

**Umar Cheema booked**  
GUJRANWALA (INP): A case has been registered against Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader and former Punjab governor Umar Sarfaraz Cheema at the Ghakhar police station, Gujranwala on Monday. The complainant woman, Mehwish, claimed in the First Information Report (FIR) that the accused tried to abduct her at the 'behest' of PTI leader Umar Sarfaraz Cheema and Tanveer Safdar.

 @thefrontierpost

First national English daily published from Peshawar, Islamabad, Lahore, Quetta, Karachi and Washington D.C

www.thefrontierpost.com

Vol. XXXIX No. 104 Regd. No. 241 SHAWWAL 11 1444 -- TUESDAY, MAY 02 2023 ISLAMABAD EDITION 12 PAGES Price. 20

# PM directs Centre, provincial govts to remain alert

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Monday directed the federal and provincial departments to remain alert and use all resources to help the citizens during the current spell of rains across the country.

He also asked National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) and provincial management authorities to keep close monitoring of rains across the country. He said the federal departments should work in collaboration with the provincial governments and departments to cope with the situation.

He said all the requirements should be fulfilled in the respective areas to ensure safety of the people. Wherever necessary, people should be shifted to safe areas immediately, PM Shehbaz said adding that the National Highway Authority (NHA) and other relevant departments should monitor the inter-provincial national highways. The prime minister said effective arrangements should be made to ensure traffic flow and public convenience on Quetta-Karachi highway in Lasbela and Quetta-Sibbi highway in Bolan.

The people should be kept alert in affected areas and on various highways, Shehbaz Sharif added. He said safety of human lives and property was the top priority of the government, therefore all the civil service departments should remain vigilant and work with national vigor and responsibility. He also directed the people to follow precautionary measures in the situation of severe weather and cooperate with government institutions.

**PM for making labour force shareholder in global economy:** Paying tributes to the working class on the occasion of International Labour Day, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Monday stressed the need to fulfil workers' rights by making them shareholders in the system of the global economy.

"While we pay rich tributes to the working classes & celebrate their contributions

today, the fact is that the disruption in global markets has led to a severe cost of living crisis," he said in a tweet. The prime minister said, with an increase in commodity prices, the working people found themselves under tremendous stress.

The edifice of material development that stands on the foundation of hard work will crumble if those who made it possible are excluded from its benefits, he added. PM Shehbaz said fulfilling labour rights and making people shareholders in the system remained a fundamental challenge for the global economy.

**PM's gift to labourers:** The Federal Government has issued a notification for the appointment of eight members of the National Industrial Relations Commission (NIRC), a gift from the Prime Minister to labourers on the occasion of International Labour Day.

Ministry of Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development had presented a summary for the approval of the Federal Cabinet, said a statement issued on Monday. The eight persons appointed as members of NIRC included retired civil servant Syed Noorul Hasnain, the retired district and sessions judges Abdul Qayyum, Sohail Akram, Muhammad Zubair Khan and Shabbir Hussain Awan.

Mohammad Sirajul Islam Khan Advocate, Abdul Ghani Advocate and Manawar Hussain Turi Advocate are also among the appointed members of NIRC. The Cabinet had approved the appointments to these vacant posts on the summary of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.

These posts were vacant for the past nine months and the commission has been established for settlement of industrial disputes. The commission also registers workers' associations. In protecting the rights of workers and improving their conditions NIRC is an attached department of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting. NIRC is established under Section 53 of the Industrial Relations Commission (IRA).

## Imran says ready for simultaneous polls — Demands assemblies dissolved before 14th

LAHORE (INP): Chairmen Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) and former premier, Imran Khan has said that they are ready for simultaneous elections if the government dissolves assemblies tomorrow.

Addressing the party activists during public rally organized by PTI in Lahore on Labour Day, he said, "The government should confirm the dissolution of assemblies before May 14 in the next round of talks. We are ready for elections on the same day if assemblies dissolve tomorrow." Imran Khan strongly criticized the PDM parties and said that they will only hold polls after seeing an opportunity to get victorious and removing Imran Khan from their path. "They want to

jail Imran Khan or kill him. They attacked Pervaiz Elahi's home like dacoits after they attacked my home and arrested PTI workers."

He said, "Ali Amin Gandapur is being shifted to different jails and my security officer Iftikhar Ghumman was also arrested. They are arresting PTI workers to weaken our political party." The PTI chief announced that they will take to the streets if anyone tries to break the Constitution and go against the Supreme Court (SC). "We will not be silent if anyone goes against the Constitution."

Khan vowed that PTI will stand with the Constitution if the rulers try to run away from elections

and violate the constitution. "We have always staged peaceful protests due to the deteriorated economic situation. If they break the Constitution then there would be the law of jungle in Pakistan." "This country is heading towards destruction and unemployment is rising day by day. If they reject the Supreme Court's decision then the nation will come out of their homes with me."

Imran Khan said that PTI is holding the rally to show solidarity with the labourers and for the rule of law. "Everything will be clearly seen in the next week whether there is the rule of law in this country or not. PTI will stand with the Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP)."

## Imran lacks courage to face masses: Marriyum

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb on Monday said Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan would never face masses as he knew it was his government tenure which rendered six million people jobless and pushed 20 million below the poverty line.

"Foreign Funded Sazishi Fitna is himself addressing from the car and using canister for his security, but on the other hand, his workers are facing heat while walking in hot weather," the minister said in a tweet while reacting to Imran Khan's rally on the occasion of Labour Day.

She lashed out Imran Khan for being so "insensitive and shameless" to his workers who had been facing harsh weather while their leader was sitting inside of his car and asking them whether they were tired. Marriyum said Imran Khan could and would not come out of his car as he knew what the labourers had faced during his government's tenure.

Meanwhile, Minister for Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb on Monday expressed deep grief and sorrow over the death of senior journalist Saleem Butt, father of Samaa News anchor Zohaib Saleem Butt.

Expressing her heartfelt sympathy to the bereaved family, she said she was deeply grieved to hear the news of Saleem Butt's death who was a prolific journalist. The journalistic services of the deceased will always be remembered, she said. She prayed to Allah Almighty to rest the departed soul in eternal peace and grant courage to the bereaved family to bear this loss with fortitude.

## 9 tourists die in Neelum River mishap

NEELUM VALLEY (PPD): Nine people were killed in a tourist vehicle accident in Azad Kashmir's Neelum Valley area. On the way back from Tao Butt last night at Grace Valley in the upper area of the Neelum district, a jeep went out of control and fell into the Neelum River.

As soon as the accident was reported police, locals and army reached the spot. The rescue teams recovered the dead body of a tourist while five injured including the driver were shifted to the hospital.

According to Police, the jeep went out of control and fell into the middle of the Neelum River, due to which nine tourists died. Rescue activities are underway to search for the tourists. However, the administration said that now there was no chance of their survival. According to the police, the injured included two local people and three tourists, while the body of one tourist was shifted to the Muzaffarabad military hospital.

The victims of the accident include Ghulam Mir, Moeen, Hasnain Shahzad, Shah Nawaz, Waleed Abrar, Hasan Safdar, Zain Safdar, Bilal Maqbool, Azhar Ashraf, Rahim Khan, Raheel. It is said that victims belong to the same family of Lahor

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif Monday expressed grief and sorrow over the death of tourists in a traffic accident in Neelum valley. In a message, he expressed sympathy with the bereaved families.

The Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif also congratulated Minister for Information Marriyum Aurangzeb and the PTV team on successfully launching the PTVFlix. "Congratulations to Minister for Information Marriyum Aurangzeb on this achievement & full marks to the officials involved in this project from MoIB & PTV," he said in a tweet.

## PML-N not to accept minus Nawaz polls: Javed

F.P. Report

LAHORE: Federal Minister Mian Javed Latif said on Monday that Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) would neither accept minus Nawaz Sharif general election 2023 nor let it happen.

Addressing a press conference here at the PID Regional Office, he said attempts were being made to keep Imran Khan in and Nawaz Sharif out of the electoral process. "Keeping the main leader of a main political party out of electoral process would be unjustified and against the merit of level playing field," he remarked.

Javed Latif said that the PML-N had never shied away from elections, and it believed in political dialogue to sort out issues. However, it would not go for talks with those who declared others Mir Jafar and Mir Sadiq, and who conspired against the institutions and the Constitution. "Whenever we held negotiations, we did it on the basis of democracy," he said and added that 'Panchayats'

were never held in courts, as the courts were supposed to decide matters/disputes as per provisions of the Constitution. He said any 'Panchayat', held at the will of one person, would not be successful. "We have to stand more strongly for supremacy of the Parliament and the Constitution," he vowed.

The federal minister said that when two main political parties had signed the Charter of Democracy, the powerful circles assumed it an alliance against them, and then they launched a project in politics. However, that project proved to be an utter failure. He said that Imran Khan had connived with influential people, sitting in the institutions, to stay in power for the next 10 to 15 years. That was why, such people sitting in the institutions were playing the role of facilitators to bring Imran Khan back to power. Instead of accepting failure of that project, it was being covered up and facilitation was being done not only to bring Imran Khan back but also to carve out their determined part. The revela-

tions coming out in the form of audio-leaks of judges, generals, bureaucrats and others were proving the fact that the vested interests were hand in glove for the plot against the nation, he added.

He said that it was beyond one's comprehension that an operation in 'Kacha Area' proves successful despite use of rockets and heavy gunfire by criminals, but it fails against those using petrol bombs and slingshots in Zaman Park or at Zahoar Elahi Road. If Imran Khan was being protected for his crimes, then confession should also come out, he said, asserting that in was in the national interest that those should be exposed who were sitting in institutions and helping Imran Khan to stage a comeback.

Mian Javed Latif said that now the situation had reached a point where complete truth would have to be brought forth. Now people sitting in institutions would have to speak the truth that the attempts to build Imran Khan as a leader caused sufferings to the people and great losses to the country, he added.

# The Frontier Post

## Lightning strike kills two

BAHAWALNAGAR (INP): Two youths and several animals were killed as a powerful bolt of lightning struck them in Basti Mominabad. Heavy rain coupled with thundershowers lashed the Bahawalnagar. The deceased youths have been identified as Muhammad Shahid and Abdul Rauf. A rescue team rushed to the scene after the lightning strike was reported, but the youths passed away before the rescue team arrived.



KARACHI: Women activists of National Trade Union Federation Pakistan and Home-Based Woman Workers Federation chanting slogans in favour of their demands at a rally.

## New Sudan clashes despite truce

KHARTOUM (AFP): Fierce fighting broke out again Monday between Sudan's army and paramilitaries despite the formal extension of a truce, after the United Nations warned the humanitarian situation reached "breaking point". More than 500 people have been killed since battles erupted on April 15 between Sudan's de facto leader Abdel Fattah al-Burhan, who leads the regular army, and his ex-deputy Mohamed Hamdan Daglo, who commands the powerful paramilitary Rapid Support Forces.

Millions of Sudanese around the capital have since

hidden in their homes with dwindling food, water, and electricity as warplanes on bombing raids have drawn heavy fire from anti-aircraft guns. "Warplanes are flying over southern Khartoum and anti-aircraft guns are firing at it," said one resident, while another witness told AFP he was also hearing "loud gunfire" in the area. Burhan and Daglo have agreed multiple, poorly observed ceasefires, and extended the latest formal truce on Sunday by 72 hours, with each side repeatedly blaming the other for the frequent violations.

Millions of Sudanese are

trapped in the country, where aid workers are among the dead, humanitarian facilities have been looted, and foreign aid groups have been forced to essentially halt all aid operations. Top UN humanitarian official Martin Griffiths said Sunday he was heading to the region to help "bring immediate relief to the millions of people whose lives have turned upside down overnight". "The humanitarian situation is reaching breaking point," he said. "Goods essential for people's survival are becoming scarce in the hardest-hit urban centres, especially Khartoum."

## All Pakistanis to be evacuated from Sudan in 48 hours: FO

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: The Foreign Office said on Monday that nearly all 1,000 Pakistanis would be evacuated from the conflict-hit Sudan within the next 24 to 48 hours.

A brief statement issued by the FO stated that 93 more Pakistanis stranded in Sudan had reached the country in the fourth batch of evacuees. It said that the latest batch arrived at Islamabad airport on Monday via flight no PK754. As per the statement, a total of 636 stranded Pakistanis had returned home as they landed in Karachi via Jeddah separately on five special PAF flights to date.

AGENCY21  
INTERNATIONAL

Pakistan's Biggest Estate Agency

Get Your  
FRANCHISE  
Now

051 111 021 111





11 killed, 1,187 injured in Punjab road accidents

LAHORE (APP): At least 11 people were killed and 1,187 others injured in 1,062 road traffic accidents in Punjab during the last 24 hours. As many as 644 seriously injured people were shifted to different hospitals, while 543 with minor injuries were treated at the incident site by rescue medical teams, said a spokesman for Rescue 1122 here on Monday.

The analysis showed that 554 drivers, 34 under-age drivers, 125 pedestrians, and 519 passengers were among the victims of the road traffic crashes.

The statistics showed that 237 accidents were reported in Lahore, which affected 273 persons, placing the provincial capital at top of the list, followed by 69 in Faisalabad with 77 victims, and at third Gujranwala with 61 victims and 69 accidents. As many as 893 motorcycles, 82 rickshaws, 128 cars, 29 vans, 11 buses, 19 trucks and 98 other vehicles and slow-moving carts were involved in the traffic accidents.

**‘Services of labourers can not be forgotten’**

LAHORE (APP): Caretaker Provincial Health Minister Dr. Javed Akram on Monday said that the services of laborers in the society could not be forgotten under any circumstances. Addressing a ceremony held regarding International Labor Day at a local hotel, he appreciated the efforts of the organizers for organizing the best event on the occasion of International Labor Day and said that Caretaker Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi had created facilities for laborers across the province.

"On this day, we have to pay tribute to the martyrs of Pakistan Army who sacrificed their lives for the sake of the nation", he added.

He said that more steps would be taken for facilitation of working class. Auqaf Secretary Syed Tahir Raza Bukhari, Khateeb Badshahi Masjid Maulana Abdul Khabir Azad, representatives of labor unions and a large number of other people participated in the ceremony.

**Commissioner visits sports complexes**

LAHORE (APP): Commissioner Lahore Muhammad Ali Randhawa on Monday visited various under construction sports complexes in the city.

He visited Sabzazar Sports Complex consisting of 35 Kanals and Tajpura Sports Complex consisting of 8 Kanals.

Additional DG LDA, Chief Engineer LDA and concerned project directors gave a briefing to the Commissioner.

The commissioner said that these were the best and most modern sports complexes in Lahore for men and women.

He said that the under construction sports complexes were being opened in phases soon. In the first phase, two to three sports complexes would be opened.

## Labourers play role in development of country: CM Murad

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah has said that today is the day of promoting labourers and their rights. While paying tributes to the labourers on the occasion of International Labour Day (today), he said that the labourers had played their role in the development and prosperity of the country.

The Chief Minister said that Labour

Day was marked to show solidarity with labourers. Murad Shah said that the Sindh government was making all-out efforts to improve the lives of labourers. PPP always supported labourers and their rights.

The provincial government would continue its efforts for the welfare of the labourers, he added.

## Proposal underway to declare Sindh and New York as sister states

KARACHI (INP): Sindh Governor Kamran Tesori and New York State Assembly Deputy Speaker Phil Ramos discussed a proposal to declare Sindh and New York as 'Sister States'. Both sides discussed the progress on the proposal.

According to the proposal, the delegation of

the New York State Assembly will soon visit Sindh province in this regard, after which a resolution to make Sindh and New York sister states will be presented in both the assemblies.

This will promote close cooperation between universities, hospitals and research institutes in Sindh and New York.

The agreement will also pave the way for exchanges of student delegations and scholarships for intelligent students. Karachi and New York share the distinction of being coastal cities and commercial centers.

## Naqvi salutes heroic struggle of labourers

LAHORE (INP): Punjab Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi in his message on the International Labour Day on Monday felicitated heartily all the manpower of Pakistan and also expressed his good wishes for them.

The Chief Minister stated that this day reminds us of the struggle of the martyrs of Chicago against oppression and brutality and that the labourers are our heroes who augment the economy by earning legitimate livelihood.

Mohsin Naqvi also paid tribute to the heroic struggle of the labourers in the construction and progress of the country.

"The dignity of the labourers has been highlighted by declaring him the friend of Allah," he added, and saluted the dignity

of labourers, saying that no nation can tread on the path of progress and success without them. CM Naqvi then highlighted the initiatives taken by incumbent government for the labour community stating, "the caretaker government has raised the minimum wages of workers from Rs25,000 to Rs32,000."

He further emphasised that Pakistani manpower needs to be equipped with advanced technologies in order to increase the productivity.

He continued by saying that workers and employers are partners in efforts of national development. Towards the end, CM Mohsin Naqvi pledged allegiance to protect the rights of workers and to take steps for their collective welfare.

## Traders ask for laborers rights to be ensured

**F.P Report**

PESHAWAR: President Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Traders Association Mujibur Rehman said that labourers should be given rights as per national and international labour laws.

He said this on Monday while speaking on the occasion of the commemorating International Labor Day in Peshawar. He added that workers should be given health insurance and social security card as well. He stated that work charge employees in government and industrial institutions should be regularized.

President Mujibur Rehman also informed that factories should be registered and the workers there should be given the right to have equal pay as per the national and international labor laws. He

was of the view that beside men the women workers should be protected at their workplace.

As a protest rally was also held under the leadership of president Mujibur Rahman and followed by Al-Haj Humayun Khan, Khalil Noor, Jamal Mashuq Khan, Naseeruddin, Hashemi, Mian Muhammad Aqeel, Shafiq Khan and others. Mr Mujeeb also said that the salaries and pensions of workers and government employees should be increased in proportion to inflation. They should be given rights according to the labor laws created by the International Labor Organization, he asked. The government should add to the education budget and announce a special scholarship program for the children of workers, which is only reserved for workers, he stated.

## Nine Afghans held

KARACHI (INP): Police, with the assistance of Rangers, arrested nine Afghans during a combing operation in the SITE Super Highway area during the early hours of Sunday.

Officials said the operation was supervised by Sub-Divisional Police Officer Sohail Faiz of the Sohrah Goth Division, while the action lasted around six hours. Officials of intelligence agencies and female searchers also participated in

the operation.

The officials searched the houses that were under suspicion, and they also checked the documents of the people residing there, especially their national identity cards. During the operation, the officials detained some people, including Afghans who could not immediately show any documents regarding their residency in Pakistan.

Police suspect they are living illegally without

travel documents. If they provide proof of their stay in Pakistan, they will be released, otherwise they will face legal action. Officials said that during interrogation, the arrested Afghans admitted illegally crossing the border into Pakistan and settling here. Police have arrested nine Afghans and registered case No. 496/23 against them under sections 3(2) and 14C of the

Foreigners Act.



LAHORE: While the world commemorates International Labour Day, painters are busy painting the roadside.

## Working class playing significant role in country's development: Governor

LAHORE (APP): Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman on Monday said that the working class was playing a key role in the economy and development of the country so today was the day to recognize their role and contribution.

He expressed these views while addressing a ceremony held in connection with the International Labour Day as a special guest at a local hotel.

He said that it was very important to provide education facilities to the working class, adding that the implementation of safety rules for the safety of workers in factories and industries was very important to provide them safe working environment.

The Governor stressed the need for vocational training for the skilled labourers so that they could be properly trained as per international practices. He said that Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, in the past as Punjab Chief Minister had taken significant steps for educating the children of kiln workers and end-

ing child labour at brick kilns.

He said that today, tributes should also be paid to the soldiers and martyrs of Pakistan Army who rendered matchless sacrifices for the nation and the country. On the occasion, Caretaker Provincial Ministers Dr. Javed Akram, Syed Azfar Ali Nasir, Secretary Auqaf Syed Tahir Raza Bukhari, Khatib Badshahi Masjid Maulana Abdul Khabir Azad, representatives of labor unions and a large number of other people were also present.

**Governor, industrialists discuss economic situation:** Well-known industrialist Mian Talat Mehmood along with a delegation called on Punjab Governor Muhammad Balighur Rehman here at the Governor's House on Monday.

The economic situation of the country was discussed in the meeting.

The Governor said that economic stability, supremacy of the Constitution, law and welfare of the people were among the top priori-

ties. He said that it was a good sign that the country's economy was picking up. He added that Federal Finance Minister Ishaq Dar and his economic team saved the country from default and tackled the economic crisis. He said that government was committed to the welfare of the working class, and the government also expected all industrialists and business community to pay the fixed wages to the workers on time. The Governor said that a systematic plan was being worked out to permanently open the Governor House Lahore for the public.

On this occasion, Mian Talat Mehmood expressed the hope that next budget of the present government would be business friendly and provide relief to the business community. He assured that business community would cooperate with the government on tax reforms. The delegation included Mian Abdul Rehman, Ahmed Fazil and Mian Nauman.

## Workers are backbone of society, economy: Faryal Talpur

KARACHI (APP): Paying tribute to the martyrs of Chicago on the occasion of International Labour Day, Pakistan Peoples Party Women's Wing Central President and MPA, Faryal Talpur said that the workers were the backbone of the society and economy, and we as a nation, needed to do a lot to improve the lives of workers and farmers in the country.

She said there is no doubt that the Pakistan People's Party has always played a historic and defining role for the welfare of workers in our country.

From the Governments of Shaheed Zulfikar Ali Bhutto to Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto, several revolutionary steps changing the lives of workers and farmers were taken and successfully implemented that includes the rights of workers to form unions, issuance of shares in industrial enterprises, maternity leave and increase in salaries and pensions, she expressed.

Faryal Talpur said that former President Asif Ali Zardari's demand to set a minimum monthly salary of

Rs 35,000 was the voice of the heart of the workers, which needs to be made part of the next budget, to be presented in next month.

She said that the Sindh government under the guidelines of Chairman PPP Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, had introduced the Benazir Mazdoor Card, which was bringing more better change in the lives of the workers, while taking care of their social safety through an updated and automated mechanism in the province.

**Robbers deprive family of businessman of valuables worth Rs8m**

KARACHI (INP): Unidentified robbers deprived family of a business of cash, jewelry and other valuables worth more than eight million rupees in Karachi while it was not present at home, police said on Monday. According to details, family of businessman identified as Ali Khan residing in Block 'H' of North Nazimabad was on visit to its mango orchard in Mirpur Khans.

When returned back, the family found households and other things spread here and there.

The robbers who broke into the house in absence of the family took away cash, jewelry, prize bonds and other valuables worth more than eight million.

A case was registered at Haidri police station and investigation into the incident was underway.

**IRSA releases 127,400 cusecs water**

ISLAMABAD (INP): Indus River System Authority (IRSA) on Monday released 127,400 cusecs water from various rim stations with inflow of 115,200 cusecs.

According to the data released by IRSA, water level in River Indus at Tarbela Dam was 1440.68 feet and was 42.68 feet higher than its dead level of 1,398 feet. Water inflow and outflow in the dam was recorded as 30,600 cusecs while outflow as 45,000 cusecs. The water level in River Jhelum at Mangla Dam was 1121.45 feet, which was 71.45 feet higher than its dead level of 1,050 feet.

## Digital census completed in 21 Districts of Sindh

KARACHI (INP): The enumerators have completed the first-ever digital and overall seventh population and housing census in 21 districts across Sindh.

According to the details, the population and housing census process has been completed in 21 districts of Sindh after which the province has seen a significant increase since the last census conducted in 2017, crossing 54.9 million in the total population of the province. Meanwhile, Karachi, the largest city in Sindh, has surpassed a population of 17.8 million, with an increase of over 1.8 million compared to the census conducted in 2017.

Furthermore, the partial work of the census process has been completed in two districts, while the process is still underway in seven other districts and two tehsils. The authorities have assured that

the census process will continue until May 15 in Karachi, ensuring that every citizen is counted.

It is pertinent to mention here that the federal government has failed to complete the digital census process and made an extension for the fifth time. After another extension, the digital census process will be concluded on May 15 now.

The population census was due to be concluded in early April but it was extended four times earlier.

Federal Minister for Planning and Development Ahsan Iqbal said that the seventh population census and first digital census of the country is underway.

He said that some political parties raised objections to the digital census and the government invited the stakeholders to brief them.

## Ji's labour rally demands release of Maulana Hidayatur Rehman

KARACHI (INP): Led by Ameer Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) Karachi Engr Hafiz Naeemur Rehman, labour

rally of JI in Karachi on Monday demanded of the authorities to release the icon of resistance and labor rights activist Maulana Hidayatur Rehman who was put in jail for leading Gawadar Rights Movement, seeking due rights for fishermen.

