farid Mufakir Khan and Esal Khan for violating the party discipline.

They were accused for revolting against the Party's decisions, making conspiracy to divide the Party in KP into two factions, giving statements in print and electronic media against the Party leadership and making insulting speeches at different places.

They were removed from the Party offices by the President PML-N KP and were directed to give reply of the show cause notice either personally or in writing within 15 days. In case of failure, their basic membership with the Party would be canceled.

The show cause notice, signed by PML-N KP General Secretary Murtaza Javed Abbasi, said that PML-N had given them important positions in the Party and the government but despite of it, they revolted against the Party's decisions and violated the discipline of the Party.

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Police conduct operations

PESHAWAR (APP): Early morning search and strike operations across the city were conducted by Capital City Police on the occasion of Easter to ensure the safety of the Christian community. The operations were targeted and aimed at maintaining law and order.

According to the police spokesperson, criminal cases were registered against several individuals involved in various crimes. Additionally, arms, ammunition, and drugs were recovered from the possession of some of these individuals.

The police have taken strict security measures to provide foolproof security for Easter celebrations.

This operation is a part of the government's efforts to ensure the safety of citizens and to prevent any potential threats to public safety. The police have urged the public to remain vigilant and report any suspicious activities or individuals.

The Christian community has expressed their gratitude to the police for their support and for ensuring their safety during the Easter celebrations.

The police will continue to monitor the situation and take necessary action to ensure public safety.

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Increase witnesses in prices

PESHAWAR (APP): Increase witnessed in the vegetables and fruits prices during the month of Ramadan despite the district administration's incessant visits to various markets across city.

During a visit to the vegetables and fruits market in various points, an increase in prices has been witnessed as Ginger jumped to Rs600, garlic 360 and lemon 280 rupees per kg while Peas are selling at Rs150, Arvi at Rs160, Zucchini at Rs80, Bitter gourd at Rs80 and Onion at Rs90 per kg. The Green Chilli is Rs100, Tomato Rs50 and Eggplant Rs60 per kg.

The prices of the fruits are concerned, the orange is Rs420, Kinu Rs350 and Banana Rs280 per dozen, the pomegranate is Rs430, the Iranian apple is Rs430, the guava is Rs290 and grapes are Rs440 per kg.



PESHAWAR: Maulana Shoaib with others scholars sit in during a seminar regarding Yomul Quds.

CJP Bandial argued to resign following controversial decision

Humayun Khan

PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Bar Council (KPBC) vice chairman urged Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) to resign for his dictatorial behavior and following Justice Athar Min Allah judicial order regarding Suo Moto Jurisdiction in election for Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Punjab Assemblies, on Saturday.

KPBC vice chairman stated that CJP Umar Atta Bandial has violated his oath and judicial ethical code to declare 4-3 decision regarding Suo Moto jurisdiction as 3-2 as per his emotion and will which a

blame for judicial system of Pakistan.

Vice chairman Zar Badshah condemned CJP Bandial attitude towards Justice Muzahir Naqvi for placing him in benches of his interests despite reference is pending against him at Supreme Judicial Commission filed by KPBC while ignoring senior judges in constitutional cases which is against the Judicial ethics.

KPBC condemned CJP as Chairman Supreme Judicial Commission (SJC) of Pakistan by ignoring Peshawar High Court (PHC) Chief Justice to elevate as Supreme Court

Judge while now didn't calling meeting SJC to appointed CJ PHC to play with delaying tactics.

KPBC argued Federal Government to initiate reference against CJP Umar Atta Bandial to ensure trust of public on SCP because legal fraternity stand with free and independent judiciary neither with Political Supreme Court, vice chairman Zar Badshah argued.

KPBC vice chairman Zar Badshah called lawyer meeting on 12th April while all presidents and general secretaries of bar associations were invited to pave way for further struggle in this regard in the future.

All Edu Boards to stage protest, lockout strike

PESHAWAR (APP): Chairman All Boards Employees Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Tariq Safi Saturday decided to hold protest demonstration against Chairman BISE Mardan Fareed Khattak and other employees on deputation in the Boards on April 11, 2023.

Talking to media men, Tariq Safi, Chairman All Boards Employees Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, said that they would stage a strong protest demonstration along with a complete lock-out strike in all Boards across the province against those deputation employees holding various posts in the respective boards.

"Our demand is to remove all the deputation employees currently serving in various boards including in BISE Mardan, otherwise, a complete lock-out strike will be announced in the boards across the province on April 11.

Besides Tariq Safi, Chairman All Boards Employees

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Aurangzeb Kashmiri Central Secretary General EPCA, Noor Badshah Advocate President Bar Association Mardan, Yasir Arafat General Secretary Malakand Board, Ifthikhar Yousafzai, President BISE Mardan, Inayat-ur-Rehman General Secretary BISE Mardan, Sajjad Khan General Secretary Paramedical Association, MMC, Inaamullah Yousafzai President APCA Mardan, Aziz Khan General Secretary Class 4 Paramedical Association, Saifur Rehman President Class 4 Mardan Board were also present during a protest meeting.

During their address to the gathering the leaders of the various associations said that the Chairman Board should immediately relieve the officers appointed on deputation. They said that these posts are the legal and constitutional right of the regular board's employees rather than appointing those

who came on deputations from other departments.

"We will claim our legitimate rights by asking the Chairman of the Boards to relieve those officers appointed without the regulation of calendar rules.

They alleged that the Chairman Board of Intermediate and Secondary Education Mardan was appointed from the previous government on the condition that he should appoint two officials on deputations on key roles in the Board, which is not justified at any level.

They said that such posts have been reserved for the regular board employees and this is their right to be appointed rather than given such posts to the people who came on deputation from other departments. They said that their strike will continue for an indefinite period in Mardan as well if the Chairman BISE did not follow the rules.

Cylinder blast damages hotel building in Peshawar

PESHAWAR (APP): An explosion took place near Gora Cemetery in Peshawar which inflicted damage to the building of a nearby hotel, Police said on Saturday.

According to Police Control Peshawar, a team of bomb disposal squad and police rushed to the spot soon after the blast.

"We cannot say anything about the nature of the explosion yet," an official present at the site of the blast told APP.

He said that the bomb disposal squad will provide information after collecting the evidences.

However, he said, DSP Town Sajjad Hussain and Assistant Commissioner Town also rushed to the spot and are present at the scene.

When contacted, the BDU officials confirmed that the incident occurred due to gas leakage. Officials of the Police and Rescue 1122 also confirmed that 4 people have received minor injuries due to the blast.

49 BRT buses parked under open sky, fear of damages

PESHAWAR (APP): A total of 49 BRT buses are parked under open sky at Chamkani depots and despite protective sheds for the buses in the project, it has not been constructed to protect the buses from bad weather conditions.

During a visit to the depot at Chamkani where the new 49 BRT buses are parked under the open sky, there is a fear of damage to standing BRT buses due to bad weather conditions. In the BRT project, protective sheds for buses have not been constructed at depots, an official told this agency.

A BRT bus costs at least Rs 50 million, the official, who wished not to be named, said.

He said the total cost of 49 buses parked at the depots is more than Rs. 2.70 billion.

Out of 220 BRT buses, 171 buses are being operated on different routes, he informed.

The Minister in-charge has already imposed a ban on direct contact with media, so no one is ready to share his or her comment about any project in the pipeline regarding construction of protective sheds for the buses to protect them from damages due to weather conditions.



PESHAWAR: A vendor spreading tunes while displaying flutes to attract customers.

Officials assure traders to remove hurdles in Pak-Afghan mutual trade

PESHAWAR (APP): Traders during a joint meeting of Pak-Afghan apprised the officials concerned regarding trade-related issues and suggested a number of proposals for their amicable resolution.

A meeting of Pak-Afghan traders held at Torkham Border to discuss the hurdles in the way of mutual trade between the two countries, said in a press release issued on Saturday.

The meeting was chaired by the newly appointed Chief Collector Customs Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

Fayyaz Anwar.

On the occasion, the participants held a thorough discussion on the performance of various relevant public sector institutions along with the problems of the business community on both sides of Pak-Afghan bilateral trade.

Apart from the Collector Customs Operations Peshawar Muhammad Ashfaq, Additional Collector Customs Torkham Muhammad Rizwan, Additional Collector Customs Peshawar Rizwan Mehmood, Deputy Collector Operations

Torkham Asma Javed, Assistant Collectors Torkham Imad Mohib, Superintendent Siddique Akbar and PRO Customs Deptt Sohail, Coordinator and Director of PAJCCI Ziaul Haq Sarhadi, President of KCCI Syed Jawad Hussain Kazmi and Torkham Customs Agents Association members were participated in the meeting.

During the meeting, Chief Collector Customs KP Fayyaz Anwar was briefed by Customs staff Torkham who also visited along with Collector Customs Peshawar

Muhammad Ashfaq the newly constructed NLC terminal project.

The senior officials inspected various parts of the terminal along with the team and also issued instructions on the spot.

In the meeting, representatives from customs, other departments, including NLC, FC, police and other security departments suggested a number of proposals to solve the obstacles in the way of Pak-Afghan mutual trade.

Zia-ul-Haq Sarhadi, who is also the president of Frontier Customs

Association (FCAA) and former senior vice-president of Sarhad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SCCI) emphasized the need of making steps to remove hindrances in the way of Pak-Afghan mutual trade and transit trade.

He explained that there was no issue from the customs department at Torkham, Ghulam Khan, Kharlachi border.

He, however, said the border management, other institutions took much time on checking, saying that the slow process has caused

great difficulties for the business community.

Sarhadi said while the transit trade containers were cleared within 10 to 12 days at Karachi Port.

On the other hand, he added, demurrage charges were imposed on the containers due to the slow process.

He said that despite official orders of cross-stuffing, the directives have not been implemented and detention charges of lakhs of rupees were also levied on each container.

The FCCA president suggested that Afghan

transit trade goods should be carried out from Karachi to Torkham through Pakistan Railways along with a bonded carrier service.

He urged the authorities concerned to allow filing of GD (Goods Documents) at Azakhel Dry port so that the customs clearing agents of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province can also continue their business.

Apart from all that, the meeting also discussed other issues.

Chief Collector Customs Fayaz Anwar assured the delegation of taking all pos-

sible support and cooperation for trade cross border trade facilitation.

The senior official said that the customs department knew about problems of the business community and assured all issues would be resolved on priority grounds.

Fayaz Anwar fully agreed with the recommendations presented by the delegation in the meeting while all the delegation thanked them for taking keen interests of business community issues and giving assurance for their amicable resolution.



In brief

Abductee recovered

KHANPUR (INP): The Punjab police have recovered the two abducted children from Ahmedpur Sharkia, Khanpur on Saturday. As per details, the police arrested all four suspects who abducted the children when they were on their way to school. The police officials have also recovered the vehicle used in the kidnapping of two children. Earlier, a Daylight kidnapping of two children had shocked the residents of Khanpur as the CCTV emerged. The police officials had said that the 11-year-old Shayan and 7-year-old Subhan were kidnapped when they were going to school with the driver. The father of both the kidnapped children is Dr Hasan Mehmood, former MS of THQ Hospital Khanpur. In the CCTV video, three unidentified suspects can be seen kidnapping the children. The police are strictly checking vehicles at the entry and exit points of the city. Furthermore, DPO Rahim Yar Khan has taken notice of the incident and the driver has also been arrested for investigation. The District Police Officer (DPO) Rahim Yar Khan said that such an incident never happened in Khanpur before but the police are conducting the investigation and the suspects will be arrested.

Two killed in road accidents

RENALA KHURD (APP): Two labourers were killed and seven people were injured in two different road accidents, here on Saturday. In the first incident, two labourers, belonging to Shergarh village, were killed when a speeding tractor-trolley carrying labourers went out of control of driver and fell into a ditch near Jamal Kot area. Rescue-1122 personnel shifted the bodies to an area hospital. In the second incident a child and a woman among seven persons were injured when a speeding truck upside down near Tabrook locality on the national highway. The injured were identified as three-year-old Hadi, a woman Sana, Muhammad Hanif, son of Mour Samand, Muhammad Hanif, son of Ayub, Sabir Hussain, Abdul Latif and Ahmad Ali. They were shifted to an area hospital for medical treatment by Rescue-1122 personnel.

One dies as truck overturned

HAVELIAN (APP): At least one person died as a truck carrying Asphalt overturned on Jabri Road near the Nuri Waterfall, between Nallah and Kohala Bala. According to Rescue 1122 sources, the truck driver, Bakht Rabi of Sakhra Shagla lost his life when his truck overturned while taking a sharp turn while the conductor saved himself by jumping off the truck. Upon receiving information about the incident, Rescue 1122 Haripur reached the spot while the Abbottabad Rescue team was requested for assistance due to the truck being stuck under a bridge and the dead body of the driver was also buried under the wreckage of the truck. After an hour of effort, the Abbottabad Rescue team managed to retrieve the driver's body from the wreckage and transferred it to the trauma center in Haripur.

Two thieves held

D I KHAN (APP): The Dera police, tracing a case, arrested two suspects and recovered Rs 270,000 stolen cash in the limits of Cantt Police Station on Saturday. A police team led by Cantt Police Station SHO Arslan Khan Gandapur, following the directions of District Police Officer Abdul Rauf Babar Qaisrani, traced a theft case which occurred in a house situated in Taseefabad area some five days ago.



QUETTA: Workers busy in embroidery work on traditional women cloth as per demand of customers for celebrations of upcoming Eidul Fitr.

Traffic police drive for enforcement of fare

ABBOTTABAD (APP): Traffic police Saturday started a drive against the overcharging of fares and booked 96 drivers to implement a revised fare list for public transport in Abbottabad city. According to the details, during last week district administration, Regional Transport Authority (RTA) in consultation with the public transport union issued a revised fare list for the four union councils of Abbottabad city where reduced midway fare was also introduced. Unfortunately, district administration and traffic police failed to enforce the new list and quarrels between Suzuki drivers and commuters have become a routine matter.

DC Abbottabad while taking the notice directed traffic police to take strict action against the violator and provide relief to the masses. Traffic Police Abbottabad on the public complaints seized 45 Suzuki vans and imposed heavy fines on 95 drivers who were overcharging in Mandian circle, traffic police also booked 15 vehicles and imposed fines on 45 drivers in Havelian and Galyat circles.

SSP Traffic Warden

Abbottabad Arif Javed Khan directed all DSPs and inspectors to take strict action in their concerned areas and don't spare the drivers who are violating the fare list.

KP govt takes excellent measures for promotion of reproductive health: District Population Welfare Officer of Abbottabad, Shams ur Rahman Saturday said that the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government had taken excellent measures for the promotion of reproductive health and reproductive rights across the province for the welfare and prosperity of the people.

Talking to the media, he further said that women were subjected to injustices regarding reproductive issues, and these injustices were a violation of their reproductive rights. "When the government protects their rights, they will obtain them legally and misconceptions will be eliminated, he told.

He said that health centers, laboratories and other facilities related to health had been delegated to the Population Welfare Department for check and balance, approval and empowerment under the Population Welfare Act 2020. District Population

Officer said that the provincial government has emphasized the protection of reproductive rights under the oversight of the Population Welfare Department for the welfare of the people by authorizing the implementation of the relevant act by ensuring the provision of the best medical facilities and rights related to reproductive health, free from any discrimination, and to make it certain.

In the light of this act, any government or non-governmental organization will be subject to the prior permission of the Department of Population Welfare to provide reproductive health services, and they will strive to provide standardized reproductive health facilities to the public throughout the province, adding he said.

Shams ur Rehman said that the Department had been given these powers in this act so that they can oversee the institutions providing reproductive health facilities and ensure the provision of standardized facilities, as well as to ensure the implementation of punishment and penalties in the law for the provision of non-standard reproductive health facilities.

Funeral prayer of Khalid offered

F.P. Report

CHARSADDA: Khalid Khan of Gagai area of Khanmai, district Charsadda has passed away while his funeral prayer offered at his native village on 10 PM last night (on Saturday).

The deceased was father of Ali Khan, Usman Khan, Imran Khan and Nauman Khan while was father-in-law of Iqbal Khattak a retired Deputy Superintendent of Police.

Orphan students get Eid packages

F.P. Report

TAKHTBHAI: An undisclosed man has provided stationary to 209 students of Government Primary School No#1 along with 20 Eid packages for orphan child, on Saturday.

GPS Saro Shah principal Nausad Khan said that the stationary including notebooks and pens were provided to all 209 students of the school while 20 Eid packages were provided by a social worker with promise that his identity should not be disclosed.

The principal claimed same person had already provided winter package for needy students with same condition to protect his identity. He requested that wealthy people to help children especially students of needy and marginalized segments.

Anti-polio drive kicks off

F.P. Report

WANA: In the Lower South Waziristan tribal District, Assistant Commissioner Wana Yasir Salman Kundi formally inaugurated yesterday the five-day anti-polio-free Pakistan campaign from April 14 to April 18, 2023.

On this occasion DSO Dr Riaz and DHCSO Amir were also present in the opening ceremony. A five-day anti-polio campaign will be formally launched from April 14 to April 18, 2023 in the tribal district of South Waziristan Lower.

A five-day anti-polio campaign is being launched in 36 union councils of the tribal district of Lower South Waziristan, which will continue from April 14 to April 18.

Protests against barbaric killing of Prof Sawand held

LARKANA (PPI): Statements and different protest demonstrations were held in Larkana at different places against the brutal killing of IBA Assistant Professor Prof. Ajmal Sawant over tribal feuds in Kandhkot. The protesters called for the elimination of various bloody disputes in rural Sindh which have killed so many innocent people and created a very bad law and order situation in Sindh.

In a statement former Senator and GDA central secretary general Dr. Safdar Abbasi, Naheed Abbasi and MPA Moazim Abbasi strongly condemned the killing of Dr. Sawand in Kandhkot who returned to Sindh after obtaining a PhD degree from France in Artificial Intelligence to teach the students of Sindh but he was gunned down over tribal clashes which they termed a terrorist act and murder of humanity. They said that the Sindh

government has failed to maintain law and order in Sindh as bandit rule has been prevailing in Sindh since long and innocent people are being killed daily. They said that Sindh is already going through difficult times and people are committing suicides due to inflation and unrest. They said that as long as the cruel and brutal feudal system is not ended in Sindh, the consciousness of Sindh will continue to be killed here.

Members of the Indus Forum Manzoor Kalhoro, Jam Jamali and others also strongly condemned the killing of Prof. Sawand termed it the murder of an educationist, awareness and recognition. They said that in the 21st century, the brutal killings in Sindh under the guise of tribal conflicts have destroyed the peace, development and prosperity of Sindh. They said that in this subject of Artificial Intelligence, there are not

enough scholars to count in Sindh but he was gunned down over a feudal dispute which is highly terrific and tragic.

