

Fawad ordered to appear

ISLAMABAD (PPI): The Islamabad High Court on Monday ordered authorities to produce PTI leader Fawad Chaudhry today (Tuesday). The plea against the arrest of the former minister for information and broadcasting was taken up by IHC Justice Mian Gul Hassan Aurangzeb. Faisal Chaudhry in his arguments before the court said court ordered to not arrest the former minister but he was taken into custody by Islamabad police.



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ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif interacting with Parliamentarians during the National Assembly session.

Army vows to try protesters, abettors under military law

F.P. Report

RAWALPINDI: General Syed Asim Munir, COAS presided over Special Corps Commanders' Conference (CCC) held at GHQ today. The participants paid rich tribute to the Shuhada, who have laid their lives in defence of the motherland while fighting the menace of terrorism. Forum acknowledged the successful Counter Terrorism and Intelligence Based Operations in the country by Security Forces, especially valiant response given by the troops in the Muslim Bagh attack, and paid rich tribute to the supreme sacrifices made by the brave sons of the soil. The forum was briefed in detail about the prevailing internal and external security environment. Forum took comprehensive stock of the Law and Order situation in the past few days that was created to achieve vested political interests.

The forum was briefed that a well coordinated arson plan involving desecration of Shuhada pictures, monuments, burning down of historical buildings and vandalism of military installations was executed to malign the institution and provoke it towards giving an impulsive reaction. Forum condemned, in the strongest possible sense, these politically motivated and instigated incidents against military installations and public / private



properties. The Commanders also communicated the anguish and sentiments of the rank and file of the Army on these unfortunate and unacceptable incidents.

Based on the irrefutable evidence collected so far, Armed Forces are well aware of the planners, instigators, abettors and perpetrators of these attacks and attempts to create distortions in this regard are absolutely futile. The Forum expressed firm resolve that those involved in these heinous crimes against the military installations and personal/ equipment will be brought to justice through trials under relevant laws of Pakistan including Pakistan Army Act and Official Secret Act. The Forum resolved that restraint will no longer be exercised against perpetrators, spoilers and violators who attack military installations and setups under any circumstances.

Forum also showed concern over externally sponsored and internally facilitated, orchestrated propaganda

warfare, unleashed against the Army leadership, meant to create fissures between Armed Forces and people of Pakistan, and within rank and file of the Armed Forces. The vicious propaganda of such inimical forces will be defeated with the support of people of Pakistan, who have always stood with the Armed Forces during all odds. Forum stressed the need of strict implementation of relevant laws to penalize the violators of the social media rules and regulations.

Forum emphasized need of national consensus amongst all stakeholders to address ongoing political instability at priority so as to restore public confidence, reinvigorate economic activity and strengthen democratic process. The forum also resolved to support all such efforts to reach this much needed consensus. Forum resolved that Pakistan Army with the full support of people of Pakistan, will defeat all nefarious designs of the enemies of Pakistan, Insha Allah.

Bilawal links negotiations with PTI until apology for Jinnah House torching

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari on Monday stated that any talks or negotiations with Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) will not take place unless the party tenders an apology for the torching of Jinnah House in Lahore.

Speaking in the National Assembly, he stated that the recent events, including the torching of the Corps Commander House and the attack on Radio Pakistan and GHQ and others, are unparalleled in the history of Pakistan. He believed that these incidents will be remembered in history for a long time to come. He urged the institutions to work within

their constitutional ambit so that the government could concentrate on resolving the issues of the poor people.

In 1986, he said over three million people gave a warm welcome to former Prime Minister Ms Benazir Bhutto, despite former President General Zia ul Haq being in power in Islamabad at the time. Benazir Bhutto did not use the occasion to incite violence against Zia-ul-Haq. The PPP has faced various incidents over the years but has refrained to resort to acts of violence. Imran Khan has been accused of involvement in the putting opposition leaders, including PML-N Chief Organiser Maryam Nawaz and PPP

leader Faryal Talpur behind bars. Despite Talpur's illness, doctors were pressured to hand her over to Imran Khan, who then allegedly changed the hospital's medical superintendent and put Talpur in jail.

Bilawal went on to say that PPP did not oppose the elections, as they believed that Imran Khan could be challenged through a fair election, and that the ruling coalition would contest and defeat him. The incumbent coalition government candidates had already defeated PTI chief and its candidates in several by-elections. The coalition was committed to protect the parliament and constitution, he added.

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb has said that Pakistan was in safe hands as the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz had always dealt with economic crises in the past as well.

"We have dealt with such economic conditions always, when Nawaz Sharif came to power and we dealt with it recently in 2013 also," she said in an exclusive interview with Al-Jazeera TV. "We have the experience; the intention and we have the will to put the country on an economic and development path and we are busy doing that." Referring to Imran Khan, she said that only one person who is a "fascist and believes in violence and who incites the mobs" was responsible for the present condition of Pakistan.

Replying to another question, she said the present regime inherited highest inflation and the country was at the verge of default which we saved. The minister said Imran Khan had signed an agreement with the IMF, and violated all the agreement conditions and when the PDM came in power, the IMF programme was suspended which it was renegotiating. Imran Khan had put the country at the risk of

default and the present government had saved it, she added.