A large number of labours and social activists participated in the rally taken out in the city by the National Labor Federation to commemorate the World Labour Day. The rally was taken out from Coast Guard Chowranghi to Ibrahim

Haidri -- a coastal neighborhood. It is pertinent to mention here that JI Pakistan Ameer Sirajul Haq had appealed Labor activists across Pakistan to

hold rallies for the release of Maulana Hidayatur Rehman on May 1, the Labour Day.

Speaking on the occasion, Engr Naeemur Rehman paid a rich tribute to Maulana Hidayatur Rehman over his activism for the rights of fishermen and other communities in Gawadar and other parts of Balochistan. He said that Gawadar Rights Movement-- led by Maulana Hidayatur Rehman -- has become an icon of labor rights struggle in the region.

He demanded of the government to accept all demands of the Gawadar Rights Movement and release Maulana Hidayatur Rehman. Talking about the issues of labors in Sindh, the JI Karachi chief demanded of the Pakistan People Party government in

the province to upgrade the minimum wage in accordance to the level of inflation in the country. He said that the ruling PPP always chants the mantra of food, clothing and housing facilities for poor but on the ground it always adopts anti-poor policies.

The political party has been ruling over Sindh for more than one and half decades but it did nothing to ensure due rights for laborers, Naeemur Rehman said and demanded of the ruling party to play its due role to recognize the dignity of labor, instead of always taking sides with feudalism and feudal lords.

JI leader Usama Razi, NLF Karachi President Khalid Khan, Fishermen leader Hussain, Rights Activist Shahida and others also addressed the event.



LAHORE: A labourer is waiting for customers as the world marks International Labour Day.





# Labourers’ play vital role in economic uplift, says Governor

PESHAWAR (APP): Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor, Haji Ghulam Ali here Monday said the role of labour community in the country’s economic development was like a backbone and special care for their rights were made in Islam.

In a message on the international labour day, the governor said the sense of deprivation of the labourers could be removed by strictly acting on the Islamic principles, and it was our collective responsibility to work for their welfare and protection of their rights.

He said the dream of progress and prosperity of the country could not be materialized without protection of the rights of labourers.

The Governor said spe-

cial respect and place has been given to the labourers in Islamic society and he would make efforts to ensure their prestige and welfare.

**Governor visits Qissa Khwani Bazaar, Shah Wali Qatal, intermingles with citizens, shopkeepers, labourers**

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor, Haji Ghulam Ali here Monday visited the historic Qissa Khwani bazaar and Shah Wali Qatal in interior city without protocols and openly intermingled with general public, labourers and shopkeepers.

The Governor also visited the residence of political leader Ayub Shah at Shah Wali Qatal where he offered Fateha for departed soul of his brother.

The citizens and traders expressed happiness after seeing the Governor among them. The Governor intermingled with them.

**Labour Day observed in KP amid walks, rallies**

The International Labour Day was observed in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on Monday amid rallies, seminars and demonstrations by the labourers and workers.

The Day dawned with special prayers in mosques for the progress and prosperity of Pakistan.

The political, religious parties, NGOs, labour and trade unions besides the civil society organizations and humans rights activists took out rallies and walks in all districts to highlight the significance of the Day.



PESHAWAR: Provincial chairman QWP Sikandar Hayat Khan Sherpao leading a rally with solidarity to laborers. — F.P. photo by Ghulam Murtaza

## Govt vows to resolve, protect labour’s rights

ISLAMABAD (APP): Adviser to Prime Minister on Political, Public Affairs, National Heritage and Culture Engr. Amir Muqam on Monday conveyed his heartfelt felicitations and earnest wishes to Pakistan’s entire labour community on the occasion of Labour Day.

In a message, he reiterated the government’s resolve to protect the rights of labour community and to work for their collective well being.

He said that today, we pay tribute to the valiant workers of Pakistan and

around the world, and reaffirm our commitment to the dignity of labour.

He said that every year, the first day of May was providing us the opportunity to acknowledge the invaluable contributions of workers to the development and prosperity of their nations across the globe.

The Adviser assured the workers of the country that the present government under the dynamic leadership of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif was fully committed to take all measures, in cooperation with

the provincial governments, to enhance the welfare of workers and their families as well as to change their lifestyle.

Amir Muqam who is also president of Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, said, we understand very well that only a healthy, happy and well-educated workforce will enable the country to attain its full social and economic potential, and this is what we are working towards with complete sincerity of purpose.

## Friendly countries thanked for evacuation of Pakistanis

PESHAWAR (APP): Adviser to Prime Minister for Political, Public Affairs, National Heritage and Culture, Engr Amir Muqam Monday expressed gratitude to the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, Egypt and Turkey for helping its stranded citizens evacuated from Sudan port safely.

“Safe evacuation of every Pakistani and bringing them home safely remains our top priority,” the Advisor to Prime Minister said while talking to media at Islamabad

International Airport, says a press release here.

He said a team of our mission is working day and night to facilitate the stay of Pakistanis who are still in Sudan until their evacuation to Pakistan, adding that another special PIA flight carrying 93 Pakistani nationals from Port Sudan reached in Islamabad Monday.

Amir Muqam, and Federal Minister for Overseas Pakistanis & Human Resource Development, Sajid Hussain Turi were present at the airport to greet and

welcome the passengers.

The government has also made arrangements for their accommodation, and meal and paid them to travel from one city to another, Engr Amir Muqam mentioned. He said that Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif himself had been supervising the safe process of Pakistanis, adding, overseas Pakistanis have always proved themselves as an asset to Pakistan and their welfare is the top priority of the incumbent government.

## 120 cops martyred in last 4 months

PESHAWAR (INP): As many as 120 cops were martyred and 333 others sustained injuries in the 77 terror attacks in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) during the last 4 months, revealed police report on Monday.

According to the report, terrorists conducted 77 attacks on policemen in KP during the last 120 days. The majority of attacks were carried out in Bannu, where terrorists conducted 24 attacks.

23 attacks were carried out in Dera Ismail Khan, and 15 in Peshawar. Peshawar remained on top with the martyrs as 88 policemen sacrificed their lives for the defense of the homeland.

In Malakand 12 cops were martyred, in Bannu, 11 and three policemen lost their lives in DI Khan terror attacks during the last four months.

Earlier in the day, Section 144 was enforced for three days in Peshawar, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa amid security concerns.

According to a notification issued by the deputy commissioner of Peshawar, due to security concerns, section 144 has been imposed in Peshawar for three days. During these three days, a gathering of five or more people will remain banned.

## Section 144 imposed in Peshawar

PESHAWAR (INP): Section 144 has been imposed for three days in Peshawar, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa amid security concerns.

According to a notification issued by the deputy commissioner of Peshawar, due to security concerns, section 144 has been imposed in Peshawar for three days. During these three days, a gathering of five or more people will remain banned. Section 144 of the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC) empowers district administration to issue orders in public interest that may place a ban on an activity for a specific period of time.

Such a ban is enforced by the police who register cases under section 188 of the Pakistan Penal Code for violations of the ban. Section 188 carries a maximum penalty of six months in prison or fine or both.

## PMC team visits Hamza foundation F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: Peshawar Medical College (PMC) faculty and students visited Hamza Foundation while administration has briefed the visitors about operations, on Monday.

Medical Director Dr. Tariq Khan briefed the visitors about Hamza welfare foundation operations and thalassemia patients. He also briefed about provision of facilities available at Hamza welfare foundation.

He added that Hamza welfare foundation is serving humanity since 2006 while 14657 thalassemia patients including 1263 children are register with the foundation.



PESHAWAR: Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Haji Ghulam Ali visiting Qissa Khwani bazaar and Shah Wali Qatal.

## International Labour Day: QWP, labour unions organize separate rallies and walks

PESHAWAR (APP): Various political parties, labour unions of federal and provincial departments besides private stakeholders here on Monday organized separate rallies to mark the International Labour Day and paid tribute to the martyred workers of Chicago in 1886.

Qaumi Watan Party’s Provincial Chairman Sikandar Khan Sherpao led a rally which started from Khyber Road and culminated at Peshawar Press Club.

Other federal and provincial departments and labour unions such as PWD Labour Union, Tajir Itihad KP, NADRA, Railway Workers Union, PESCO, TESCO, and Rent-a-Car Association also organized separate rallies to mark the Day.

The participants of these rallies included party workers, leaders, government servants, workers and the general public. They were holding placards and chanting slogans in support of providing basic rights to labourers as per the laws and regulations.

During the rallies, speakers expressed solidarity with the workers and laborers of Pakistan and worldwide, highlighting the sacrifices made by the Chicago workers in 1886. They called for the implementation of international labour laws in the country to protect the rights of workers.

ed at Peshawar Press Club. Other federal and provincial departments and labour unions such as PWD Labour Union, Tajir Itihad KP, NADRA, Railway Workers Union, PESCO, TESCO, and Rent-a-Car Association also organized separate rallies to mark the Day.

The participants of these rallies included party workers, leaders, government servants, workers and the general public. They were holding placards and chanting slogans in support of providing basic rights to labourers as per the laws and regulations.

During the rallies, speakers expressed solidarity with the workers and laborers of Pakistan and worldwide, highlighting the sacrifices made by the Chicago workers in 1886. They called for the implementation of international labour laws in the country to protect the rights of workers.

ed slogans in support of providing basic rights to labourers as per the laws and regulations.

During the rallies, speakers expressed solidarity with the workers and laborers of Pakistan and worldwide, highlighting the sacrifices made by the Chicago workers in 1886. They called for the implementation of international labour laws in the country to protect the rights of workers.

## IGP inspects CTD building, offers condolence to family of martyred SI

PESHAWAR (APP): Inspector General of Police Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Akhtar Hayat Khan on Monday offered condolences to the family of martyred Sub-Inspector Abdullah and inspected the damaged police station of Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) in Kabal at district Swat, which had been destroyed in twin explosions on April 25.

He inspected the dilapidated building of CTD Police Station and assessed the damages. He directed the authorities concerned to rebuild the police station as soon as possible.

Later, the IGP visited the house of martyred CTD’s Sub Inspector Abdullah in Manglor area, where he met with the heirs of Shaheed Sub-Inspector and offered his condolence.

He prayed to Allah Almighty for the rest of the departed soul in life hereafter and to grant the bereaved family members the courage to bear this loss

with patience and fortitude.

Earlier, Akhtar Hayat Khan also visited Swat Police Station and reviewed the records of Hawalat Barracks and spoke with on-duty police officers and jawans. He directed them to remain vigilant and maintain security with professional exuberance.

On this occasion, the IG encouraged the police jawans and listened to their problems. IG Khyber Pakhtunkhwa also laid a wreath at the police memorial.

with patience and fortitude.

Earlier, Akhtar Hayat Khan also visited Swat Police Station and reviewed the records of Hawalat Barracks and spoke with on-duty police officers and jawans. He directed them to remain vigilant and maintain security with professional exuberance.

On this occasion, the IG encouraged the police jawans and listened to their problems. IG Khyber Pakhtunkhwa also laid a wreath at the police memorial.



PESHAWAR: Mayor Haji Zubair Ali addressing a gathering in connection with International Labour Day.

## Action against sugar smuggling

PESHAWAR (APP): The district administration of Khyber is successfully operating against the illegal smuggling of sugar at Machni and Torkham border check posts.

Under the direction of the Chief Secretary Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, a special team headed by Additional Assistant Commissioner Landikotal Rameez Ali Shah has recovered a total of 25450 kg of sugar in just two weeks.

During the latest operation, which was conducted by the district administration, 550 kg of sugar was seized from passenger vehicles and children who were attempting to illegally smuggle it across the border.

The sugar had been transferred from the open market of Peshawar to Torkham, from where it was intended to be taken across the border through different means.

Deputy Commissioner Khyber, Abdul Nasir Khan said that legal action was being taken against those involved in the smuggling of sugar and that the sugar has been taken into government custody.

The district administration of Khyber has made it clear that it will continue its operations against sugar smuggling.

The sugar had been transferred from the open market of Peshawar to Torkham, from where it was intended to be taken across the border through different means.

Deputy Commissioner Khyber, Abdul Nasir Khan said that legal action was being taken against those involved in the smuggling of sugar and that the sugar has been taken into government custody.

The district administration of Khyber has made it clear that it will continue its operations against sugar smuggling.

## Pouring-rain makes weather pleasant

PESHAWAR (APP): The weather in and around the provincial metropolis on Monday turned pleasant with pouring-rain that brought relief from the rising heat.

Many people took advantage of the enjoyable weather and headed to nearby parks with their children.

However, some link roads such as Ashraf Road, Khyber Road, Saddar Road, GT Road, and Qissa Khwani were presenting the scene of ponds due to rainwater accumulation.

The water-logging also caused disruptions in traffic flow and travel difficulties. Additionally, some low-lying areas within the city were also flooded.

# International Labour Day: A great tribute to acknowledge valiant struggle, sacrifices of workers

PESHAWAR (APP): Busy like a honeybee in wheat harvesting, Rafique Khan (40), a poor labourer of district Nowshera was repeatedly asking his co-workers to hurry up to complete the task before the sunset.

Unaware of the International Labour Day observed in many countries including Pakistan on Monday with national enthusiasm, the motivated labour was assisted by his elder son Sadiq Khan and three more labourers in wheat harvesting in his native village Dheri Ishaq at teshvi Pabbi.

Known as Lala G. Khan who obtained a wheat harvesting contract includes wheat cutting, threshing and storage of the commodity, was working against the clock to complete it before the predated rainfalls.

“I wake up early in the morning for cutting of standing wheat on five

acres on contract ie per 200kg wheat or Rs8,000 per acre while separate charges were fixed for its threshing and wheat storage,” he told APP on Monday.

“Following the death of my father, Haji Muhammad Zaman, I discontinued my education after metric and started different labour jobs including wheat harvesting, fruits selling, transport and bricks kiln besides opened a small general store at my village to meet household, health and education’s expenses of my seven members family in the wake of skyrocketing price hike in KP,” said Rafique.

“I closed my small general store after it was severely damaged by the last year devastated floods in River Kabul and has sold my rickshaw to return all the loans obtained for my shop,” he said.

Enjoying a cup of black

tea under a Shisham tree with his fellow labourers before starting threshing of the wheat crop in the afternoon, he said, “we prefer wheat harvesting these days due to high profit margin compare to other labour jobs.”

“Purchasing of own tractor-thresher was my dream but could not materialize it due to financial constraints,” he said.

He urged the government to give interest free loans to labourers so that they may establish their own business.

Like Rafique and Sadiq, hundreds of thousands of workers were engaged in different labour works including wheat harvesting, construction, transport, bricks kilns and trees plantations in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, thus contributing to the country’s economic development.

Ist May is a significant

day to remember and paid glowing tributes to all those labourers, who worked for the economic prosperity, development and sacrificed their lives for Pakistan.

Like other 80 countries in world, International Labour Day was also observed in Pakistan to pay homage to the great services of the labour community.

Every year, International Labour Day was observed in memory of the Chicago workers killed by police while protesting against longhours duty and low wages in 1886.

In Pakistan, Ist May was officially declared as public holiday after it’s inclusion in the first labour policy devised in 1972.

“The policy led to formulation of social security network, old age benefit schemes and workers welfare fund while the 1973 constitution ensured all rights to labour class,” said

Syed Noman Bukhari, senior lawyer of trade and labour laws and member of Peshawar High Court Bar Association (PHCBA) while talking to APP.

He said Pakistan was a member of the International Labour Organization (ILO) after its independence in 1947 and has protected all rights of the labourers including right of union and jobs in 1973 constitution. Pakistan has ratified 36 ILO conventions of which eight were important conventions, thus empowering labourers of all rights.

The Labour and Culture Department KP spokesman told APP that several housing projects were launched for the labourers in the province.

He said 2,056 flats at Labour City Regi Lalma Peshawar were constructed for registered industrial workers. Funds have been allocated for sanitation,

water and street lights in Mardan Labour Colony.

Ikhtair Wali Khan, PMN KP spokesman and former MPA said that minimum labour wage has been increased to Rs25,000 per month by the present government. The federal government has planned to send around one million skilled labourers for abroad employment this year.

As many as sixteen countries including South Korea, Japan, Saudi Arabia, Azerbaijan, Iraq, Romania, Portugal and Malta have shown keen interest in hiring services of our skilled labourers. Since April last year, over six lak Pakistanis were sent abroad for employment.

He said one window OPF facilitation desk at Bacha Khan airport Peshawar having representatives of 13 departments including PIA, NADRA, Immigration and Passport,

Ministry of Religious Affairs, Customs, ANF, Bureau of Immigration and Overseas Employment, ASF, Overseas Employment Corporation, CAA and Overseas Pakistanis Foundation was established to swiftly address complaints of the overseas Pakistanis.

The allocation of five percent quota in public sector universities for children of overseas Pakistanis and financial support in the shape of payment of fees to them in foreign universities through Higher Education Commission was planned.

Overseas Pakistanis Foundation housing scheme has been launched at Budhni Road, Peshawar spread on 991 kanals near the motorway exit, which encompasses 681 residential and 74 commercial plots for labourers, he added.

Provincial President

Peoples Labor Bureau KP, Shah Zulqarnain said the then PPP governments has increased salaries of labourers by over 150 percent besides giving them shares in profits of companies and regularized their jobs.

Provincial President of Pakistan Peoples’ Party KP and Minister for State, Muhammad Ali Shah Bacha said the employees and labourers were given all due shares in the government and semi government organizations during the Govt of Benazir Bhutto Shaheed.

He claimed that PTI government has failed to address problems of labourers. Under the new labour policy, he said that 400 percent of the workers’ salaries were increased and services of the temporarily workers were regularized besides restoration of the sacked employees.





## In brief

### Political activists joined PTI F.P. Report

SHANGLA: Former provincial minister Shaukat Yousafzai said that Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) will clean-sweep Shangla in upcoming elections, on Monday. This he said while addressing newcomers joined PTI at union council Koz Kana along with other areas in which Wali Muhammad and Bakhti Rehman along with their friends and family announced their support for the party. Khan Rome, Muhammad Rome, Muhammad Hussain and Muhammad Akbar also joined PTI. Former provincial minister said that PTI is only hope to ensure accountability powerful corrupt people indiscriminately. He claimed that PTI will obtained 2/3 majority in upcoming elections across Pakistan.

### Labour Day observed F.P. Report

LANDI KOTAL: Speakers asked the concerned authorities in a gathering held in Bacha Khan Square, Landi Kotal Bazaar on Monday to bestow rights to local labourers, guaranteed to them globally. May 01, (Labor Day) commemorates globally to applaud historical struggles and gains made by the workers and their unions. Under the banner of Nujawanane Qabail association, the moot was organized in connection with "World Labor Day" that was attended by the laborer's unions, representatives of various political parties, tribal elders, traders, members of civil society and large numbers of dwellers of the area. Addressing on the occasion speakers including chief of the Nujawanane Qabail Saeed Shinwari, City Mayor Haji Shah Khalid, Israr Shinwari, tehsil elite of Jamiat Ulemae Islam, Fazal Rehman (JUI-F), tribal elder Najeeb Khawrichan said State was responsible to provide respectful job opportunities to the its citizens but ironically, they faced adverse situation of it locally. They added that anti-laborers policies imposed at Torkham border compelled them on starvation. The officials deliberately decreased work opportunities at the Pak-Afghan sharing border, and the local laborers had no other option but to seek jobs in downtowns, they remarked. They blamed that the border security officials have implemented allegedly unnecessary restrictions at the Torkham border has deprived thousands of local laborers to earn three times meals for their families.

### Blood donation demanded Hafiz Aziz-ur-Rehman

HAFIZABAD: Former District Nazim and Patron-in-Chief Sundas foundation, Hafizabad, Col.(R) Ali Ahmad Awan urged the people especially youth to donate blood for maintaining lifeline of Thalassaemic children and to save life of a person is great worship for getting blessing of almighty Allah. He was talking to volunteers of Muhafiz Squad at Sundas Foundation Centre. The personals of Muhafiz Squad were expressed their sympathies and affection with Thalassaemic children, their parents and assured that they would continue denoting blood for the children to sustain their lives as well as give pleasure to parents of the children suffering from this deadly disease. He appreciated the volunteers of Muhafiz Squad for presenting Eidy to the Young Patients and added that parents of Thalassaemia children were remained under stressed always and donation of blood was a great pleasure for them.

# Rains, hailstorms and floods wreak havoc in Dir

F.P. Report

LOWER DIR: Torrential rains, hailstorm and flooding water wreaked havoc in parts of the Lower Dir district here on Monday, residents and officials said. They said that floodwater also entered houses, shops and mosques at Timergara, Paito Dara and Khungi areas causing damages worth of millions of rupees. Several cattle head like cows, goats and sheep were killed in Talash, Yarkhan Banda and Khungi, the officials confirmed.

The floodwater in a dry stream at Talash disrupted traffic on the Timergara Peshawar road for more than three hours due to which thousands of passengers were stranded while long queues of vehicles were seen on the road. Similarly hailstorms at Talash Jabo and Yarkhan Banda not only killed several cattle heads but also dropped the mercury to a freezing point. The boundary walls of several houses also collapsed while the standing crops were damaged. According to Rescue 1122 officials, no human loss was reported from any part of the district. The floodwater swept away several link roads in Talash and Paito Dara and dismantled electricity poles due to which power supply was disrupted in parts of Talash valley. According to locals, a mosque at Khungi was partially damaged due to floodwater. Several road mishaps were also reported at Khaima, Zwal Baba and Timergara with no casualties. The Rescue 1122 emergency teams rescued the vehicles.

The additional deputy commissioner finance and planning Jan Muhammad along with Tehsiladar Timergara Mazharul Haq visited the affected areas at Timergara, Khungi and Yarkhan Banda. The ADC directed the officials of the NHA and TMA Timergara to clear the roads for traffic and remove the debris from it. The revenue staff was directed to prepare a report about the damages from the rain and floods in the district.

**Walks and rallies despite rains held in Dir to mark the International Labour Day:** The Lower Dir chapter of Jamaat-i-Islami arranged a workers' march and held a protest rally on the International Labour Day against the imprisonment of Maulana Hidayat Rehman Baloch in Gawadar, a labourers' leader struggling for the rights of workers in Gawadar. The JI leaders while addressing the rally demanded the government to immediately release Maulana Hidayat Rehman and other detainees belonging to Gawadar. The protesters marched about two kilometers on foot from Balambat to the Gorgorai Chowk Timergara, the participants of which chanted slogans against the Balochistan government. The rally was then addressed by the JI district chief Izazul Mulk Afkari, general secretary Engineer Yaqubur Rehman and others. Mr Afkari alleged the incumbent governments had made the life of the laborers miserable. He said the JI would continue to struggle for the rights of workers and laborers. He said the arrest of Maulana

Hidayat Rahman Baloch, a labor leader active for the rights of Gawadar, was a killing of justice. He said that due to the extravagance of the elite and wealthy people, the unemployment had increased and the laborers found it difficult to feed their families twice a day.

Also on Monday different functions and walks were held in parts of the district to mark the day. Speakers at different functions held at Timergara urged the government and human rights' organizations to ensure all the laws related to rights of the labourers and other vulnerable communities in Pakistan. The functions were arranged by different government and nongovernmental organizations to mark the International Labour Day here on Monday. Social and political activists, labourers, tailors and local citizens participated in the walks and rallies. The district administration also arranged an awareness walk and rally at Timergara to mark the day. Social activists Ebrash Pasha, Akbar Khan, district youth officer Shahzad Tariq and others spoke on the occasion. They said that the labour force was being exploited across the globe especially in Pakistan. The speakers said that mere slogans and announcements could not mitigate the miseries and difficulties of the labour until the government took serious measures to ensure their rights. They shed light on the importance of Labour Day. They demanded the government to provide the needy labourers with interest-free loans and initiate skills' development programmes for them.

The Shakil Shaheed Development Organization (SSDO) also arranged a function at Nasafa Talash to mark the day which was attended by people from different walks of life. The SSDO chief Peer Imtiaz Ahmad addressed the function and demanded the government to fix Rs 40,000 a minimum wage for the labourers.

**Federal Minister visit:** Also on Monday the federal minister for overseas Pakistanis, Labour and Human Resources, Sajid Hussain Tori visited the district and met with the workers of Pakistan People Party at Sarai Payeen. Talking to local journalists the minister said that there would be no compromise on the rights of workers. He said the federal government should use all resources to ensure the implementation of the minimum wage of Rs 30000. He said the labour force had a key role in the country's development. "The current federal government is providing free education to 80 thousand children of labourers from primary to a Ph.D level", he said, adding the dowry fund for the children of labourers had been increased from Rs 400,000 to Rs 600,000. The minister said that sewing machines were being distributed to the families of labourers free of cost to end unemployment.