Chandka Medical College Students Action Committee also took out a rally and held a protest against the barbaric killing of an educated young man in Kandhkot. They said that even in this modern era, Sindh is burning in the fire of tribalism, feudalism and tyranny.

They said that there is a black night of lawlessness in Sindh adding educated professors and scholars were facing bullets which is a great loss for the Sindh society. The students Omar Nisar, Irfan Phulpooto, Taufique Ogahi, Ibrahim Soomro and others demanded that the killers of Prof. Ajmal Sawand should be arrested and an operation should be conducted against the tribal terrorists, their facilitators and supporters. facilitators.

Three dacoits arrested, weapons recovered

FAISALABAD (APP): Police on Saturday claimed to have arrested three members of a dacoit gang during a raid. A police spokesman said police, on a tip-off, conducted raid near Noorpur Graveyard and arrested Ali Raza, Shahzaib and Amir Sohail whereas two others fled away.

The accused were wanted to police in a number of dacoity, robbery and other cases. The police recovered weapons, mobile phones and other items from their possession, he added.

5 cops suspended over corruption: Five police officials including in-charges of two police posts were suspended on the charge of corruption and abuse of powers. A spokesman said here on

Saturday that Regional Police Officer (RPO) Dr Abid Khan took serious notice when he received complaints that in-charge police post Achkera ASI Saad Zubair Wahla and his team had embezzled Rs 6 million recovered from gamblers.

He suspended ASI Saad Zubair, Muharrar Sohail, head constable Luqman and constable Owais while further investigation against them was under progress. Meanwhile, City Police Officer (CPO) Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi suspended in-charge police post Siddhupura ASI Riyasat on the charge of abuse of powers while further departmental action against him was yet to be initiated, the spokesman added.

Fesco starts tree plantation drive: The Faisalabad Electric Supply Company (Fesco) commenced tree plantation here on Saturday. Superintending Engineer Operation Fesco Second Circle Faisalabad Ameer Khan inaugurated the plantation drive by planting a sapling in Circle Colony.

He said that trees were not only a major source of energy but these were also providing fruits and oxygen for human beings and animals. Xen Nazimabad division Taufail Randhawa, Xen People's Colony division Syed Faheem Shahand Deputy Commercial Manager Waseem Asghar and others were also present.

Wheat smuggling bid foiled, 44 smugglers held

WAH CANTT (APP): Over 1480 metric tons of wheat and wheat products smuggling bids foiled while 44 were sent behind bars after registration of cases for smuggling wheat and flour in district Rawalpindi during last two weeks.

This was stated by Deputy Commissioner Rawalpindi Hassan Waqar Cheema while briefing newsmen about the anti-wheat smuggling activities by the district administration on Saturday. He said from March 25 to April 6, the district administration with the assistance of Police and food

department has averted the bids of 44 vehicles among them over 22 are trailers and long vehicles to smuggle wheat, wheat products and flour from the various parts of the Punjab to KP.

"As many as 12 first investigation reports are also registered against the people involved in the illegal movement of wheat and wheat products". He added. While narrating the details of confiscated over 1480.50 metric tons of wheat and wheat products, Mr Cheema has said that among these confiscated items, as many as

1193.500 metric tons of wheat smuggling bids were foiled and subsequently confiscated.

He added that 32 vehicles were confiscated and a number of crew members were booked and arrested accordingly. He further said that 287 metric tons of wheat products like flour, fine flour and maida smuggling bids were foiled during the period. He said that during the crackdown against the wheat products smuggling mafia, 12 vehicles were impounded which were involved in illegal movement of wheat products.

Tribesmen hold protest

F.P. Report

PARCHINAR: In Parchinar, elders staged a protest against drugs and demanded effective measures to eradicate drugs of Tori Bangash tribal leaders Inayat Tori, Allama Tajmal Hussain, Allama Iran Ali, Chairman Syed Asghar, Mir Afzal Khan, Syed Najat Hussain and other leaders said that effective measures

against drug dealers.

There is a need to raise. Drug dealers are caught today and because of making weak people, they remain at their base tomorrow. The leaders said that it is not allowed to bring one kilo of fruits and vegetables from the Afghan border to Parchinar city, then how do vehicles full of drugs reach the city. The judiciary should also stop the release

of drug dealers.

The leaders announced that Eid we will demand the abolition of drugs and if the problem is not resolved by Eid, we will launch a regular protest movement and continue the protest movement until the end of drugs. The leaders said that the relevant officers are not interested in giving the people their legitimate rights.

Can US, China avoid conflict in their strategic competition?

Farhan Ahmad

IS the United States engaged in a Cold War with China? The answer is a resounding yes. The United States seems to have become accustomed to resorting to a Cold War with whoever it sees as a strategic rival, and currently China is the biggest obstacle to US dominance. The tensions between the two countries have reached new heights in recent years, aggravated by different political, ideological, and economic factors, and the US bears much of the blame for the current state of affairs.

The United States and China have long experienced tensions in their economic relationship, as the US accuses China of engaging in unfair trade practices. However, it is the United States' own history of protectionism and economic coercion that under-

mines its credibility in this regard. The US has imposed tariffs and sanctions on Chinese products in order to advance its own economic interests and to penalize countries that do not comply with its demands, which has contributed to the current tensions with China. Moreover, the United States' confrontational approach has contributed to the perception that it views China as a strategic adversary and a threat to its global dominance.

The US is viewing China through a Cold War lens, which is why it sees China as a strategic rival and a threat to its global dominance, and this is another factor contributing to the tension between China and the US. The US has reinforced this perspective by its aggressive actions in the Asia-Pacific region, including the deployment of naval assets to the South China Sea and

the strengthening of military alliances with countries such as Japan, South Korea, and Australia. These moves by the United States suggest to Chinese leaders that the US is trying to contain China's rise and limit its global influence.

History has shown that the US has often adopted a confrontational approach, which undermines its criticism of China for human rights abuses. The US has been criticized for its treatment of minorities, including African Americans and Native Americans, as well as its use of torture and extrajudicial detention in the post-9/11 era. With all these facts, it is difficult for the US to credibly allege that China is committing human rights abuses.

Similarly, the US seeks to limit China's access to emerging technologies, such as 5G artificial intelligence, and quantum

computing, because they could have significant economic and strategic implications, and this is another major source of tension between China and the US. However, the US has been maintaining its dominance in these areas, which gives China the impression that the US is putting in effort to limit its influence.

Moreover, the COVID-19 pandemic has further exacerbated the conflict between China and the US, as the US engages in a blame game over the origin of the virus, criticizing China for being responsible for its spread, while China accuses the US of politicizing the pandemic. China has provided medical equipment, healthcare staff, and other resources to different countries to fight the pandemic, while the US has tried to put all the blame on China, creating further opportunities for conflict between the two countries. These statements

reflect that the two countries are engaged in a strategic competition, with the US adopting an aggressive approach and China being on the defensive.

Although tensions between the two countries are not as intense as they were between the Soviet Union and the United States, the situation is becoming increasingly volatile. In this case, China is still being patient because it knows that the US seeks to hinder Chinese economic growth. The US has been displaying its military strength by conducting freedom of navigation operations in the South China Sea, and in response, China has conducted military exercises near Taiwan. The two countries are increasingly competing in different sectors, with significant economic and strategic implications.

It is vital for both countries, China and the United States, to

address the issues and come to a conclusion where strategic competition can be managed without resorting to any sort of conflict. This can only be achieved when both countries show a willingness to engage in constructive dialogue and commit to respecting each other's sovereignty. Shared interests and responsibilities need to be recognized since both countries are major powers in an interconnected world. The US needs to get rid of the insecurity that its global dominance will be curbed; only then can a diplomatic solution be carved out. A full-blown Cold War between China and the US would be disastrous for the global community. That is why the US has to quit its Cold War mentality. Otherwise, it would likely result in a significant disruption to the global economy and a further erosion of democratic values and human rights.



Sunday, April 09, 2023

After a night of air raids, Palestinians fear escalation

GAZA CITY (Agencies): When the first Israeli airstrike hit near the Al Dorra children's hospital in the besieged Gaza Strip, Samar Alwan rushed to her two-year-old daughter's bed to pick her up. Moments later, the glass from the window above the bed shattered and crashed onto the cot.

"My daughter miraculously survived," the 23-year-old Alwan, who has been in the hospital for two days with her fever-stricken daughter, told Al Jazeera. "Last night, we were sleeping in the ward. Suddenly we woke up to the sound of the terrifying air strikes.

"They were moments of massive fear, the glass was falling. I immediately rushed to take my child out of her bed. Moments later, the window fell on her bed. I was close to losing her." The hospital in the eastern Gaza Strip was partially damaged when Israeli planes bombarded open land. The attacks resulted in extensive damage to nearby houses and buildings. Israel said it struck weapons production sites and underground tunnels linked to the Hamas group, which controls the territory.

Alwan said the bombardment could have caused a catastrophe at the hospital. "All the sick children were frightened and screaming, a state of tension prevailed among all the mothers and the medical staff because of the intensity of the bombing," she added. "Glass from the windows was falling and shattering. There were some windows that fell into the beds of sick children just moments after they had been picked up. This could have caused a catastrophe and a large number of injuries."

Gaza's Ministry of Health (MOH) denounced the Israeli air raids "that caused partial damage to the hospital in Gaza city and horrified the children". "This is not the first time that health facilities have been targeted, and it is unacceptable," the ministry said in a statement. "These attacks not only put patients' lives at risk but also create a sense of fear among healthcare workers, patients, and their families."

The MOH urged the international community to take action against these attacks on health facilities and take measures to protect healthcare facilities and staff in the besieged Gaza Strip. Alwan said her daughter's condition worsened and her fever intensified after the bombing.



"Several children here have spent the night trembling with fear. Our children are poor in Gaza, they do not enjoy Ramadan or Eid, or any other occasion. They are always threatened with fear and destruction that may come their way at any moment."

Majdi Abu Nima and his family woke up at 3:00am (1:00 GMT) for their suhoor (pre-fasting meal during the Muslim holy month of Ramadan) in their home in the Al Tuffah district of Gaza City. Suddenly, Israeli warplanes were attacking empty land next to their house, causing severe destruction to their home and creating fear among family members. "It was like an earthquake," Abu Nima, a father of seven, told Al Jazeera. "We were terrified. Immediately, I rushed to my three daughters' bedroom to find my two-year-old daughter covered with shattered window glass."

"I can't forget her shock, fear, her heartbeat. Everyone in the house was screaming. "Until now, I don't understand why they bombed our area. How could an empty land be bombed without any justification? There are no resistance fighters or any military site here — it's just an empty land between residential buildings." The 44-year-old explained to Al Jazeera the difficulties he had faced when trying to buy the house.

"I moved into this house less than a year ago and the instalments are still piling up. Only two days ago, we brought a set of sofas to prepare for

Eid. But now, there is no longer any joy for Eid or any celebration." Mohannad Abu Nima, the family's 26-year-old eldest son, told Al Jazeera that when he heard the first attack, he rushed downstairs to check on his car. "As soon as I reached the stairs, the second, third, fourth and fifth strikes came. They shook the place. It was filled with dust.

"I was hearing my parents crying and calling my name, thinking I had died in the bombing, until they heard my voice reassuring them that I was fine." Although no one in the family was injured, Mohannad felt sad over the loss of his car that he had bought six months ago. "I put all my savings in it after working day and night to buy it. It was my only source of income," Mohannad added as he stood next to his destroyed car.

"Conditions in the Gaza Strip are unbearably difficult. The bombing came and destroyed whatever we had left. Life here has become truly hell." The Gaza Strip witnessed a long night of escalation, during which Israeli fighter jets conducted air raids on several sites — including agricultural and empty lands — and Palestinian armed groups fired rockets into Israel. The latest round of escalation in Gaza began when Israeli police attacked worshippers at Jerusalem's Al-Aqsa Mosque, leading to widespread condemnation from the Arab and international communities.

Russia loses election to 3 UN bodies over Ukraine

UNITED NATIONS (AP): Russia lost elections to three United Nations bodies this week, a sign that opposition to its invasion of Ukraine over a year ago remains strong. The votes in the 54-member UN Economic and Social Council follow approval of six non-binding resolutions against Russia by the 193-member UN General Assembly. The latest — on Feb. 23, the eve of the first anniversary of the invasion — called for Moscow to end hostilities and withdraw its forces and was adopted by a vote of 141-7 with 32 abstentions.

In the ECOSOC votes, Russia was overwhelmingly defeated by Romania for a seat on the Commission on the Status of Women. It lost to Estonia to be a member of the executive board of the UN children's agency UNICEF. And it was defeated by Armenia and the Czech Republic in secret ballot votes for membership on the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice. US Ambassador Linda Thomas-Greenfield said after votes, "This is a clear signal from ECOSOC members that no country should hold positions on critical UN bodies when they are in flagrant violation of the UN Charter."

In the voting for members of 14 commissions, boards and expert groups that ECOSOC oversees, Russia was elected to the Commission for Social Development by acclamation — which the United States and the United Kingdom dissociated their countries from, saying Russia's invasion violates international law and Ukraine's territorial integrity. Russia was also elected by acclamation to the Intergovernmental Working Group of Experts on International Standards of Accounting and Reporting.

Lula govt struggles to rein in deforestation

BRASILIA (Agencies): Deforestation in Brazil has continued to rise, underscoring the difficulties faced by left-wing President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva as he tries to halt deforestation that surged under his predecessor.

Preliminary data released shows that the government has yet to deliver on that promise, with deforestation for the month of March up 14 percent compared with the same month last year. "This rise in numbers reveals that the Amazon still suffers from a huge lack of governance and that the new government needs to act urgently to rebuild its capacity for repression to environmental crime, which had been totally destroyed by the last government," Marcio Astrini, head of local environmental group Climate Observatory, told the news agency Reuters.

During the tenure of former Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro, experts warned that surging deforestation was endangering efforts to address the climate crisis and Indigenous communities who found themselves targeted by powerful business interests pushing into the rainforest, often with the implicit support of Bolsonaro's right-wing government. Lula, who was inaugurated on January 1, had promised to crack down on deforestation and protect Indigenous people from the illegal enterprises driving its rise.

"I am here to say to all of you that Brazil is back in the world," Lula told a crowd at the COP27 climate conference in November 2022. "You all know that we are going to undertake a big fight against deforestation." Satellite images from the INPE national space investigations, however, show that 356sq kilometres (137sq miles) were cleared in the month of March. From January through March, the deforestation dropped by about 11 percent compared with the prior year.

The mixed results underscored the challenges that remain after several years of lax enforcement and unofficial support for many of the illegal business activities that contribute to deforestation, seen by Bolsonaro as a form of economic development.

Blast at Iraqi airport raises tension in Kurdish area

BAGHDAD (AP): An explosion struck next to the Suleimaniyah International Airport in northern Iraq's semi-autonomous Kurdish region, local officials said. The blast came days after Turkey closed its airspace to flights to and from the airport, citing an alleged increase in Kurdish militant activity threatening flight safety.

Turkey has spent years fighting Kurdish militants in its east. Large Kurdish communities also live in neighboring Iraq and Syria where they have a degree of self-rule. The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, a U.K.-based opposition war monitor, and some local media reported that the explosion was a Turkish drone attack on Mazloun Abdi, the leader of the Syrian Democratic Forces, the main US-backed and Kurdish-led force in Syria.

Officials with the SDF and the Kurdish regional government in northeast Syria denied that Abdi was in Suleimaniyah at the time or had been the target of an attack. Fethullah al-Husseini, a representative of the Kurdish self-rule administration in northeast Syria, said Abdi was "carrying on his work and is in northeast Syria."

The airport's security directorate said in a statement that an explosion took place near the fence surrounding the airport at 4:18 p.m. local time, causing a fire but no injuries. It said the cause of the blast was under investigation and the airport was operating normally. Lawk Ghafuri, head

of foreign media affairs for the Kurdish regional government in Iraq, said investigations were still underway and that he was unable to confirm whether the explosion had been a drone attack.

However, a statement from the Iraqi Kurdish regional government appeared to blame local authorities in Suleimaniyah, which it accused of provoking an "attack" on the airport and using "government institutions" for "illegal activities." The regional government, with its seat in Irbil, is primarily controlled by the Kurdish Democratic Party, while Suleimaniyah is a stronghold of the rival Patriotic Union of Kurdistan.

Qubad Talabani, deputy prime minister of the regional government and a member of the PUK, rejected the regional government statement that appeared to cast blame on his party. He said the statement "represents only one party ... and cannot speak for the entire government." Two Kurdish officials in Irbil, who spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to discuss the incident with reporters, said that the explosion was caused by a drone attack. One of them said the attack had targeted Abdi.

A representative of the Turkish defense ministry said he had no information about the incident. Turkey's foreign ministry announced that Turkish airspace was closed to flights taking off from and landing at the Suleimaniyah airport. Turkish officials said the

closure was a response to an alleged increase in the activities of the banned Kurdistan Workers' Party, or PKK, in the city of Suleimaniyah, including its "infiltration" of the airport.

The decision came weeks after two helicopters crashed in northern Iraq, killing Kurdish militants who were on board. The incident fueled claims that the PKK was in possession of helicopters, infuriating Turkish authorities. The SDF later said it lost nine fighters, including a commander, in the crash, which occurred during bad weather on a flight to Suleimaniyah. The nine included elite fighters who were in Iraq as part of an "exchange of expertise" in the fight against the Islamic State group, the SDF said. Officials from the Kurdish Democratic Party, which has maintained largely good relations with Turkey, alleged after the crash that the helicopters had been originally purchased by the rival Patriotic Union of Kurdistan and that they had been flying without permission from the regional government.

The Kurdish regional government was forced last month to stop exporting nearly half a million barrels of oil through via a pipeline to Turkey. That followed a decision by the International Chamber of Commerce siding with the central Iraqi government in Baghdad in a long-standing dispute over the independent export of oil by the Kurdish region. Last week Baghdad and Irbil reached a deal to resume the oil exports.

Gupta extradition bid from UAE fails

JOHANNESBURG (BBC): South Africa's bid to have two brothers from the wealthy Gupta family extradited from the United Arab Emirates (UAE) has failed. Atul and Rajesh Gupta are accused in South Africa of profiting from their close links with former President Jacob Zuma and exerting unfair influence.

The justice ministry said it had learnt with "shock and dismay" about the move. The brothers, who deny any wrongdoing, fled after a judicial commission began probing a major corruption scandal. The Indian-born Guptas were arrested in the UAE last June and extradition talks with South Africa began.

But the UAE said that it turned down the extradition request on a technicality. In a brief statement, quoted in the Emirates News Agency, it said that a review "found that the request did not meet the strict standards for legal documentation as outlined in the extradition agreement between the UAE and South Africa" that came into force two years ago. Some of the paperwork was either

incorrect, in the case of the fraud charge, or missing, in the case of the corruption charge, the statement adds.