Marriyum said "We are negotiating with the IMF because the credibility of the country is at risk as Imran Khan's legacy of economic destruction has played havoc." The minister said the government had nothing to do with Imran Khan's arrest, he was arrested by NAB according to the law where he was being investigated in a corruption case related to Al-Qadir University. She said that many notices were sent by the NAB but Imran did not respond.

The minister said that the NAB team went to Islamabad High Court where Imran Khan was appearing and arrested him and later the IHC declared that it was a legal and lawful arrest. "It was also endorsed by the Accountability Court later so it was all done through NAB which arrested him and he had to answer which he did not of course and what happened we all saw", she said. Marriyum said that when he was in the government, the opposition leaders who used to ask questions, the first two rows in the Parliament were in death cells in jail.

She said when the media used to ask questions, a leading media house owner was sent to jail and was

silenced. She said that the report of 'Reporters Without Borders' had called Imran "a media predator" and this was his four years legacy.

The minister said that when Imran Khan lost power he was being questioned on different corruption cases under investigation in the Federal Investigation Agency. She said that there was a pattern that happened in the last 14 months, when police took a warrant by the court to Imran Khan at Zaman Park, he resorted to violence and used women and children as human shields to protect himself.

At Zaman Park, the police personnel were welcomed by petrol bombs, and then there was May 25 last year when he announced the long march and incited violence calling workers to come out on streets, bridges were broken, buildings, metro stations and buses were attacked, she added. She said the judicial complex was attacked when a judge summoned him in a corruption case trial which was under investigation.

"Same pattern happened and everything was broken including doors, windows and cameras of the judicial complex", she maintained. The minister said that Imran entered with a mob with Kalashnikovs and petrol bombs

Join probe for graft': PM tells Imran

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Monday asked former prime minister Imran Khan to cooperate for investigation into his corruption instead of levelling baseless allegations. Responding to a tweet of Imran Khan, the prime minister said wrote on his Twitter handle, "Leave the baseless allegations, join the investigation and be held accountable for your corruption. And that's all."

Sharing the pictures of the 6th Road Metro Bus Station of Rawalpindi which was completely burnt and destroyed by the PTI protestors, PM Shehbaz said in another tweet that how the multi-years' development journey (initiated by the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz government under the leadership of former prime minister Nawaz Sharif) was turned into a scene of destruction on May 9.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif also expressed grief over the demise of prominent playwright, comedian, teacher and poet Shoaib Hashmi. The prime minister sympathised with Muniza Hashmi, Saleema Hashmi and other members of the bereaved family of Shoaib Hashmi, who was also the son-in-law of renowned poet Faiz Ahmed Faiz.

The prime minister said that late Shoaib Hashmi had made a remarkable contribution to the golden era of Pakistan Television and also introduced new dynamics in the comic programs. He said late Shoaib Hashmi also wrote historic and unforgettable plays which highlighted great values, traditions and ideologies.

Govt slashes PoL products' prices

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) led federal government Monday announced decreasing the price of petrol by Rs12 per litre to Rs270 per litre after a fall in the international oil rate.

The rates will come into effect at 12am tonight and remain in place for the next fortnight, Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Ishaq Dar said during a televised address. The rates of petroleum products (POL) have been slashed by up to RS30 per litre, as the government "tries to give relief to the masses during every fortnightly review", the minister said.

The finance minister appealed to the transporters to provide "fair" relief to the masses in light of the price reduction as the POL products rate affects a host of other commodities. The appeal came as the cash-strapped nation faces runaway inflation, which remains at a historic high of 36.4%—the fastest in South Asia, even leaving behind the defaulted nation of Sri Lanka.

in the judicial complex. "So, there is continuity that whenever he is asked a question and called under investigation this is how he resorts to violence," she added.

The minister said then there was that day when he was in the court, NAB arrested Imran Khan, same happened in the country for three days and this was the only person. To a question, she said there was no miscalculation on behalf of the government and security agencies as we had a force which reacted very maturely because "we know it is just one person inciting violence and who has this mindset and a pattern of doing things and resorting to violence". She said that the government was the state which constituted the judiciary, executive and the Parliament.

"When one pillar of the state tries to enforce law and order in the country and maintain the law and order in the country, the second pillar equally important and equally powerful does otherwise and facilitates and enables an environment where such activities are carried out across the country and ignores it and invites a person with allegation Rs 60 billion of corruption and says it is really good to see you Mr Khan." She said Imran offered the

CJP asks govt, PTI to resume negotiations

Supreme Court adjourns hearing of ECP's plea seeking review of Punjab election order

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Supreme Court (SC) on Monday adjourned the hearing of the Election Commission of Pakistan's (ECP) plea seeking review of its April 4 order of holding the Punjab Assembly elections on May 14 till Tuesday (May 23). A three-member SC bench comprising Chief Justice of Pakistan Umar Ata Bandial, Justice Ijaz Ul Ahsan and Justice Munib Akhtar heard the case.