Sajid Hussain Tori said that he was in contact with the International Labour Organization for the rights of workers and in that regard he had also participated in several conferences.



ATTOCK: A rally is being organized by All Pakistan PWD workers Union on the occasion of International Labour Day.

## Malaria hits Balochistan after catastrophic floods

Rafiullah Mandokhail

ZHOB: Malaria is a life-threatening disease, affecting half of the world's population. In Pakistan earlier in 2021, 1.6 million people were tested positive with malaria, 313 out of them died of the disease. Most of them were under five children and pregnant women. Following the catastrophic floods across Balochistan, thousands of malaria cases have been reported in the province.

These mind-blowing figures were shared by the speakers at a seminar organized by Balochistan Rural Support Programme in collaboration with Indus Hospital & Health Network on the eve of World Malaria Day here. Earlier an awareness walk was also organized to mark World Malaria Day. This year, the theme as designated by the World Health Organization is 'Time to deliver zero malaria: invest, innovate, implement'.

Presiding over the seminar Provincial Manager IHHN Dr Aimal Mandokhail and District

Coordinator Malaria Control Programme Ubaid Hariphal said that Indus Hospital & Health Network is working for the eradication of malaria in 21 endemic districts of Balochistan including Zhob. "Twenty-six public health centers and forty-four private laboratories have been provided with diagnostic facilities, where patients are being screened, diagnosed and treated free of cost. The health facilities have been provided with anti-malarial medicines and RDT kits," they added.

Addressing the seminar Samad Khan Hariphal (Brace Program), Abdul Rasheed Sarwan (Education Department), Dr. Abdul Qayyum Mandokhail (Leishmaniasis Center), Usman Sherani (Malaria Control Programme) and Quttub Khan Afqai (DPM-BRSP) said that the seminar was aimed at educating and sensitizing people about the gravity of disease. They said in different districts of Balochistan, falciparum and vivax malaria is common. According to last year's sta-

tistics, 110,000 people were screened in which 16,000 positive cases of malaria were reported. But the true number could be far higher.

The officials said that the bite of a mosquito carrying plasmodium parasite causes malaria. They urged the people to adopt precautionary measures to protect themselves from the disease. Deputy Director of Livestock and Dairy Development Dr. Naseebullah Kakar, Dr. Afrasiab Mandokhail (World Health Organization), Zain-ud-Din Mardanzai (World Bank), Pashtoonyar Sherani and Amanullah Kharoti (BISP and Al-Shifa Foundation), Abuzar Mandokhail (IHHN), Saboor Khan (Admin Officer BRSP), Journalist Rafiullah Mandokhail, Allama Naseem Babar, Dawood Khan Shahabzai, Sheikh Habib Mandokhail, Wali Arian (Director Arian Technical Institute), Salahuddin Mandokhail, Qasim Khan Mandokhail (Para medical staff), Nazir Mardanzai (UNICEF), Prince Arslan and Baz Muhammad Nasar attended the seminar.



MINGORA: KP IGP Akhtar Hayat Gandapur offering fateha for the departed soul of Shaheed CTD Inspector Ashraf Ali Khan at his residence.

### IGP KP inspects Swat's CTD building F.P. Report

MINIGORA: Inspector General of Police Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Akhtar Hayat Khan on Monday offered condolences to the family of martyred Sub-Inspector Abdullah and inspected the damaged police station of Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) in Kabal at district Swat, which had been destroyed in twin explosions on April 25.

He inspected the dilapidated building of CTD Police Station and assessed the damages. He directed the authorities concerned to rebuild the police station as soon as possible. Later, the IGP visited the house of martyred CTD's Sub Inspector Abdullah in Manglor area, where he met with the heirs of Shaheed Sub-Inspector and offered his condolence.

He prayed to Allah Almighty for the rest of the departed soul in life hereafter and to grant the bereaved family members the courage to bear this loss with patience and fortitude. Earlier, Akhtar Hayat Khan also visited Swat Police Station and reviewed the records of Hawalat Barracks and spoke with on-duty police officers and jawans. He directed them to remain vigilant and maintain security with professional exuberance. On this occasion, the IG encouraged the police jawans and listened to their problems. IG Khyber Pakhtunkhwa also laid a wreath at the police memorial.

### Upgradation of school demanded F.P. Report

PARACHINAR: In a recent statement to local journalists, social worker Malik Qeemat Khan emphasized the importance of education and the need for higher secondary status for Government High School Manato in Sadha Central Karam district. He stated that education is a fundamental right that no one should be deprived of and it is the key to a nation's development. However, due to poverty, students in the area are unable to pursue higher education after passing matric, leading to a significant increase in the unemployment rate.

Khan called on the government to prioritize giving higher secondary status to Government High School Manato so that students can fulfill their thirst for higher education and contribute to the development of their community. He stressed that the lack of higher educational institutions in the area is a major obstacle to progress and development, and action must be taken to address this issue.

The social worker's appeal to education department officials to take immediate action has garnered support from local residents and education advocates who believe that access to higher education is crucial for the growth and prosperity of the region.

Sahibzada Afridi

KOHAT: Water and Power Development Authority (WAPDA) Hydro Electric Labor Union observed World Labor Day at Tehsil Municipal Administration (TMA) Hall Kohat, on Monday.

According to details, Deputy

## Woman dead body recovered from canal

F.P. Report

MARDAN: The sacked dead body of a murdered woman was found in the Palodheri Shen Khal canal, the Rustam police took the body into custody and after the post-mortem, was cremated and a case of murder was registered against the unknown accused.

According to the details, the bagged body of an unknown murdered woman, aged 40/35 years, name and residence unknown, was found in the canal near Palo-dheri Shen Khal on Upper Swat canal. The local people took the body out of the canal with their help and referred it to the police station Rustam.

According to police sources, the unknown accused first killed the woman by firing a firearm and later threw the murdered body in a plastic sack into the canal. After the post-mortem, police station Rustam registered a case of murder against the unknown accused and started the investigation, while the body of the woman was buried in the tomb of Hira-wand Rustam.

**Students deprived from textbooks:** Thousands of male and female students of government schools are deprived of textbooks due to poor performance of the Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa Education Ministry.

Many students are still using old books, sources in the education department said. Thousands of male and female students of different high and higher secondary schools including primary and middle schools are forced to go to school without textbooks as new textbooks were not available in the market.

The teachers are also confused as to which course they should teach their students while the students and their parents are also suffering anxiety in the prevailing situation. Due to the unavailability of new textbooks, the time of students is getting wasted.

The parents have demanded the government to take measures and ensure the provision of textbooks for schoolchildren, otherwise they would be forced to pick up the children from government schools.

**Police arrests 8 alleged culprits:** Police conducted successful operations against suspects in the surroundings of Shiekh Malton Police Stations being involved in social crimes and arrested eight suspects including the mastermind involved in theft, robbery cases in the area of three police stations including Sheikh Multoon police station.

Toro police station and Garhi Kapura police station. The police officials recovered stolen goods, motorcycles, cash, jewelry and other items had been stolen from

## GDC 1998-2000 batch held get together

F.P. Report

BUNER: Once a friend is always a friend maxim is proved by 1998-2000 batch of Government Degree College (GDC) Daggar while holding get together and promised for making collective efforts to aimed at welfare of public and for development of Pakistan in their respective field of profession.

According to details, the Government Degree College 98-2000 arranged get together following Eid vacation for first time after their completion of studies at the institute. They promised with each other to work collectively for welfare society and state.

The batch is considered a glorious batch of Government College Daggar because the classmates had proved their iron at every field of their pro-



fession. They also missed their friends who didn't able to attend the gathering while hopeful that they would support their promise to work for welfare of society and state.

The friends discussed their memories at the college spent together with delight and joy. They are working at different professions including civil services, business, teaching along with other public and private sectors. One Sher Afzal thanked his classmates for arranging joyful

get together after long time and hopeful that such gathering should be held frequently.

Engineer Liaqat Ali feeling proud for his friends who has made commitment for collective work of society and state. He appreciated his classmates pledge for spreading positivity by prioritizing public in their private gatherings. Meanwhile, Engineer Arshad has arranged tea party at his residence and specially come to Pakistan for this get together.

## World Labor Day observed

Sahibzada Afridi

Chairman WAPDA Labor union Younis Shah, Dawood Jan, Abbas Raza, Sakhi Badshah, Muhammad Waqas, Rashid Bukhari and Shahid Mehmood addressed the participants.

They stressed on fair wages for laborers in every sectors of life at both public and private sectors.

The participants claimed that

labor rights didn't following in this true spirit and committed to obtain their legal rights accepted across the globe.

They argued competent authorities to take concrete steps for welfare of laborer on priority basis because current inflation had compelled wagers for starvation.





Tuesday, May 02, 2023

## Texas border city struggles with large arrival of migrants

TEXAS (AP): Shelters in a Texas city struggled to find space for migrants who authorities say have abruptly begun crossing by the thousands from Mexico, testing a stretch of the US border that is typically equipped to handle large groups of people fleeing poverty and violence.

The pace of arrivals in Brownsville appeared to catch the city on the southernmost tip of Texas off guard, stretching social services and putting an overnight shelter in an uncommon position of turning people away. Officials say more than 15,000 migrants, mostly from Venezuela, have illegally crossed the river near Brownsville since last week. That is a sharp rise from the 1,700 migrants that Border Patrol agents encountered in the first two weeks of April, according to US Customs and Border Protection officials.

"It's a quite concerning because the logistical challenge that we encounter is massive for us," said Gloria Chavez, chief of the US Border Patrol Rio Grande Valley Sector. The reason for the increase was not immediately clear. Chavez said migrants have been frustrated by relying on a glitch-plagued government app that can allow them to seek asylum at a port of entry. Some migrants who crossed this week cited other motivators, including cartel threats that immediately preceded the sudden

increment.

The uptick comes as the Biden administration plans for the end of pandemic-era asylum restrictions. US authorities have said daily illegal crossings from Mexico could climb as high as 13,000 from about 5,200 in March. Other cities — some far away from the southern US border — are also grappling with suddenly large influxes of migrants. In Chicago, authorities reported this week a tenfold increase in the arrival of migrants in the city, where as many as 100 migrants have begun arriving daily and begun sheltering in police stations.

Brownsville is across the Rio Grande from Matamoros, Mexico, where a sprawling encampment of makeshift tents has housed about 2,000 people waiting to enter the US. Last week, some tents were set ablaze and destroyed. Some migrants have said cartel-backed gangs were responsible, but a government official suggested the fires could have been set by a group of migrants frustrated over their long wait.

"It was desperation, the cartel," said Roxana Aguirre, 24, a Venezuelan migrant who sat outside a Brownsville bus station. "You couldn't be on the street without looking over your shoulder." In downtown Brownsville, families from Venezuela, Cuba, Haiti and China walked aimlessly, carrying their

belongings and talking on their cellphones. Some waited for their buses while others were in limbo, waiting for relatives before making plans to leave but finding no shelter in the meantime. One Venezuelan couple said they slept in a parking lot after being turned away at an overnight shelter.

Officials in Brownsville issued a disaster declaration this week, following other Texas border cities that have done the same in the face of suddenly large influxes of migrants, including last year in El Paso. "We've never seen these numbers before," said Martin Sandoval, spokesperson for the Brownsville Police Department. The reshuffling of resources at the border — in one of the busiest sectors with robust Border Patrol staffing levels — comes as the US Department of Homeland Security prepares to end the use of a public health authority known as Title 42, which allowed them to reject asylum claims.

The administration has expelled migrants 2.7 million times under a rule in effect since March 2020 that denies rights to seek asylum under US and international law on grounds of preventing the spread of COVID-19. Title 42, as the public health rule is known, is scheduled to end May 11 when the US lifts its last COVID-related restrictions.

## Irish mission aiding Sudan evacuations withdrawn

LONDON (BBC): More than 200 Irish citizens and their dependents have been evacuated from Sudan, as the rescue mission draws to a close, the Irish government has said. The Emergency Civil Assistance Team (ECAT), involving Irish Defence Forces personnel, was deployed. Some 209 people have been evacuated from Sudan, according to the Irish Department of Foreign Affairs.

The majority of Irish citizens taken from the country in recent days have been carried on UK flights into Cyprus, the department added. Tánaiste (Irish deputy prime minister) Micheál Martin, said the ECAT operation in Cyprus and Djibouti would now be withdrawn. The mission, named Operation Piccolo, has involved Department of Foreign Affairs officials being stationed in the countries with the aim of assisting in the evacuation. Ireland has also received help from France and Spain to airlift Irish citizens, residents and visa holders to safety.

It comes as a ceasefire in the conflict-stricken north African country appeared to falter, with residents reporting heavy explosions and gunfire breaking out again in the capital Khartoum. In a statement, Mr Martin thanked the ECAT "and all those involved in our consular response". He said Ireland would maintain an enhanced multi-location presence in support of citizens remaining in Sudan through consular missions, including those in Egypt, Kenya and Jordan. Members of the Defence Forces' Special Operations Forces unit and the Army Ranger Wing supported the operation. "The team were also on standby to provide medical assistance if required," the Defence Forces said in a statement.

## UN suspends food aid to Tigray

NAIROBI (AP): The United Nations food relief agency has suspended aid deliveries to Ethiopia's northern Tigray region amid an internal investigation into the theft of food meant for hungry people, according to four humanitarian workers.

The World Food Program is responsible for delivering food from the UN and other partners to Tigray, the center of a devastating two-year civil war that ended with a ceasefire in November. More than 5 million of the region's 6 million people rely on aid. WFP informed its humanitarian partners on April 20 that it was temporarily suspending deliveries of food to Tigray amid reports of food misappropriation, one of the four humanitarian workers told AP. Three other aid workers confirmed this information. They all insisted on anonymity because they were not authorized to speak to a journalist on this matter.

Last month, AP reported that the WFP was investigating cases of food misappropriation and diversion in Ethiopia, where a total of 20 million people need humanitarian help due to drought and conflict. A letter sent by the WFP's Ethiopia director on April 5 asked humanitarian partners to share "any information or cases of food misuse, misappropriation or diversion that you are aware of or that are brought to your attention by your staff, beneficiaries or local authorities."

At the time, two aid workers told AP that the stolen supplies included enough food to feed 100,000 people. The food was discovered missing from a warehouse in the Tigray city of Sheraro. It was not clear who was responsible for the theft. Tigray's new interim president, Getachew Reda, said last month he discussed "the growing challenge of diversion & sale of food aid meant for the needy" with senior WFP officials during a visit by the agency to Mekele, the regional capital. A spokesperson for the WFP in Ethiopia did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

## Marcos Jr treads a fine line over military ties as he heads to US

MANILA (Agencies): When they heard Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos Jr was planning to meet United States President Joe Biden at the White House on May 1, Filipino progressive groups immediately made protest plans.

The regular Labor Day rally had a new theme, Renato Reyes Jr, secretary general of the New Patriotic Alliance or Bayan, told prospective demonstrators — the US reaffirmation of the Philippines as its "military outpost" in Asia. Reyes promised a demonstration in front of the US embassy in Manila and that Marcos Jr would also be greeted by protesting Filipinos in Washington, DC.

The leaders, he said, were expected to announce new bilateral guidelines on the presence of the US military in the Philippines "as if we are a protectorate of America, in clear violation of our national sovereignty and constitution". The visit to the White House is the first by Marcos Jr, who was elected in May 2022 and has since steered the Southeast Asian nation closer to the US in contrast to predecessor Rodrigo Duterte who tilted the country towards Beijing.

China is the Philippines's top trading partner, and while Marcos Jr was honoured with a state visit to Beijing in January, its increasingly assertive claim to almost the entire South China Sea has become a source of increasing disquiet in Manila. In February, the Philippines lodged a formal protest after accusing the Chinese coastguard of directing a powerful laser at one of its navy ships near Second Thomas Shoal, known as Ayungin Shoal in the Philippines. It also reported China conducted "dangerous maneuvers" in the same area this month. The US too is uneasy about China's military ambitions, not only in the South China Sea but also over self-ruled Taiwan, which Beijing claims as its own territory.

In announcing the visit, White House Press Secretary Karine Jean-Pierre said Biden and Marcos Jr would talk about the US's "ironclad commitment" to defence in the region, plus "efforts to uphold international law and promote a free and open Indo-Pacific." The summit comes on the heels of US Vice President Kamala Harris's November 2022 visit to the Philippines, and US Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin's meeting with Marcos Jr in Manila last February, which culminated in an agreement to allow the US access to more of the Philippines military bases, a deal that attracted criticism from Beijing. "It is plain and simple that those moves are part of the US efforts to encircle and contain China," a spokesperson from the Chinese Embassy in the Philippines said in a statement in March. "To bundle the Philippines into the chariot of geopolitical strife will seriously harm Philippine national interests and endanger regional peace and stability."

With its strategic position dividing the South China Sea and the Pacific, the Philippines is a "bone of contention" for China and the US, foreign policy expert Roland Simbulan told Al Jazeera. The rival powers are



competing for influence and control over maritime trade routes, fishing grounds, offshore mineral and gas resources, as well as to secure military dominance, he said.

Despite Duterte being what he called "good friends" with Beijing, Simbulan believes he never really strayed far from the US. Dependence on and subservience to US military might have been the "lifeline of Duterte and now Marcos Jr," he said. The Philippines was a US colony for 48 years, and even after full independence, the two nations maintained a close relationship, which deepened after Ferdinand Marcos Sr became president in 1965.

Marcos Sr sent supporting troops to Vietnam in the 1970s and welcomed a steady stream of US investments into the country. Even after the elder Marcos declared martial law in 1972, suspending parliament, arresting his political opponents and taking control of the courts, Washington regarded him as a trusted ally. And when he was eventually toppled in the people power revolution of 1986, the US provided a plane to fly the family to safety and allowed the fallen dictator to live out his life in exile in Hawaii.

Experts say the relationship was a reflection of the geopolitics of the time. The US "turned a blind eye to the regime's human rights violations and corruption," said professor Michael Pante, a historian at the Ateneo de Manila University. The late dictator and the US "needed each other. The US wanted a pliant client government in Southeast Asia for its principal geopolitical objective of carrying the banner of Cold War-era anti-communism." The strength of the relationship was reflected militarily.

The Philippines was once home to some of the biggest US military bases in the region, including at Subic Bay overlooking the South China Sea. Those bases were closed in 1992 — Simbulan was a consultant for the Senate at the time — as the Philippines sought to rebuild its democracy after the rampant corruption and abuses of the martial law era. Since then, US troops have travelled to the archipelago on a rotational basis, making use of domestic military facilities under the Enhanced

Defense Cooperation Agreement (EDCA) of 2014.

The US is also the biggest supplier of military equipment to the Philippines, while the archipelago receives the largest share of US military assistance within Southeast Asia. The newly expanded EDCA means the US will have access to nine bases in the Philippines, including three on the northern island of Luzon, which lies just 300km (186 miles) from Taiwan, one of the region's major flashpoints. The deal also provides reassurance to the Philippines, which was so roiled by Beijing's seizure of Scarborough Shoal in 2012 that it took its case to the International Court of Arbitration in the Hague.

The court eventually found China's claim to the South China Sea had no basis, but Beijing ignored the ruling and has continued to expand its military presence, including in the Philippines Exclusive Economic Zone. This year's Balikatan — shoulder to shoulder in Tagalog — joint military exercises were a sign that with Marcos Jr at the helm, there is a renewed warmth to the relationship between Washington and Manila. The drills, which ended on April 28, were the largest ever staged with 12,000 US soldiers taking part.

"The Balikatan Exercise enhances both the AFP [Armed Forces of the Philippines] and the United States Armed Forces' tactics, techniques, and procedures across a wide range of military operations," AFP spokesperson Colonel Medel Aguilar said in a statement released by the US Embassy ahead of the drills. "It increases our ability to work together effectively and efficiently in response to various crisis situations." Balikatan capped off its last day with live-fire drills and the sinking of a decommissioned ship, and Marcos Jr was there to watch. China, which this year has staged drills with Cambodia and is about to embark on exercises with Singapore, has shown its anger at the closer relationship.

Chinese Ambassador Huang Xilian claimed the US wanted to use the EDCA deal to advance its own "anti-China agenda" and "interfere in the situation across the Taiwan strait". He also pointedly referred to the thousands of Filipinos working in Taiwan.

## Sudanese civilian groups band together to provide essential aid

KHARTOUM (Agencies): Despite the near-constant danger, 36-year-old Walid Abdel Mawla al-Sideeg regularly heads out to the battle-ridden streets of Khartoum to deliver food to families holed up in their homes. He is not a humanitarian worker; during peacetime, he was a journalist. Instead, like many other Sudanese civilians, his actions are borne out of a dogged determination to protect the country's vulnerable as the country's infrastructure is torn apart by war.

Al-Sideeg started the Khartoum Food Bank on April 18, three days after fighting between the Sudanese army and the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) erupted. The food bank has since grown into an essential lifeline for thousands of families in the city. But, it is just one of countless civilian committees across the country that have banded together to support the communities racked by shortages of food, water and medical supplies. Prices have also skyrocketed, leaving many unable to afford essentials.

Al-Sideeg told Al Jazeera that he and more than a dozen men who operate the food bank "face many dangers on a daily basis" as they scour food supplies from any store that is open and attempt the treacherous journeys to homes around the city. Some families have gone without food for up to three days; others are in areas where fighting is so intense that al-Sideeg and his team cannot reach them. On those occasions, they send them cash transfers and hope that they can reach a grocery store themselves.

The Khartoum food bank, like many of the country's burgeoning civil committees, is funded by members of the Sudanese diaspora, who respond to calls on social media for support. After receiving donations, al-Sideeg and other members of the food bank brave the streets to buy beans, lentils, flour, onions and other essential foodstuffs before rationing them out into bags according to each family's needs.

The network of civil committees and expatriate donors also use social media to share vital logistical information. "This generation is making miracles," explained Aseel Geries, a

public health specialist, civil servant and activist currently in Wad Madani, a city in east-central Sudan. "It is the diaspora, especially in the US and the UK, through social media, who tell us that this road is safe, or these nurses can treat you here," she told Al Jazeera over the phone, her voice cracking with emotion.

Al Jazeera spoke to one Sudanese national, Walaa, now in Saudi Arabia, who is helping raise funds. "Sudan is not really getting anything from any other countries," Walaa said. "They haven't been helping with emergency aid, so it's just us, Sudanese people, who are really trying to help in any way possible". Geries made the dangerous journey from Khartoum to Wad Madani with her aunt on the third day of fighting and has been using social media ever since to help others out of the city, notifying them of how and when they should attempt to flee.

She said many people arrive at Wad Madani from Khartoum in a "dire state and need urgent medical treatment". She recently helped evacuate her friend, a 25-year-old man who had been shot in the back while driving his car in Khartoum and could not receive medical assistance. "Hospital theatres were not working, there were no surgeries or doctors available, and even a CT scan was almost impossible," she said. She used her connections to get him to Wad Madani, where he underwent surgery and physical therapy, but he remains paralysed from the waist down.

Geries said doctors have also been specifically targeted and arrested by RSF soldiers in Khartoum who use them to treat injured troops. Her relative, who is a doctor, now carries his passport instead of an ID card, as it does not state his profession. Wad Madani has not seen any major fighting, she said, and it remains one of the few places in the country where some international humanitarian organisations have a presence. But Geries added that the medical infrastructure in the city is overwhelmed, and there is a "serious shortage of life-saving medicines". "If you have not been shot, you will die of a chron-

ic disease," she explained, adding that "more than 21,000 people are in need of dialysis".

Through funds raised by the diaspora, she and other civilians are able to buy medicines required for specific critical cases at local pharmacies, although stocks are fast running out. Geries said some pregnant women and cancer patients have been unable to receive treatment. "The health level is collapsing due to the acute shortage of life-saving medicines," Reem al-Tayib told Al Jazeera from Port Sudan. She says that she is currently trying to help a cancer patient who requires urgent chemotherapy, but has so far been unable to receive or afford it.

When Ashraf Mohamed Osman, a game designer from Khartoum, could not find an open pharmacy in his area, he started to gather information from social media and created a spreadsheet that contained up-to-date information about which pharmacies were operational. "All the pharmacy owners are scared for their lives," he said. "If they do open, it's just for a few hours".