The decision was made in February but it was only communicated to South Africa, South African Justice Minister Ronald Lamola said. "The reasons provided for denying our request are inexplicable and fly in the face of the assurances given by Emirati authorities that our requests meet their requirements," Mr Lamola is quoted by South Africa's Mail & Guardian newspaper as saying.

The UAE government says the "South African authorities are able to resubmit the extradition request with new and additional documentation". Earlier, Mr Lamola had said his government would appeal against the decision. In recent weeks there have been media reports that the brothers were no longer in custody and had been spotted in Switzerland.

The justice ministry could not confirm this or whether the brothers, who had been granted South African citizenship, had acquired passports from the Pacific island nation of

Vanuatu. The news is a blow for South Africa's fight to bring the Guptas to justice. An official inquiry, known as the Zondo commission, took four years to probe allegations of high-level corruption under the Zuma presidency, exposing how billions of dollars were looted from state coffers.

It found that the brothers, who once enjoyed unfettered access to power that became known as "state capture", tried to influence political and economic decisions. Many of the most serious allegations focus on their relationship with Mr Zuma, who was president of South Africa from 2009 until he was forced to step down amid a storm of corruption allegations nine years later. The Gupta family is accused of using their close links with Mr Zuma to win business contracts, influence high-profile government appointments and misappropriate state funds. Mr Zuma, along with the Guptas, denies the allegations. South Africa negotiated an extradition treaty with the UAE in 2021, three years after the brothers fled the country.

SK, US and Japan urge repatriation of NK workers

TOKYO (AFP): Seoul, Washington and Tokyo urged UN member states to repatriate North Koreans working overseas, claiming they continue to evade sanctions abroad to finance Pyongyang's unlawful weapons programme.

North Korea was also engaged in "malicious cyber activities" that supported its military expansion, representatives of the three countries said in a joint statement. The nuclear-armed country has long made a fortune from the army of citizens it sends abroad to work, mostly in neighbouring China and Russia, but also in Europe, the Middle East and Africa.

Under a UN resolution unanimously approved in 2017, member states had until December 2019 to send back all North Koreans working in their countries. But, Seoul, Tokyo, and Washington's special envoys for North Korea said the country's overseas workers were continuing to help fund

Pyongyang's increasingly aggressive provocations, following a trilateral meeting in the South Korean capital. "Overseas DPRK IT workers continue using forged identities and nationalities to evade UNSC sanctions and earn income abroad that funds the DPRK's unlawful weapon of mass destruction and ballistic missile programs," the envoys said in a joint statement, using North Korea's official name.

"We are also deeply concerned about how the DPRK supports these programs by stealing and laundering funds as well as gathering information through malicious cyber activities." Pyongyang stole as much as \$1.7 billion in cryptocurrency last year alone, the envoys said.

In 2019, analysts said Beijing and Moscow -- Pyongyang's key allies -- were issuing North Korean workers with alternative visas to ensure a continued supply of cheap labour.

Last year, North Korea declared itself an "irreversible" nuclear power last year, effectively ending the possibility of denuclearisation talks. Leader Kim Jong Un ordered his military to intensify drills last month to prepare for a "real war".

In recent weeks, North Korea has tested what state media has claimed was an underwater, nuclear-capable drone and carried out the launch of an intercontinental ballistic missile. "We strongly condemn the DPRK's repeated ballistic missile launches as well as its escalatory and destabilizing rhetoric related to the use of nuclear weapons," the envoys said.

"We express deep regret that the DPRK continues to ignore the hardship of its people, choosing instead to pour its scarce resources into its WMD and ballistic missile programs in clear violation of multiple United Nations Security Council resolutions."

Canadian Arctic Snow School hopes to boost climate fight

TORONTO (Agencies): Marie Dumont's face is flush. It is a windy in the small hamlet of Iqaluktuuttiaq, in Canada's northern territory of Nunavut, and the temperature outside is roughly -25 degrees Celsius (-13 degrees Fahrenheit).

For much of the past week, Dumont has been working in these subzero temperatures alongside a dozen young scientists and students to better understand Arctic snow, and what it can say about how to address climate change-related challenges. She is part of a group of 40 researchers, students and Inuit knowledge-holders participating in the first-ever Arctic Snow School, held in early April at the Canadian High Arctic Research Station (CHARS).

"I love it ... some people know more about snow than me," said Dumont, a research scientist and head

of the Snow Research Centre at the National Centre for Meteorological Research in Grenoble, France. "The school is super diverse and everyone here comes from different countries, different backgrounds, and different science fields."

The Arctic Snow School is a joint project between two institutions in the Canadian province of Quebec: Sentinel North at Universite Laval and the Groupe de Recherche Interdisciplinaire sur les Milieux Polaires (GRIMP) at the University of Sherbrooke. The goal, organisers say, "is to help train a new generation of scientists capable of solving the complex problems of a changing North".

Changes in this massive territory also have global implications; as

Greenpeace explains, "the Arctic helps to regulate the world's temperature, so as more Arctic ice melts the

warmer our world becomes". Understanding how the environment is changing, and how quickly, can help craft solutions, experts say. Alexandre Langlois, co-lead of the initiative and a professor at the University of Sherbrooke, said studying Arctic snow can help researchers better assess how Arctic vegetation is changing, what access animals such as lemmings and caribou will have to food and safe habitats, and new challenges faced by Inuit who travel the region to hunt and fish.

One of the field campaigns at the school involved using a radiometer to better understand rain-on-snow events, which occur when rain falls onto existing snow and freezes, forming a layer of ice. The radiometer measures energy coming out of the snow, which indicates how much rain has fallen and how it is

changing the different snow layers that are part of the larger snowpack. Langlois said the Arctic is seeing more rain-on-snow events, but it is unclear what the root cause is due to a lack of on-the-ground data. He said that for caribou, this has meant difficulty foraging for lichen buried beneath the frozen ice. In the long run, these events could also cause damage to infrastructure that is not designed for frequent rains.

Measuring the likelihood and effect of rain-on-snow in Arctic conditions is an important first step in brainstorming solutions to the problem, Langlois told Al Jazeera. "We've developed a method with the radiometers on the ground here to retrieve the presence of liquid water at the surface when it is raining, and with that data, what we can do afterwards is apply it to satellite imagery," he said of the process.

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National effort against menace of terrorism

THE National Security Committee (NSC) on Friday approved a multi-pronged comprehensive operation to eradicate the menace of terrorism from the country. The recent meeting of the forum was a follow-up of its most crucial huddle that was held immediately after the terrorist attack on the Peshawar Police Lines on January 2, 2023. The forum held an in-depth discussion on the current security situation in the country and vowed to deal with the threat of terrorism with iron hands with high national resilience, wholehearted resolve, and determination. The forum also approved the constitution of a high-level committee, that will draw parameters and formulate policy to achieve the objective of the proposed nationwide counter-terrorism operation. The apex committee expressed its resolve to fail the heinous designs of the nation's enemies through timely kinetic and hard-hitting measures along with the preservation of peace and stability in the country.

The menace of terrorism regained momentum because of frequent incidents of terrorism and attacks against the LEAs and civilian targets in terror-hit regions in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan, which caused great concerns in the government as well as the public. The well-planned attacks against the Security Forces and high-level targets including Peshawar Police Lines, police Stations, government officials, and other installations clearly illustrate the volume and severity of the risk of terrorism confronting the country at this point in time. Meanwhile, the current regional geostrategic environment and the absence of security cooperation between Kabul and Islamabad were other reasons for the recent spike in armed violence across Pakistan.

In fact, the recent upsurge in terrorism was only the result of the mild and unthoughtful policies of the previous government that freed not only dangerous terrorists from prison in the name of confidence-building measures but also gave free space to banned outfits to resume their unlawful activities and spread their nefarious agenda in the country. There had been recurrent calls from the public, civil society, and some political factions regarding the deteriorating law and order situation and unlawful activities of the returning terrorists in Swat, Dir, and Erstwhile FATA but neither the local administration nor provincial or federal governments paid any heed to those alerts in the past year until and unless the armed terrorists knocked at the provincial capital at the beginning of the current year. Awfully, the deadly massacre of Peshawar Police Lines also failed to sensitize our political leadership, and the long-awaited and essentially needed All Parties Conference (APC) could not be convened so far because of the selfish politics of the politicians. Realistically, Pakistani society had been widely influenced/polarized by violent religious behavior, and intolerance, while radical ideas and passive support for terrorism seriously undermined the national interest and unity in the society that merits a pre-emptive comprehensive national counter-terrorism and counter-extremism/ deradicalization strategies against the deepening risks of communal violence and largescale terrorism in the country.

Presently, the top National Security forum is vigorously pursuing the national campaign against terrorism and actively working to maintain peace and stability in the country. The initiation of a fresh multi-pronged and comprehensive operation is a delayed decision in the right direction. While, these security endeavors must be combined with diplomatic, economic, and social measures to generate economic activities, eradicate support for extremism, and complete elimination of the menace of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations from our society. Although, this is a gigantic task and difficult agenda, however, it is extremely essential for the survival of our country and well-being of our nation. Thus, the entire public, government institutions, and political stakeholders must come on the same page to play a positive contribution in realizing the national manifesto so the menaces of extremism and terrorism could be wiped out from the country once and for all.

WHEN I excitedly shared the news on social media last week that the Indonesian island of Bali had refused to host the Israeli team as part of the Under-20 World Cup football tournament, which was scheduled to be held in cities around the country from May 20 to June 11 (although Indonesia has now been stripped of the hosting rights by FIFA), some readers were unimpressed.

Though any news related to Palestine and Israel often generates two sharply different kinds of response, the latest act of Indonesian solidarity with the Palestinian people failed to impress even some pro-Palestine activists in the West. Their rationale had nothing to do with Palestine or Israel, but the Indonesian government's own human rights record. This supposed dichotomy is as omnipresent as it is problematic. Some of the most genuine acts of solidarity with the Palestinians - or other oppressed nations in the Global South - tend to take place in other southern nations. But since they are frequently accused of having poor human rights records by Western governments and West-based rights groups, these gestures of solidarity are often accused of lacking substance.

Aside from the weaponization of human rights - and democracy - by Western governments, some of the concerns about human rights violations are worth pausing over: Can those who do not respect the rights of their own people be trusted to champion the rights of others? Though intellectually intriguing, the argument, and the question, lack self-awareness, reek of entitlement and reflect a poor understanding of history. First, the lack of self-awareness. In the West, advocacy for Palestinian

rights is predicated on reaching out to, educating and lobbying some of the world's most destructive colonial and neocolonial powers. This advocacy includes civil engagement with countries that have, for example, invaded Iraq and Afghanistan, tormented Africa and continue to subjugate many nations in the Global South. These Western governments were also the ones who either

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Some human rights activists in the West rarely

appreciate that their influence is largely derived from their geographical position and, more importantly, citizenship. This is why Hannah Arendt rightly argued that individuals can only enjoy human rights once they obtain the right to be citizens of a nation state. "Human rights lose all their significance as soon as an individual loses her political

will take more than individual acts of solidarity to end the Israeli occupation and to dismantle Israeli apartheid. Divestment means that companies that benefit from the Israeli occupation must sever their ties with Israel, even if some of these companies may have questionable practices. The same logic applies to sanctions, which would require a strong political will by govern-

Palestinian leadership and Israel in 1993, the term "human rights" was an important component in the Palestinian struggle. But it was not the only or even the main driving force behind the Palestinian quest for freedom. For Palestinians, all aspects of resistance, including the quest for human rights, were part of a larger strategy of liberation.

Oslo changed all of that. It shunned terms such as resistance and redefined the Palestinian struggle, from one of liberation to one of human rights. The Palestinian Authority respected its assigned task and many Palestinians played along, simply because they felt they had no alternative. Yet, by elevating the human rights discourse, Palestinians became trapped in entirely Western priorities. Their language, which in the past was consistent with the revolutionary discourses of anticolonial movements in the Middle East, Africa and the rest of the Global South, was rejigged to appeal to Western expectations.

This should not suggest that anticolonial movements did not champion human rights discourses. In fact, such discourses were at the core of the valiant struggles and sacrifices of millions of people across the world. However, for them, human rights was not an isolated moral position, a political stance to be used or manipulated to highlight the moral superiority of the West over the rest, or to sanction poor countries, often for the sake of exacting political or economic concessions. Palestinians care deeply about the human rights of other nations. They ought to, because they have experienced firsthand what it means to be stripped of their rights and humanity. But they are also in no position, nor should they be, to condition solidarity from others on the West's politicized human rights agenda.

Like the Guardian, Manchester is reckoning with its historical links to slavery

ON the day that the **Guardian** launched its powerful Cotton Capital project, the city of the paper's birth was hosting a visit from the US ambassador that, intentionally and unintentionally, exposed Manchester's complicated relationship with slavery. It began with a lunch meeting in a former bank in the city's old financial district, which was built with cotton capital and, uncomfortably, has a depiction of slavery on a stained-glass window.

It then proceeded to the newly restored Lincoln Square, where the ambassador, Jane Hartley, was shown the US president's words of praise for the working people of Manchester, taken from his famous letter to the city, for their principled stance against slave-picked cotton. Abraham Lincoln wrote to Manchester cotton workers in response to a statement they sent to him in 1862, passed by a mass gathering. It is an extraordinarily powerful text that remains highly relevant in today's divided

times. "As citizens of Manchester, assembled at the Free Trade Hall, we beg to express our fraternal sentiments towards you and your country," it says. "We honour your free states as a singularly happy abode for the working millions. One thing alone has, in the past, lessened our sympathy with your country and our confidence in it - we mean, the ascendancy of politicians who not merely maintained negro slavery, but desired to extend and root it more firmly. Since we have discerned, however, that the victory of the Free North in the war ... will strike off the fetters of the slave, you have attracted our warm and earnest sympathy. "We joyfully honour you for exemplifying your belief in the words of your great founders: all men are created free and equal. You have enforced the laws against the slave trade. You have nobly decided to receive ambassadors from the negro republics of Haiti and Liberia, thus forever renouncing that unworthy prejudice which refuses the

rights of humanity to men and women, on account of their colour." One-hundred-and-sixty-one years ago, humble cotton workers from Manchester sent a clear message to the rest of the world: black lives matter. It is an uplifting story that forms part of our city's long history of fighting the good fight for equality - a line that can be traced back 200 years through the campaign for LGBT rights to the suffragettes and Peterloo. Manchester's radical tradition inspires me every day in my role as mayor and I see it as my responsibility to continue it. And yet I can't rewrite history, nor should I sanitise it. Back in the 1860s, I can't pretend that other voices in Manchester were not clouding the clarity of the cotton workers' message - not least its most prominent newspaper. The Manchester Guardian opined that it was an "evil day when he [Lincoln] was chosen president of the United States". The paper's fierce anti-

Lincoln stance was not, ostensibly, due to any support for slavery but more for the southern states' right to self-determination. However, after the Guardian's own research into its founders, it's hard not to think that their business links may have influenced their editorial position. It is clear that this ambivalence about cotton wealth, and the slavery that produced it, went beyond the paper to the wider city. In his piece The struggle for a black history of Manchester, Lanre Bakare is right that more needs to be done to tell the story of how slavery shaped the city as well as spotlight more recent black Mancunian history, such as the fight of the boxer Len Johnson against the colour bar. I like to think that the cotton workers would have approved of the Cotton Capital project, although they might have been a little surprised at how long it has taken to come about. It is finally addressing this

ambivalence head on. What makes it stand out, in our gesture-rich social media age, is the fact that it meets the suffragettes' test of "deeds not words". The decision of the Scott Trust to commit more than £10m to a restorative programme, including raising awareness of transatlantic slavery and its legacies in Manchester and beyond, is something we want to be part of. The programme could also support work that Greater Manchester set in train in the summer of 2020 after, like the Guardian, we went through our own process of reflection prompted by Black Lives Matter. In the middle of a pandemic that was inflicting great harm on minority communities due to insecure work and poor housing, we realised we needed to do more to turn our words of outrage into real deeds. We could see they sounded hollow to people still experiencing severe discrimination. So we established a new race equality panel and a leadership and mentoring pro-

gramme with Operation Black Vote. We have initiated a review of the use of joint enterprise, which is widely felt to have unfairly sent too many young black men to jail. More positively, we decided, with our black communities, to make the launch of Black History Month an annual high-profile event at Manchester Cathedral. And yet when a two-year-old boy dies from mould in a poorly maintained home in Rochdale, and the housing ombudsman warns that the "othering" of residents by social landlords is "highly unlikely" to be an isolated incident, we get a stark reminder of just how much there is still to do. "Justice demands for the black, no less than for the white, the protection of law," wrote Manchester's cotton workers to Lincoln. Sadly, their words are as relevant in 2023 as they were in 1862. But we must live in hope that the next 160 years will bring more human progress than the last.

The Guardian

Trump's antics effectively handing Biden a second term

IT seems that former US President Donald Trump does not want to run his 2024 election campaign properly, without causing a negative uproar at the national and international levels and prompting fears of violence that his loyalists may initiate. Trump this month claimed on his own social media platform, Truth, that he was expecting to be arrested on March 21 in connection with the allegation that he paid hush money to adult film actress Stormy Daniels. Calling on his followers to take action and "protest and take the country back" brought to mind images of his supporters storming the Capitol building on Jan. 6, 2021, in an attempt to stop the certification of the 2020 elec-

tion results and deny Joe Biden his constitutional right. "WE JUST CAN'T ALLOW THIS ANYMORE. THEY'RE KILLING OUR NATION AS WE SIT BACK & WATCH. WE MUST SAVE AMERICA! PROTEST, PROTEST, PROTEST," he posted in all caps to stress the urgency and significance of his warning. Away from the legal matter and what Manhattan District Attorney Alvin Bragg's investigation could reveal, this case has profound political and security dimensions that may be the reason for the outbreaks of violence seen in several US states, in addition to Trump obtaining comprehensive support as he seeks to win the Republican nomination for the 2024 presidential

election. Meanwhile, the former president continues to attack the district attorney in various ways, which is a crime itself, according to US laws. In a different post, Trump said that Bragg was unwilling to do the right thing by closing the case, adding: "The whole country sees what's going on, and they're not going to take it anymore. They've had enough!" He reiterated his old narrative that the Democrats had spied on his campaign, rigged the 2020 elections and falsely impeached him. Then he shared an article with a photo of him holding a baseball bat next to the Manhattan DA's image, which sparked anger and fear simultaneously. On Friday, Bragg was threat-

ened with assassination in a letter containing a non-hazardous white powder. The message said: "ALVIN: I AM GOING TO KILL YOU!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!" With the continuation of his investigation, it is expected that the number of threats will increase and we may see actual attempts against the DA. More demonstrations are also expected, which may turn violent in response to the calls of the former president, who has begun to exploit these events for his personal benefit without considering the country's interests or security. During the first three days after his initial post, Trump raised \$1.5 million from grassroots donations, according to his 2024 campaign.