Any excursion to reach a pharmacy is fraught with danger, so it is essential to be as efficient as possible if you leave the house. "If you decide to risk your life to find medicine and use your car, you will run out of fuel as gas stations are closed." Osman is now working on collecting additional information regarding specific shortages, including insulin, which is used to treat diabetes and is in short supply. Geries believes the younger generation will continue to use social media to raise awareness of what parts of the country are most in need. Currently, she said, el-Geneina, a city in West Darfur, is almost completely isolated and racked by fighting, with all medical facilities out of order, leading civilian activists to use hashtags on social media to keep attention on the situation there. Al-Sideeg said, at his food bank, everyone rejected the war "because it only brings destruction as we see with all the families who had to flee their homes. We are calling the fighting parties to stop the war as its harming every family".

## Chinese who reported on COVID to be released

HONG KONG (AP): Chinese authorities were preparing to release a man who disappeared three years ago after publicizing videos of overcrowded hospitals and bodies during the COVID-19 outbreak, a relative and another person familiar with his case said. Fang Bin and other members of the public who were dubbed citizen journalists posted details of the pandemic in early 2020 on the internet and social media, embarrassing Chinese officials who faced criticism for failing to control the outbreak. The last video Fang, a seller of traditional Chinese clothing, posted on Twitter was of a piece of paper reading, "All citizens resist, hand power back to the people."

Fang's case is part of Beijing's crackdown on criticism of China's early handling of the pandemic, as the ruling Communist Party seeks to control the narrative of the country. He was scheduled to be released, according to two people who did not want to be identified for fear of

government retribution. One of them said Fang was sentenced to three years in prison for "picking quarrels and provoking trouble," a vague charge traditionally used against political dissidents.

The Associated Press could not independently confirm his release and could not confirm the details with the authorities. Two offices of Wuhan's public security bureau did not provide a phone number of their information office or answer any questions. Phone calls to a court that reportedly sentenced Fang rang unanswered. A woman from another court that had reportedly handled Fang's appeal said she was not authorized to answer questions. In early 2020, the initial COVID outbreak devastated the city of Wuhan, home to 11 million residents, in central China's Hubei province. Under a 76-day lockdown, its streets were deserted for months, apart from ambulances and security personnel.

At that time, a small number of citizen journal-

ists tried to tell their stories and those of others with smart phones and social media accounts, defying the Communist Party's tightly policed monopoly on information. Although their movement was small, the scale was unprecedented in any previous major disease outbreak or disaster in China. But the information they posed soon got them into trouble. Fang and another citizen journalist, Chen Qiushi, disappeared in February.

Chen in September 2021 resurfaced on his friend's live video feed on YouTube, saying he had suffered from depression. But he did not provide details about his disappearance. Another citizen journalist, Zhang Zhan, who also had reported on the early stage of the outbreak, was sentenced to four years in prison on charges of picking fights and provoking trouble in December 2020. About eight months later, her lawyer said she was in ill health after staging a long-running hunger strike.

## Canada reaches deal with 120,000 striking workers

TORONTO (Agencies): Canada has reached an agreement with 120,000 striking federal workers, effectively ending one of the largest public-sector work stoppages in the country's history, which had crippled services from passport renewals to immigration.

While most strikers are set to return to work after almost two weeks of deadlock, more than 35,000 workers at the Canada Revenue Agency who also went on strike last month are still negotiating, the Public Service Alliance of Canada (PSAC) union said on Monday. "During a period of record-high inflation and soaring corporate profits, workers were told to accept less — but our members came together and fought for better," PSAC National President Chris Aylward said in a statement.

"This agreement delivers important gains for our members that will set the bar for all workers in Canada." A third of Canada's public workers — around 155,000 people — began striking on April 19, hitting picket lines at hundreds of locations around the country with demands for cost-of-living raises and telework flexibility. The head of the Treasury Board

### Al Jazeera journalist freed

CAIRO (BBC): A journalist from the Al Jazeera network has been freed in Egypt, four years after he was arrested, the Qatari media organisation says. Hisham Abdel Aziz was detained in 2019, reportedly on suspicion of belonging to a terrorist group. He was subsequently freed then rearrested. The broadcaster quoted Mr Aziz's family as saying he was back at home in Cairo.

He is one of several Al Jazeera staff arrested in Egypt since the current leadership came to power in 2013. In July of that year, the then-Islamist president, Mohammed Morsi, was overthrown by the military following mass protests. Rights groups say that since then tens of thousands of people have been arrested in a crackdown on dissent. Many have been accused of links to the banned Islamist Muslim Brotherhood movement, which Egypt has accused Al Jazeera of supporting. According to Al Jazeera, Mr Abdel Aziz was arrested at Cairo airport on his arrival from Qatar, where he was based. He was on his way to see his family, it said.

The union said it had won a 12.6 percent wage increase over the four-year contract period (2021-2024), below its desired 13.5 percent raise but above the nine percent bump proposed by the government. On the sticking point of teleworking, which many employees had grown accustomed to during the COVID-19 pandemic, PSAC said it had secured "significant new protections". It said that new "language in a letter of agreement" would require managers to assess remote work requests on an individual basis and not by group.

The best deals are reached at the bargaining table — we respect the right to negotiate and appreciate Canadians' patience and understanding over the past two weeks," Mona Fortier said in a statement. "We are deeply grateful for public servants who work hard across the country to serve Canadians and look forward to welcoming them back. These deals are fair, competitive, and reasonable, and bring stability to public servants and Canadians."



**The Frontier Post****JALIL AFRIDI**  
Managing EditorPrinted and published by Mahmood Afridi at  
Moraka's Printers, 27 Abdara Road, University Town,  
Peshawar.

Peshawar Office: 091-5700095, 0300- 9009001

Peshawar Fax: 091-5703687, Post Box No. 573

E-mail: fppeshawar@thefrontierpost.com

Lahore Office: 0335-4026284

Email: fplahore@thefrontierpost.com

Islamabad Office: 0321-5066253

Email: mahmoodafridi@thefrontierpost.com

Karachi Office: 021-32213411, 0300-8340907

Email: fpkarachi@thefrontierpost.com

\*USA and Canada Toll Free Number 1-800-5905747

# Philosophy of atonement or battle for self preservation

**P**RESIDENT Dr. Arif Alvi has sent back National Accountability (Amendment) Bill 2023 to the parliament for reconsideration after observing that the amendments brought earlier in the National Accountability Ordinance 1999 were sub-judice before the Supreme Court of Pakistan. The President exercised his power under clause (1)(b) of Article 75 of the Constitution and returned the unsigned bill to the parliament for reexamination or otherwise. According to Dr. Alvi, without considering the implications of a pending matter, further amendments to the NAB Ordinance 1999 should be reevaluated.

Today's Pakistan is witnessing a new kind of politics and governance since the ouster of the PTI government through a no-confidence motion in April last year. The warring political groups are unashamedly pursuing their party's manifestos without considering the gravity, unlawfulness, and harmful effects of their rash drive on public life, businesses, and the national economy. Realistically, public leaders and political groups are supposed to work for the well-being and betterment of the masses after grabbing power in the electoral process. The current Pakistani leaders are entirely committed to their party agenda and persistently use all executive and legislative powers to their benefit, whilst, the absence of an effective opposition further magnified their fallacious motives. The incumbent coalition government has introduced a series of legislations typically aimed at changing the country's accountability and prosecution regimes to get rid of under-trial cases in the courts and to zero-sum the lawsuits against PML-N Supremo Mian Muhammad Nawaz Sharif to ultimately pave the way for his dignified return to the country.

In fact, the Constitution of the country has become a mere piece of document for the influential and both contesting parties are playing with it. The ruling coalition has introduced multiple laws while taking advantage of its majority in the parliament such as the National Accountability (Second Amendment) bill, Election Amendment Bill as well as the Supreme Court (Practice and Procedure) Bill-2023 that were categorically blocked by the President in the defense of his party. Currently, the coalition government has again presented the National Accountability (Amendment) Bill 2023 which was turned down by the President once again. Historically, framing politically motivated legislation is not a new phenomenon and all previous governments passed legislation to comprehend their political manifestos and protect their party interest, but it is hard luck of the incumbent rulers that the Presidency is still occupied by their adversary who persistently nullifies their attempt to override the law. Apparently, both warring groups are using public offices and institutions for party benefits instead of using their tact and time in public service, which is a need of time and demand of their nationalism.

The current political turmoil has worsened over the past weeks and the tussle between the two groups is equally affecting all aspects of public life and the functioning of the national institutions. Although, there had been massive anomalies in the accountability laws and prosecution along with the registration of revengeful cases against the opposition. Yet the incumbent rulers must not exhibit mockery of the law by writing off their past cases and getting relief from their own perceived legislations. The public trust in political leaders and national institutions has seriously eroded because of the undying political dogfight between the parties, and no remorse by the leaders over the grave problems of the masses. The current situation demands the seriousness and tact of the leadership to end their mutual antagonism and adopt a consensus policy to rescue the nation from the current upheaval. Otherwise, the public's disbelief would cost serious damage to their politics.

**V**ANCOUVER - Last week, the young technology billionaire Alexander Wang asserted onstage at the annual TED conference that artificial intelligence will dominate the future of warfare. He urged democracies to invest in the next generation of weaponry. The Ukrainian military's successful use of semi-autonomous drones and machine learning to analyze satellite imagery, he argued, is precedent for wars involving killer drones that recognize people's faces and autonomous fighter jets that travel at speeds intolerable for human pilots.

Just two weeks earlier, Gen. Mark A. Milley, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, made a very different pronouncement to the Senate Armed Services Committee. He praised the Ukrainians' recent use of land mines as an "effective" battle tactic that had corralled Russian forces. How is it possible that killer robots powered by AI coexist with archaic weapons of 19th- and 20th-century warfare? The answer is: We are not asking enough of new technology.

Not just in war but in life, we are in a disorienting era in which old and new technologies are ever more frequently colliding. The disconnect between visions of tomorrow and the reality of present problems offers a rare opportunity to find a better way of thinking about innovation. It's conventional wisdom that the future is here but unevenly distributed. This observa-

tion explains, for example, why, while Nigerians pay for groceries with bitcoin, I've recently had to scrounge up hard cash to pay for food and bus fare in major world cities.

But it doesn't explain why land mines are used today by insurgents in conflict zones and by the Russian and Ukrainian militaries in their war, or why

**Since the late 1990s, 164 countries - including Ukraine, but notably not the United States, China or Russia - have banned land mines because of the way they kill warriors and civilians indiscriminately and because of their legacy of terror for decades after wars end, from Afghanistan to Angola. Military experts argue that land mines can be a force multiplier when an army is outmanned, by channeling armored attackers into a narrower area where precision missiles can take them out. Despite a 2001 study by the National Academies calling for innovation to end the use of land mines, technologies have lagged. (The United States has since favored self-deactivating mines with a limited life span, but even these are not compliant with the international ban because they do not discriminate between a child walking to school and an enemy fighter.) The comeback of land mines exposes the myopia people suffer when talking about innovation.**

the United States still sanctions the use of land mines to defend South Korea. Here, the explanation is a lack of viable alternatives - or, viewed another way, a lack of innovation. The main reason that, over the past 30 years, the use of land mines has fallen has been not technology but the political will to ban the mines, said Stephen Goose, director of the arms division of Human Rights Watch. Since the late 1990s, 164 countries -

including Ukraine, but notably not the United States, China or Russia - have banned land mines because of the way they kill warriors and civilians indiscriminately and because of their legacy of terror for decades after wars end, from Afghanistan to Angola. Military experts

Bina Venkataraman

tional ban because they do not discriminate between a child walking to school and an enemy fighter.)

The comeback of land mines exposes the myopia people suffer when talking about innovation. Today's focus on autonomous drones and other advanced warfare technologies privi-

ers, technologists and the rest of us should ask what is needed to reduce the humanitarian costs of war, and the suffering in its aftermath. This could lead to innovations that would render land mines obsolete - in addition to unmanned fighter jets. Beyond war, too many debates about the future are dominated by isolated technologies rather

Halo Trust, a humanitarian organization, has been employing people around the world to clear mines by hand, using magnets and protective gear. (The State Department is contributing more than \$60 million per year to Halo's demining efforts.)

Michael Nevard, head of research and development at the Halo Trust, said he is hopeful that the mine fields in Ukraine might be cleared more quickly than those in prior conflicts. The organization is analyzing social media posts about mines and combining that work with images gathered by satellites and drones equipped with ground-penetrating radar, as well as on-the-ground interviews, to identify areas to be cleared. Separately, researchers in the United States seek to use thermal imaging, drones and machine learning to help determine where to dig for mines. I imagine that the late Ash Carter, former defense secretary and my friend, would have commended this innovation; he often called for getting "the good from technology without the bad." He knew the market would not magically solve our greatest problems. Entrepreneurs will continue to offer whatever is commercially viable, but when it comes to serving the public good, that's doing things backward. It's up to elected leaders and the public to define what is best for the future - in war and peace - and to summon the technologists, machines and tools to make it a reality.

The Washington Post

## Zimbabwean migrants are part of S Africa's fabric

**F**ROM April 11 to 14, a full bench of the Pretoria High Court heard an application to set aside the termination of the Zimbabwe Exemption Permit (ZEP), a special facility allowing 178,421 holders temporary legal status to live, work, conduct business and study in South Africa.

In April 2009, South Africa established the Dispensation of Zimbabwean Permit (DZP) to regularise the status of thousands of Zimbabwean nationals who had fled political and economic instability in their country, mostly between 2007 and 2009. The special exemption was reissued as the Zimbabwean Special Dispensation Permit (ZSP) in 2014 and the ZEP in 2017, before South Africa's cabinet decided to cancel it altogether in November 2021.

To ease their plight, ZEP holders were given a 12-month grace period - an extension ending on December 31, 2022 - to either apply for a mainstream visa or leave the country. Nevertheless, in September 2022, Home Affairs Minister Aaon Motsaoleli extended the validity of the ZEP by a further six months, to June 30, 2023, delaying an arduous and unclear finale for the forsaken Zimbabweans. If the case lodged at the Pretoria High Court does not produce a favourable outcome for the ZEP holders, many of these migrants and their families (each ZEP holder is believed to have approximately three to four dependents) will have to leave South Africa or face deportation.

According to the

Zimbabwe Community in South Africa and Zimbabwe Migrants Support Network, most ZEP holders are low-wage workers who do not qualify for mainstream work permits and their chances of being granted a regulatory waiver - an exemption that would override the normal visa requirements - appear remote. So they have not applied for conventional visas, but have placed their hopes of remaining in South Africa as documented people on a successful legal challenge. While the home affairs ministry has not yet published the number of ZEP holders who have applied for mainstream visas to date, we know that only 10 percent had done so by December 2022.

Strangely enough, the present dilemma seemed to be an improbable outcome for the hapless Zimbabweans several years ago. In 2019, Motsaoleli declared that the special exemption facilities for migrants from Zimbabwe, Lesotho and Angola would be renewed - pending cabinet approval. "We can't stop those special permits if the problems that led to those special permits are not yet resolved," he said.

As Motsaoleli predicted, the socioeconomic situation in Zimbabwe has not improved under President Emmerson Mnangagwa, who ascended to office following a November 2017 military coup that removed longtime strongman Robert Mugabe. Mnangagwa has failed to rein in high unemployment, a world-leading inflation rate and widespread corruption - and he has failed to resuscitate a long-stricken public health-

care sector. Even South Africa's African National Congress (ANC) party, a longtime ally of Mnangagwa's Zimbabwe African National Union-Patriotic Front (ZANU-PF) party, has expressed alarm over the widespread and precipitous decline in the neighbouring country.

In November 2020, it sent a high-ranking delegation to Zimbabwe in a commendable but futile attempt to help resolve a disastrous socio-political and economic situation that is fuelling high levels of irregular migration through its borders and the wider Southern African region. Zimbabweans struggling to keep afloat in their country due to the protracted crisis are still trying to make their way towards South Africa and other better-off countries across the region in considerable numbers. Zimbabwean authorities, for instance, arrested 89,000 border jumpers trying to reach South Africa and Botswana through unlawful entry points during a special operation in 2022. Likewise, across the Limpopo River, South African authorities arrested hundreds of would-be migrants every day attempting to make illegal crossings.

Zimbabwe's economy is in the doldrums and countless Zimbabweans want to move abroad - a depressing but longstanding fact that could discourage most ZEP holders from leaving South Africa before or after June 30. Notwithstanding these substantial and pervasive troubles, Motsaoleli defended the termination of the special exemption in

Tafi Mhaka

January 2022 on the grounds that it was always supposed to be "a temporary measure - pending improvement of the political and economic situation in Zimbabwe". Additionally, he claimed the home ministry had inadequate financial and human resources to facilitate the extensions of the special exemptions. Be that as it may, June 30 will forever become a depressing and problematic milestone for everyone.

With the end of ZEP, thousands of men, women and children who have become active and bona fide members of diverse communities will face a bleak and unclear future. And South Africa will lose out by ending a groundbreaking and comprehensive Pan-African facility that helped manage migration and promote socioeconomic stability in Zimbabwe and across Southern Africa. When the ZSP was introduced in 2014, the then minister of home affairs, Malusi Gigaba, lauded the accomplishments of Zimbabwean migrants.

"Zimbabweans have made notable contributions in our education and health sectors, for example, as teachers and health professionals, and in many other sectors," he said. They certainly have. Take Hastings Mpofo, a history teacher who works at Summerhill College in Midrand, Gauteng. In the last 15 years, he has won awards for producing exceptional results at government and private schools.

Naturally, Mpofo does not want to leave his adopt-

ed home because "the conditions in Zimbabwe have still not changed" and his mother and two siblings depend on the remittances he sends home every month. Similarly, Wilfred, a deputy principal at a private school, who teaches geography and English, is apprehensive about the future, but determined to stay in South Africa. "I am prepared to stay here illegally. I am even willing to do menial jobs. This will be survival of the fittest," he said. In addition to teachers, there are Zimbabweans who have made less conspicuous but priceless contributions to South Africa's economy. Some work as forecourt attendants, panel beaters, farmworkers, salespersons, childminders, builders, painters, welders, cleaners and drivers. Others run small but essential businesses in townships and urban centres.

At a micro-level, ZEP holders have contributed towards South Africa's socioeconomic wellbeing and prosperity in an open and lawful manner. But from June 30, many will lose their livelihoods and homes, as well as access to banking services and pension funds. Their children and spouses will no longer have unrestricted access to schooling, social services and medical care.

Already, Operation Dudula, an anti-migration vigilante group, has been preventing undocumented African migrants from entering public health facilities in Johannesburg, a severe and inhumane transgression that could result in many preventable illnesses and deaths. So keeping the special exemption going should be a social and eco-

nomic imperative for all who live in South Africa. Without a legal status, many ZEP holders will likely continue to live and work in South Africa, but as undocumented people - much like they did before the special exemption came into effect in April 2009. In that case, a sizeable number of the 178,421 ZEP holders would not be able to pay tax - a development that will undoubtedly lead to a reduction in the revenues collected by South Africa's tax authorities.

Furthermore, with time, thousands might choose to apply for asylum seeker permits, thus piling additional pressure on the home ministry's limited resources - one of the foremost reasons why the special exemption was created in the first place. Sure, the naysayers will argue that South Africa has its own pressing socioeconomic problems to tackle - like widespread poverty and high unemployment - so it should not accommodate foreigners from Zimbabwe. But after 14 years, ZEP holders can no longer be classified as outsiders - they are dynamic, hardworking and assimilated tax-paying residents who deserve to stay. The preamble of the constitution says, "South Africa belongs to all who live in it" - which includes Zimbabweans and other migrants.

South Africa has always demonstrated strong and enterprising leadership in human rights-related matters. It is high time for it to live up to its reputation as a human rights leader in the region and create a viable, long-term status for ZEP holders.

## How little the arrogant Tories know about Scotland

**A**ROW appears to be brewing within the ranks of the Conservative and Unionist Party - to give that outfit its full and normally proudly-stated name - that needs to be nipped in the bud immediately. If it is permitted to fester, it could well do lasting damage to what is generally accepted to be this country's most successful election-fighting entity.

At a minimum, it could well see the breakaway of the party's Scottish branch from the Tory fold - and this observer, for one, wouldn't blame them. What this budding stramash is all about is what appears to be a, frankly, over-the-top reaction from Conservative Campaign Headquarters (CCHQ) in London to a pretty straightforward suggestion from Douglas Ross, the leader of the Scottish

Tories, to the dramatically changed political situation north of the border. He is calling for supporters of the Conservative, Labour and Liberal Democrat parties to reach an accommodation - no more - with each other to put party differences aside in favour of smashing support for those who would break up Britain.

"Country before party" is his watchword, but it is a maxim that seems to be falling on stony ground in London. In displaying a touch too much of the arrogance that often alienates Scottish Tories from their London-based colleagues, CCHQ has declared that Ross's appeal is "emphatically not the view of the Conservative Party". And a spokesman added: "We want people to vote for Conservative candidates wherever they are standing."

However, this dismis-

sive reaction provoked a swift response from senior Scottish Tories, with one front-bench source declaring: "This is typical for those teenage scribblers at Central Office, who know nothing about Scotland." This view was echoed by a former minister, who added: "Sadly, this is another example of a lack of commitment to the Union. The nationalists aren't over and it's really important that they're routed at the next election." The recent meltdown of the once all-powerful Scottish National Party still has some way to go as more explosive revelations hit the headlines and dominate the news agenda on a daily basis.

Chaos now reigns in "Natland". Nicola Sturgeon resigned last month as SNP leader and first minister, while her

Alan Cochrane

husband Peter Murrell was arrested following a police investigation into the party's financial affairs. At the time of writing, that investigation is still ongoing. As such, it is a golden opportunity to bring to an end the nationalists' hegemony in Scotland, where they've ruled the roost since becoming the biggest party and forming a government 16 years ago. However, Ross is not advocating what Central Office clearly believe is akin to treachery. Instead, what he's suggesting is that in central Scotland, where Labour candidates have a better chance of toppling the SNP, Tory voters might get behind Labour. Moreover, that generosity might be reciprocated in, say, the north-east, where Labour voters would back Tory candidates. He added that he believed change

might be coming "if parties maybe look a bit beyond their own narrow party agenda to what's best for the country".

New First Minister Humza Yousaf and his Cabinet are trying to put a brave face on the shambles they've inherited - one which, certainly in policy terms, they had a hand in. But they know in their heart of hearts that the game's up. Mike Russell, the SNP president who was a cabinet minister in several administrations and a "long marcher" for the nationalist cause, said that independence was off the agenda for now. But his realistic assessment suggests that now is certainly the time for the forces of Unionism in Scotland to put aside any petty differences and unite to smash the running score that is separatism and which has dominated public discourse in Scotland for decades.

What is now required are cool heads in the Unionist camp. Labour has an important part to play in also putting the country first - a tall order, perhaps, for a party that's been out of power since 2010. But it's a battle well worth fighting and winning. On the Tory side, Douglas Ross would be well-advised to tone down his rhetoric. Any arrangements with Labour should be agreed locally and, if possible, discreetly. And Conservative Central Office should cool their responses, stop playing the "heavy" and realise that Scottish voters are ahead of them on this issue, being well-practised in tactical voting. The final defeat of nationalism is still a fair way off. To get there, it would be best if everyone adopted that hugely successful wartime slogan to "keep calm and carry on".

The Telegraph



# In Germany, the times are changing

**JUST** what is Germany's Zeitenwende, the latest coinage in a language famous for its compound nouns? The "change in times" announced by the chancellor, Olaf Scholz, in the aftermath of Russia's invasion of Ukraine last year rolled like a thunderclap across a country that, since unification in 1990, had flourished on the benefits of the post-cold-war peace dividend, its status as Europe's powerhouse economy and being de facto regulator of the single currency, calling the shots in eurozone squeezes.

For obvious reasons of 20th-century experience, today's federal republic is an entity more comfortable with its role as a proponent of restraint and cautious multilateralism than decisive action. The Ukraine crisis blew up that placidity, leaving it internally fraught on how to respond and at what cost. Last week, a newspaper leak revealed that a pledge by Scholz to supply a fully equipped army division to Nato in response to Russia's war on Ukraine by 2025 is coming unstuck. A memo from the head of the army cast doubt on whether his forces could "hold its own in high-intensity combat", saying it will only be able to "fulfil its obligations to Nato to a limited extent" (a masterful understatement in the context).

Spending the past few weeks exploring the jolts to political and economic security arrangements on a road trip for a Radio 4 documentary, I find Germans are living the Zeitenwende, not just in speeches and policy navel-gazing in the capital but in visible changes, challenges and shifting expectations.