The biggest loser of all is the Grand Old Party. After the events of Capitol Hill and Trump's unwillingness to call for a stop to the violence, a large number of moderate Republicans stood against him, and that situation is being repeated one more time. This group has been seeking the right candidate to defeat President Biden in 2024 to save the country from the far-left ideology that has been destroying the US for the past three years. Trump does not care about this group and has tried to destroy these politicians as punishment. Next year, there will likely not be enough Republicans to vote for these politicians, since Trump has succeeded in dividing the party and its supporters. Not all Republicans believe in vio-

lence and scams, but those who do not will face difficulties in getting the support of their party. Trump had a chance to redeem himself and unite the party with the power he has on the ground, but he chose himself over his country. At the same time, Biden and his Democratic Party have never been closer to a second term than they are now. They will keep pushing the former president to the edge to benefit from his predictable reactions, ignoring the country's interests. History will remember this dark era the United States of America is going through, whose developments and repercussions we follow daily. And regardless of the outcome, this political crisis will highly likely have a negative impact on US allies across the globe.

Myanmar's opaque and complex civil war

Dr. Azeem Ibrahim

MYANMAR'S civil war is complex and murky. Media coverage is sharply limited. Journalists are heavily controlled within the country and foreign reporters are largely not permitted to enter. This is just the way the junta, which has been running Myanmar since its coup in 2021, likes it. It would rather the world get confused and bored, so it can be left to do what it does best: Fighting internal enemies from the country's ethnic minorities.

Those details that have escaped the country's news filter are distressing. Like all asymmetric warfare, civilians appear to be suffering the most. Accused of harboring militia members or supporters of the People's Defense Forces, villages are descended upon by military forces, aggressively raided and sometimes razed to the ground. The army has attacked schools and village halls. In the crossfire, in numerous engagements, village elders and innocent women and children have been shot. This story has been repeated across Myanmar. It is a story of terrible, unceasing violence, over which the outside world has little purchase. It is a war by an army against a whole nation that seems impossible to stop.

Around all of this swirls the fog of war. Outside analysts strain to see. Which forces are based where, who has which weapons, which armed group is likely to have committed which crime? These questions are difficult to answer and, in the absence of any influence, they can force outside countries into silence or passivity. If there is nothing we can know for certain, some think, there is nothing we can reasonably do to help.

The fact that the war is opaque and complex helps war criminals. Provided they win the war, they will not be held accountable. They will not end up in court if they succeed. This incentivizes brutality and duplicity - if one wins the war brutally, one will not be punished for being brutal. Unable to understand, many foreign politicians cease trying. They move on and focus on other things.

But opacity and complexity should not be fatal to understand-

ing the war and attempting to bring about a just conclusion. It may just be that another tack is necessary;

This incentivizes brutality and duplicity - if one wins the war brutally, one will not be punished for being brutal. Unable to understand, many foreign politicians cease trying. They move on and focus on other things. But opacity and complexity should not be fatal to understanding the war and attempting to bring about a just conclusion. It may just be that another tack is necessary; one that is already in motion, already making slow and incremental gains, and is pursuing a just end that is already in sight. The war was preceded by an act of open genocide against a minority that still languishes in refugee camps in another country. The Rohingya were forced from their villages and their homes, uprooted from their backgrounds and their lives. The Rohingya are still suffering in Bangladesh, where they live in squalid and hopeless conditions. Practical help is vitally needed but it is not arriving. Beyond that, the legal movement that aims to secure them justice proceeds slowly and steadily. An international law case, brought in the International Court of Justice, is proceeding. It has already found that it has the standing to assess the Myanmar military's handling of the 2017 expulsions, the destruction of villages and the murders of civilians. In a case brought by Gambia, the International Court of Justice, a UN body, is now assessing whether the Myanmar government and its military broke the genocide convention.

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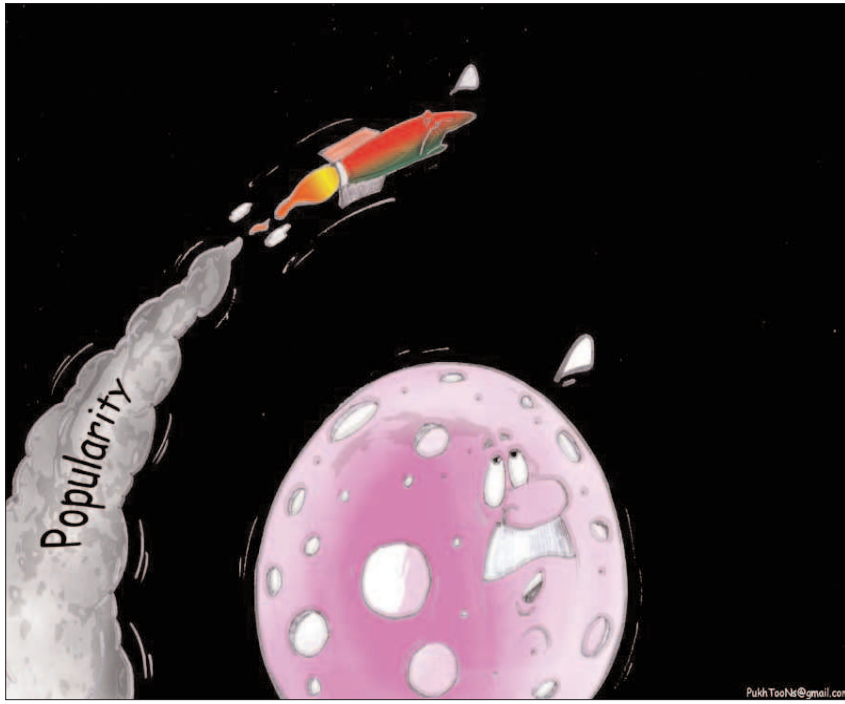
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Justice for one is justice for all. That is the old saying. However, there are some practical problems with this. If the Myanmar military is able to continue victimizing its domestic enemies, they cannot be immediately saved by a verdict against the junta in the International Court of Justice. But investigations that are well conducted will bear fruit. They limit the options of those who commit abhorrent international crimes. Justice for the Rohingya may seem a long way away while they languish in squalor and misery in Bangladeshi camps. But if the international judicial effort proceeds, justice comes closer nonetheless. Myanmar's war is still opaque. But justice - at least for those evicted from the country by the same force of brutality that is now attempting to cling to power - may be justice for all who live there or who wish to do so again.



The tragedy in Juárez is what a migration deterrence policy looks like

ON Monday, in Ciudad Juárez, Mexico, at least 39 migrants died in a fire inside a Mexican government immigration detention center. Surveillance video shows the beginning of the fire inside a holding cell. The flames spread rapidly. Smoke thickened. Indifferent to the despair of those trapped, guards abandoned the facility, leaving dozens locked in.

By nightfall, corpses lay on the street, covered in metal foil. Women waited for their husbands and brothers. Others banged on the windows of ambulances, hoping to find relatives alive. "We begged for help," one survivor said. "And they just let us die." This gruesome event, one of the worst immigration-related tragedies in the history of modern Mexico, did not happen in a void.

On the contrary, it is the predictable result of years of punitive immigration policies that have focused on deterrence. The discovery last June of 53 migrants who died in the locked, sweltering tractor-trailer in San Antonio was the clearest sign of things to come. But that tragedy and this most recent one have been foreshadowed countless times in past months. There have been clashes in southern Mexico between border guards and migrants. There have been alarming reports of abuse. Thousands have protested their mistreatment. Anguished attempts to cross the border have been amply documented.

The tragedy in Juárez "is the last step in a chain of abuse," said immigration expert Tonatiuh Guillén, former director of Mexico's

León Krauze

National Immigration Institute. Mexico's president has reacted to the tragedy with his usual callousness. Despite having the video of what happened just hours after the fire, the administration kept it under wraps. By Wednesday, when the scandal was breaking in the news, President Andrés Manuel López Obrador promised that no one would escape accountability, while in the same breath accusing the media of "sensationalism" fed by his "adversaries." A day earlier, he had implied that the tragedy could have been the migrants' fault for lighting mattresses to protest what they thought were plans to move or deport them.

The protest did happen, but not for the reasons the Mexican president claims. According to activists, immigrants in Juárez had had enough of an impossible situation: inhumane treatment, overcrowding and abuse of authority. "We're not animals," one man said. "We have rights." The reaction in the United States has also been disappointing. Journalist José Díaz Briseño asked State Department deputy spokesman Vedant Patel on Tuesday whether the Biden administration trusted the safety of facilities in Mexico. "That is a question for the Mexican government," Patel replied. In fact, it's not. The US government has relied on López Obrador's indifference to expel thousands of migrants and delay the entry of thousands more, condemning them to conditions that often lead to tragedy. But deflect-

ing responsibility like this is a dodge at best. The United States was complicit in this outcome.

The Mexican government needs to allocate sufficient sums to the National Immigration Institute and the Mexican Commission for Refugee Assistance, the two institutions in charge of guaranteeing humane treatment for immigrants and, especially, potential refugees. It has done the opposite. The refugee agency's yearly allocation from the López Obrador government is a laughable \$2.6 million. Support for shelters, essential to the safety of migrants, has also dwindled. The US government could insist on establishing a concrete, regional support plan, which could provide essential dignity for thousands of families fleeing authoritarian regimes, violence or extreme poverty.

It has done the opposite, choosing to expel, deter and reject. The result is now plain to see: dozens of families destroyed, in the cruelest way, with loved ones perishing in flames. Hard-line anti-immigration advocates may end up quietly interpreting this unspeakable tragedy as an effective deterrent to future migrants. Such arguments appear whenever Australia's immigration policy makes headlines. History will judge their lack of humanity. For now, a sense of foreboding is inescapable. Tragedy will strike again if the governments of Mexico and the United States, both supposedly progressive, do not return to the roots of compassion that they once claimed to defend.

The Washington Post

How could the UK's net zero plan involve new oil and gas? It's mind-bogglingly stupid

Bill McGuire

CROSSING fingers and hoping for the best is hardly a sensible way to tackle the climate emergency, but it is a strategy that the government seems determined to follow. Today, it launched its revised net zero plan, which turns out to be more a damp squib than a rocket that will ignite a desperately needed green transformation of the energy landscape. Widely dismissed as half-baked and utterly lacking in ambition, it pledges no new money and most of the initiatives flagged are based on government commitments that have already been touted. The truth is that the entire exercise is a smoke-and-mirrors attempt to conceal the fact that business as usual remains the order of the day.

At the heart of the strategy is the intention to unleash a new wave of UK oil and gas exploration - an astonishing and, frankly, dangerous path to take at the height of a climate emergency that is set to deepen year on year, in the absence of massive cuts in greenhouse gas emissions. The government is attempting to justify the unjustifiable by talking up a technology known as carbon capture and storage (CCS), which seeks to appre-

hend carbon dioxide (CO2) before it gets into the atmosphere and store it underground. Nowhere has CCS been tried and tested at the sort of scale that would be required to cancel out the emissions arising from the proposed dash for more gas and oil.

CCS has been tried at a small scale, but the results have been far from promising. Last year, an analysis of 13 CCS projects, undertaken by the Institute for Energy Economics and Financial Analysis (IEEFA), revealed that one was mothballed, two failed and seven underperformed. To have any chance of reaching net zero carbon in 2050 - which, in any case, is far too late to stop the world crashing through the 1.5C limit - something like 1.6bn tonnes of CO2 would have to be sequestered worldwide every year by 2030. The reality is that the technology is nowhere near being able to do this.

Most CCS projects to date have involved pumping CO2 into oil reservoirs that are reaching the end of their lives, so as to push out the hard-to-get-at dregs - a process known as enhanced oil recovery (EOR) - and this is where the CCS technology comes from in the first

place. Of the 39m tonnes of CO2 so far successfully captured, more than 70% has been used to do this, much to the delight of the oil companies. The stage is set, then, for the fossil fuel sector to be the big winner if government plans ever see the light of day. Not only do they have skin in the game through their longstanding expertise in EOR and provision of the reservoirs where CO2 will be stored, but there will be the added bonus of being able to utilise CCS to squeeze out every last drop of oil. For the climate this is a double whammy: emissions will be generated by the fossil fuels used to compress the gas before it is pumped under ground, and also from the last drops of oil that would otherwise have stayed safely out of reach.

Yesterday, more than 700 scientists - myself included - wrote to the prime minister, asking him to halt the licensing of new oil and gas developments, but I think we all know that this will not happen as long as the Tories are in power. This and previous Conservative governments have routinely derided the advice of experts. Furthermore, Rishi Sunak and his

party remain in thrall to the fossil fuel sector and beguiled by what they see as a CCS get-out-of-jail card that putatively offers the tantalising prospect of being able to continue to extract oil and gas without any downside.

The bottom line is that any strategy that involves new oil and gas developments is mind-bogglingly stupid. It detracts from efforts to slash emissions at the rate the science demands - a 50% cut by 2030 to have any chance of staying below 1.5C - and locks in fossil fuel infrastructure for the long term. CCS is untried and untested at the scale required, may well not work as expected, and is not a panacea for tackling the climate emergency. There needs to be a commitment to stop any new fossil fuel developments in the UK sector, something that Labour has already promised it will do. It is extraordinary, in a week when record spring temperatures are affecting Europe, and in a year when El Niño conditions in the Pacific could result in the planet coming within a whisker of the 1.5C dangerous climate change guardrail, the government is doing all it can to keep the oil and gas flowing. You really couldn't make it up.

The Guardian

A turning point for Congress and opposition in India

Jyotsna Mohan

RAHUL Gandhi's disqualification as a member of Parliament had an unexpected outcome. It finally energised a fractured opposition to unite even if the parties have been quick to clarify that it is a voice for democracy and not a validation of Rahul as a leader of any opposition front. The inability of non-BJP parties to find a common ground thus far has been nothing short of political suicide, a pundit doesn't need to spell out that only collectively is there a fighting chance against the BJP. An opposition in disarray plays into the BJP's hands as it marches towards the 2024 elections.

Which begs the question, has the government overplayed its hand? US says it is "watching" the case of the Congress leader in court and was engaging with the Indian government on "freedom of expression." Those more loyal than the king will dismiss this as an international conspiracy, but the G-20 summit is barely six months away and image matters, we know that. Barring Rahul Gandhi from Parliament for a political comment when hate speeches from BJP leaders drip like water from a tap and the level of discourse is almost guttural-Union minister Hardeep Puri recently likened him to an ass among all the other name calling directed at him in the past- gives

opposition claims that these are tactics to stop all and any debate on Adani, legitimacy.

It is the first time that Parliament has not been allowed to function by the party in power. Congress's delay in taking legal recourse opened a can of conspiracy theories but the disqualification and the prompt eviction notice- this lightning speed has no parallels in government corridors- will only backfire for the BJP if it is capitalised. Could this be a turning point in Congress and opposition unity that has until now not even flattered to deceive? Much depends on the motley crew and, Rahul Gandhi himself.

Eighteen opposition parties including the maverick Mamata Banerjee and Arvind Kejriwal's AAP-despite not finding Congress support during Manish Sisodia's arrest- have joined in the protests. But as mentioned earlier, it also rests on Rahul Gandhi. The newly formed unity was almost derailed at the starting line after the Congress leader's remarks against V D Savarkar, the Hindutva ideologue upset the Uddhav Thackeray- led Sena which skipped a dinner meeting hosted by Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge. Adamant on not apologising for his comments against the PM, Rahul says- again- that he is no Savarkar, a

man who died more than 50 years ago but has seen a rebirth in Indian politics after being appropriated by the ruling party. The spotlight though hasn't done the departed well, as Rahul inferred, his mercy petitions to the British have become a reference point for a spineless act.

Rahul Gandhi's letter in response to the eviction notice is a classy show and he is known to speak his mind, but politics dictates that sometimes thoughts need to be tempered in front of exigencies of political unity. He has already pushed the buttons of the Maha Vikas Aghadi, the alliance in Maharashtra between the Congress, Shiv Sena and NCP during the Bharat Jodo Yatra over the same issue. For Uddhav's Sena this could be a moment of reckoning as it walks a tightrope trying to marry its businesslike makeover with the strident core Hindutva plank of the past that it still needs to send a message to its cadre.

But more than that the Shinde government is breathing down its neck ready to grab the emotive issue just as it did the Shiv Sena party symbol. After some hectic behind the scenes early creases seem to have been ironed, at least for now. With central investigating agencies on overdrive, it isn't an easy stint in the opposition.

Fourteen political parties have also knocked on the doors of the Supreme court alleging that these agencies are being misused in a "selective" and "targeted" manner against them. In this game of checkers, it is a question of who next. Queuing up for summons have been Telangana Chief minister K Chandrashekhhar Rao's daughter K Kavitha, Bihar deputy chief Minister Tejashwi Yadav and even the unwell Lalu Prasad Yadav, to name but a few. The prerequisite of a robust democracy is a strong opposition but will the 'like-minded' parties be able to keep their differences and regional compulsions aside? The road is long and, this quote from Martin Luther King Jr is not far from the truth, "we must all learn to live together as brothers, or we will all perish together as fools."

This unity hasn't escaped the Prime Minister a sign that they are on the right track. It would not be presumptuous to warn, there will be more rocky days but even an armchair critic knows, it is the only way to take on the BJP juggernaut. If the opposition stays the course the inevitable question would be under whose leadership, Rahul Gandhi is not the preferred choice. But these are early days and yet, time is running out. The only way the opposition can gain from the expulsion is by playing politics with politics.

Gulf News

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Govt urged to resolve tax issues of furniture industry

ISLAMABAD (INP): Vice President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry Engr. Muhammad Azhar ul Islam Zafar on Saturday urged the government to resolve the tax issues of furniture industry to increase its better growth.

In his press statement he said that tax authorities and field formations of FBR are issuing notices to furniture showrooms, shops to register as Tier-1 retailers, which is not practicable for all furniture businesses and urged that the furniture showrooms, shops covering area less than 2000 square feet should be exempted from sales tax registration to ease

their problems.