In Wilhelmshaven on the North Sea coast, we're welcomed by wild swimmers, whose bracing dips now take place in sight of the Höegh Esperanza, a 300-metre "floating storage and regasification unit" - or, more plainly put, the ship that furnishes a huge liquid natural gas (LNG) terminal, bring-

ing gas (from sources including US fracking) to replace the energy until recently supplied via deals with Kremlin-backed companies. A local Social Democrat politician enthuses about the way German gradualism has given way to speed when a coalition government (Social Democrats, Free Democrats and the Greens) acts decisively. The environmentalists we encounter are furious at the "betrayal" by the Greens who sup-

ported the policy shift. They worry about water contamination and claim, with some justification, that a lot of the usual conservation hurdles have been swept away. The country's military past and future demands collide, often awkwardly but in a way that reminds us that one "change in times" is often soon succeeded by another emergency. The museum ship in the port is named after Werner Mölders (the first pilot in aviation history to shoot down 100 enemy aircraft while supporting Franco in the Spanish civil war and against France in the Second World War). It's a bit unclear in the presentation whether he is seen as a dashing military ace or a legacy embarrassment. The present head of the

**The present head of the German navy is a modest technocrat who trained in a partnership with the Royal Navy in Portsmouth and tells me that there is, so far at least, no active role for his force than its existing Nato peacekeeping presence in the Baltic. But he worries that Germany won't be able to meet the new demands of manpower to meet rising expectations from Nato without a return to a degree of conscription, abolished in the Merkel era, and a row politicians would rather avoid.**

chians would rather avoid. In so many ways, Germany has been the Dornröschen of the Grimm fairytales - the Sleeping Beauty of bounty, resources and talents in everything from car production to its reliable medium-sized businesses and tech startups. At the same time, it slumbered through the incrementalism of Angela Merkel's long reign while pursuing value-neutral (to put it politely) dealings with Moscow and Beijing to keep trade flowing and the Wohlstand (prosperity) model on track. I talk to senior civil servants serving top ministers who think they can "do ethical policy on Russia or China, but not both at once". For now, it's about Ukraine. Scholz has been forth-

right on the strategic errors that preceded him - the "Merkel reckoning" left the former German leader closeted away, working on her memoirs. "My Excuses" is the pithy title suggested by one of her party foes. Yet I left a country I have long admired as a "sceptical Germanophile" giving Scholz and co some benefit of the doubt too. Germany has been asked to change further and faster than any other European power since the invasion. It has had to do so in the face of public opinion reluctant to leave days of ease behind and, in many cases, hoping that an unfindable fudge will restore the status quo. A recent Forsa opinion poll on "whether the problems of Ukraine matters for Germany and if it should get involved" shows only 43% agreeing (down 11 points from this time last year). Too little happened last year to address the woeful defence gaps (an oddity of this is that, as one official put it, "we have actually forgotten how to spend money on defence and proper supplies ... we are learning to do this all over again".)

The wheels do turn though. A new defence minister, Boris Pistorius, announced last week that Berlin had quickly approved Poland's request for permission to send to Ukraine five cold war-era MiG-29 fighter jets it acquired from Berlin in 2004, an unintended "leaving present" of East Germany after unification, ironically. "Proof that Germany can be relied on!" observed Pistorius, and a bold move, given the delay in sending tanks. But all this is third-party nuance, and Poland might well have gone ahead anyway, as events shift Europe's balance of power. It only deepens the puzzle: what exactly can Germany be "relied" on to do and when? Conflicts do not wait for long soul-searching. Zeitenwende happened by necessity not choice. As the stakes rise, so will the risks and rewards. The "turns" are only just beginning.

*The Guardian*



## The Ciudad Juárez fire - and other circles of made-in-USA hell

Belén Fernández

**ON** March 27, 40 men were killed in a fire at a migrant detention centre in Ciudad Juárez, Mexico, just across the border from El Paso, Texas. The victims hailed from Colombia, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Venezuela. Like so many thousands of refugee seekers from around the world, they had been jailed in Mexico for the crime of aspiring to a better life in the United States - which forces its southern neighbour to act as deputy gatekeeper and migrant antagonist.

I arrived in Ciudad Juárez 10 days after the fire. An altar with candles, flowers, and portraits of the deceased had been erected in front of the detention centre's charred façade. There I spoke with a young Venezuelan man who had lost a friend in the blaze and who had since been camping out in the cold next to the shrine. Pulling out his battered phone, he showed me a TikTok tribute to his friend - a man with a big smile and a little son in Venezuela - as well as a series of photos of a pigeon who had recently come to pay respects at the altar. The images of the bird prompted a tender reflection from my interlocutor: "They are such delicate creatures."

According to the official narrative, the blame for the Ciudad Juárez fire lies first and foremost with the individual detainees who set fire to their mattresses in the hopes of being freed - a seemingly reckless act, perhaps, if one fails to consider that these people were already inhabiting a form of hell even prior to the addition of literal flames.

Having been briefly imprisoned myself in a migrant detention centre in Mexico - where many folks are kept in indefinite limbo that amounts to psychological torture - I can attest to the landscape of utter despair, as well as to the lack of proper food and water cited by numerous Ciudad Juárez detainees. At one point during my stay in the notorious Siglo

XXI prison in the southern Mexican state of Chiapas - Juárez's opposing end in terms of Mexico's field of US border-enforcement duty - not a drop of potable water was available for the hundreds of us detained in the women's section. Only after protracted negotiations with the policewoman guarding the metal door of the holding pen was I permitted to pass through it long enough to hoist a 20-litre container of water onto my hip and cart it back inside. At times, though, desperation can be flammable. And in Ciudad Juárez, the blame for the detention centre fire ultimately extends far beyond even the security guards and Mexican immigration authorities who spontaneously decided that it was preferable to just let everyone die instead of opening the cell doors.

At the end of the day, it was a made-in-USA inferno, and not only because the US obligates Mexico to perform its anti-migration dirty work - a function Mexican President Andrés Manuel López Obrador has wholeheartedly embraced even while pretending to somehow be defying the US government. Washington has long specialised in inflicting diabolical torment on the rest of the world, whether in the form of bombing campaigns, economic disaster, support for right-wing regimes and death squads - or any combination of the above, as Central and South Americans should well know. Indeed, it is this very history that fuels a significant portion of US-bound migration in the first place.

And while the Ciudad Juárez fire quite explicitly evokes the underworld, the whole business of seeking asylum in the US is pretty hellish. I travelled to Ciudad Juárez on April 6 to reunite with a group of young Colombian and Venezuelan men I had met in February in Panama when they emerged from the corpse-strewn stretch of jungle known as the Darién Gap - frequently referred to in Spanish as el

infierno verde, or "the green hell". We had remained in constant touch via WhatsApp for more than a month as they navigated the rest of Central America and Mexico, being continuously detained, extorted, and robbed - all par for the course in the search for refuge. And yet they still maintained a grace and composure far beyond my own capacities, as evidenced in the plethora of WhatsApp messages imploring me to stop freaking out on their behalf as it was bad for my health.

We agreed to meet in Ciudad Juárez, which they reached after travelling for four days atop the so-called "train of death" and which I reached after a two-hour flight from Mexico City - such being the privilege of possessing a passport from the very country my friends were risking their lives to reach. In reality, their own version of the "American dream" entailed not so much owning a fancy car or house but rather working 24 hours a day, if possible, in order to send money to their families back home. Given the US track record of wreaking havoc in both Colombia and Venezuela, it would seem not too much to ask.

Our Ciudad Juárez reunion consisted of consuming a lot of beer, dancing to Colombian music, and partaking in the sort of hugs that make you think there might actually be a point to existence. Although my friends had repeatedly attempted to apply for legal entry to the US - via the obligatory CBP One app, which is more or less intentionally completely dysfunctional - their general lack of funds and other factors compelled them to stage an "illegal" border crossing to El Paso on April 8. That night, I received the news via WhatsApp: "Mom, they detained us" - the "they" of course being US immigration personnel. And as the US continues creating far more circles of hell than Dante Alighieri could ever have imagined, at least there are still pigeons.

*Aljazeera*

## Danger Putin posed

**A**head of a verdict expected next week, outspoken Kremlin critic Vladimir Kara-Murza, who has been put on trial for treason in Moscow for his outspoken anti-war comments, gave the following address to the court on Monday. I was sure that after two decades in Russian politics, with all that I have seen and experienced, nothing could still surprise me. I have to admit that I was wrong. I've been surprised by the fact that my trial in 2023 surpassed even the "trials" of Soviet dissidents in the 1960s and 70s in its secrecy and disdain for legal norms, and that's without even mentioning the harshness of the sentence requested by the prosecution or the use of terms such as "enemy of the state." My trial had less in common with the 1970s - it was a return to the 1930s. As a historian, I find this something worthy of reflection.

At one point during my testimony, the presiding judge reminded me that "remorse for the deed committed" could be considered an extenuating circumstance. Though there's little amusing about my present predicament, I couldn't help but smile. Criminals are expected to show remorse for their actions, but I'm in prison for my political views. For speaking out against the war in Ukraine. For fighting Putin's dictatorship for years. For enabling the adoption of personal sanctions against human rights violators under the "Magnitsky Act." Not only do I not repent of any of this, I'm proud of it. I'm proud of the fact that Boris Nemtsov brought me into politics and I hope he isn't ashamed of me. I stand by every word I've ever uttered and by every word this court accuses me of saying. I only blame myself for one thing: for failing to convince enough of my compatriots and politicians in democratic countries of the danger that the current Kremlin regime poses to Russia and to the world. Today it is obvious to everyone, but at a terrible price - the price of war.

In their closing statements, defendants usually ask the court to acquit them. For a person who did not commit a crime, the only fair verdict would be an acquittal. But I ask nothing of this court. I know its

Vladimir Kara-Murza verdict. I knew it a year ago when I saw people in black uniforms and black masks running after my car in the rearview mirror. This is the price of not remaining silent in Russia today.

But I also know that the day will come when the darkness over our country will dissipate. When black will be called black and white will be called white. When it will officially be recognized that two times two is four, when the war will be called a war and the usurper a usurper, and when those who began it rather than those who tried to prevent it will be seen as criminals. As inevitably as spring follows even the harshest winter, that day will come. And when it does, our society will open its eyes and be horrified to discover the terrible crimes that have been committed in its name. From this realization, the long, difficult, but vital path toward recovery, Russia's restoration, and its return to the community of civilized nations will begin. Even today, even in the darkness around us, even sitting in this cage, I love my country and I believe in our people. I believe that we can walk this path.

*The Moscow Times*

## Sudan crisis: Stalemate in Khartoum is bad news for Al-Burhan

Osama Al-Sharif

**AS** the conflict in Sudan entered its second week, punctuated by short-lived truces, the battle for control of the capital Khartoum was inconclusive, with both sides in the internecine war claiming to have the upper hand. But as foreign missions are evacuated and doubts persist over diplomatic efforts to enforce a ceasefire, various possible outcomes are now unfolding and none are good for the future of the country.

As of Monday - before the latest attempt at a ceasefire came into effect overnight - battles between the Sudanese national army and the Rapid Support Forces were raging in and around key positions, including the military headquarters, the presidential palace and the international airport. The fact that fighting continued at these strategic locations indicated that neither side had been able to move beyond day one of the war. This is a worrying sign for the better-equipped and better-organized national army. The RSF has been able to use its experience in urban warfare to entrench its fighters inside heavily populated neighborhoods of the capital and neighboring Omdurman, undermining the army's ability to use fighter jets and helicopters, as well as heavy armor. The most apt description of

the situation in the capital - for now - is that there is a stalemate and, in strategic terms, this is better for the RSF.

The absence of a lasting truce has worsened an already catastrophic humanitarian situation. Most hospitals are out of service and those that are not have run out of vital medicines and lifesaving materials. Thousands of civilians are fleeing the city and many of those who are unable to leave have no access to water, electricity or food. So far, armed forces and Sovereignty Council head Gen. Abdel Fattah Al-Burhan sees no benefit in accepting a permanent ceasefire to be followed by negotiations with his foe, Gen. Mohammed Hamdan Dagalo, also known as Hemedti. This would be an admittance of defeat and a boon for Dagalo's gambit.

If anything, Al-Burhan is bent on chasing out the RSF from the capital before talk of peace is even contemplated. Without achieving this goal and soon, Al-Burhan will find himself in a weak position. For Dagalo, the fact that his fighters have been able to hold their positions in the capital has given him two things: The ability to air his message that he is fighting a corrupt junta that is associated with the toppled regime of Omar

Bashir, and forcing the international community to treat him as an equal to Al-Burhan. And here is the dilemma for Al-Burhan. Almost all countries that have commented on the crisis appealed to both sides to cease fighting. None, at least publicly, have taken his side. This works well for Dagalo and undermines Al-Burhan's claim that he represents legitimacy.

There are several scenarios that will likely unfold in the coming days and weeks if the current stalemate lingers. One scenario, which is the most optimistic, is that the army will eventually retake most of Khartoum, forcing the RSF to flee to the provinces, especially Darfur, which is Dagalo's tribal and military base. In the process, the army will extend its control over most of the country, engaging the RSF in other urban centers. Only then might Al-Burhan yield to domestic and international pressure to accelerate a process of handing power to a civilian government, which in turn can negotiate with Dagalo a peaceful settlement. It would be difficult for Dagalo to reject a civilian administration in Khartoum, since he supported the Framework Agreement and claimed that Al-Burhan was about to renege on his

commitments.

Another scenario suggests that, as the fighting continues without a decisive conclusion, non-Sudanese players may step in to back either one or both parties, thus dragging the country into a never-ending proxy war. This is a dangerous possibility that could come true the longer the conflict continues. And if the above scenario begins to take place, an even more sinister development could unfold. The Juba Agreement could fall apart and separatist groups could stir trouble in Darfur, the Blue Nile state, South Kordofan and the eastern provinces. With a weak central government and a distracted national army, the fear is that Sudan's territorial integrity will slowly unravel. The prospect of a civil war igniting as a result is distressing to say the least.

A weak and disintegrated Sudan is bad news for Egypt, but not so bad for other neighbors like Ethiopia, Eritrea and Chad. Certainly, the reverberations would be felt across Africa. And one should not forget about the dubious role that Israel might play in weakening Egypt's southern neighbor. It is imperative that the battle for Khartoum be swiftly won by the national army, if the Framework Agreement has any chance of being implemented. The military stalemate is a bad omen for the country and its future.

### Important Notice

The Frontier Post will not be responsible for the comments in the articles and letters. The Frontier Post requests the writers of articles and letters to please make sure that they write their email addresses and mention the names of the cities, towns, districts or tehsil of their residences at the bottom of their articles and letters.





# ICCI to hold marathon race in Capital to promote health awareness

ISLAMABAD (APP): President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI), Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari Monday said that the Chamber would organize a marathon race in the Capital to create better health awareness among the youth in order to promote a healthy society.

The event would be organized in collaboration with ICT Administration, DHO Islamabad and other organizations and diplomatic community, retired persons and high government officials will also be invited in the marathon race to better highlight the importance of healthy activities for the society.

He said this addressing the inauguration of the Run & Ride bicycle event at F-9 Park, which was organized by DHO Islamabad in cooperation with ICT Administration, ICCI, UNICEF, WHO and others to create better awareness among the citizens about the importance of a healthy lifestyle.

Pakistan Pediatric Association Islamabad Head Professor Ijaz A. Khan, UNICEF Representative in Pakistan Abdullah A. Fazil, SSP Traffic Dr Syed Mustafa Tanveer, Representative of WHO and others were also present on the occasion.

Ahsan Bakhtawari said that today's youth had become almost addicted to mobile phones and social media, due to which they were moving away from healthy activities. Resultantly, diabetes, blood pressure, heart and other diseases were on the rise in the society, he added.

He said that in order to get rid of these diseases and to promote a healthy society, healthy activities including walking, bicycle culture, sports & running activities should be promoted in the society to protect people from diseases and enable them to play an active role in the development of the economy.

He said that nowadays the rush of patients in hos-

pitals was increasing and due to the increase in population, it was becoming difficult for the government to establish more hospitals in cities and villages.

Therefore, the best solution to all these problems is to encourage people towards a healthy lifestyle, which will reduce the number of patients and also reduce the burden on the country's resources.

He also appreciated the role of the health workers who rendered valuable services to the public during the coronavirus and hoped that they would continue to serve the public with the same spirit in the future.

Deputy Commissioner Islamabad Irfan Nawaz Memon in his address paid tributes to the efforts of DHO Islamabad Dr. Zaeem Zia for organizing the run & ride event in collaboration with ICCI and other institutions because such activities were necessary for a healthy society.

He also appreciated the

proposal of ICCI to organize a marathon race in Islamabad and assured that the ICT administration would cooperate with the Chamber in this event.

Dr. Zaeem Zia in his address informed the participants about the aims and objectives of organizing the run & ride event and thanked ICCI, UNICEF, WHO and other partners for making the event successful.

He also thanked Islamabad Police, Traffic Police and other participants for joining the event.

Abdullah A. Fadil, Representative UNICEF Pakistan said that Pakistan did a great job with the Covid vaccines and we should replicate that effort with routine immunization as well. ICCI Senior Vice President Faad Waheed, former President & Secretary General UBG Zafar Bakhtawari, Babar Chaudhry, Nisar Mirza, Mohsin Malik and others were also present on the occasion.



ISLAMABAD: A laborer carrying a crate on his back at market.

## Ministers visit Veterinary Research Institute

LAHORE (APP): Caretaker Provincial Minister for Industries and Commerce SM Tanveer and Provincial Excise Minister Bilal Afzal inspected various sections of the Veterinary Research Institute and planted saplings, here on Monday.

During the visit, both the ministers were also briefed about the departmental activities aimed at supporting the livestock sector in the province; roadmap for vaccination, disease control and nutrition of cattle, and their breed improvement.

The ministers expressed satisfaction over the Livestock and Dairy Development Department's performance and acknowledged that the 1192 virtual governance and disease reporting & surveillance systems served as practical evidence of the department's innovation and management skills.

They emphasized the importance of progress at the departmental level to enhance milk and meat production. They advised the department to adhere to the comprehensive roadmap in this regard, assuring that government would provide the necessary support.

Provincial Minister SM Tanveer said that livestock sector was a government priority in terms of fostering economic prosperity and reducing poverty. He stressed the need to increase local production of raw materials to stabilize poultry prices.

Furthermore, he mentioned that implementing a corporate model in the livestock sector, as part of the long-term action plan, would be a game-changer.

Provincial Minister Bilal Afzal said that the trust placed by cattlemen in the livestock department was its success. He added that the Livestock Department's service delivery was a model for other departments.

Secretary Livestock Masood Anwar said that a recommendation for approval of national plan to control foot-and-mouth disease was being forwarded to the cabinet.

He said that there was a dire need to increase vaccine production capacity, besides expanding the scope of mobile veterinary dispensaries to facilities the livestock farmers at their doorstep.

## Drilling of Asia's deepest oil and gas well begins

BEIJING (APP): China's largest petrochemical products supplier on Monday inaugurated the drilling of the deepest oil and gas well in Asia, in the country's northwestern Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region.

The well to drill, located at the edge of the Taklimakan Desert, is expected to register a depth of 9,472 meters, which is 620 meters plus longer than the height of Mount Qomolangma, according to China Petrochemical Corporation (Sinopec).

The landmark well is another example of China's leading position in ultra-deep well drilling technology, according to Sinopec.

# Hitech Hybrid Seed Association team to meet governor

LAHORE (APP): Pakistan Hitech Hybrid Seed Association (PHHSA) Chairman Shahzad Ali Malik has said that he, along with a delegation, would meet Punjab Governor Balighur Rehman on May 3 and discuss the issues pertaining to seed regulatory compliance.

Talking to the media after chairing a meeting of association's executive committee here on Monday, he said the governor was also chairman of

the Provincial Seed Committee and well aware of the problems of farmers, growers and seed producers. He said the PHHSA delegation would seek direct intervention and help of the governor with the Ministry of National Food Security for delegation of powers to the provincial governments, which already had full-fledged setup regarding seed regulatory compliance. He said the prevailing procedures at

the federal level would not serve the purpose and rather create overlapping in the system.

Malik said, "The Punjab governor is a visionary man, and once he is convinced, he will set the things in right direction." He mentioned that the governor's timely action had made the Punjab Seed Council functional and now new seed varieties were being approved on merit and without any delay.

# Pakistan Economy Watch severely criticizes IMF

ISLAMABAD (INP): Chairman of Pakistan Economy Watch (PEW) Brig. (ret'd) Aslam Khan, on Monday criticized International Monetary Fund (IMF) on raising conditions for loan to Pakistan and marked it conspiracy against the country.

In his media statement he said "the real target of the international institution is CPEC therefore, it wants to delay the loan to weaken Pakistan so that it is made to obey orders that are against its national interests".

He expressed that the lender will not give a loan to Pakistan until we step back from CPEC. "That is why, despite fulfilling dozens of conditions, the IMF continues to make lame excuses."

Khan said that the lame justifications of the IMF

have made its intentions clear to all, so Pakistan should part ways with it as soon as possible.

He said that Pakistan will have to learn to live without the IMF, for which elitism will have to be abandoned.

He added that due to the delay in the agreement between Pakistan and the IMF, the country's economy has been greatly affected, and the public has also had to pay a heavy price for it. According to many economists, due to the current economic conditions in Pakistan, the country has no option other than the IMF, as other international financial institutions and many countries have linked the loan to Pakistan with the revival of the IMF programme.

He noted that further loans will be available to

Pakistan only after the issuance of instalment by the lender.

He said that the delay in agreement with the IMF has created a situation of uncertainty resulting in the depreciation of the rupee, loss of investment, and adverse effects in the financial market, due to which Pakistan's credit rating continues to decline.

The depreciation of the rupee has made many things expensive, as everything from food to oil is imported, he added.

The decision to suddenly increase electricity, gas, and interest rates was wrong, which has put a lot of burden on the people and the business community.

The government should try hard to get out of the clutches of the IMF as soon as the situation improves, he demanded.

# PCBDDA to introduce 'Blue Road' concept

LAHORE (INP): Punjab Central Business District Development Authority (PCBDDA) commonly known as Central Business District Punjab (CBD Punjab) has announced to introduce the "Blue Road" concept with aims to modernize the city's infrastructure and improve the quality of life for the residents of Lahore.

The CBD Punjab spokesperson in his press statement said that CBD has planned to make Lahore a modernized city and in this regard introduced the Blue Road concept. The concept aims to adopt this innovative technology and to marking it the first city in Pakistan and Asia.

He said that Blue Roads are designed to offer a sustainable alternative to traditional asphalt roads, incorporating heat observation and energy-conserving features to reduce pollution and promote a healthier environment. These innovative roads utilize a specialized coating that reflects sunlight, reducing the amount of heat absorbed by the road surface. In addition, the reflective coating improves visibility for drivers at night, improving road safety.

He said that Chief Executive Officer of CBD Punjab Imran Amin would personally monitor the project to ensure the timeline given by the caretaker Chief Minister of Punjab.

The CEO CBD Punjab Imran Amin said, "We are excited to introduce the Blue Road concept in

Pakistan, which has already been implemented successfully in several European and Middle Eastern countries as Netherlands, France and Qatar. This project will not only bring environmental benefits, such as heat observation, energy conservation, and reduced pollution, but also contribute to our vision of creating a modern, sustainable, and inclusive society in Punjab."

He said that CBD Punjab is committed to delivering projects that enhance the standard of living for its residents and the "Blue Road" concept is just one of many initiatives that the authority is undertaking to modernize the city's infrastructure and improve the quality of life for its citizens.

# China's weekly export container shipping index up

SHANGHAI (APP): China's index of export container transport increased in the week ending on April 28, according to the Shanghai Shipping Exchange (SSE).

The CCFI tracks spot and contractual freight rates from Chinese container ports for 12 shipping routes across the globe based on data from 22 international carriers.

The index was set at 1,000 on Jan. 1, 1998.

**China's weekly coastal bulk freight index declines:** China's coastal bulk freight index went

Bucking the trend, the sub-reading for South Africa service fell 1.7 percent from a week earlier.

The composite index for coastal bulk freight fell 1.7 percent week on week to 1,072.5, said the SSE.

The coal sub-index went down 2.4% to 1,069.84, SSE data showed.

The SSE initiated the index in 2001, under the guidance of the Ministry of Transport, to reflect the fluctuations of the Chinese coastal transport market.

## China's making PMI down in April

BEIJING (APP): The purchasing managers' index (PMI) for China's manufacturing sector came in at 49.2 in April, down from 51.9 in March, data from the National Bureau of Statistics showed Sunday.

A reading above 50 indicates expansion, while a reading below 50 reflects contraction.

The April reading was affected by insufficient market demand and a high base in the first quarter, the bureau's senior statistician Zhao Qinghe said.

Breaking down the headline figure, the production index and the new orders index reached 50.2 and 48.8, respectively.