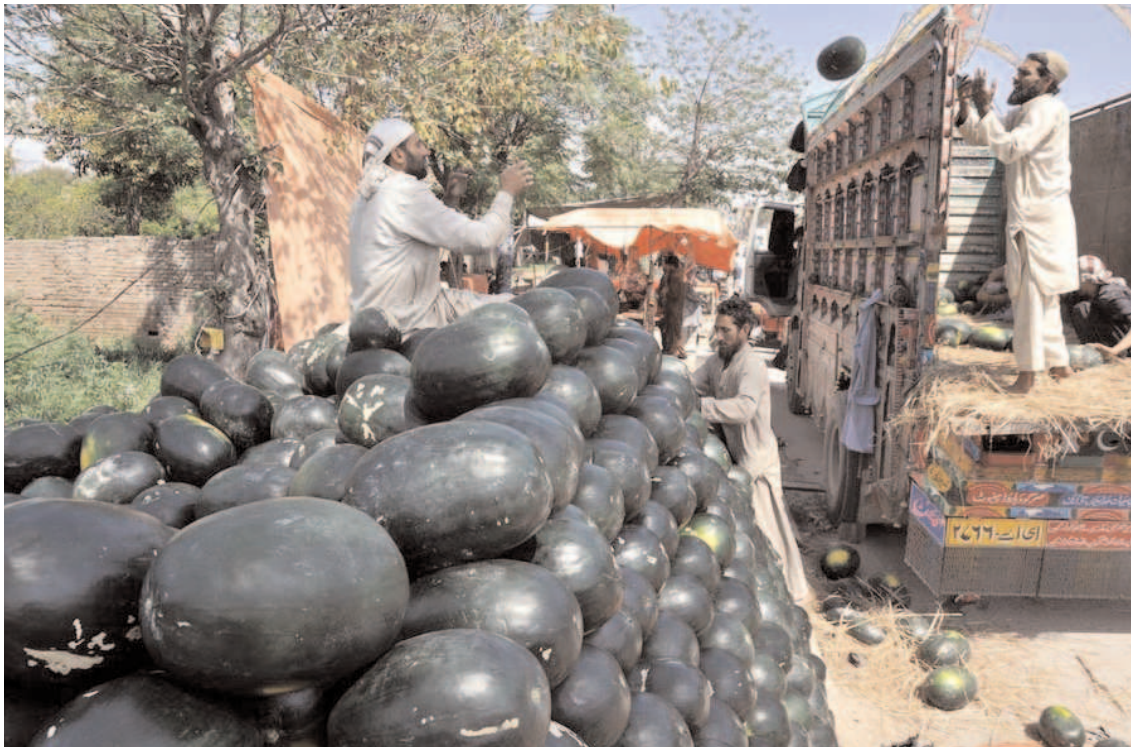
He said while talking to a delegation of Pakistan Furniture Association that visited ICCI led by its Chairman Zahid Hussain. Engr. Muhammad Azhar ul Islam Zafar said that the small furniture retailers should not be subjected to Sub-Sec-43A of Sec-2 of Sales Tax Act 1990 as they purchase furniture from unregistered manufacturers of the cottage industry and cannot provide input invoices. He said that those retailers who occupy even one square foot less area than 2000 sq. ft. are exempted, which creates an anomaly. He assured that

ICCI would cooperate with the Pakistan Furniture Association in resolving key issues of the furniture industry.

Speaking at the occasion, Zahid Hussain, Chairman, Pakistan Furniture Association stressed that the government should introduce fixed sales tax of Rs.5000/month for furniture showrooms, shops covering area of above 2000 sq. ft. up to 5000 sq ft., Rs. 10,000/month for showrooms, shops covering area of above 5000 sq. ft. up to 10,000 sq. ft and Rs.15000/month for showrooms, shops covering area of above 10,000 sq. ft up to

15,000 sq. ft. He said that such a fixed tax regime would protect the furniture businesses from unnecessary harassment and facilitate better growth of their business activities.

Mian Muhammad Ramzan, Convener, ICCI Tax Committee said that the furniture showrooms, shops which are not part of a national or international chain store nor are they located in air-conditioned malls, should be excluded from the category of Sub-Sec-43-A of Sec-2 of Sales Tax Act 1990 and should be declared as cottage industry with inclusion in Tier-2 regime.



ISLAMABAD: Vendors unloading water-melons from delivery truck at roadside.

US job creation slows but unemployment stays low

LONDON (BBC News): The jobs boom in the US slowed last month but the unemployment rate remained low, as the world's largest economy remained resilient in the face of sharply higher borrowing costs.

Employers added 236,000 jobs in March, the Labor Department said, fewer than in February but close to expectations.

At 3.5%, the jobless rate remained near historic lows.

The data is being closely watched as the US central bank raises interest rates to stabilise soaring prices.

Raising rates makes borrowing more expensive. It means businesses borrow less, making them less likely to create jobs or even cut staff.

However, the US labour market has defied expectations of a slowdown so far.

Employers have added more than 330,000 jobs monthly on average over the last six months and job openings have outstripped

the workers available.

Analysts said the latest report from the US Labor Department suggested conditions may be starting to change, noting job declines in the construction, manufacturing and retail sectors.

The increase in wages also eased, with average hourly earnings rising by 4.2% over the year to March. This is below the 4.6% increase in February and the lowest since mid-2021.

"Overall, while the headline gain was a little stronger than we had expected, it's still the smallest monthly gain since December 2020," said Andrew Hunter, deputy chief US economist for Capital Economics.

Big companies including consultancy Accenture, entertainment giant Disney and fast food chain McDonalds have announced job cuts in recent weeks.

But bars, restaurants, schools and hospitals have

continued to add workers, raising hopes that the economy will slow and inflation subside without a painful recession.

US inflation, the rate at which prices rise, hit 6% in February.

That has fallen from more than 9% last June, but remains far higher than the Federal Reserve's 2% target.

The Federal Reserve, along with many other central banks around the world, has been lifting interest rates to cool the rate of price rises.

Since March last year, the bank has raised interest rates nine times, including last month when the US banking sector was hit by its two biggest failures since the global financial crisis in 2008.

Ian Shepherdson, chief economist at Pantheon Macroeconomics, said the March jobs report was the "calm before the slump".

He said hiring was likely to fall sharply as bank lending slows following the col-

lapse of Silicon Valley Bank (SVB) and Signature Bank.

"The March data effectively are a look back into the pre-SVB world," he said. "But the hit from tighter credit conditions is coming.... We expect unemployment to rise markedly across the remainder of this year."

Jerome Powell, chairman of the Federal Reserve, has faced increasing pressure from some politicians who say the bank is taking steps that could force companies to make major job cuts.

Commenting on last month's increase, Mr Powell pointed to the strong jobs market and said he remained hopeful that officials could achieve a so-called soft landing. This means an economy avoids a recession or if there is a slowdown, it will be short-lived.

"I think that pathway still exists and, you know, we're certainly trying to find it," he said.

China's forex reserves rise to \$3.1839b

BEIJING (APP): China's foreign exchange reserves came in at \$3.1839 trillion at the end of March, up 1.62 percent or \$50.7 billion from a month earlier, the State Administration of Foreign Exchange said.

Affected by monetary policy and expectations for major economies, the dollar index fell and the prices of global financial assets climbed last month, the regulator said, attributing the increase in foreign exchange reserves to the combined impact of currency translation and asset price changes.

It added that China's foreign exchange reserves are expected to stay generally stable as the country has solid economic foundations and broad prospects for development.

Dong Dengxin, director of the Finance and Securities Institute at the Wuhan University of Science and Technology, told the Global Times that the foreign exchange rise was mainly the result of dollar depreciation.

Observers said that global investors' anticipation of dollar depreciation has led to looming recession concerns for the US economy, with the Fed showing no sign of reversing the rate hike cycle despite the recent banking crisis.

"The Fed's continued interest rate hikes previously pushed up the dollar index, but it fell in March as many countries, including Russia, India and many oil exporters, abandoned the dollar and settled in local currency or the yuan," he said.

"It indicates that the dollar is facing a credit crisis, whether represented by the West reducing its holdings of US debt or developing countries using the local currency for settlement," Dong noted.

China's international reserves are composed of gold reserves and foreign exchange reserves. At present, the country's foreign exchange reserves maintain a level of around \$3.1 trillion to \$3.2 trillion. Dong suggested that the country could cut US debt holdings to prevent further risks.

The world's second-largest economy has been diversifying its international portfolio to ensure reserve security. Data from the United States Treasury Department showed that China's holdings of US Treasury securities slid for six consecutive months to \$859.4 billion as of the end of January, down from \$867.1 billion in December.

The country's foreign exchange reserves stood at more than \$3.21 trillion at the end of February, down 0.24 percent from the end of January.

Emirates to offer daily flights to Toronto from 20th

DUABI (INP): Following the breakthrough expanded air transport agreement between the United Arab Emirates and Canada, Emirates is stepping up its frequency with two additional flights per week between Dubai and Toronto.

From April 20, daily flights will operate on the busy route to serve huge demand for passenger services. The move comes as bilateral relations between the United Arab Emirates and Canada have enhanced significantly, with both countries set to reap vast economic benefits across a multitude of sectors and supply chains.

Adnan Kazim, Emirates' Chief Commercial Officer, said: Emirates welcomes the expansion of the air services agreement between the UAE and Canada and we would firstly like to thank all stakeholders and authorities who were involved in this pivotal agreement that will provide a boost to the aviation and tourism sectors in

both countries.

Emirates has been serving customers between Toronto and Dubai since 2007, and although the double-decker A380 aircraft has been operating the route since 2009, demand arising from leisure and corporate travellers, diaspora and students has consistently outstripped the allocated capacity. This enhanced agreement represents a turning point for us in our strategy to serve our customers better, by offering more choice and flexibility, and meet pent up demand across our growing network.

"Business ties between Canada and the UAE have grown significantly over the years and the expanded air services will help to further nurture business and trade. The expansion of air services is also an affirmation of the growing importance of the UAE to Canada's global connectivity, which we can support through our global network of more than 130 destina-

tions. Together with the relevant authorities, our code-share and loyalty programme partner Air Canada, and our valued industry partners, we look forward to playing a role in facilitating more tourism and trade opportunities between the two nations," continued Kazim.

Emirates operates the flagship A380 aircraft on the Dubai-Toronto route, allowing 491 passengers across Economy Class, Business Class and First Class on each flight. With the two additional flights per week, Emirates will offer close to 2,000 additional seats to serve the busy route, representing a 40% increase in capacity between its hub city of Dubai and the Canadian point. The Dubai-Toronto route is highly popular amongst customers from India, UAE, Bangladesh, Iran, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia and Sri Lanka while the same countries represent top destinations for travellers from Toronto.

World food prices fall for 12th month running in March

ROME (Reuters): The UN's food agency's world price index fell in March for a 12th consecutive month, and is now down 20.5 percent from a record high hit one year ago following Russia's invasion of Ukraine, according to Reuters.

The Food and Agriculture Organization's price index, which tracks the most globally traded food commodities, averaged 126.9 points last month against 129.7 for February, the agency said on Friday. It was the lowest reading since July 2021.

The February reading was originally given as 129.8.

A combination of ample supplies, subdued import demand and the extension of a deal allowing the safe export of Ukrainian grain via the Black Sea contributed to the drop, FAO said.

The Rome-based agency said the decline in the index reflected lower prices for cereals, vegetable oils and dairy products, which offset rises in sugar and meat prices.

"While prices dropped at

the global level, they are still very high and continue to increase in domestic markets, posing additional challenges to food security," Maximiliano Torero, FAO's chief economist said in a statement.

"This is particularly so in net food importing developing countries, with the situation aggravated by the depreciation of their currencies against the US dollar or the euro and a mounting debt burden," he added.

The FAO cereal price index fell 5.6 percent month-on-month in March, with wheat registering a 7.1 percent drop, maize a 4.6 percent decline and rice easing 3.2 percent.

Vegetable oils fell 3.0 percent, some 47.7 percent down on the level the index hit in March 2022, while the dairy index was down 0.8 percent.

By contrast, sugar rose 1.5 percent to its highest level since October 2016, hit by concerns over declining production prospects in India, Thailand and China. The meat price index rose by 0.8 percent.

Higher Wheat Production

In a separate report on

cereals supply and demand, the FAO raised its forecast for world wheat production in 2023, now pegged at 786 million tons — 1.3 percent below the 2022 level but nonetheless the second largest output on record.

"Near-record sown areas are expected in Asia, while dry conditions are impacting North Africa and southern Europe," FAO said.

FAO also raised its forecast for world cereal production in 2022 to 2.777

billion tons, just 1.2 percent down from the previous year. World rice production in 2022/23 was seen at 516 million tons, 1.6 percent below the record 2021/22 harvest.

World cereal utilization in the 2022/23 period was seen at 2.779 billion tons, FAO said, down 0.7 percent from 2021/22. World cereal stocks by the close of the 2022/2023 seasons are expected to ease by 0.3 percent from their opening levels to 850 million tons.

Dollar rises after key jobs report

NEW YORK (APP): The US dollar strengthened in late trading following the release of the March US employment report. The dollar index, which measures the greenback against six major peers, was up 0.27 percent to 102.0952.

In late New York trading, the euro fell to 1.0907 US dollars from 1.0930 dollars in the previous session, and the British pound decreased to 1.2415 US dollars from 1.2452 dollars in the previous session.

The US dollar bought 132.23 Japanese yen, higher than 131.78 Japanese

yen of the previous session. The US dollar fell to 0.9040 Swiss francs from 0.9041 Swiss francs, and it was up to 1.3514 Canadian dollars from 1.3472 Canadian dollars. The US dollar rose to 10.4588 Swedish Kronor from 10.4160 Swedish Kronor.

US employers added 236,000 jobs in March, and the unemployment rate ticked down to 3.5% from 3.6% in February, the Labor Department reported. Economists had expected a gain of 239,000 jobs and a jobless rate of 3.6%, according to Refinitiv.

Court Notice

In the court of Nayab Qayyum civil Judge IV Kohat, Suit no. 402/1 Date of hearing: 04-05-2023, Titled:- Qazi Hussain Ud Din Vs Fazal Yasir (etc), Notice against:- (6) Secretary Excise and Taxation Peshawar KPK (7) Dr. Qazi Tahir Ud Din S/o Qazi Hameed Ud Din R/o Mohallah Qazian District Kohat presently (in Collage of Medicine Shakra Saudi Arabia) (Defendants) Whereas the above plaintiff has instituted a civil suit against you defendants in which date of hearing 04-05-2023 is fixed for your appearance. Since your intimation/service is not possible through ordinary means/mode therefore you defendants is intimated through this publication to appear before this court by person or by pleader on date fixed 04-05-2023 otherwise court shall be proceeded in accordance with law, order Issued on 28-03-2023 (Court of C.J.IV Kohat)

Court Notice

In the Court of Qaisar Khan Afridi Additional District Judge II/Azafi Zila Qazi Buner at Daggar. Appeal No.19/13.

Institution 10/2/2022 Date of hearing: 9/5/2023, Musharaf Khan etc VS Sher Afzal Khan etc, Notice to no 1/2.Sher Zaman Khan.1/3.Jihan Sher Khan.1/4.Sher Baz Khan sons of Sher Afzal Khan.1/8.Mst Khizra Naheed d/o Sher Afzal Khan (late) resident of Topdara tehsel Daggar district Buner. Whereas in the above mentioned case the mentioned defendants can not be served in the ordinary way, it is, therefore, proclaimed that if the said defendants will/shall not appear personally or through dually authorized agent or pleader in the court at 8.am dated 9/5/2023 the proceeding will be taken ex- parte.

Given under my hand and seal of this Court.

Court Notice

In the Court of Qaisar Khan Afridi Additional District Judge II/Azafi Zila Qazi Buner at Daggar. Appeal No.83/13.

Institution 24/19/2022 Date of hearing: 4/5/2023, Mohammad Khan etc VS Mst Bakht Khabzon etc, Notice to no 20.Said Tahir son of Said Hasan (late) resident of Elai tehsel Daggar district Buner. Whereas in the above mentioned case the mentioned defendant can not be served in the ordinary way, it is, therefore, proclaimed that if the said defendant will/shall not appear personally or through dually authorized agent or pleader in the court at 8.am dated 4/5/2023 the proceeding will be taken ex- parte.

Given under my hand and seal of this Court.

Court Notice

In the Court of Qaisar Khan Afridi Additional District Judge II/Azafi Zila Qazi Buner at Daggar. Appeal No.85/13.

Institution 27/9/2022 Date of hearing: 9/5/2023, Ali Mohamad Khan VS Anwar Ali etc. Notice to no 6.Taj Mohamad Khan son of Jamsheer Khan resident of Khydara Bagra tehsel Daggar district Buner. Whereas in the above mentioned case the mentioned defendant can not be served in the ordinary way, it is, therefore, proclaimed that if the said defendant will/shall not appear personally or through dually authorized agent or pleader in the court at 8.am dated 9/5/2023 the proceeding will be taken ex- parte.

Given under my hand and seal of this Court.

Auto industry has 'all kinds of opportunities' for women, Ford's chief engineer says

NEW YORK (Agencies): Women have long been underrepresented in engineering positions. And in the male-dominated car business, the odds seem especially stacked against them.

But that didn't stop Laurie Transou, chief engineer for the Ford Mustang Dark Horse, the company's latest muscle car. "Within the auto industry, there's all kinds of opportunities for young women interested in engineering," Transou recently told Yahoo Finance from the 2023 New York Auto Show.

Women make up roughly half the United States workforce, but occupy around merely 30 percent of STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) jobs. Meanwhile, they make up just one quarter of the auto industry, according to Deloitte.

"STEM is a great place to start. So I'd absolutely encourage people who are interested in engineering to learn more about it, get involved with STEM," Transou said. "There's tons of mentor programs."

It led to power cuts and scheduled blackouts, leaving towns and cities in darkness during winter.

Ukraine was forced to stop electricity exports - but will now be able to sell its excess power again.

Energy Minister Herman Halushchenko signed an executive order authorising the exports, although local customers remain the priority. He said the system had been producing extra capacity for almost two months and that Ukrainians were not facing restrictions.

"The most difficult winter has passed," Mr Halushchenko said on Friday. "The next step is to start exporting electricity, which will allow us to attract additional financial resources for the necessary reconstruction of the destroyed and damaged energy infrastructure."

He also praised the "titanic work" of engineers and international partners to restore the system.

Last month, residents across Ukraine told the BBC that power supplies were becoming more reliable. "The city has trans-

formed," said Inna Shtanko, a young mother in Dnipro. "Finally, street lights are back, and it's no longer scary to walk the city streets."

However, the operator of the country's electricity network, Ukrenergo, has warned that Ukraine could not count on Russian attacks stopping.

Ukrenergo said on Saturday that Russia has launched more than 1,200 missiles and drones at its energy facilities so far during the war. The company described the assault as the largest attempt to destroy a European country's energy system.

In cities across Ukraine this winter, some civilians had to use hubs known as "resilience centres" to keep warm during power cuts and freezing temperatures.

The hubs provided power and heat, as well as basic supplies like food and medicines.

Every one of Ukraine's thermal and hydroelectric power plants has been damaged since Russia began targeting energy infrastructure.



In brief

Shaheen Afridi sympathises with Palestinian

KARACHI (Web Desk): In the wake of the recent Israeli aggression on Palestinian land and especially the Al-Aqsa mosque, Pakistani pacer Shaheen Shah Afridi came out to sympathise with the Palestinians. Taking to Twitter, he wrote, "Believers resemble one body, so that, if any part of the body is not well then the whole body shares the sleeplessness". "We can feel the cruelty being carried out in Masjid Al-Aqsa time and time again. Remember the oppressed ones. May Almighty ease their sufferings. Aameen," he added. On April 5, Israeli police clashed with Palestinians at the Al-Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem, leaving many Palestinians injured. Israeli forces were filmed storming Al Aqsa Mosque compound and attacking dozens of people inside including old women and children. The attack happened in the early morning hours of April 5 in the occupied city of Jerusalem.