The PMIs of equipment manufacturing, the consumer products industry and high-tech manufacturing stood at 50.1, 49.8 and 49.3, respectively.

Market sentiment remains stable as the sub-reading for business expectation stood at 54.7, said Zhao. Sunday's data also showed that the PMI for China's non-manufacturing sector stood at 56.4 in April, down from 58.2 in March.

## Railway investment up

BEIJING (APP): Fixed-asset investment in China's railways went up 6.6 percent year on year in the first quarter of the year, data from the China State Railway Group Co., Ltd. shows.

A total of 113.55 billion yuan (about 16.40 billion US dollars) was invested in the country's railways, said the group, adding that the growth of the investment was comparatively high in recent years.

The company's revenue jumped 18.2 percent year on year during the same period to 271.9 billion yuan. In the first three months, China's railways handled 753 million passenger trips, surging 66 percent year on year.

The country's rail freight volume, a key indicator of economic activities, rose 2.3 percent year on year to 970 million tonnes in the same period.

# Report on collapse of Pakistan in 2024 worrying

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: Chairman of National Business Group Pakistan, President Pakistan Businessmen and Intellectuals Forum, and All Karachi Industrial Alliance, and former provincial minister Mian Zahid Hussain on Monday said the report of the reputed British publication The Economist that Pakistan will go bankrupt at the beginning of 2024 is very worrying.

This report sheds light on the state of affairs in Pakistan and the perception of Islamabad in the West, he said.

Mian Zahid Hussain said that the analysis of The Economist is considered very important globally. The organization has published a 43-page report on Pakistan which is enough to open the eyes of everyone including politicians, judiciary and elites.

Talking to the business community, the veteran business leader said that the report states that protests over inflation and scarcity of basic necessities of life

will continue while political instability will also last.

The report also states that the intervention in the policy-making process will continue while the government will continue its efforts to obtain loans from various sources.

The government will also increase the price of gas and electricity to increase its revenue. The income of the government will be low and the deficit will be high, while it will also have to spend heavily on the rehabilitation of the flood victims, he said.

According to The Economist, inflation will not go away, and the central bank will have to hike interest rates at least twice, which will break all previous records.

The economic and strategic partnership between China and Pakistan will continue, but the loans from China will decrease. China will also ask Pakistan to start a new IMF program to avoid financial insolvency.

The tension between Pakistan and India will continue while relations with

the US will not improve because Pakistan's stand on the Ukraine war is not what the US wants.

Similarly, problems will continue to arise in relations with Afghanistan. The report states that Pakistan will try improved relations with Saudi Arabia, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates so that it can take loans to overcome the problems and shore up its foreign exchange reserves.

Mian Zahid Hussain added that this report shows that further delay in economic reforms in Pakistan could prove to be extremely dangerous. The world is not ready to give more loans to Pakistan.

In order to survive, privatization of failed government institutions, elimination of losses in the electricity and gas sector, finding alternatives to imports, agricultural reforms and an increase in exports have become inevitable for Pakistan.

If political anarchism is not eradicated, the people will have to suffer and we will have to regret inaction forever.

## Mediating Russia-Ukraine conflict: SCCI President seeks China to play role

ISLAMABAD (APP): The President SAARC Chamber of Commerce and Industry Iftikhar Ali Malik on Monday sought China's intervention to mediate between Russia and Ukraine as it did in bringing closer the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and Iran.

Talking to a delegation of traders led by Mian Ejaz Ahmad Arain in Lahore, he said a settlement to the crisis cannot come soon enough that not only has the conflict disrupted global food and energy supply chains producing shock waves around the world, but as the hostilities have intensified, talk has been flying around raising the

prospect of nuclear weapons being used.

He said as Xi said, there will be no winners in such a nightmare scenario. All parties involved should remain calm and exercise restraint, truly focus on the future and the destiny of themselves and all humanity, and jointly manage the crisis.

He noted that rational thinking and the voices of parties concerned are increasing now, and the opportunity should be seized to accumulate favourable conditions for a political resolution to the crisis, Iftikhar Ali Malik added.

He hoped the talk between the two leaders

will prove to be of substantial meaning if it can produce pragmatic progress to secure a ceasefire as the prelude to negotiations to reach an agreement on a lasting resolution to the crisis.

He said parleys between Xi and Zelensky appear to have been fruitful in providing new inspiration and motivation for concerted efforts to create the necessary conditions for peace talks.

That's what true mediating efforts should entail. It is dialogue, not weapons and sanctions, that will end the conflict and restore peace and stability in Europe, he added.

# Tokyo stocks close higher ahead of Fed meet

TOKYO (AFP/APP): Tokyo stocks closed higher on Monday, helped partly by a cheaper yen, with investors' focus shifting to the US Federal Reserve's policy decision later this week.

The benchmark Nikkei 225 index rose 0.92 percent, or 266.74 points, to 29,123.18, while the broader Topix index ended up 1.00 percent, or 20.58 points, at 2,078.06.

"Investors are more open to risk-taking after the Bank of Japan policy decision (on Friday), which was seen as more dovish than expected, and after rallies in European and US markets," IwaiCosmo Securities said. After an early buying

spree of a broad range of shares, "profit-taking emerged, but the yen's depreciation supported the market," the brokerage added.

The dollar fetched 136.91 yen, against 136.28 yen in New York, where the yen dropped from early Friday levels after the Bank of Japan stuck to its monetary easing policies.

Investors' attention is shifting to the Federal Reserve decision on May 3, when "most analysts expect the Fed to again lift interest rates by a quarter-point... in response to inflation," said National Australia Bank strategist Rodrigo Catril.

But Rakuten Securities chief strategist Masayuki

Kubota said the Fed could "either hike rates by 0.25 percentage points, or stop rate hikes". "Either of the choices could come as a surprise for financial markets" as the Fed's communication ahead of the meeting had not been enough to give clear clues, he said.

Most markets across Asia and Europe are closed on Monday for public holidays, but Wall Street trading will take place as usual. Sydney closed up 0.3 percent while Wellington ended down 0.1 percent.

The euro edged down against the dollar to \$1.1003, while the pound bought \$1.2550, compared to \$1.2567 in New York.

The euro was flat against the pound at 87.64 pence.

In Tokyo, SoftBank Group rallied 1.35 percent to 5,163 yen after it said its UK-based chip designer Arm has submitted "a draft registration statement" to the US Securities and Exchange Commission related to its planned initial public offering. Astellas Pharma edged up 2.20 percent to 2,093 yen after it said it would acquire US-based Iveric Bio for \$5.9 billion.

Sony Group lost 1.83 percent to 12,595 yen after the company on Friday reported record annual sales for the year to March but predicted a lower net profit for 2023-24.





## In brief

## Sabalenka ends Mirra adventure

MADRID (Agencies): World number two Aryna Sabalenka made light work of 16-year-old Mirra Andreeva on Monday with a 6-3, 6-1 win to reach the Madrid Open quarter-finals. Russian youngster Andreeva, a wildcard, became only the third 15-year-old to win a WTA 1000 main draw match when she beat 2021 US Open finalist Leylah Fernandez last week. She went on to beat two top 20 players in Beatriz Haddad Maia and, on her 16th birthday, Magda Linette, but overcoming 2021 Madrid winner Sabalenka was a bridge too far. "Of course I'm happy with the win, I wish I would have played at Madrid when I was 16," said Sabalenka. "I think my first few games I was trying to adjust for her rhythm and her game, and then I kept trying to play my game, be aggressive and fight for every point." Sabalenka broke Andreeva in the first game but the world number 194 immediately responded to get back on serve. The Belarusian converted her second break point in the fifth game for a 3-2 lead and again broke to clinch the first set 6-3. Sabalenka, second seed in Madrid, won 67 percent of points in a convincing second set to reach the last eight. The Australian Open champion will face Egyptian Mayar Sherif in the next round after she beat Elise Mertens 6-4, 0-6, 6-4 earlier Monday.

## Not happy batting at no.5, claims Rizwan

KARACHI (Monitoring Desk): Pakistan wicket-keeper batter Mohammad Rizwan revealed that he was not happy batting at number five in ODIs while expressing his desire to get a promotion in the batting order. Speaking in a media talk ahead of the third PAK vs NZ ODI, Rizwan claimed he was not satisfied with his current batting position in the 50-Over format, adding, 'despite his wish to bat at no.4 he never complained about it with the captain or coach.' "Frankly speaking, I am not happy with the fifth number because I want to play at no.4," he told reporters on Monday. "But it is not necessary that I get what I wish for. Captain and the coach do what they believe is suitable for the team." He, however, negated the impression he was pushing to get the desired batting position, adding, he has never complained or cried foul about it. "My personal wishes do not matter. It happens many times that a player has his own aspirations but the captain and coach think otherwise because they have their own mindset." The wicket-keeper batter without naming anyone also disclosed that he was even asked to open for Pakistan by the previous management. "I won't take their names but I was even asked to open in ODIs by the people in previous tenures. They asked me to be prepared for any change even for the opening slot. I replied that would be your call," he concluded. Rizwan, who bats as an opener alongside skipper Babar Azam in T20Is for Pakistan, in the longer white-ball format came down the batting order sometimes even at no.6. It must be noted here that Pakistan are currently engaged in five-game ODI series against the Blackcaps. The Men in Green lead the series 2-0 following back-to-back wins in first two matches in Rawalpindi. The two sides will now take on each other in the third fixture at the National Bank Cricket Arena as the action shifts to Karachi, which will host the remaining three ODIs on May 3, 5 and 7.



MADRID: Maria Sakkari plays a forehand shot against Paula Badosa during their Women's Singles fourth round match.

## Daniil Medvedev rallies to reach last 16 at Madrid Open

MADRID (Agencies): Daniil Medvedev had to come from a break down twice in the final set to reach the last 16 of the Madrid Open with a 4-6, 6-1, 7-5 win over fellow Russian Alexander Shevchenko on Monday. "He played well. He's young, so I'm sure he's going to [move] up the rankings, especially if he plays like in this tournament," Medvedev said of the 96th-ranked Shevchenko, who was making his main-draw debut in Madrid after coming through qualifying. The victory takes Medvedev to a tour-best 33-4 record this season. He will next face either Alex de Minaur or Aslan Karatsev. The 22-year-old

Shevchenko, who appeared to struggle with cramps toward the end of the match, took a 5-1 lead in the first set but went down 5-0 in the second. He then led 2-0 and 4-2 in the decisive set. "I feel like I played pretty well in the second and third sets, and maybe the end of the first," the third-ranked Medvedev said. "The thing about clay [is] usually it is tough for me to start matches for whatever reason. I need a lot of time to get used to everything that is happening on the court. The third set [I could] have been a bit better at crucial moments, or maybe a lot better. But finally I won, so that counts also." This is the first time

Medvedev has won consecutive matches in Madrid. Women's No. 1 Iga Swiatek later faces 16th-seeded Ekaterina Alexandrova for a spot in the quarterfinals. Mirra Andreeva, the 16-year-old Russian, takes on second-seeded Aryna Sabalenka. Mayar Sherif defeated 24th-seeded Elise Mertens 6-4, 0-6, 6-4 to become the first Egyptian to reach the quarterfinals of a WTA 1000 tournament. Irina-Camelia Begu upset 14th-seeded Liudmila Samsonova 6-4, 6-4 to earn her third win against a top-20 opponent in 2023. It will be her third quarterfinal appearance in Madrid.

## Quetta all set to hold 34th National Games

QUETTA (APP): In an unprecedented move, the Balochistan Sports Department is all set to host 34th National Games to be organized in collaboration with the Pakistan Olympic Association. "After 19 years, we are holding such a mega event as the preparations for organizing the 34th National Games in Quetta have entered the final stages," Director General Sports Dara Baloch said. Addressing a meeting, he said to make the National Games a success, the officials of all associations related to sports should cooperate fully with the Sports Department. The heads of the sports union, coaches, athlete

representatives and officials of the sports department attended the meeting. A detailed discussion was held regarding the trials, training camps and making the National Games of Balochistan successful. The officials requested the Director General of Sports to provide sports equipment so that the players can practice fully in the training camp. DG assured that the sports equipment for the training camp will be provided to the players and coaches soon. Finally, the officials of the association expressed their commitment that they will work together with the sports department to make the National Games a success. It may be recalled that

over 3000 athletes are expected to compete in the nine-day Games starting from May 15 2023. It will be the first in recent times to be held in Quetta. Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Abdul Qaddus Bazanjo will be the patron-in-chief of the Games' Management Committee with Lt Gen (r) Arif Hasan (president POA) and Balochistan's Minister for Sports Abdul Khaliq Hazara will be nominated as patrons of the committee. Likewise, Balochistan Chief Secretary Abdul Aziz Ugailli will be the chairman of the committee while senior vice president Pakistan Olympic Association Syed Aqil Shah has been designated advisor on Games affairs.

## World Snooker C'ship 2023 final: Luca Brecel extends lead over Mark Selby



SHEFFIELD (Agencies): Luca Brecel produced an incredible display of potting to open up a 15-10 lead over Mark Selby and move within three frames of a first world title.

The Belgian exhibited his full repertoire of shots in sublime breaks of 113, 101 and 141 as he reeled off the first four frames on Monday. Four-time champion Selby,

who trailed 9-8 overnight, briefly rallied with consecutive half-centuries. But Brecel replied with a run of 119 and took the afternoon's final frame. The best-of-35 encounter concludes this evening at 19:00 BST. The manner in which Selby concluded Sunday evening's second session - a fightback lit up a magnificent 147 maximum break - raised significant questions about how Brecel might respond to seeing his lead whittled down to one frame, having enjoyed a 6-2 advantage after the opening session. However, in a contest billed as test of Brecel's mental endurance as much as his undoubted skill, few inside the Crucible Theatre could have

been prepared for the 28-year-old's blistering start. Brecel fired in doubles, a succession of stunning long pots and seemingly cleared balls at will as he rattled through the first four frames in under an hour. Only Stephen Hendry, Ronnie O'Sullivan, Steve Davis and John Higgins have played in more Crucible finals than Selby, who has displayed a self-assuredness throughout this contest. And when the interval arrived there appeared to be a switch in pace and momentum back towards the Englishman. The 39-year-old built a break of 63 and then capitalised on lapse from Brecel, who overran on a positional shot on 41, to take the following frame.

But the fightback ended there, Brecel knocking in a wonderful long red from Selby's break-off shot in the penultimate frame and going on to record a dazzling fourth century of the session. And when Selby rattled the jaws of the corner pocket with a rest shot on the red with only a 39-point lead, Brecel was able to secure a valuable five-frame advantage heading into Monday night's concluding session. Brecel is aiming to become the first player from mainland Europe to win the world title and only the fourth non-British winner, alongside Canada's Cliff Thorburn (1980), Ireland's Ken Doherty (1997) and Australia's Neil Robertson (2010).

## Enaam becomes the first Pakistani to finish Top 5 in a Grand Prix

ISLAMABAD (APP): British Pakistani Formula Racer Enaam Ahmed has achieved the highest ever position for a Pakistani driver in international racing as he finished the Alabama Grand Prix in 4th and became the first Pakistani to finish Top 5 in a Grand Prix.

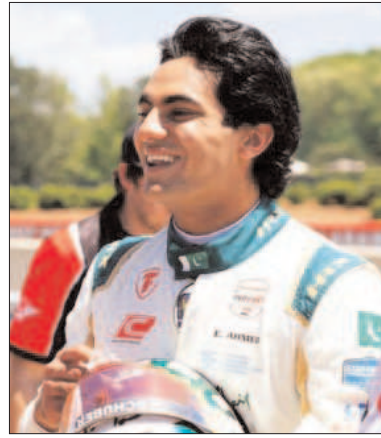
The race was held at the Barber Motorsports Park - the top level motor racing series in the United States.

The competition was attended by 18 drivers, who are considered amongst the best in the world. In only his second start in the Firestone IndyNXT Championship, the final frontier before Indy cars, British Pakistani Enaam Ahmed battled not only hard but also smart to grab fourth place finish at the Barber Motorsports Park.

An elated Enaam Ahmed said after the final results were announced: "I am very happy with the result and the efforts put in by my team Cape Motorsports, especially as this is their first year in this series. I picked up a lot of points and was pleased to finish ahead of the championship leader.

There were some issues in the first 3-5 minutes but I was able to overcome these and there was no looking back."

The racer added: "It's a matter of pride for me that I fly the flag of Pakistan on my car."



Enaam started from ninth on the grid in a field of 18 drivers. A clean and smart drive put him in 6th place after the race was re-started following a crash.

On the final lap Enaam was able to move up to 4th, which is a historic day for Pakistan motorsports as this is the best ever finish among the top tier of international motor racing by a Pakistani driver.

Enaam has been making history since his karting days. Enaam Ahmed is also the British Formula 3 Champion, the first ever high-level Formula Championship winner in the history of Pakistan and beating the record of

Ayrton Senna by winning 13 races in one season.

The 23-year-old is going places around the world with his winning streaks on the dangerous tracks, driving cars at an average 200 miles per hour - making sure that his car carries both British and Pakistani flags. Enaam is one of the brightest and most exciting young racing talents in motorsport.

He has been winning Championships and breaking records from the age of 14. Enaam Ahmed is also the most successful Pakistani heritage racing driver ever in the history of motorsport because he is also known as the most successful British Formula 3 driver in history.

Enaam Ahmed was born to Pakistani parents in London 23 years ago. It was at the age of eight that he started taking interest in racing.

His parents started funding their son's passion by sending him to local Go-karting tracks for children but they had no idea that their son would become a European and world champion at the age of 14 - winning it one year younger than Lewis Hamilton who was 15 when he became the world champion.

Enaam's epic journey will continue at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway road course on May 13.

## Liverpool's Klopp risks ban over feud with match referee

LONDON (Agencies): Liverpool coach Jürgen Klopp risks getting a touchline ban for the team's upcoming key games over a feud with a referee who was strongly defended Monday by the Premier League's match officials group.

After Liverpool scored an injury-time winner for a 4-3 victory of Tottenham on Sunday - having given up a 3-0 lead - Klopp ran straight over to the fourth official on the sideline to celebrate in front of him. Klopp, who seemed to pull his hamstring in the process, was then shown a yellow card by referee Paul Tierney.

Klopp acknowledged he deserved the booking for his celebration but then accused Tierney of saying something that was "not OK" and suggested that the referee had some kind of agenda against

his club. The German manager also criticized Tierney after last season's 2-2 draw against Tottenham for failing to send off star striker Harry Kane in the game.

"We have our history with Mr. Tierney. I really don't know what this man has with us. I really don't know. He always will say there's nothing, and it's not true. It cannot be," Klopp told Sky Sports after the wild finish at Anfield. "I'm really not sure if it's me, because how he looks at me, I don't understand it. My celebration towards the fourth official, I didn't say any bad words, nothing, but it was unnecessary. I got punished for that immediately, I pulled my hamstring or an adductor or whatever. So fine, that's fair. But what he said to me then when he gave me the yellow card ... it's not OK."

However, the Professional Game Match Officials Limited - which oversees referees for the Premier League - defended Tierney after reviewing the audio of his conversation with Klopp. "Match officials in the Premier League are recorded in all games via a communications system," the PGMOL said in a statement Monday, adding that Tierney "acted in a professional manner throughout including when issuing the caution to the Liverpool manager so, therefore, we strongly refute any suggestion that Tierney's actions were improper."

Klopp, who also criticized Tierney for awarding Tottenham a free kick that led to the equalizer, could face further disciplinary action ahead of Liverpool's remaining five games. Fifth-place Liverpool still has an outside

chance of qualifying for the Champions League, but would need to close a seven-point gap to fourth-place Manchester United, which has played one game fewer.

Klopp served a one-game ban and was warned about his conduct when the English Football Association won an appeal case over the German's criticism of an assistant referee during a home win over Manchester City in October.

Liverpool has qualified for the Champions League in each of Klopp's previous six full seasons at the club, going on to win the European title in 2019 against Tottenham and losing two other finals to Real Madrid. Playing in the second-tier Europa League next season would likely cost Liverpool about 50 million euros (\$55 million) in lost prize money from UEFA.

## Shahzaib century puts Pakistan U19 in commanding position



CHATTOGRAM (Monitoring Desk): Shahzaib Khan's century gave Pakistan a valuable 215-run first innings lead over Bangladesh U19 with three wickets in hand at the close of day two of the solitary four-day match at the Zahur Ahmed Chowdhury Stadium in Chattogram on Monday.

Resuming their first innings at the overnight score of 76 for no loss with Shahzaib (39 not out) and Azan Awaiz (36 not out), the opening pair added 18 runs to the total before Azan was dismissed for 40 off 104 balls, hitting seven fours.

Shahzaib was joined by another left-hander in Shamyil Hussain and the duo added 78 runs for the second wicket. Shamyil was next to return back to the hut, scoring a 58-ball 38, striking five

fours and two sixes. At that moment of the match, Bangladesh bowlers struck back and sent both captain Saad Baig (2, 14b) and Wahaj Riaz (17, 24b, 4x4s) to the pavilion with Pakistan U19 at 207 for four in 65.4 overs.

Shahzaib and Obaid Shahid then added 131 runs for the fifth wicket. During the partnership, left-handed Shahzaib completed his century in the 67th over, which came off 200 balls and included 18 fours and one six. He was finally dismissed for 174 off 323 deliveries, smashing 25 fours and four sixes.

At the close of play, Pakistan were 364 for seven in 116 overs, with right-handed Obaid returning undefeated on 62 off 140 balls, hitting seven fours and Ali Asfand on three off 14 balls.

For Bangladesh U19, Wasi Siddiquee took four wickets for 64, while Iqbal Hussain bagged two wickets for 68.

Scores in brief: Bangladesh U19 149 all out, 59 overs (Sheikh Parvaiz Jibon 56, Sharear Sakib 48; Amir Hassan 4-29, Mohammad Ismail 3-41, Ali Asfand 2-37)

Pakistan U19 364-7, 116 overs (Shahzaib Khan 174, Obaid Shahid 62 not out, Azan Awaiz 40, Shamyil Hussain 38; Wasi Siddiquee 4-64, Iqbal Hussain Emon 2-68).

## Ukraine to boycott World Judo C'ships

DOHA (Agencies): Ukrainian athletes will boycott this month's World Judo Championships in Qatar over concerns about Russian and Belarusian participation.

The International Judo Federation decided to allow athletes from Russia and Belarus to compete as neutrals.

The decision will allow judokas from those countries to participate in qualifying for the 2024 Olympic Games.

"We have decided not to participate in the World Championships," the Ukrainian Judo Federation said on Monday.

Last month, the International Olympic Committee recommended Russian and Belarusian athletes are allowed to compete under a neutral flag, but it has yet to make a decision on Paris 2024.

The IOC also recommended athletes and support personnel who actively support the war in Ukraine, or who are contracted to the military, should not be permitted to compete.

However, the UJF alleged that a number of Russian judoka registered for the World Judo Championships, which take place between 7 and 14 May, are "active servicemen".

"We do not see here neutrality, equal conditions and a 'bridge to peace', as stated in the IJF Resolution on the participation of Russian and Belarusian teams in the World Championships in Doha," the UJF said.

"We see here a decision that contradicts the latest recommendations of the International Olympic Committee."

"We are disappointed with the decision of the International Judo Federation."

The IJF said said it has enlisted an independent company to perform background checks on Russian and Belarusian athletes with "specific reference to activities war propaganda".

Following Russia's invasion of Ukraine, the IJF removed Russian President Vladimir Putin from his position as honorary president and cancelled a Grand Slam event in Kazan, Russia.

On Saturday, the International Canoe Federation said Russian and Belarusian athletes "who are not in support of their State's actions in Ukraine" can return to competition as neutrals.





## In brief

### Power suspension programme

ISLAMABAD (APP): Islamabad Electric Supply Company (IESCO) on Monday issued a power suspension programme for Tuesday for various areas of its region due to necessary maintenance and routine development work. According to IESCO Spokesman, the power supply of different feeders and grid stations would remain suspended for the period from 09:00 AM to 02:00 PM, Rawalpindi Cantt Circle, Chahan, Chontra, Rajar, Chakri, SPD, SPF, Kahota City.II, Hanif Shaheed, Army Flats, RA Bazar, Islamabad Feed Mill, Jhata Hatial, Bisali, Pind Jatla, Lab.II, Lab.I, Reliance Weaving Mill, Industrial, Bhal, Jarrar Comp Feeders, Rawalpindi City Circle Kayani Road, Westridge Feeders, Chakwal Circle, Basharat, CS Shah, Tharpal Feeders and surrounding areas.

### International Dance Day

RAWALPINDI (APP): In connection with "International Dance Day" a colourful event was organized at the Punjab Arts Council(PAC) here on Monday. Different types of traditional and modern dances were presented at the event, Naheed Manzoor and director of Arts Council Waqar Ahmed were the chief guests of the event, while Saeed Anwar performed the duties of a host. Speaking on the occasion as Chief Guest Naheed Manzoor said that the purpose of celebrating the day was to promote different types of dances and to save the cultural capital of different nations. Dance has been an important element of human culture for centuries and has a unique place in performing arts as well. She added that in almost every culture of the world, dancing was done to express happiness and is called the poetry of the organs. "It is said that the dancer tells the whole story with his movements and gestures during the dance", she added, Naheed informed that various types of dances were performed in Pakistan including Balochi, Sindhi and Punjabi Bhangra, while classical and folk dances also have a special place.

### Pirzada pays tribute to labourers

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Human Rights Mian Riaz Hussain Pirzada has paid tribute to the historic and heroic struggle of labourers on the International Labour Day. In a statement issued here, he said the role of labourers was very important in the economic development of any country. "Labourers struggling with inflation and difficult economic conditions deserve our special attention. The government is always trying to protect the rights of labourers in an effective manner," he said. Pirzada stressed for a National Action Plan for Business and Human Rights to ensure better working conditions for labourers and prevent their exploitation.

### Five bids to smuggle 3720 bags foiled

RAWALPINDI (APP): The Food Department Rawalpindi and district police here on Monday foiled five bids to smuggle 3720 flour bags. According to a district administration spokesman, the authorities of the food department along with Potohar Division police conducted raids in different areas and rounded up five namely Sajjad, Mushtaq, Sarfraz, Zahid and Raheem Khan on recovery of 3720 flour bags. He informed that the accused were trying to smuggle wheat flour bags out of Rawalpindi division.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister Overseas and Human Resource Development Sajid Hussain Turi addressing during Labour Day seminar at National Press Club.

## '850,000 workers sent abroad for better employment opportunities'

ISLAMABAD (NNI): Minister for Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Sajid Hussain Turi said that about eight hundred and fifty thousand workers have been sent abroad over the last one year for better employment opportunities. Addressing an event at National Press Club in Islamabad on Monday in connection with the World Labor Day, he said we are also finalizing agreements with sixteen to eighteen countries for export of our manpower. He said we are doing future planning to

ensure legal export of manpower. Sajid Hussain Turi said the government has also taken various steps for the welfare of the workers. He said we are planning to establish a University in the federal capital where free of cost education will be provided to the children of workers. He said we have also enhanced the death compensation.

Speaking on the occasion, President of Pakistan Federal Union of Journalists (PFUJ) Afzal Butt stressed for united efforts to address the prob-

lems of all the workers associated with different professions including the media industry.

He said we have achieved some successes vis-a-vis the protection of rights of workers. He was appreciative of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Minister for Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb for appointing the Chairman of Implementation Tribunal for Newspaper Employees (ITNE), which, he said, is addressing problems of media workers.

## Ashrafi emphasizes need for unity among Muslim Ummah

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister's Special Representative on Interfaith Harmony and Middle East Hafiz Muhammad Tahir Mahmood Ashrafi on Monday emphasized the need for unity among the Muslim Ummah to solve their problems.

Speaking to the media, he said the fundamental issues faced by the Muslim Ummah were Kashmir and Palestine, and practical steps should be taken to resolve them.

Ashrafi who is also the Chairman of the Pakistan Ulama Council and Secretary-General of the International Tazim-e-Haramain Sharifain Council, applauded the efforts of Islamic scholars in combating extremism and terrorism and urged for

dialogue between leaders of all religions to end Islamophobia.

He also praised Saudi Arabia's commendable role in addressing the Sudan crisis and called on all countries to support it for a permanent ceasefire in Sudan.

He further emphasized that the true interpretation of Islamic teachings could be found in the Muslim World League's 'Charter of Makkah' and Pakistan's religious scholars' 'Message of Pakistan'.

Regarding the recent cases of blasphemy in the country, Ashrafi stressed that no one should be accused of blasphemy without proper research and evidence.

He added that if any individual or group used blasphemy laws for their own personal or political

interests, the government should take action against them.

He also expressed his concern over the oppression of minorities, including Muslims, in India and Occupied Kashmir, and called on the political and religious leaders of the G20 countries to boycott their upcoming meeting in India.

He said India's desire to hold the R20 meeting in Occupied Kashmir on the occasion of the G20 meeting would not be fulfilled.

In conclusion, Ashrafi emphasized that Islam was a religion of peace and did not tolerate extremism and terrorism in any form. He further termed the restoration of Iran-Saudi Arabia and Arab-Syria relations a good omen as it would help resolve the issues faced by the Muslim Ummah.

## 10 days earlier or later, elections will be held in any case: Sheikh Rashid

RAWALPINDI (NNI): Awami Muslim League (AML) chief Sheikh Rashid Ahmed said on Monday it is hoped that the judiciary would consider the possibility of success or failure of the negotiations before reaching a decision.

In a statement on Twitter, the former federal minister said it will be decided by May 10 that elections are to be held or the negotiations would

work as an excuse to halt the electoral process. In any case, the judiciary, constitution and law will triumph, he stated. Mr Rashid was quite perspicuous about his stance for holding elections saying that 10 days earlier or later, elections will be held.

He said the nation expects important decisions from the Supreme Court this week.

He also posed questions

demanding answers on behalf of the public. He said the nation wants to know what happened to the agreement with the IMF and also to the matter of the leaked audio of the Foreign Minister and the Prime Minister.

According to Mr Rashid, the Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) is in disarray and the alliance is facing differences from within.

## 90% work of the Sukki Kinari hydro project completed

ISLAMABAD (INP): Around 90 per cent work of the Sukki Kinari hydropower project has been completed while the installation of the heavy transmission line is in progress at a rapid pace.

According to a report published by Gwadar Pro, the total gross installed capacity of Sukki Kinari Project is 873.508-MW with the supply of 4 sets of impulse turbines. SK project is a foreign direct investment project by Suki Kinari Hydro (Private) Limited. It is a joint venture by White Crystal Limited, Saudi Arabia (58%), Eden Inc. Behad,

Malaysia (20%) and China Gezhouba Group Company Limited (CGGC) (20%).

Meanwhile, Chinese engineers have successfully installed a Shaft pan in Sukki Kinari 884 megawatts hydropower project which would provide a base for water preservation and power generation. The run-of-river facility is one of the early-harvest clean energy projects under the CPEC. Gezhouba Group, China is implementing the project at around USD 2 billion. The pan shaft has an important role in generating electricity by converting energy from

an outflow between the upstream water and downstream water.

The system comprises a vertical shaft, the shaft crown of which forms an inlet level that is essentially parallel to the bottom and which below the water level of the upper water runs, said a statement released here. Under Construction Suki Kinari Hydropower Project-884MW Shaft 234m deep double chamber surge shaft is being constructed to neutralize the hammering effect of water due to the sudden shutdown of generating units last year.

### Sanjrani calls for fair labour practices

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Senate Chairman Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani in his Labour Day message called for a culture of mutual respect, equality, and fair labour practices that recognize the dignity of all workers.

He expressed his heartfelt appreciation and gratitude to the unsung heroes of the nation who substantially contributed to Pakistan's progress and development. The Senate Chairman acknowledged the labour force's immense contributions and emphasized the need to ensure the protection of their rights and welfare.

Sanjrani also pledged to create an environment where workers can thrive and reach their potential, and called on citizens to join hands in this effort. He wished all Pakistanis a happy Labor Day on behalf of the Senate. "As the nation celebrates, it's important to appreciate the labour force's contributions to society and renew the commitment to protecting their rights and welfare, building a brighter future for the nation," he remarked.

### 15,000 immunized during the EPI campaign

RAWALPINDI (APP): More than 15,000 children and women were vaccinated during a week-long National Expanded Programme for Immunization (EPI), which concluded in all tehsils and towns of Rawalpindi district on April 30. Chief Executive Officer of District Health Authority Dr Saadat Ali Khan told APP that kids under two years of age were immunized against 12 diseases under the EPI program in all the towns of the district.

He informed that the vaccinators along with their social mobilizer jabbed the unvaccinated children in 212 Union Council, of the district as per the schedule. Dr Saadat said that the Punjab government was actively following EPI, a disease prevention programme to reduce illness, disability and mortality rates to achieve 100 per cent results set for the health sector under the Millennium development goal. Under the ongoing vigorous drive, the CEO said, different vaccinations against Polio, Measles, Pertussis, Diphtheria, Tetanus, Hepatitis-B and Tuberculosis were administered to children of two years of age besides those who missed it during the last two years.

## PML-N to win elections 2023 with thumping majority: Ahsan Iqbal

ISLAMABAD (NNI): Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Ahsan Iqbal Monday claimed that Pakistan Muslim League (N) will win the upcoming general elections 2023 with a thumping majority and Imran Khan's propaganda against party leadership would be failed from all fronts. "People would never forgive those who had ruined the progressive country", he said while talking to a private news channel. PTI chairman Imran Khan had committed political suicide and dissolved both the assemblies, he said, adding, Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf leadership was busy with politics of non-issues for which they will have to

face embarrassment and insult.

He maintained that incompetent PTI leadership will only cause harm to the country instead of resolving the public issues. Imran Khan had built the PTI on lies, misrepresentations and false hopes, he further added.

Replying to a question, Ahsan Iqbal said Imran Khan's wish for power has made him greedy and mentally unstable, adding, the PTI chairman was "promoting confrontation, abusive culture and training the youth for his vested interests. He vowed that the federal government would hold polls in 2023 after completing the constitutional tenure of the current assembly.

## Talha supervises Hajj arrangements, assures facilities for pilgrims

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony, Senator Muhammad Talha Mehmood on Monday said that he was personally supervising all aspects of the Hajj arrangements and would not tolerate any shortcomings. He emphasized that the Ministry was working tirelessly to ensure that intending pilgrims had a comfortable and hassle-free experience.

The minister also assured that all possible facilities would be provided to Allah's guests and no compromise would be made on the quality of services. He confirmed that the best accommodation and quality food arrangements were already underway and the travel facility for intending pilgrims would be top-notch.

About the rumors regarding the collection of additional charges related to Zamzam water, the minister clarified that no extra amount was being collected from the pilgrims. He confirmed that the Zamzam water dues had been includ-

ed in the Hajj package since 2017, and no pilgrim would be asked to pay any extra amount for the same.

The minister urged the public to ignore such rumors and have faith in the government's efforts to make Hajj arrangements as smooth and convenient as possible for the pilgrims.

With the minister's personal supervision and the Ministry's dedication, the Hajj 2023 is expected to be a great success and the pilgrims would have an experience to cherish for a lifetime.

## Pakistan among 10 most climate change vulnerable countries: Meher Kashif

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Coordinator to Federal Tax Ombudsman Meher Kashif Younis Monday said Pakistan is amongst the 10 countries most vulnerable to climate change, "braving disastrous floods, unlivable heatwaves and fast-melting glaciers". Pakistan will have to face numerous climate-induced extreme changing weather conditions in the future and the government must in advance chalk out viable plan to mitigate the impact of natural disasters.

Speaking to a delegation of industrialists and traders led by Mian Zeeshan Elahi CEO Marvel Cables he said just two weeks ago there were at least two stark reminders of the hazards natural disasters pose to people's safety. He said a number of people were killed in a landslide at the Torkham border with Afghanistan when tons of rocks and mud came crashing down upon truck drivers.

He said local speculated that the recent controlled blasting in the area could have contributed to the landslide. Elsewhere, thousands of people travelling to GB for Eid were trapped on the high-altitude Karakoram Highway due to heavy rainfall and landslides. Exacerbating the situation was the fact that a bridge in KP's Uchar Nallah area that was swept away during last

year's summer floods had yet to be rebuilt.

Meher Kashif Younis said the biggest extreme weather event in recent history was last year's super monsoon flood and millions of people have yet to fully recover from the impacts of that disaster. He said it's high time for government two workout master plan to address the anthropogenic factors that aggravate the impact of natural disasters, and secondly, efforts must also be made to build climate-resilient infrastructure that can resist the worst effects of disasters.

He said it is well-documented that rapid deforestation, in the north as well as the southern parts of the country, has added to the ferocity of the floods. Moreover, when precious forests are cut down, there is little to stop the raging waters and mounds of earth and rock from crashing down in the form of landslides. He said then there are issues of building illegal structures perilously close to rivers, at times on riverbeds. This has resulted in the massive destruction of property; images from Swat and other parts of KP of the merciless torrents washing away hotels and other structures during last year's floods should be recalled.

## ANF recovers over 51 kg drugs; arrests 10

RAWALPINDI (APP): Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) recovered over 51 kg drugs and arrested 10 accused including a Nigerian national in seven operations, said an ANF Headquarters spokesman here Monday.

He said in an operation on Islamabad Murree Road, three kg charras was recovered from a Suzuki pick-up while three accused residents of Rawalpindi were also rounded up.

In another operation in E-11/4 Islamabad, five

grams cocaine was recovered from the possession of Nigerian national.

In third operation, 580 grams of heroin was recovered from a parcel, booked for London at Islamabad International Airport Cargo. Heroin was concealed in a ladies suits.

ANF and Punjab Ranger conducted a joint operation near Head Sulemanki and managed to recover five kg heroin and netted four accused.

The spokesman informed that 1770 grams

of heroin was recovered from two accused residents of Swabi, arrested from Faisalabad Railway Chowk area. An accused was trying to smuggle heroin to Sharjah through Faisalabad Airport.

2.3 kg of charras, 600 grams of opium and 300 grams of heroin were recovered in a raid conducted near Kabirwala Sarai Sidhu while in an operation near Dalbidan Sargul, 48 kg opium concealed underground was recovered.

## Pak-Kazakhstan agree to further strengthen education ties

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan and Kazakhstan have agreed on further strengthening of ties in the education sector during the 2nd meeting of the Pak-Kazakhstan Alumni Forum held on Monday. The President of the Pak-Kazakhstan Alumni Forum Prof. Dr. M. Iqbal Choudhary, Coordinator General COMSTech, warmly welcomed the participants of the 2nd Meeting of the Forum.

The meeting was graced as a guest of honor by the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Kazakhstan, H.E. Yerzhan Kistafin.

Prof. Dr. Shahid Munir Chairman Punjab Higher Education Commission, Mr.

Rao Khalid Honorary Consul General Kazakhstan, Prof. Dr. Robina Farooq Vice Chancellor Government College Women University Faisalabad, Prof. Dr. Muhammad Suleman Tahir Vice Chancellor of Khwaja Fareed University of Engineering & Information Technology Rahim Yar Khan, Mr. Faisal Manzoor Chairman Board of Governors, University of Sialkot, Mr. Rehan Younis, President ISAT Gujranwala, Dr. Nadeem Bhatti, Vice Chancellor Leads University, Mr. Murtaza Noor, Advisor Linkages, COMSTech and other senior academics participated in the meeting, along with over 70 Alumni from various universities of Kazakhstan. The President of

the Forum, Prof. Dr. M. Iqbal Choudhary, D. Sc. (Alfarabi Kazakh National University) stated that the Pak-Kazakhstan alumni forum is based on the shared mission to remain connected to the alma mater in Kazakhstan as well as to help to enhance cooperation between the two countries in the field of higher education and cultural exchanges and technological transfer.

He praised the gift of excellent education that was given to the alumni by the Government and people of Kazakhstan, which is at par to any European or North American education system.

He said currently four universities of Kazakhstan are in the top 500 of QS university ranking. He mentioned

that the alumni body of several hundred can serve as a bridge between the two countries and become a permanent ambassador of the beautiful country 'the Kazakhstan' in Pakistan. Prof. Choudhary proposed to the alumni forum to organize skill development events like workshops, conferences, and training courses both at technical and professional levels at Kazakhstan House.

He also proposed that the Embassy of Kazakhstan with COMSTech help in the mobility of the alumni to Kazakhstan for skill development courses, and organize a joint education expo in Islamabad, Pakistan.



China resumes issuing visas

CHINA (Agencies): The country's Foreign Ministry says that the Chinese Embassy in Kabul will resume issuing visas to Afghans next month. "After series of contacts of the Ministry's Consular Affairs Department, the Embassy of China in Kabul is ready to resume issuing visas to Afghans in Kabul from next month, May 3, 2023. The ministry said that Afghan applicants can apply for a China visa on the date.

The Frontier Post

AFGHANISTAN

Shawwal 11, 1444 — Tuesday, May 02, 2023

3 criminals arrested by police

SAMANGAN (Agencies): Local security forces arrested three people in connection to criminal offenses in the capital of Samangan province. The provincial police spokesman, Munir Rahimi said that these people were arrested in connection to a robbery, drug trafficking, and possessing illegal weapons. An amount of weapons and drugs also seized from the detainees, he said. The detainees are under police custody and their cases will be referred to judicial organs for interrogation.

Asia is comparable to a living body composed of soil and water. The heart that beats inside the body is Afghanistan. The destruction of Afghanistan would be the destruction of Asia. And in its progress and prosperity lies the well-being of Asia. - Allama Iqbal

30,000 Afghans to perform Hajj this year: Ministry



KABUL (TOLOnews): The Ministry of Hajj and Islamic Affairs (MoHIA), said on Sunday that 30,000 citizens of Afghanistan will take part in the Hajj ceremony this year.

Noor Mohammad Saqib, the Islamic Emirate's acting minister for Hajj and Islamic Affairs, said the first group of pilgrims will leave for Saudi Arabia on the first day of Jawza (solar calendar).

According to Saqib, private and public planes will transport pilgrims from Kabul, Herat, Balkh, and

Kandahar. "The first flight of pilgrims is scheduled to take place from Afghanistan to Saudi Arabia on the first of Jawza (solar calendar) of this year," he said.

The Islamic Emirate's acting minister for Hajj and Islamic Affairs noted that necessary facilities have been provided for pilgrims in Mecca and Medina.

"This year, each pilgrim's expenses are estimated to be \$3,924 dollars, or 340,000 Afghani," Saqib added. Abdul Wali Haqqani, Financial and Administrative Director of MoHIA,

said that a quota has been set aside for women to perform the Hajj, and there is no difference between men and women in this regard.

"The Ministry of Hajj and Islamic Affairs has given the same quota to women and men to participate in the Hajj ceremony, and there is no difference in this matter," Haqqani said.

According to data from the Ministry of Hajj and Islamic Affairs, more than 135,000 people from Afghanistan attended the Hajj ceremony in the 1401 solar year.

Deputy PM meets elders and scholars

KABUL (Agencies): Deputy Prime Minister, Mawlawi Abdul Kabir, met with a number of scholars, religious, youths and elders Paktia, his office in a statement said.

In the meeting, the elders and youths called the Islamic system in interest of Afghans and assured of their full support to the Islamic Emirate as well as assured of any necessary cooperation with the current system, said the statement.

They shared problems and suggestions relating to the province with the Deputy Prime Minister, said the statement.

Meanwhile, Deputy PM appreciated their sacrifices and efforts for supporting the Islamic Emirate and taking constructive and active part in Jihad and assured that special attention will be paid to address their challenges, the statement added.

"The Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan (IEA) is a common home for all Afghans and all officials are ready to honestly serve for the war-affected people and country," the statement quoted the deputy PM Kabir as saying.

Afghan women demand justice from world leaders

KABUL (Khaama Press): The "Talk to Me, Not About Me" letter was prepared by 21 Afghan civil society and women's organizations in response to the Doha meeting, where the UN and other nations will discuss recognition of the Taliban.

They expressed their outrage over the Taliban's recognition on Sunday, April 30, while Afghan women, members of civil society, and media organizations remain denied access to fundamental human rights.

The letter states, "As Afghan women and members of civil society and media groups, we are outraged that the UN or any of its Member States would consider recognizing the Taliban, a terrorist group whose deeply repressive regime has systematically sought to erase more than half of the population from society."

Having denied women and girls almost all their fundamental human rights,

the Taliban has become the only regime in the world upholding a system of gender apartheid. Experience shows that giving into the demands of such regimes by compromising on human rights will only strengthen their grip on power and prolong the suffering of the people of Afghanistan.

"We urge the UN to cancel all its plans, even if they are immediate "Baby steps" towards recognizing an illegitimate regime that systematically violates the human rights of all Afghans and its actions are crimes against humanity," the statement read.

Instead, the United Nations ensures that the human rights of all Afghans, in particular women and girls, are respected, protected and upheld. This should include a strong focus on justice for past and present crimes by ensuring that the Taliban leadership is held to account for gross human rights violations, war crimes, crimes against

humanity and violations of international human rights and humanitarian law, including the Rome Statute.

This must include cooperating fully with the ongoing investigation by the International Criminal Court.

Since taking control in 2021, the Taliban, according to these organizations, have committed several human rights violations.

Meanwhile, the UN meeting of Special representatives of nations in Afghanistan will be held on May 1-2 in Doha, Qatar, behind closed doors to discuss the Afghanistan situation and how to deal with the Taliban.

We call on the United Nations to:

Immediately condemn the Taliban's treatment of women and demand that they respect the human rights of all Afghan citizens, including women.

Take all necessary measures to ensure the protection and safety of Afghan

women and girls.

Take steps to prevent the Taliban from using the UN as a platform to legitimize their regime and spread their ideology.

Work with international partners to support women's rights activists, civil society organizations, and other groups working to protect women's rights in Afghanistan.

We also acknowledge the serious security problems faced by Afghanistan's minority ethnic groups, particularly Sikhs and Hindus, targeted by the Taliban for their religious beliefs. The persecution and violence against these groups are unacceptable and must be condemned.

The international community must take immediate action to protect the human rights of all Afghan citizens, regardless of their ethnicity or religion. Failure to do so would be a grave violation of our shared commitment to uphold human dignity and justice for all.

\$7m education complex being built in Jalalabad

JALALABAD (Pajhwok): An Afghan businessman is going to invest \$7 million in a modern education complex in eastern Nangarhar province, an official said on Monday.

The complex for scientific and religious studies will include a school, a madrasa, a university and a hostel for students.

Construction of the complex — known as the Mohammadia Islamia Darul Ulum — will be completed in five years.

Samiullah Haqqani, head of construction section, told Pajhwok Afghan News the construction work had been launched by and Afghan investor.

The complex will provide educational opportunities for school, seminary and university students, Haqqani said.

This complex will be built by an Afghan investor with financial support from other businessmen and well-to-do individuals. It will offer free education to 4,000 students.

Haqqani added: "This educational complex is going to be one of the biggest at the regional level and one of the largest education centres in Asia."

Hassan Jan Haqqani, head of education section, said the scientific and religious centre would help remove the gap between schools and seminaries.

"Every student graduating from it will be a doctor and a memoriser of the Quran. The facility will be built on 15 acres of land in the 6th district of Jalalabad. Its construction will generate jobs for 600 workers.

Waliullah, a resident

from Nangarhar province, told Pajhwok once the complex was completed, students would not need to go abroad for religious or scientific studies.

Information and Culture Director Qari Noor Mohammad Hanif said the certificates offered by the complex would be recognised like documents of other governmental institutions. Its graduates will be issued official documents by the Ministry of Education and Ministry of Higher Educations.

This complex was supported by the government, which had supplied power to it and had promised further cooperation, Hanif claimed.

Officials are hopeful of getting support from the rich people of the country in the future as well.

Over 2800 kg of drugs recovered

URUZGAN (Agencies): Over 2800 kilograms of drugs have been recovered in Urozgan, the provincial police spokesman said.

"2,850 kilograms of hashish in a police inspection of the provincial counter-narcotics personals have been recovered and seized in the Khas Uruzgan district of the province, Spokesperson Mawlawi Sadullah Zahid said.

Inspection operations are underway to recover and destroy poppy farmlands and drug processing labs in the province, he said.

Lately, over 1800 kg of oman (Amphetamine) which is used in the production of drugs had been discovered and seized in the Gezab district of Urogran province. IEA will build up efforts to zero cultivation of poppy country-wide and those involved in the production and trafficking of drugs will be dealt accordance with the law.

Afghanistan is transit route for exporting gas to Pakistan

KABUL (Khaama Press): According to provincial authorities of Kandahar, an international company has begun officially exporting natural gas from Turkmenistan to Pakistan via Afghanistan.

Mohammad Yunus Mohmand, the head of the country's Chamber of Commerce and Investment, said the gas transfer from Turkmenistan to Pakistan via Afghanistan is a crucial milestone in economic development.

Previously, Turkmenistan's gas was transferred to Pakistan via Iran; however, since the arrival of the de facto administration, now transferring cargo is saved via Afghanistan to South Asia, he said.