Bradburn named Pakistan head coach

K A R A C H I (Monitoring Desk): Pakistan Cricket Board on Friday appointed Grant Bradburn as the head coach of their men's team for their upcoming limited-overs series against New Zealand. Bradburn, 56, played seven Tests and 11 one-day internationals for New Zealand before taking up coaching. The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) added that Andrew Puttick of South Africa will join the staff as batting coach. The head coach position fell vacant after Saqlain Mushtaq's term ended in February. Abdul Rahman filled in for the three Twenty20s against Afghanistan last month. The recruitment process for the team management beyond the New Zealand tour was ongoing, the PCB said in a statement. Bradburn was previously head coach of Scotland, and worked with Pakistan as the fielding coach between 2018 and 2020. Former Pakistan head coach Mickey Arthur will take up team director position after the New Zealand series, according to local media reports. Pakistan will host New Zealand for five T20s starting April 14, followed by five one-day internationals.

Ali Khan banned for two matches

DUBAI (Agencies): Fast bowler Ali Khan has been banned for the United States' next two games for a Level 1 breach of the ICC Code of Conduct. The one demerit point it incurred has seen his accumulated demerit points add up to four in a 24-month period, triggering an automatic suspension. Khan committed the offence during USA's World Cup Qualifier Play-off match against Jersey in Windhoek on Tuesday. Khan was found to have breached Article 2.5 of the ICC Code of Conduct for Players and Player Support Personnel, which relates to "using language, actions or gestures which disparage or which could provoke an aggressive reaction from a batter upon his/her dismissal during an International Match." He was fined 15% of his match fee. He had earlier received three demerit points for two separate incidents during a T20I game against Bermuda in November 2021 during the ICC T20 World Cup Qualifier Americas Final in Antigua. His team-mate Jasdeep Singh and Jersey's Elliot Miles were also penalised for a Level 1 breach.

Mikaeel Ali shines in Tajikistan ATF 14 Tennis

KARACHI (APP): Mikaeel earned double gold medals in Dushanbe, becoming a singles and doubles champion. The Somoni Open U14 Asian Tennis Federation tournament in Dushanbe concluded, where Pakistan's upcoming talent player Mikaeel Ali Baig got two gold medals and became the singles and doubles champion, said a communiqué here on Saturday. In the singles match, Mikaeel had to face top South Korean player Siyun Kim, who he had lost just last week in a tight finals match. Once again, the two

faced each other in a finals showdown. The thriller match started with Mikaeel very quickly gaining a strong lead and taking the first set at 6-3. In the second set, however, Kim stepped up, changed his strategy and got the set from Mikaeel at 6-1. It all came down to the third set. Mikaeel was locked in and ready to take on the battle to the finish line. Kim was no match for Mikaeel's aggressive game. The third set was over very fast as Mikaeel won 6-0. The duo partnership of Mikaeel (Pakistan) and

Siyun Kim (South Korea), then had to face an opposing doubles team pair from Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan in the finals. The doubles match started off with both teams struggling to take the lead. The first set was tied at 6-6, but the opponents managed to grab the set from Mikaeel and Kim. In the second set, the dynamic pairing of Mikaeel and Kim fought back and won the set at 6-4, taking the match into a super tie-break. Mikaeel and Kim played the tie-break strong from the start and won at 10-4 to get their championship win.

PCB nominates Aleem Dar on ICC's int'l panel

KARACHI (Monitoring Desk): Pakistan Cricket Board has nominated Aleem Dar on the ICC International Panel of Umpires. The 54-year-old three-time ICC Umpire of the Year has replaced Ahsan Raza in the international panel, who has been promoted to the ICC Elite Panel of Umpires. Aleem's appointment to the international panel means he will remain eligible to umpire in international matches, including Pakistan's home international fixtures as well as the upcoming ICC Major Events such as the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup 2023, ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2024 and the ICC Champions Trophy 2025. As per ICC regulations, match officials on the international panel are only qualified to officiate in international matches. Match officials in this panel are nominated by the ICC Members. PCB Manager - Umpires



and Referees, Bilal Qureshi: "The PCB had a detailed internal discussion on Aleem Dar and there was a consensus to recommend him to the ICC's International Panel of Umpires as a PCB nominee so that international cricket can continue to benefit from his wealth of experience and knowledge. "Furthermore, the PCB will continue to involve him in its domestic season so that it can develop and groom its own emerging umpires under his tutelage." To date, Aleem, who was included in the elite panel in

2004, has officiated in a world record 439 international matches, including 145 Tests, 225 ODIs, and 69 T20Is. He has officiated in five ICC Men's Cricket World Cups, seven ICC Men's T20 World Cups and five ICC Champions Trophy events, including finals of the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup 2007 and 2011, ICC Champions Trophy 2009 and ICC Men's T20 World Cups 2010 and 2012. Pakistan's other three umpires on the international panel are Faisal Khan Afridi, Mohammad Asif Yaqoob and Rashid Riaz Waqar.

Pakistan U19 team holds training session ahead of Bangladesh Tour

LAHORE (Monitoring Desk): Pakistan Under-19 Men's cricket team on Saturday, held its first training session at the National Cricket Academy (NCA) for their upcoming tour of Bangladesh. In the first session of the ongoing camp at the NCA, coach Sabih Azhar and team manager Tauseef Ahmed gave briefing to the players regarding the camp. The junior players engaged in rigorous batting, fielding and bowling drills throughout the day as they gear up for the upcoming away assignment against Bangladesh. It is worth mentioning that the Pakistan U19 team, under the leadership of Said Baig, will tour Bangladesh to play one four-day, five One Day and one T20 from April 30 to May 17 in Chittagong and Rajshahi. PAKISTAN U19 Squad: Saad Baig (captain) (Karachi), Ali Asfand



(vice-captain) (Faisalabad), Ahmed Hussain (Peshawar), Aimal Khan (Peshawar), Amir Hussain (Rawalpindi), Arafat Minhas (Multan), Azan Awaiz (Sialkot), Hamza Nawaz (Lahore), Mohammad Ibtisam (Sargodha), Mohammad Ismail (Sahiwal), Mohammad Tahir (Fata), Mohammad Tayyab Arif (Sialkot), Obaid Shahid (Lahore), Sajjad Ali (Lahore), Shahzaib Khan (Mansehra), Shamyul Hussain (Islamabad) and

Wahaj Riaz (Karachi), Abdullh (Islamabad), Ikramullah Tareen (Quetta) and Muhammad Zulkifal (Charsadda) (all reserves) Series Schedule: 30 Apr – Only Four-Day, Chattogram 6 May – 1st One-Day, Chattogram 8 May – 2nd One-Day, Chattogram 11 May – 3rd One-Day, Rajshahi 15 May – 4th One-Day, Rajshahi 17 May – Only T20, Rajshahi

Spurs star Son becomes first Asian to score 100 Premier League goals

LONDON (Agencies): Son Heung-min dedicated his historic goal in Tottenham's 2-1 win against Brighton to his late grandfather after the South Korea star became the first Asian to score 100 times in the Premier League. Son reached his century in style with a superb curling finish to put Tottenham ahead in the first half in north London on Saturday. Afer Lewis Dunk's equaliser, Harry Kane's 79th-minute winner ensured Son's goal wouldn't go to waste as fifth-placed Tottenham stayed in the hunt to qualify for the Champions League via a top-four finish. It was a welcome boost for the 30-year-old Son, who has endured a difficult season. As well as an unusually long run of poor personal form, which including several spells on the bench, Son has had to



cope with the recent death of his grandfather. "This was something that I dreamed of. It is an amazing achievement which I wouldn't have had without my team-mates," he told the BBC. "Scoring 100 goals in the Premier League is a massive thing. I was really emotional because I have had tough moments in the last few weeks. My grandad passed away and it

was not easy. I want to send that goal to him." Son has enjoyed a remarkable career with Tottenham since signing from Bayer Leverkusen for what now looks a bargain £22 million (\$27 million) in 2015. His dynamic displays have established him as one of the Premier League's most feared, while his humble personality has made him a favourite with Tottenham fans.

Chelsea crash on Lampard return, Man Utd, Newcastle boost top-four bids



WOLVERHAMPTON (Agencies): Frank Lampard failed to spark Chelsea as his first game back in charge ended in a 1-0 defeat at Wolves, while Manchester United and Newcastle consolidated their hold on places in the Premier League's top four on Saturday. Lampard made a surprise return to Stamford Bridge on Thursday when he was appointed until the end of the season following Graham Potter's sacking last Sunday after just seven months in charge. But the ex-Chelsea midfielder, who was dismissed by the club's former owner Roman Abramovich in January 2021, could not provide an immediate lift for the Blues. Chelsea, on their third manager this season following Potter's exit and Thomas Tuchel's sacking in September, remain 11th after a fourth consecutive game without a win. The presence of Lampard, Chelsea's record goalscorer, did little to inspire his players and Matheus Nunes won it for Wolves in the 32nd minute with a superb half-volley into the far corner from the edge of the area. Sacked by lowly Everton in

January after less than a year in charge, Lampard will now turn his attention to Wednesday's Champions League quarter-final first leg at holders Real Madrid. At Old Trafford, Manchester United beat Everton 2-0 to stay fourth and leave the fourth-bottom visitors above the relegation zone on goal difference. Goals from Scott McTominay and Anthony Martial edged United ever closer to a return to the Champions League next season. Despite the win, United boss Erik ten Hag took aim at his side's congested fixture schedule after Marcus Rashford limped off nine minutes from time. Ten Hag was not happy at the timing of the match as United were in action for the third time in less than six days after losing at Newcastle last weekend and beating Brentford on Wednesday. "We have to wait. He doesn't look well," said Ten Hag. "It's due to the schedule. It can't be that you play three games in six days and we have to protect the players." - Newcastle fight back - Third-placed Newcastle are above United on goal difference after a 2-1

Buttler stars as Rajasthan beat Delhi in IPL

NEW DELHI (Agencies): Jos Buttler's 79 from 51 balls helped set up Rajasthan Royals' 57-run win over Delhi Capitals in the Indian Premier League. England white-ball captain Buttler and Yashasvi Jaiswal, who made 60, added an opening stand of 98 in just 8.3 overs. Rajasthan's run-rate stalled in the middle overs but Shimron Hetmyer's explosive 39 not out from 21 balls led them to 199-4. Delhi captain David Warner hit 65 in reply but they fell short on 142-9. Buttler, who was dropped on 18 by Anrich Nortje, hit 11 fours and a six in his knock but Jaiswal was the early aggressor, racing to his half-century in just 25 balls. Delhi fought back to remove Jaiswal, followed by Sanju Samson and Riyan Parag for single-figure scores, as Rajasthan only managed to score 27 runs between overs 10-15. Buttler remained to anchor the innings before he was dismissed in the 19th over, but Hetmyer's four sixes propelled Rajasthan to their imposing total. New Zealand seamer Trent Boult then gave Rajasthan the perfect start to the second innings with a double-wicket maiden - his second in three games. He dismissed Prithvi Shaw and Manish Pandey, before India spinner Ravichandran Ashwin claimed the wicket of Rilee Rossouw to leave Delhi 36-3.

Mehtab Chawla Ramadan Veterans Hockey entered the semi-finals

KARACHI (NNI): Second Mehtab Chawla Ramadan Flood lights Veterans Hockey Tournament semi-final line-up completed, Pakistan Veterans White and Sea hawks Hockey Club made it to the final four. Last night, in the first match played under the lights of Olympian Islahuddin and Dr. Muhammad Ali Shah Hockey Academy, Pakistan Veterans Hockey Club (White) beat Noor XI by 9 goals to null in a one-sided match. Irfan Khan Jr scored second hat-trick of the tournament, Faisal Waheed scored two beautiful goals while Zahid Ghaffar, Tasneem Usmani, Azam Khan and Arif Bhopali neted once each. In the second match, Sea

Hawks Hockey Club easily win over Baldia Hockey Club by 6 goals to null Nazakat Ali's hat trick. Nazakat scored four goals, Zahid Fareed and Faheem scored one each. The Chief Guest was Javed Ali Memon, Director Sports, Higher Education Commission. Olympian Islahuddin introduced the Chief Guest to the athletes. Javed Ali Memon said in his speech Olympian Islahuddin has played a big role in restoring the glory of hockey in Karachi. Every modern facility related to hockey is available here. He said that he wants hockey activities to be organized here from the platform of HEC and he wishes that the training camp of HEC women's hockey team

should also be organized here in connection with the preparations for the National Games to be held in Quetta. Because in their eyes there is no better ground Begum Asma Ali Shah, former international Mubashir Mukhtar, tournament coordinator Syed Alay Hasan, Muhammad Aslam Khan and others were also present on this occasion. Nadeem Saeed, Taaqreem Iftikhar, Talha Ghori and Uzeer Ahmed umpired while Tariq Khan, Asad Zaheer, Wahid Hussain performed the duties of technical officials. In the first semi-final, Pakistan Veterans White will face Pakistan Veterans Green at 11pm and Sea hawks Hockey Club will face Karachi Fitness Club at 12:30 pm.

Tim Seifert helps New Zealand clinch a thriller

QUEENSTOWN (Agencies): Sri Lanka's death bowling nearly pulled it back from the brink, but New Zealand kept their cool to secure an ultimately comfortable four-wicket win in the third and final T20I in Queenstown and with it a 2-1 series victory. Tim Seifert anchored a successful chase of 183 with his 48-ball 88, which trumped Kusal Mendis' 73 off 43 earlier in the day, though Seifert might not have imagined how tense the finish would get when he was dismissed with his side needing just 29 from 23 deliveries with seven wickets in hand.



Overs 17 to 19 would go for just 19 runs, leaving the hosts needing ten to win off the last over. A six off the first delivery seemed to have settled matters but Sri Lanka would land a team hat-trick off the next three balls, with Lahiru Kumara picking up two wickets and effecting a run out. They might have made it four from four too, but Kumara missed an almost identical run-out chance, allowing New Zealand to steal a bye to the keeper. Rachin Ravindra then struck the winning runs a ball later, as New Zealand breathed a collective sigh of relief. For Sri Lanka, it's a disappointing end to a tough tour. The turning point: Henry makes amends Hindsight is often twenty-twenty, but even in the moment, Matt Henry's three-run final over seemed like it could prove pivotal.

The five overs prior had seen Sri Lanka hit 56 runs, and with five wickets in hand and Wanindu Hasaranga and Charith Asalanka at the crease - both capable of comfortably clearing the ropes - Sri Lanka would have been looking to make a charge at a total near 200. But Henry varied his pace and kept it full and wide to keep the over to singles at most. Having gone wicketless for 32 off his previous three, Henry came through clutch at the death, and New Zealand would eventually win with just a ball to spare. Seifert breaks open the chase Chad Bowes being dropped in the first over might have been bad for morale and momentum, but Seifert managing to pick up a boundary in nearly every over up until the 17th, in which he was dismissed, was what took Sri Lanka out of the game. His partnerships of 53 and 84 with Bowes and Tom Latham also ensured that even the chaotic loss of wickets at the end wouldn't derail his side's chase. Nearly every

Sri Lankan bowler went at over 8 an over - Hasaranga ended a dismal tour by his standards with a wicketless four overs for 41 - and Seifert struck at over 170 against all of them barring the always excellent Maheesh Theekshana, who maintained an economy rate of 5.50. Mendis (and Sri Lanka) ride their luck Sri Lanka got off to their best start of the series with Mendis and Pathum Nissanka putting on a 76-run opening stand. Mendis would go on to top score in a destructive innings that saw six fours and five sixes, but also one fraught with a non-insignificant dose of fortune. While a couple of mistimed hits fell just out of reach of onrushing fielders, it was him being dropped at first slip by Daryll Mitchell that really raised eyebrows. Mendis would be offered a second reprieve later on, this time by Ravindra running along the deep-third boundary. One final bit of luck would come to Kusal Perera's aid, as he would be excellently caught on the boundary line.



In brief

Suspect arrested from Pak Secretariat

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Islamabad police on Saturday arrested a suspect from Pak Secretariat who could not prove any identity to himself. According to the police spokesperson, a suspect was arrested from Pak Secretariat who could not produce any identification. He said the suspect was detained in Pak Secretariat near the wall adjacent to Prime Minister's House. A medical test is also being conducted to check the mental condition of the suspect, he maintained.

Two Corona cases reported

RAWALPINDI (APP): Two more people were diagnosed with fatal Coronavirus during the last 24 hours, raising the district's confirmed cases to 47,855. As per the latest data released by the District Health Authority here Saturday, the infected cases included 44,182 from Rawalpindi and 3,673 from other districts. Among the new cases, both patients had arrived from Potohar town and were admitted to the Holy Family Hospital. The report added that nine patients having positive symptoms were quarantined at home. The report further said, including 44,790 health workers, had jabbed themselves against the lethal Coronavirus (COVID-19) across the district since the vaccination administering drive launched on March 10, 2021. In addition, District Health Authority updated that during the last 24 hours, 307 samples were collected, of which 305 were declared negative, while the positivity rate was recorded at 0.65 per cent.

Four POs netted

RAWALPINDI (APP): Police have netted four proclaimed offenders from different areas of city during crackdown here on Saturday, informed police spokesman. Rata Amral Police nabbed Inayatullah wanted in a murder of Arshad Mahmood and injuring Tahir and Rashid during a dispute. The other accomplices of the wanted criminal have already been arrested and challaned. Similarly, New Town police held Mehran Bashir in cheque dishonor case. While, Sadiqabad police arrested Muhammad Anwar in a forgery case. Following the operation, Taxila Police arrested Junaid, wanted in a rape case that occurred in last year. SSP Operations Captain (Rtd) Muhammad Aamir Khan Niazi appreciated the performance of police team and said that the ongoing crackdown against proclaimed and wanted criminals will be accelerated.

Police initiates crackdown against beggars

ISLAMABAD (NNI): Islamabad capital police have initiated a massive crackdown against professional beggars handlers in the city to curb this menace, a police public relations officer said. He said that, the Inspector General of Police (IGP) Islamabad Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan has issued orders to the all zonal DPO's to take action against professional beggars and handlers in their respective areas adding that cases should be registered against them. He reiterated that the parents who send their children with these criminals will also face action according to the law, adding that criminals in the shape of begging were found involved in different criminal activities. During the ongoing crackdown, the Islamabad capital police Kohsar police station teams arrested 15 professional beggars and registered cases against them under the beggar act.

Govt aims to approve SC bill from joint session: Musadik

ISLAMABAD (APP): Following the President's recent refusal to sign the Supreme Court (Practice and Procedure) Bill, Minister of State for Petroleum Dr. Musadik Malik on Saturday said that the bill will now be presented for approval in a joint

session of Parliament.

Talking to a private news channel, he said "Questions were raised on the ruling from within the Supreme Court, which must be addressed," he added.

Responding to a question about International Monetary Fund (IMF) talks,

he said that Saudi Arabia had conveyed its commitment to the IMF for its bilateral financial support to Pakistan and the minister hoped for similar assurance from other countries.

"Saudi's support will play an important role in reaching a 'State Level Agreement' with IMF but Pakistan was also in contact with other friendly countries like Qatar, China and others to bridge the financing gap", he added.

To a query, the minister stated that relief measure was planned to provide relief of Rs.50 per liter specifically to small car and motorcycle riders who fall into the low-income bracket.

This relief, however, is not classified as a subsidy. Moreover, it is important to clarify that the cost of this relief measure will not be shouldered by the national treasury. Instead, the financial burden was placed on high-income individuals, he added.

PML-N faced false cases

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Energy Khuram Dastgir Khan on Friday said that Pakistan Muslim League (Nawaz) leaders including ex-prime minister Nawaz Sharif, Nihal Hashmi, and many others had to face false cases.

The PML(N) had always respected the decisions of courts, he said while talking to a private news channel.

Pakistan Peoples Party leader Zulfikar Ali Bhutto had to face imprisonment and the death sentence after the court orders, he said. Former prime minister Nawaz Sharif had to leave the prime minister's office due to verdicts of the court, he stated.

All the PML-N leaders had honored the judiciary and their decisions, he added. The minister said that the incumbent government wants to hold elections in a transparent manner and for this, the period of October is suitable for achieving positive results.

He said that most of the work for compiling data of the population had been completed and organizing elections with fresh data would help resolve many issues.

ANF recovers over 128 kg drugs; arrests six

RAWALPINDI (APP): Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) in seven operations managed to recover over 128 kg drugs and arrested six accused, said an ANF Headquarters spokesman here on Saturday.

He informed that ANF in an operation at Islamabad International Airport recovered 53 heroin filled and 36 charras-filled capsules from the possession of a Qatar-bound passenger, resident of Narowal, going on flight no 633.

In another operation near G.T. Road Attock, 2.4 kg charras was recovered from the possession of an accused resident of Attock.

In the third operation, ANF and ASF at Faisalabad Airport managed to recover 1.8 kg Ice drug from the possession of a Bahrain-bound passenger, resident of Sahiwal, going on flight no GF-791.

The spokesman informed that in the fourth operation, ANF conducted a raid near Chenab Toll Plaza on G. T. Road Gujrat and recovered 39 kg heroin, five kg charras, five kg opium and one kg Ice drug concealed in secret cavities of a truck. ANF also rounded up two accused residents of Peshawar.

In the fifth operation, ANF foiled a bid to smuggle

drugs from Khyber to Peshawar and recovered four kg charras from the possession of an accused resident of Peshawar intercepted near Peshawar Charsada Road.

In the sixth operation, 40 grams charras was recovered from a parcel booked for Dubai at a private courier company office near Korangi, Karachi while in the seventh operation, ANF managed to seize 70 kg charras from an abandoned house near Gwadar Bayri area.

He said that separate cases have been registered against the accused while further investigations are under process.

RDA demolishes booking offices of three illegal housing schemes

RAWALPINDI (APP): Rawalpindi Development Authority (RDA) in an operation here on Saturday demolished the booking offices of three illegal housing schemes.

According to RDA spokesman, the authorities concerned on the directives of Director General (DG) Muhammad Saif Anwar Jappa, launched an operation against illegal housing schemes namely Cighu Farmhouse Housing Scheme, mouza Chak Cighu, Royal Ghar Housing Scheme, mouza Pariyal, Chak Beli Khan Road and New Iqra

City/Iqra Residencia, mouza Chakri, Jorian Rawat road, and demolished booking offices, bill boards and main gates.

He said that the Enforcement Squad was taking strict action against illegal housing schemes. Notices were also issued to the rules violators, he added.

The Enforcement Squad including Incharge/Assistant Director Building Control, Deputy Incharge, Superintendent Scheme and others took part in the operation.

The spokesman said that the DG had advised the citizens not to invest in illegal

and unauthorized housing schemes and check status of the housing projects before investment on RDA's official website www.rda.gop.pk.

He said the DG had directed the MP&TE Directorate to take strict actions against illegal and unauthorized housing schemes without any discrimination.

RDA had also requested the departments concerned including Islamabad Electric Supply Company, Sui Northern Gas Pipelines Ltd and PTCL not to extend services to illegal housing schemes, he added.

Commissioner visits SSC exam centers to review arrangements

RAWALPINDI (APP): Commissioner Rawalpindi Division, Liaquat Ali Chatta here on Saturday visited Islamia High School No 4 and Islamia Higher Secondary School No 1, centers of Secondary School Certificate (SSC) annual examination and reviewed the arrangements made by the Board of Intermediate and Secondary Education Rawalpindi.

The Commissioner visited various examination halls and rooms and inspected the arrangements and examination holding process. The Commissioner also checked the attendance

sheets of the students, their roll number slips and seating plan.

Strict action in accordance with the law would be taken against cheating mafia and no one would be allowed to violate the rules, he said and informed that separate raiding teams had been formed to make the monitoring system more effective. He directed the monitoring teams to perform their professional duties without any discrimination.

The Commissioner informed that sealed question paper envelopes are opened in front of CCTV cameras. "Transparent

examination is the first responsibility of all of us," he said adding, there would be no compromise on the transparency of the examination system.

He directed the authorities concerned to ensure transparency in the examination process.

Deputy Commissioners, Additional Commissioners and Assistant Commissioners of all the districts were monitoring all the examination centres on daily basis, he informed.

Security personnel had also been deployed outside each examination centre, the Commissioner added.

Police reunites missing boy with parents

ISLAMABAD (NNI): Islamabad capital police Margalla police station reunited a missing boy with his parents, a Police Public Relation Officer said.

According to the details, the Margalla police team received information from Pucar-15 that a boy namely Ahsan had been missing from the area of Rawalpindi and could not be traced despite hectic efforts by family members.

Upon receiving the application, the Margalla police team immediately started the investigation. The police team used technical and human resources and succeeded to trace the missing boy and reunited him with his family in the presence of Rawalpindi police officials. The parents appreciated the police team's efforts and thanked the Islamabad capital police for immediate action.



RAWALPINDI: Madrassa Students reciting Holy Quran during the Holy fasting month of Ramazan ul Mubarak at madrassa Chiragh ud Din Shah. —APP Photo

Economic challenges exist but situation not as bleak as being portrayed: Bilal Azhar

ISLAMABAD (APP): Coordinator to the Prime Minister on Economy and Energy Bilal Azhar Kayani on Saturday said the incumbent government had successfully averted the looming default and made significant progress towards stabilizing and rebuilding the national economy on a sustainable basis.

Responding to a tweet of Atif Mian titled, "Pakistan's economy is in a tailspin, going from crisis to catastrophe", Bilal said although Pakistan faced serious economic challenges but the situation was not as bleak as portrayed in this thread. He said that the current government has averted default and made significant progress towards stabilising and rebuilding the economy.

"There is a primary surplus of 0.9% of GDP this year as compared to a pri-

mary deficit of 0.6% during last year," he said adding that the current economic difficulties, including inflation, have been directly caused by the disastrous decisions of the Imran Khan government which destroyed Pakistan's economy in four years and deliberately pushed the country towards default before leaving the government last year.

"Imran Khan's government not only almost doubled Pakistan's debt but also caused a current account deficit of \$17.4 billion in the fiscal year 2022," he said adding that this figure would have been even higher if the current government had not taken mitigating measures after assuming office in April 2022.

Bilal Azhar said that the previous government's actions eroded trust in the International Monetary Fund (IMF). "The Imran

Khan government not only broke its promises with IMF to stall the IMF program and push the country towards default, but it also actively tried to sabotage the current government's efforts to revive the IMF program."

He said that the incumbent government, under the dynamic leadership of PM Shehbaz Sharif, was taking all necessary measures for the 9th Review to pull Pakistan out of the current economic crisis, adding that the technical level agreement with the IMF had been reached and the Staff Level Agreement had been held up because of lack of assured financing of \$3 billion.

"Pakistan's friendly countries are now moving ahead in this regard," he said adding that the situation will start to move towards normalcy as soon as the agreement with IMF is reached. He said the curbs

on imports were not ideal but necessary at this stage to avoid the larger issue of defaulting on our foreign obligations. Bilal Azhar Kayani said that these curbs were only temporary and would be removed once our foreign exchange reserves situation strengthens.

The GDP growth slowdown was not only specific to Pakistan but a global phenomenon, he added. The Russia-Ukraine war and increased interest rates by US Federal Reserve continued weighing on economic activity globally, he remarked.

He said Pakistan's economy had also suffered the effects of the tragic floods

last year, adding once Pakistan's immediate external account challenges were addressed and the global outlook improved, Pakistan would also experience a GDP growth recovery.

PML-N not shying away from holding elections: Ahsan

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Planning, Development, and Special Initiatives Ahsan Iqbal on Friday said that Pakistan Muslim League (Nawaz) was definitely not shying away from holding elections.

Talking to a private news channel, Ahsan Iqbal reiterated the government's stance to hold free and fair elections for the national and provincial assemblies, adding that they should be organized simultaneously.

The implications of early elections in the country's largest province [Punjab] could be dire, he said, adding that the resulting political government in the province would for sure influence the general elections in the country.

The minister urged the Supreme Court to constitute a full-court bench on the issue of the election. He went on to explain that had the verdict by a full-court bench been given it would have been agreed by all the parties involved.



ISLAMABAD: An old man selling colorful balloons to attract costumers at Roadside. —APP Photo

IRSA releases 75,800 cusecs water

ISLAMABAD (APP): Indus River System Authority (IRSA) on Saturday released 75,800 cusecs water from various rim stations with inflow of 51,300 cusecs.

According to the data released by IRSA, water level in River Indus at Tarbela Dam was 1434.35 feet and was 36.35 feet higher than its dead level of 1,398 feet. Water inflow and outflow in the dam was recorded as 18,700 cusecs while outflow as 5,000 cusecs.

The water level in River Jhelum at Mangla Dam was 1110.10 feet, which was 60.10 feet higher than its dead level of 1,050 feet. The inflow and outflow of water was recorded 20,800 cusecs and 10,000 cusecs respectively.

The release of water at Kalabagh, Taunsa, Guddu and Sukkur was recorded 27,400, 30,200, 40,300 and 8,300 cusecs respectively. Similarly, from River Kabul, a total of 21,300 cusecs of water released at Nowshera and 7,600 cusecs released from River Chenab at Marala.

19 criminals arrested, drugs and weapons recovered

ISLAMABAD (NNI): Islamabad capital police apprehended 19 outlaws from different areas of the city and recovered drugs and weapons with ammunition from their possession, a police public relations officer said.

He said that, following the special directions of Inspector General of Police (IGP) Islamabad Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan, the Islamabad capital police has intensified crackdown against the criminal elements in order to eliminate the crime from the city.

Following these directives, the Aabpara police team arrested an accused namely Fida Hussain and recovered 1140 gram hashish from his possession.

The Bhara Kahu Police arrested an accused namely Faizan and recovered one

30 bore pistol from his possession. The Noon police team arrested two accused namely Muhammad Asif and Khalid Akbar and recovered 825 gram hashish from their possession.

Likewise, the Phulgran police team arrested an accused namely Shakeel and recovered one 30 bore pistol from his possession. Ramna police team arrested two accused namely Asif Mehmood and Qasim Emanuel and recovered one 30 bore pistol and three bottles of liquor from their possession.

Similarly, the Golra police team arrested two accused namely Naqash and Muhammad Javed involved in drug peddling and recovered 2590 gram heroin from their possession. The Shahzad Town police team

arrested an accused namely Muhammad Ali and recovered one 30 bore pistol from his possession.

Moreover, the Nilore police team arrested an accused namely Khaista Khan and recovered one 30 bore pistol from his possession. Kirpa police team arrested an accused namely Shakeel involved in theft activities and recovered stolen valuables from his possession.

Furthermore, the Lohi Bher police team arrested an accused namely Ifthikhar and recovered 1537 gram heroin from his possession. The Industrial Area police team arrested two accused namely Zia Khan and Sibat Khan and recovered two 30 bore pistols from their possession.

Sihala police team

arrested four accused namely Saeed Ullah, Sajjad Ali, Muhammad Touqeer and Muhammad Jameel and recovered 1567 gram hashish and two pistols with ammunition from their possession. Cases have been registered against the nabbed accused and further investigation is underway.

CPO/ DIG Operations Islamabad Syed Shehzad Nadeem Bukhari directed all senior officials for effective crackdown against the accused involved in drug peddling and possessing illegal weapons and said that the safety of the lives and property of the citizens is our prime responsibility.

The performance of police officials in this regard would be reviewed on a continuous basis, he maintained.

Militant hideout destroyed

PARWAN (Agencies): A militant's hideout has been discovered and destroyed in 1th police district of Parwan province says intelligence reports. In this operation conducted by Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan, one person was killed, three women and eight children were arrested said the police spokesperson of Parwan, Mohammad Kamran Zaid to Bakhtar News Agency. The security forces of the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan were not harmed in this operation, he added.

The Frontier Post

Ramazan 18, 1444 — Sunday, April 09, 2023

Quake strikes Badakhshan

BADAKHSHAN (Khaama Press): An earthquake of Magnitude 3.9 jolted the northeastern province of Afghanistan, Badakhshan, on lage Friday night, according to the Volcano Discovery. The tremor's epicentre was Badakhshan, 16km west of Ishqashim of Tajikistan, felt around 7:19 am local time on April 7. Badakhshan is one of the provinces in the country primarily prone to natural disasters, including earthquakes, landslides, flooding, and avalanches.

IEA urged to revisit ban on Afghan women working with UN

KABUL (Agencies): The Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) has called on the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan (IEA) to revisit the "unacceptable" decision to ban women from working with the United Nations.

"The new edict will intensify the successive restrictive measures imposed on women and girls, including banning them from education, government jobs, and from working for non-governmental organizations," OIC said in a statement.

It said that the ban is a counter-productive decision with potentially consequential ramifications not just for Afghan women, but more significantly for UN

humanitarian operations across the country.

"The General Secretariat calls on de facto authorities to revisit this unacceptable decision and allow Afghans, both men and women, to partake in the reconstruction of their country after decades of violent conflict and socio-economic vulnerability," the statement said.

Meanwhile, EU foreign policy chief in a statement said that the decision places women in an increasingly vulnerable position and have "direct and life-threatening repercussions, as banning women from work disrupts the delivery of humanitarian aid, basic needs and services to large parts of

the entire Afghan population, including women, children and men."

Josep Borrell noted that this is happening while Afghanistan continues to face one of the worst economic and humanitarian crises in the world, with more than 28 million or two thirds of the population in need of humanitarian assistance and millions of Afghans already on the verge of famine.

"The EU calls upon the Taliban (IEA) to deliver on their promises and prove their ability to respect and protect the human rights and provide basic services for the entire population of Afghanistan, in line with their earlier statements and promises," Borrell said.

Lavrov to attend meeting on Afghanistan

KABUL (Agencies): Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov will take part in the fourth foreign ministers' meeting of the neighboring countries of Afghanistan, due in Samarkand on April 13.

"The fourth ministerial conference of Afghanistan's neighboring countries (with the participation of Russia, China, Iran, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan) is scheduled for April 13 in Samarkand (Uzbekistan). The Russian delegation will be led by Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov," Russian foreign ministry said.

The meeting will discuss further steps by regional partners to facilitate an Afghan political settlement and stabilize the humanitarian and socio-economic situation in the country, the ministry said.

"Given the complicated security situation and growing terrorist activity and drug production in Afghanistan, the coordination of counter-terrorist and anti-drug efforts of the region's countries is especially important," the Foreign Ministry said. "Special attention will be paid to regional economic integration and implementation of transport and energy projects with the participation of Kabul in accordance with previously reached agreements."

DAB to auction \$15m to stabilize currency

KABUL (Khaama Press): Afghanistan Central Bank will auction 15 million USD to stabilize Afghani against foreign currency.

The Central Bank has called on qualified banks and money exchange businesses to participate in the auction, stressing that the successful bidders must pay their accounts by the end of the day.

The bank also stated that partial settlement of transactions is not permitted and that the auction winners must make a single, timely cash delivery of all amounts owed to Da Afghanistan Bank.

This is the second auction since Sunday to further strengthen the value of the Afghani currency against the foreign.

Since the Taliban took back control of the country in August 2021, the value of the Afghani has stayed comparatively stable, which is seen as a positive development for the war-torn country with an economy that depends heavily on foreign aid.

According to several experts, one of the main reasons contributing to Afghani's stable value in the market could be the inflow of dollars to the country in the form of foreign humanitarian aid which partially meets market demand.

Afghanistan and Iran economic ties boosted

KABUL (Agencies): The Chamber of Commerce and Investment officials say the trade and economic relations between Afghanistan and Iran have increased.

According to ACCI officials, the annual trade between Kabul and Tehran reaches more than one billion dollars.

Simultaneously, the process of trade and joint investment is also expanding between the two counties on the daily basis, the officials said.

ACCI has also emphasized that Iran is the biggest trading partner of Afghanistan in the current situation. "I think Iran is Afghanistan's first-rate partner because the exchange of goods [between Kabul and Tehran] does not have any banking problems, and our imports from Iran are more," said Khanjan Alkozi, a member of the ACCI.

208 Afghan detainees return home



KABUL (Khaama Press): 208 Afghan detainees were released from a prison in neighbor country, the official said. 208 Afghan detainees were freed from the prison of neighbor country and returned to Kabul, according to a statement from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The ministry said the Afghan Embassy and the Afghan Consulate General worked together to secure the release of these detainees. The statement added that all the prisoners transferred to Kabul with the interim government's financial support.

According to the Afghan

consul, more than 2,000 Afghan detainees, including women and children, were released from prisons over the past six months.

Most Afghan refugees complain about the mistreatment with Afghan refugees and patients who stay/go for treatment. Earlier, the HRC and the

UN Refugee Agency urged the government to treat Afghan citizens decently.

Last month, more than 150 prisoners, including women and children, were released from prison and returned home. Still, hundreds of Afghans remain in prisons, including women and children.

Afghanistan's export to India increased, says officials

KABUL (TOLOnews): The Ministry of Industry and Commerce said that Afghanistan's exports to India have increased in the past three years and they have reached \$417 million in the solar year 1401 (March 2022 to March 2023).

The exports to India were \$405 million in the solar year 1399 and \$311 million in the solar year 1400, the ministry said.

Meanwhile, Afghanistan's exports to Pakistan have reached over \$1.2 billion in the solar year 1401

(March 2022 to March 2023) while it was \$511 million in the solar year 1400, the Ministry of Industry and Commerce said in a tweet.