"This year, our exports are approximately \$1,868 million, which shows a significant increase. I sincerely thank the Supreme leader of the Taliban, Hebatullah Akhundzadah, who made the environment favourable for all businessmen and



investors and considered them the economic army of Afghanistan," he added.

According to officials, the initial shipment included 50 Gas tankers that entered Pakistan through Kandahar's Spin Boldak port.

Geographically Afghanistan is connecting Central Asia and South Asia, which can play a significant role in regional connectivity, and the transfer of goods and products has the potential to improve the country's economy.

Over 3 billion Afs in new banknotes received in past year: DABS official

KABUL (Agencies): Afghanistan has taken delivery of more than 3 billion afghanis worth of new banknotes in the past year, officials from the central bank said.

Da Afghanistan Bank director general of monetary policy Ahmad Javad Soddad 3.14 billion afghanis in denominations of 10, 20 and 50 Afs was received.

He said some of the notes have been distributed while old notes have been pulled out of circulation.

"The new banknotes and the collection of old banknotes are done keeping in mind the goals of the monetary policy and setting the optimal amount of money supply in the economy.

"People should not be worried about the supply of money from the bank. People should not worry that the supply of money by the central bank will cause the inflation level in the country to rise or to decrease the value of the Afghan currency, because all issues will be implemented based on precise calculations and formulations, and God willing, the Afghan currency will be stable and it will be of better value," said Soddad.

Afghans complained that the large amount of old banknotes in circulation is causing severe challenges in daily business activity.

They called on the central bank to print new banknotes in order to address the problems of worn-out banknotes in the markets.

Economists say that the central bank is responsible for distribution and management of banknotes in the country.

Cash-strapped Afghan sports car company suspends work

KABUL (Agencies): Mohammad Reza Ahmadi, the designer of a sports car made in Afghanistan, said in a video message posted to social media, that due to financial problems, they have been forced to stop work on their vehicle.

Ahmadi did not say when they hoped to resume work but stated the main reason for suspending operations was the lack of investors.

He said: "We thought that something would happen very well and that we would be able to attract investors very quickly, make us proud and go towards production, solve our problems and help the country, but unfortunately, attracting investors is a time-consuming process.

"From the beginning of our work, the problem we had was the [lack of] capital, which we always had and this problem was not solved for

five years."

Ahmadi said "only one part of the solution is in their hands and the other part is in the hands of investors."

He also said they went into debt to build the sports car.

"Debt is putting so much pressure [on us] that we have to stop working for a while and go back to our old jobs. We are mold makers and we make molds for the detergent and food industries so that we can pay the debt and no longer disappoint the creditors," said Ahmadi.

According to him, he is hopeful that work will soon resume on the sports car.

This car named "Helmet" was displayed on the roads of Kabul a few months ago and gained much attention both in the country and abroad. The car was designed and developed by NTOP and took five years to build at a cost of \$60,000.

Thousands of domestic tourists visit Badakhshan in a week



B A D A K H S H A N (Agencies): Thousands of domestic tourists visited the natural attractions of Badakhshan during past week.

Since the security maintained in Badakhshan, thousands of domestic tourists have traveled to visit its natural scenery in the past week said Sediq Lalzad, a local official at the department of information and culture of Badakhshan province.

The tourist places of Badakhshan are magnificence that could attract domestic and foreign tourists to the province, he added.

Daily wagers grumble about growing unemployment

KABUL (Pajhwok): A number of daily wagers in the capital Kabul complain about a sharp decline in daily work, urging the government and the international community to sort out the issue as soon as possible.

Complaints of increasing joblessness from daily wagers come as the world marks Labour Day.

Such workers gather daily in different parts of Kabul in search of jobs. Taimani is one of the neighbourhoods in the 4th police district where daily wagers assemble in quest of work.

Mohammad Ewaz, who was in Taimani to find work, told this Pajhwok Afghan News reporter: "When I saw you, I thought you needed a worker. But you are a journalist. We have been interviewed several times but no one heeds

stories of our poverty and economic vulnerability."

Concerned about unemployment, he said: "I have been unable to find work over the past 10 days. I stay here from dawn to dusk to find a job but I return home empty-handed every evening."

Ewaz added: "Most of the daily wagers have no work. Potential employers come here and pay a worker only 150-200 afghanis a day. Desperate as we are, we accept the offer."

According to him, last year, they could find work three-four days a week. Every worker would receive 400 to 600afs, but the daily wage has now slumped 200-350afs.

A Pajhwok report, compiled last year, says labourers could not find work for more than three days a week. The findings showed the average wage of

masons and labourers had fallen by 30 percent in Kabul

They said their daily wage was 150-350afs.

Mohammad Asif Hashimi, a retired government servant, also approached the area to find work. Having not received his pension for the past two years, he has to meet his needs through daily wages.

He said: "I'm the only supporter of a family of 13. Several people come here in search of work. But finding work even for one day has become very difficult and I earn negligible wages."

Addressing the authorities, Hashimi said: "It's your responsibility to provide work to the people. We need sustainable work to find a solution to persistent poverty."

wagers gather in the search of work.

Mohammad Nasir Sharifi, one of the workers, said unemployment had reached its peak. "After Eid-ul-Fitr, I have found no work. My children need food and the house owner demand rent. I don't know how to manage all this."

Last year, he found work for three-four days and earned up to 1,200afs daily.

Last year, some laborers said the daily wage was 400-800afs. Economic expert Qais Mohammadi said in the past two years, Afghanistan's economy had stagnated on the one hand and the socio-political situation destabilised on the other. This caused the unemployment rate to increase in the country.

increase its development budget, create plans for economic development and execute new projects. The private sector should also provide job opportunities."

He added the caretaker government and the international community must pay special attention to the workers of Afghanistan, find basic solutions to their problems and create jobs

for them.

Dr. Liaquat Adel, head of the International Association of Food and Workers of Afghanistan, acknowledged labourers were in a difficult situation.

Adel identified inadequate wages, hard labour by children and violations of worker rights as the main problems being faced by labourers.

He has shared the issue with the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs, but no practical work has been done yet to address the situation.

Last year, the caretaker government said it was working on short- and medium-term plans to alleviate joblessness and frame a national employment policy.





# Nawaz to lead country's journey to progress again

Maryam says Imran wanted to destabilise country

## F.P. Report

LAHORE: Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz Chief Organiser Maryam Nawaz said on Monday that the journey of country's progress and development would resume from where it was left in 2017, soon after party superno Nawaz Sharif would return to the country and lead the party again for resolution of all issues.

Addressing a workers convention on the Labour Day here, she said that a conspiracy, through which Nawaz Sharif was ousted on the basis of an 'Iqama', had been exposed now. She said that this reality was known to everybody now that some elements wanted to bring Imran Khan to power, hence a conspiracy was hatched in 2017 to oust Nawaz Sharif.

Maryam Nawaz said the conspiracy was hatched against the country, and not merely Nawaz Sharif, as Pakistan suffered more after ouster of PML-N superno as the premier. She said the country was making significant progress during the Nawaz Sharif government; economy was on the revival path, difference projects were being launched under China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) initiative, roads infrastructure and power projects were being completed at fast pace, inflation was lowering, terrorism had been eliminated and a number of other milestones were being achieved during his tenure. However, she regretted, Nawaz Sharif was sent packing through a conspiracy and country's progress was stopped. Maryam said it was unfortunate that some judges disqualified Nawaz Sharif for no taking salary from his son, but it was more unfortunate that it had become difficult for them to review their decision and provide justice to Nawaz Sharif, as

per the Constitution and law. The PML-N chief organiser said Imran Khan wanted to destabilise the country and economic process just to achieve his political goals. She said some elements were also supporting him in achieving his goals, because they, along with Imran Khan, were involved in looting the country.

She said the PTI chief, instead of taking out a rally for labourers, should stop his conspiracies against the country and refrain from sabotaging the economic revival process; it would ultimately change the situation for labourers. She said Imran Khan's long march in 2014 and protest against the PML-N government failed as people had rejected his agendas and politics of agitation. But, then some elements came forward to protect him and bring him to power after disqualifying Nawaz Sharif.

Maryam said Imran Khan and his facilitators were responsible for all crises, including economic, being faced by the country today. She said now once again, when Imran Khan's long march, court arrest campaign and other tactics against the present government had failed, some elements in the judiciary had come forward to protect him.

Maryam said Imran Khan's negative politics had been badly exposed before the people and they had rejected him as the people knew that it was only Nawaz Sharif who made sincere efforts for progress of the country and welfare of people. She said the Nawaz Sharif government accomplished uplift projects like metro bus and orange line train, and provided daily-use commodities at low rates, like sugar for Rs 50 per

kg, flour for Rs 35 per kg and other items to facilitate people.

The PML-N chief organiser said that Imran Khan wanted early election so that he could come to power again with the help of his supporters in judiciary. But, now people would foil all such attempts against the country, she said and asked why Imran Khan got dissolved the provincial assemblies. She said that conspiracy should also be probed.

She audio-leaks had proved that PTI's tickets were being sold to candidates. She said these elements wanted to keep Nawaz Sharif out of upcoming general election process, but it was not possible as people of the country supported Nawaz Sharif's vision. She said it was people's belief that the country could only make progress without leadership of Nawaz Sharif.

Maryam Nawaz said that it was q constitutional right of the Parliament to make laws, and it would continue doing so and get implemented those laws. Maryam said that everybody had to accept and honour the legislation, made by the Parliament.

Earlier, addressing the workers, she said Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, despite critical economic situation, fixed the minimum monthly wages at Rs 35,000; however, she added, she would request the PM and the finance minister to review the minimum monthly wages and set it at Rs 40,000 per month. She said labourers were real asset to the country, who played significant role in uplift of the country. She said that labourers were backbone of the country's economy, and sincere efforts were being made for their welfare.

## Justice Isa recommends elevation of SHC, PHC CJs to SC

ISLAMABAD (Agencies): Justice Qazi Faez Isa has recommended the names of Sindh High Court (SHC) Chief Justice Ahmed Ali M Shaikh and Peshawar High Court (PHC) Acting Chief Justice Musarrat Hilali for elevation to the Supreme Court, sources told media on Monday.

He made the recommendations in a letter sent to all members of the Judicial Commission of Pakistan (JCP) — a constitutional body that decides appointments to the SC, high courts, and the Federal Shariat Court. The JCP is headed by Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Umar Ata Bandial, the next senior-most four judges, a former chief justice or SC judge, the law minister, the attorney general, and a senior SC advocate nominated by the Pakistan Bar Council.

In his letter, Justice Isa urged that a meeting of the JCP be called soon to decide the appointments. The Supreme Court comprises 17 judges, of which two positions are currently empty. The JCP meeting should consider the names of the two judges on the seniority principle, he urged.

The JCP had recommended Justice Shaikh's appointment as an ad hoc judge of the Supreme Court in 2021. However, Sheikh had declined the appointment, and in a letter written to the then-chief justice Gulzar Ahmed and President Dr Arif Alvi, had said he did not accord his consent to the appointment. Sheikh had taken oath as the SHC chief justice on March 15, 2017.

Meanwhile, Justice Hilali took oath as the PHC acting chief justice on April 1, 2023 — becoming only the second woman to be appointed as a high court chief justice and the PHC's first. The JCP has already recommended her name for regular appointment as the PHC chief justice and a meeting of a parliamentary committee in this regard is scheduled to be held on May 4.

## Hina to present Pak in Doha

ISLAMABAD (Agencies): Minister of State on Foreign Affairs Hina Rabbani Khar is attending the Meeting of Special Envoys on Afghanistan being held in Doha, Qatar, today (Monday) under the auspices of the United Nations.

"The Minister of State for Foreign Affairs will present Pakistan's perspective vis-à-vis Afghanistan and work on building a consensus regarding the way forward with international and regional partners," a statement released by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs read. Chaired by the United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, the Meeting of Special Envoys on Afghanistan will continue till Tuesday (May 2).

The meeting brings together major international and regional countries to discuss the ongoing situation in Afghanistan with a view toward constructive engagement, the MOFA said. As per the statement, Khar would also hold bilateral meetings with leaders of other participating countries on the sidelines of the meeting.

MOFA reaffirmed Pakistan's pledge to continue its support for all efforts to advance the shared objectives of a peaceful, stable, sovereign, prosperous and connected Afghanistan. It may be noted that the Taliban, current rulers of Afghanistan are not invited to the meeting, the UN has confirmed.

"The secretary-general has not extended an invitation to the de facto authorities," said UN spokesperson Stephane Dujarric on Friday. Last week the United Nations had to stress that the meeting will not focus on the possible international recognition of the Taliban administration after comments by the deputy UN chief sparked concern and confusion. The gathering in Qatar is instead intended to focus on reinvigorating "the international engagement around common objectives for a durable way forward on ... Afghanistan," Dujarric has said. Guterres' deputy, Amina Mohammed, had suggested last week that the meeting in Doha "could find those baby steps to put us back on the pathway to recognition."



PESHAWAR: Following a heavy rain, a man is seen grappling to retrieve his bike from a manhole amidst the stagnant water that has accumulated on Sadar Road.

# Shujaat calls police action at his residence 'unacceptable'

LAHORE (Agencies): After days of silence, Pakistan Muslim League-Quaid (PML-Q) President Chaudhry Shujaat Hussain on Monday slammed the police action on his house during the raid carried out to arrest Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader Parvez Elahi and termed it "unacceptable".

"The procedure adopted in all this process is unacceptable. I strongly condemned how an armed personal carrier was used to take down the door," Hussain told journalists. He also called for the removal of officers involved in the raid. The PML-Q chief said that he did not want to say anything which would harm national politics as the country is already in a lot of problems.

"When police went to Perviz Elahi's residence they were informed that he was at Chaudhry Shujaat's residence. The policemen left Elahi's residence and rammed into my house," the PML-Q leader said. He added both his sons stopped the police from entering his house yet they tried to enter the house forcefully. The PML-Q chief further stated that both his sons were injured in the raid and the police left after two hours.

Hussain said that when the police were questioned about the raid they stated that it was about embezzlement done in the development work done in Gujrat. He clarified that both his sons were not related to the case. The PML-Q leader added that he would speak about the raid at another time and he has asked both his sons to be patient.

Last week's, late-night raid to arrest Elahi has become a hot topic in political circles. A day earlier, Punjab

## Population of Sindh urban areas shown less: MQM-P

KARACHI (INP): The Muttahida Qaumi Movement-Pakistan alleged that the population of urban areas of Sindh was shown less not because of any mistake but under a particular conspiracy.

"Through the media and government institutions sources, it has been proved that population of urban Sindh is being shown less under a well-thought-out plan," claimed MQM-P convener Dr Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui. While addressing the media persons he said that if the MQM-P had not made endeavours, the population of Karachi would have been shown 14.4 million only. "Date of census was extended because of our demand owing to which four million more people have been counted," said the party leader. "This whole process has shown that our concerns were legitimate." Urging the people to take part in the census, he said the date had been extended for 15 more days.

He said that the government and rulers had "realised their mistake". He pointed out that in certain rural areas of Sindh, the population had increased between 25pc to 80pc, but certain nationalists had a problem as to why the population was being counted in Karachi. "Rural Sindh is satisfied with the process of the census, but we will not make any compromise till counting of every person," declared the MQM-P leader. He claimed that Karachi's administration had 'directed' the census staff to go to their homes as their duty had ended. Speaking on the occasion, senior MQM-P leader Syed Mustafa Kamal said that the prime minister had expressed his gratitude to the MQM-P as because of their demands a 'transparent' census was being carried out. He said that Karachi's population on April 7 was shown as 14.4 million, but they presented 'evidence' before officials and identified the mistakes.

caretaker Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi said that he was "appalled" to know that the police stormed into the PML-Q president's house to arrest the PTI leader.

A heavy contingent of Punjab Police had raided the residence of the former PML-Q leader to arrest him. The PTI strongly criticised the police's actions, voicing concerns regarding the arrests of its workers and leaders. Taking note of a tweet by Shujaat's son, Chaudhry Saalik

Hussain, the caretaker CM said that "no illegal action will be allowed by anyone".

Saalik, sharing a video of the police party trying to break into his house during the raid to arrest Elahi, expressed dismay over what had happened. "Appalled to know that team went to arrest Elahi but stormed Ch Shaujaat's House in which Ch Salik Hussain got injured. The law should take it's course," Naqvi wrote on the microblogging site in response.

# US panel again takes aim at India on religious freedom

WASHINGTON (Agencies): A US government panel renewed calls on Monday to blacklist India over religious freedom, saying that the treatment of minorities has continued to worsen under Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

The US Commission on International Religious Freedom offers recommendations but does not set policy and there is little expectation that the State Department will accept its stance on India, a growing US partner. The State Department each year lists countries where it sees particular concern on religious freedom, with the prospect of sanctions without improvement.

The independent commission, whose members are appointed by the president and congressional

party leaders, supported all of the State Department's latest designations which included China, Iran, Myanmar, Pakistan, Russia and Saudi Arabia. It however recommended that the State Department add several countries, including India, Nigeria and Vietnam.

The annual report pointed in India to violence and destruction of property targeting Muslims and Christians and drew links to comments and social media posts by members of Modi's Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party. "The continued enforcement of discriminatory laws facilitated a culture of impunity for widespread campaigns of threats and violence by mobs and vigilante

groups," it said.

It was the fourth straight year that the panel has made the recommendation on India, angering New Delhi which has called the commission biased. The State Department briefly blacklisted Nigeria at the end of Donald Trump's presidency following calls from evangelical Christians, but President Joe Biden's administration removed it, rejecting suggestions of violence in Africa's most populous country being religious-based or abetted by the government.

The commission also recommended that the State Department add a number of US partners to a watch list of countries that risked being blacklisted without improvements, including Egypt, Indonesia and Turkey.

# UN holds Afghanistan crisis talks in Qatar, sans Taliban

UNITED NATIONS (Agencies): The Taliban will be absent from UN-led talks that open Monday in Qatar on how to handle Afghanistan's rulers and press them to ease a ban on women working and girls going to school.

Envoys from the United States, China, and Russia as well as major European aid donors and key neighbours such as Pakistan are among representatives from about 25 countries and groups called to the two days of talks by UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres. The Taliban government has not been invited, however, and ahead of the meeting the question of recognition of the administration has loomed large.

A small group of Afghan women staged a weekend protest march in Kabul to oppose any moves to recognise the rulers who returned to power in August 2021. In an open letter to the Doha meeting released Sunday, a coalition of Afghan women's groups said they were "outraged" that any country would consider formal ties because of the

record of the government that says its handling of women's rights is "an internal social issue".

The United Nations and the United States have insisted that recognition is not on the agenda. Rights groups' fears have been fuelled by UN Deputy Secretary-General Amina Mohammed, who said last month that the Doha meeting could find "baby steps" that lead to a "principled recognition" of the Taliban government. The UN said the comments were misinterpreted. No country has established formal ties with the Taliban administration and UN membership can only be decided by the UN General Assembly.

Ahead of his arrival in Doha, Guterres' office said the meeting "is intended to achieve a common understanding within the international community on how to engage with the Taliban" on women's and girls' rights, inclusive governance, countering terrorism and drug trafficking. "Any kind of recognition of the Taliban is completely off the table," US State Department

spokesman Vedant Patel said last week.

Since ousting a foreign-backed government in 2021, the Taliban authorities have imposed an austere version of Sharia law that the United Nations has labelled "gender-based apartheid". Women have been barred from most secondary education and universities, and prevented from working in most government jobs as well as UN agencies and NGOs.

Though divided into many disputes, the UN Security Council powers united on Thursday to condemn the curbs on Afghan women and girls and urge all countries to seek "an urgent reversal" of the policies. Diplomats and observers say, however, that the Doha meeting highlights the quandary faced by the international community in handling Afghanistan, which the UN considers its biggest humanitarian crisis with millions depending on food aid. Amina Mohammed said it was "clear" that the Taliban authorities want recognition.

# Kabal CTD blast report issued, no evidence of terrorism found

## Shafi Ullah

MINGORA: Swat Kabal CTD police station explosion report has been issued. According to the report issued by District Police Officer Swat, no evidence of terrorism was found in the Kabal CTD blast.

According to the report, no forced entry was recorded at the main gate, anyone who wants to enter the old CTD compound must pass through three layers of security, i.e. main gate entry, police station gate entry, and also main CTD compound gate entry. As per post mortem of the dead bodies, there was no evidence of ball-bearing of a suicide attack on anybody. No suicide attack of force entry was recorded from the outside and no ball-bearing was found on the spot.

According to the report, the two

consecutive blasts were taken place due to the explosive material present in the Kot. All vehicles which were damaged during the blast were thoroughly inspected however no evidence of IED etc. was found. All other possibilities are being explored however no evidence of any other source of blast not yet been reported.

Even earlier, the investigation committee had issued its report in which it was said that no evidence of a suicide attack was found in the Kabal blast, 172 kg of explosives, and 150,000 dynamite exploded. The reason for the explosion has been attributed to the negligence of the police while storing the explosives.

According to the police, a total of 18 people were martyred in the blast, including ten policemen, five civilians, and three unknown persons,

while 46 policemen and four civilians were injured. On the other hand, according to Rescue 1122, around 70 injured people were pulled out of the debris from the blast site. On Sunday, Inspector General of Police Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Akhtar Hayat Khan also inspected the building of CTD Police Station which was affected by the blasts.

The IGP visited various parts of the affected police station during the Swat visit and made a detailed assessment of the damage. He issued orders for the reconstruction and rehabilitation of the affected buildings as soon as possible. Additional Inspector General CTD Shaukat Abbas, Regional Police Officer Swat Nasir Mehmood Sati, and district officers were present with him on this occasion.

# Türkiye's massive quake rubbles bring environmental challenges

ANKARA (Agencies): Hit by devastating earthquakes in early February, Türkiye now faces environmental challenges on the disposal of the waste and rubbles left over from the destroyed buildings and roads. Two massive earthquakes destroyed cities on large swaths of land in southern Türkiye on Feb. 6, killing nearly 51,000 people.

Referred to as "the disaster of the century" by the Turkish government, the catastrophe caused some 227,000 buildings to collapse or sustain heavy damage, according to data from the Ministry of Environment, Urbanization and Climate Change. Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has promised to rebuild new homes for the millions of people affected by the disaster within a year.

In the cities ravaged by the tremors, where reconstruction are currently underway, workers had started to clear a staggering amount of rubbles about two weeks after the disaster. "In my city Kahramanmaraş, there are literally mountains of rubbles in the open, and it's causing a serious problem," said Durmus Sezgin, a resident and civil engineer from Kahramanmaraş, one of the places hit hardest by the February earthquakes.

He said that hundreds of excavators are working round the clock,

kicking up plumes of dust while sifting through the wreckage, demolishing any remaining building that local authorities considered unfit for habitation. The rubbles that have been stored in temporary dumps have raised concerns about pollution from different chemicals such as asbestos, a cancer-causing fiber used in the past as insulation material, but now banned in most countries, including Türkiye, said Sezgin.

"People have been breathing dust from the rubbles in the dumps continuously, and they are worried about being exposed to hazardous chemicals, lead, and microplastics," said Selim, a doctor from quake-hit city of Hatay who wishes to be identified by his given name. Responding to criticism, Deputy Minister of Environment, Urbanization and Climate Change Mehmet Emin Birpinar tweeted on April 27 that dust suppression systems were being used to stop the spread of potentially hazardous materials like asbestos.

However, Selim said that measures taken by authorities may not have been enough and that "in a couple of years we might see the negative health effects." The colossal challenge that Türkiye is facing has also been highlighted by the United Nations. The scope of the challenge is almost beyond comprehension,

United Nations Development Program (UNDP) Resident Representative Louisa Vinton said in a statement on Feb. 24.

The UNDP said the February tremors produced at least 10 times as much rubbles as the big Turkish earthquake that struck the country's industrial northwestern region in 1999. Early in April, Yasin Ilmen, a scientist and scholar from the western Mugla Sirtki Kocman University, warned in a tweet that uncontrolled waste dumping could have dangerous consequences for both human beings and wildlife.

The voice of Ilmen and other environmental activists were heard in Hatay, where local authorities eventually removed debris dumped in a local bird sanctuary, bird watcher and wildlife expert Emin Yögurtcuoglu said. "I tweeted about this problem in April, and I rapidly got feedback from the authorities who removed the rubbles in the Millehya Bird Sanctuary," he said, calling on authorities to be vigilant for uncontrolled rubble dumping. Scientists are still concerned, though, because Türkiye cannot handle a problem of this magnitude on its own, said Sedat Gundogdu, a plastic pollution specialist at Cukurova University in the southern province of Adana.