The Chamber of Commerce and Investment said that dried and fresh fruits and medical plants are the most exported materials of the country to India, and India is a good market for Afghan exports.

"India is a good market for Afghanistan's exports, and we have exported to India worth \$500 million

annually. The exports include dried and fresh fruits and medical plants," said Khairuddin Mayel, a member of the Afghanistan Chamber of Commerce and Investment.

Some investors called on the Islamic Emirate to provide more facilities to have good relations with the business community.

"The main issue that impedes the exports and standard import in Afghanistan is the mechanism of export arrangements or programs of lack

of relations with other countries," said Mahbubullah Mohammadi, an investor.

"We ask the Finance Ministry to solve the problem of Maiwand Bank, and also reduced the fee for transferring our money from abroad," said Zalmay Azimi, an investor m.

According to statistics from the commerce ministry, Afghanistan's exports reached nearly \$2 billion in the solar year 1401, and the most exports were to India, Pakistan, China, and the UAE.

Military vehicles collected from irresponsible people in country

KABUL (Khaama Press): Dozens of military vehicles that were being used by irresponsible persons in Afghanistan's western provinces have been gathered by the military vehicle collection commission of the 207th Al-Farooq Army Corps.

According to a statement from the press office of the army corps, it was said that the concerned department had collected military vehicles from the provinces of Herat, Farah, and Badghis.

These collected military vehicles include Ranger, Humvee, strike vehicles and motorbikes.

The Taliban's Defense Ministry announced that around 300 military vehicles left by the United States in Afghanistan had been repaired.

The ministry also said that the technical team and engineers had repaired hun-



dreds of vehicles, including 150 international Kumazes, 125 Humvees, two assault tanks, four trucks, 10 Porcliff and 15 Humvees ambulances.

Based on the report released by the US House of Representatives, more

than seven billion dollars worth of military equipment was left behind after the US troops withdrew from Afghanistan.

After the collapse of the previous regime and the takeover of the country by the Taliban, all the military

equipment was captured by the group, according to a Pentagon report.

Now that the Taliban are in power, the US is worried that the military hardware could be accessed by China or Russia or used by terrorist organizations.

Another round of food aid to needy distributes in Kabul

KABUL (Agencies): Bayat Foundation distributed food parcels to dozens of needy families in Kabul and other provinces on the occasion of the holy month of Ramadan," he added.

Recipients of the aid thanked the Bayat Foundation and called on other

team," said Mohammad

Ismail. "Bayat Foundation's donations continue in Kabul and other provinces on the occasion of the holy month of Ramadan," he added.

Bayat Foundation officials said that aid packages include flour, rice and oil.

According to foundation officials, this assistance was provided following a transparent and thorough survey to identify those in need. Haji Mohammad Ismail, deputy head of the Bayat Foundation, emphasized that these donations will continue until the end of the holy month of Ramadan and that the campaign is also being rolled out in other provinces.

"We distribute food items including flour, rice and oil to deserving people in Kabul whose names are on the list already prepared by the Bayat Foundation

organizations to also provide people with assistance.

"Thanks to Bayat Foundation for helping and we ask other foundations to help as well," said one Kabul recipient. Bayat Foundation helps the needy not only during the holy month of Ramadan,

but also during times of natural disasters such as floods and earthquakes. The foundation has helped thousands of families in the last two decades and played an active role in the reconstruction of hospitals, as well as health and educational centers.



Thousands of people provided work opportunities



NANGARHAR (Agencies): The Canal Department officials in Nangarhar province say that the department has provided employment opportunities to 3,500 people in the province.

According to Mawlawi Ghulam Al Rahman Kazim, head of the department, these people were from different provinces, which have been hired by agricultural companies and organizations supporting the

agricultural sector of Afghanistan. Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan is trying to provide employment opportunities and reduce the economic crisis in the country, he added.

Farmers fear fall in crops in areas prone to drought

KABUL (TOLOnews): Officials from the Agriculture and Irrigation Ministry expressed hope that farmers will get rid of drought after the recent rains in the country. But farmers said they fear a drop in their crops the same as the previous years in areas that are vulnerable to drought.

Misbahuddin Mustaeen, a spokesman for the ministry, said the current government has prepared for an emergency situation due to drought in the country.

"Droughts are increasing worldwide, but after recent rains in the country, it gave us hope that we would be less vulnerable to this compared to the past," said Musbahuddin Mustaeen.

Meanwhile, some farmers in different provinces expressed concerns over drought and not getting the desired results from their crops.

"Neither from the dam nor from the sea, there is no water for us. Wells have been drying for the past two years, and we are vulnerable. Nobody is helping us," said Astashan, a farmer.

"Last year's drought was too much, and we were not able to irrigate our lands even after 25 days, but Allah knows better what will happen this year," said Ghulam Ali, a Farmer. The Chamber of Agriculture and Irrigation said that one of the reasons

for the increase in drought in the country is the lack of water management in recent years.

"Unfortunately, our water without any management went to our neighboring countries. If Qosh Tepa Canal, Kamal Khan Dam, and Kunar Water Canal are built according to standards, Afghanistan will not face drought," said Merwis Haji Zada, deputy of the Chamber of Agriculture and Irrigation.

Based on the information of the chamber, Afghanistan receives up to 80 billion cubic meters of water annually from rain and snowfall, and its annual expenses of water reach 25 billion cubic meters.



KARACHI: Firefighters trying to extinguish fire which broke out at residential building near Bolton Market.

PDM narrative comes to spotlight after Justice Athar dissenting note

PESHAWAR (APP): The controversies of Punjab election case was further deepened after the dissenting note of the SC judge Athar Minallah, who confirmed that the suo moto petition was dismissed by the majority 4-3 judges.

The deepening political and legal crisis emerged in the wake of SC judgment passed by a three-member bench led by CJP Umar Ata Bandialy followed by a resolution passed by the National Assembly rejecting the hurriedly passed judgement and asking PM not to obey it, has necessitated formation of a full court to clear all the confusion and ambiguities besides ensuring smiltanonous free and fair election and institutions harmony in the country.

The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa lawyers here on Saturday demanded the formation of a full court to decide KP and Punjab assemblies election case after the dissenting note of senior judge of the supreme court, Justice Athar Minallah. They said that Justice Athar Minallah has raised serious questions in the high profile political case and confirmed dismissal of the suo moto case by the

majority 4-3 judges.

Gohar Rehman Khattak, former President of Peshawar Bar Council and member Peshawar High Court Bar Association told APP that the observations passed by Justice Athar Minallah was of serious nature and demanded the formation of a full court comprising all judges of the Supreme Court to decide the case once for all. He said that Justice Minallah agreed with Justices Syed Mansoor Ali Shah and Jamal Khan Mandokhail, who penned the dissenting note in the suo moto case.

He said the courts should show extreme restraint in matters which involve political stakeholders. He said it would have been declared better if the 3- member bench give opportunities to all political parties including PDM, PTI and Election Commission of Pakistan before passing the hasty based decision.

Esa Khan, former Advocate General KP said that full court was the best solution to address all the issues raised by Justice Athar Minallah, Justice Syed Mansoor Ali Shah and Justice Jamal Khan Mandokhel. He said Justice Athar

Minallah has questioned the move to dissolve provincial assemblies and asked if such conduct is in consonance with the scheme of constitutional democracy.

Esa Khan said that Justice Athar Minallah has confirmed that the Supreme Court's suo motu of delay of Punjab and KP election was dismissed by 4-3 judges and now the Govt narrative was seemed right. He said it would have been considered good if the intent of PTI that dissolved the assemblies was critically evaluated before passing the judgement.

He said political parties should address political problems through dialogue and inside the Parliament rather than bringing it to courts. Esa said that political unity was required for a transparent and free election. Without political dialogue and unity, he said elections in KP and Punjab would be unproductive. "Would PTI accept the election results if it lost the polls in Punjab," he questioned. He underscored the need for immediate initiation of political dialogue among the government and PDM imperative to take the country out of economic and political challenges.

Gandapur handed over to Islamabad Police

ISLAMABAD (INP): Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf (PTI) Ali Amin Gandapur was handed over to Islamabad police on Saturday.

According to police, Islamabad police have taken Ali Amin Gandapur to the federal capital where a case is registered against the PTI leader. Furthermore, the police officials said that Ali Amin Gandapur will be presented before the court when the police arrive in Islamabad. Earlier, Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader Ali Amin Gandapur was arrested in Dera Ismail (DI) Khan following a five-hour-long standoff.

Pakistan issues 2,856 visas to Sikh pilgrims

ISLAMABAD (INP): Pakistan has issued 2,856 visas to Sikh pilgrims from India to take part in the annual celebrations related to the Baisakhi festival starting from April 9-18.

The Pakistan High Commission wrote on its Twitter handle on Saturday: "On the occasion of Baisakhi, Pakistan High Commission, New Delhi has issued 2,856 visas to Sikh pilgrims who will travel from India to participate in the annual festivities in Pakistan from 09-18 April 2023." During their pilgrimage, the Sikh yatris will visit Gurdwara Dera Sahib, Panja Sahib, Nankana Sahib and Kartarpur Sahib.

Sikh and Hindu pilgrims from India visit Pakistan every year, under the provision of a bilateral protocol on travel to religious places. Pakistani pilgrims also visit India every year under the protocol. According to a press release issued by the Pakistani mission in India, the issuance of visas to religious pilgrims from India is in line with Pakistan's commitment to fully implement the bilateral protocol on travel to religious places between the two countries.

Pakistan's charge d'affaires Salman Sharif extended warm greetings to the pilgrims and wished them a "complete journey". He said that Pakistan is committed to protecting the holy shrines and providing necessary facilities to the pilgrims, the statement said. The Sikh pilgrims will enter Pakistan on April 9 (tomorrow) and return to India on April 18, 2023.

Alvi proves himself to be PTI secretary general: Sherry

ISLAMABAD (INP): Federal Minister for Climate Change and PPP Vice President Sherry Rehman has said that by returning the Supreme Court (Practice and Procedure) Bill, 2023 for reconsideration to the Parliament, President Arif Alvi has proved himself to be the secretary general of the PTI, rather than to be the President of Pakistan.

Giving her reaction over returning of the bill unsigned by the President, the climate change minister tweeted on Saturday: "President Arif Alvi has returned the Supreme Court bill for reconsideration to the parliament and proved that he is not the President of the country but he is still the Secretary General of Tehreek-e-Insaf. He has seen every decision of the Parliament from Tehreek-e-Insaf's point of view. Even before receiving the bill, he had made clear his position on the bill during an interview.

"He is following his party's policy, in disregard of his constitutional position as President of the country. The President is saying that this bill travels beyond the competence of the Parliament. For three and a half years, he has been running the President House like an ordinance factory. Mr President, do not teach the Parliament how to legislate."

Suspect held

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Islamabad police on Saturday arrested a suspect from Pak Secretariat who could not prove any identity to himself. According to the police spokesperson, a suspect was arrested from Pak Secretariat who could not produce any identification.

North Korea claims another test of underwater N-drone

SEOUL (AFP): North Korea claimed Saturday it had tested another underwater nuclear attack drone, in its latest response to South Korean and United States military drills, though analysts have questioned whether Pyongyang has such a weapon.

In recent weeks, North Korea has tested what state media have described as an underwater nuclear-capable drone, and also carried out the launch of an intercontinental ballistic missile. "A national defence science research institute in the DPRK carried out a test of underwater strategic weapon system from April 4 to 7," the official Korean Central News Agency said. "The underwater nuclear attack drone 'Haeil-2'... cruised 1,000 km of simulated underwater distance ... for 71 hours and 6 minutes." KCNA added that "the test warhead accurately detonated underwater. The test perfectly proved the reliability of the underwater strategic weapon system and its fatal attack ability."

North Korea has claimed to have conducted three tests of underwater drones

in less than three weeks so far. On March 23, it claimed to have conducted the first test of the Haeil, which means tsunami in Korean, able to unleash a "radioactive tsunami" as it blamed US-South Korea exercises for a deteriorating regional security situation. Five days later it said it had carried out a second test.

In response South Korean Defence Minister Lee Jong-sup told MPs Seoul was "capable of monitoring and detecting such drones infiltrating underwater". Satellite imagery has also indicated a high level of activity at North Korea's main nuclear complex after leader Kim Jong Un ordered the production of weapons-grade nuclear material be ramped up. North Korea last year declared itself an "irreversible" nuclear power and Kim recently called for an "exponential" increase in weapons production, including tactical nuclear weapons.

South Korea and the United States staged joint air drills involving at least one US nuclear-capable B-52H strategic bomber, Seoul's military said. North

Korea views such exercises as rehearsals for invasion, and has responded to other recent drills with a spate of increasingly provocative banned weapons tests. North Korea is seeking to diversify its delivery mechanisms in addition to increasing its nuclear stockpile.

Russia has also reportedly developed a similar weapon -- nuclear-capable Poseidon torpedoes -- but mastering the complex technology required for such weaponry might yet be beyond North Korea, experts said. But the North's claims about the tests should not be "easily dismissed for being exaggerated", Choi Gi-il, professor of military studies at Sangji University, told AFP. "While the North could have exaggerated the degree of success to some extent, they appear to show Pyongyang's underlying confidence in this technology, some of which could have been transferred from Russia." Russia and North Korea have not officially commented on the transfer of the underwater drone technology, Choi added.

Nawaz faced disqualification despite being innocent: Javed

F.P. Report

LAHORE: Federal Minister Mian Javed Latif said on Saturday that the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) would accept the general election 2023 only if its leadership was given level playing field in the political process.

Addressing a press conference at Model Town, he said no political party wanted to avoid elections, but level playing field should be given to all before holding elections in the current year 2023, adding that the PML-N leadership had always accepted the court decisions and never

indulged in politics of agitation. He said that Nawaz Shaif had faced disqualification and judicial trials despite being innocent, but it was time to ensure justice to him, who had served the country as the prime minister thrice and contributed to development and progress of the country.

Javed Latif said that no sou moto was taken on Imran Khan's cypher conspiracy, attack on national institutions, instigating the institutions to violate the Constitution and law, the RTS [results transmission system] malfunctioning to support Imran Khan, and the PTI government's per-

formance, which destroyed national economy. He said that justice parameters should be the same for all, as no one should be dear to justice and above the law.

Javed Latif said foreign elements wanted to pressurise the national institutions just to benefit from chaos and political instability, caused by Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf Chairman Imran Khan in the country. He said the PTI chief had become a puppet of foreign elements, as he always intended to destabilise the national institutions and created hurdles in the way to development and progress of the country.

Imran asks nation to get ready for Haqeeqi Azadi

F.P. Report

LAHORE: Former Prime Minister and PTI Chairman Imran Khan on Saturday lambasted PML-N supremo, saying that a coward cannot become a leader but becomes Nawaz Sharif.

Addressing the PTI workers and activists who had gathered at Zaman Park for iftar, Imran Khan stated that he is not an Islamic scholar

and has learned everything from his life.

The PTI chairman said that no country in the world has experienced a revolution comparable to the one brought by the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH). He cited the Battle of Badr and Khalid Bin Waleed's leadership as proof that only free people, not slaves, stand for freedom.

Regarding the current situation, Imran Khan further stated that the PTI was fighting for independence and that everyone must get ready for "Haqeeqi Azadi," adding that the facilitators have imposed a group of thieves on the nation. He said that an honourable person is respected in society, and whoever becomes a proud leader should be honest and brave.

Punjab police 'can't provide' poll security

ISLAMABAD (INP): As per the Supreme Court orders to facilitate the election commission in conducting polls in the province on May 14, the Punjab police has completed its working for the possible provision of security for the exercise.

Police officials say they will not be able to provide security as per the election commission's formula.

Police officials said the Election Commission of Pakistan has declared 30 percent of the more than 53,000 polling stations sen-

sitive.

The commission has demanded 11 personnel at each sensitive polling station and eight at the less sensitive ones. Therefore, as per the election commission formula, it will require 400,000 personnel.

Govt to table SC bill in joint session on Monday

ISLAMABAD (INP): The government has decided to summon a joint sitting of parliament on April 10 to table Supreme Court (Practice and Procedure) Bill, 2023 limiting the chief justice's suo motu powers in an individual capacity. The development came after President Arif Alvi returned the SC bill for reconsideration to the parliament as per the provisions of the Article 75 of the Constitution.

If the Supreme Court (Practice and Procedure) Bill, 2023, is approved by the joint session of parliament with majority, it will be presented to the president again for his assent. If the president does not give his nod to it within 10 days, the approval is deemed to have been given. The legislation process says, "If the President refers back a bill to Parliament it is considered in a joint session and if passed by majority is deemed to have been passed by both Houses. Sent again to President to give assent in 10 days failing which assent shall be deemed to have been given".

Imran following a foreign agenda: PML-N leader

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: Political and constitutional experts have emphasized that to end the current constitutional crisis, the Chief Justice should take all the judges of the Supreme Court with him. That this is a four-three decision, if this matter is not resolved, the crisis may intensify.

Speaking on PTV program on Saturday, Pakistan Muslim League-N leader Akhtar Wali Khan said that on the first day he said that it was a four-three decision, the majority of judges declared the hundred-moto action wrong, unconstitutional and illegal. Diya, the dissenting note makes it clear that he did not separate himself from the bench but was separated, and also made it clear that the decision was four to three, the majority taking suo moto action has been rejected, no political party allied to the government and the Attorney General were allowed to speak in the court, Pakistan cannot afford any more crisis, so the Chief Justice of

Pakistan will have to take the judges along.

He said that Imran Khan is following a foreign agenda, his party has been getting foreign funding, arrest warrants have been issued for Imran Khan but he is not arresting, now Imran Khan is talking about revolution but he is a coward. So much so that he is afraid of going to jail. He said that Imran Khan ruled for four years, let him tell where are one crore jobs, five million houses and three hundred dams? There should be negotiations between the political parties to get out of the crisis.

Barrister Amir Hassan, the leader of Pakistan People's Party, said that the judges of the Supreme Court have the same status legally, four judges have said that they have rejected Somoto's action. And there was no need to go under 184/3, the Chief Justice of Pakistan should take the brother judges along so that this crisis does not escalate further, Justice Athar Manullah has clearly said in his dissenting note that he is the bench. has been set

aside, the Chief Justice should convene a meeting on the matter. He said that PPP gave the constitution to this country and next week we are going to celebrate its golden jubilee.

He said that the President's job is not to make the Parliament legislate and send the bill back. He said that all the political parties are of the opinion that elections should be held in the country one day, the Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa assemblies were dissolved on malicious grounds, if the right decision is not taken at that time regarding the elections, instead of ending instability in the country, more will increase, there should be negotiations between political parties, Imran Khan should support the coalition government for electoral and judicial reforms. He said that Imran Khan created political instability and constitutional crisis in Pakistan during his rule, destroyed the country's economy, terrorism has resurfaced, we need collective efforts to deal with all these challenges.

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