During the course of proceedings, the chief justice said the ECP had raised a question regarding the court's jurisdiction. The Commission had earlier contended before the court that it would conduct elections once funds were issued but now it had opened a Pandora box, he added. He asked whether the ECP could raise points in the review petition which were not raised before. Barrister Ali Zafar, counsel for the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), said the scope of a review petition was

limited. May 14 had passed and the Constitution had been violated, while the caretaker governments in Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa were unconstitutional, he added.

The chief justice said the court wanted to hear the ECP's arguments on the maintainability of the petition. He asked Attorney General for Pakistan (AGP) Mansoor Usman Awan why negotiations were not being held between the government and the PTI. He was the first person to suggest talks between the two opposing sides regarding holding elections in the country, he added.

The CJP asked the AGP why the government could not restart negotiations with the PTI. At this, Ali Zafar said two members of the PTI's negotiating team had been arrested. The AGP said the government had taken the matter of holding negotiations seriously, but the PTI had ended the talks.

The chief justice said the

Constitution guaranteed political rights, while the court did not want to indulge in political matters. He said the bench hoped that negotiations would start again and a solution would be reached and asked the AGP to inform his clients in that regard. The court expected from both the parties that the political environment would improve, he added. The CJP insisted that the process for dialogue be initiated once again. He called for addressing the narratives being put forward by both sides.

The PTI lawyer could talk to his leadership if the government invited the opposition for talks, he added. CJP Bandial said the court knew how fundamental rights were to be implemented, however, peace was necessary for their implementation. Subsequently, the court issued notices to the AGP, Punjab and KP advocate generals and adjourned the hearing.

All institutions should work in their domains: Fazl

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman on Monday said that the coalition government believed in upholding the Constitution and law, and no one would be allowed to disrespect the Parliament and the people. "All institutions should work within their constitutional domains, while politics is the exclusive domain of politicians and if anyone wants to do politics he must have to contest the election," he said while addressing a protest rally at the Constitutional Avenue.

Maulana Fazl said the coalition government partners respected the national institutions. "We have pledged to protect the judiciary, the law and the Constitution." He said it was being speculated that the PDM would abandon its movement after the today's sit-in., but it should be clear that they would never budge from their stance, continue their such protest to safeguard the national interests, and if needed against resort to staging sit-ins. He said none of the protesters had even thought of "disrespecting the apex court" as the PDM leadership wholeheartedly respected the judiciary.

He said there were rumors about the disqualification of the prime minister. "I want to clarify that we will protect our prime minister and the Parliament at all costs." Maulana Fazl accused Imran Khan of dividing the Pakistan Army, but the PDM would foil his all nefarious attempts in that regard. The coalition government had always stood by the armed forces and would continue doing so, he added. Referring to the attacks on public buildings, he said India, the arch enemy of Pakistan, was jubilant today as Imran Khan was targeting the defence installations and also mocking the Pakistan Army.

"We will protect the Islamic status of Pakistan at any cost and not allow to succeed the Jewish lobby," he added. He said strict action should be taken against the

miscreants who had attacked the GHQ, Fort Balahisar, Mianwali Air Base, Corp Commander House and other public buildings. Later, he extended his gratitude for all the leaders of PDM, including Shah Zain Bugti, Khalid Magsi and Khalid Maqbool and thanked the workers for reaching at the protest venue on a short notice.



PML-N Vice President Maryam Nawaz, PPP General Secretary Syed Nayyar Bukhari, Jamiat Ulema-e-Pakistan chief Awais Ahmad Noorani, Balochistan National Party-Mengal chief Sardar Akhtar Mengal, Jamhoori Watan Party chief Aftab Ahmad Khan Sherpao, Awami National Party Secretary Information Mian Iftikhar Hussain, Pakhtunkhwa Milli Awami Party chief Mahmood Khan Achakzai and other also addressed the protestors.

Imran put country image at stake: Marriyum

then chief of army staff, a lifetime extension in closed doors and also met him in President House just to invite him to interfere in the process of vote of confidence against Imran Khan.

"Imran had no problem with Bajwa when he was there but when he did not listen to Imran Khan's request, he was called out by Mr Khan because he lost power," she added. She said the current chief of army staff was not willing to sit with Imran Khan in a room and interfere in the democratic process of the country. She said additionally when the current army chief was then DG ISI, he went to Imran and informed him people in his government his wife, her friend and the ministers were involved in corruption and he provided evidence.

Instead of taking action against the corrupt, Imran removed him from the post of DG ISI. The minister said that Imran Khan knew that the current army chief was aware about his corruption and had the evidence. She opined that Imran believed that the COAS was playing a role and giving evidence to the government to file cases against Imran Khan but it was not true. To a question, she said the references filed by FIA and NAB were in the courts where Imran Khan

was not ready to face the law and defend himself. She said then there was a Tyrian case in Islamabad court, and not with the government.

Imran Khan was trying to develop the perception that the government was settling some political vendetta or making him a target of political victimization which was contrary to the facts, she added. If the government had wanted to target him, it would not have waited for 14 months, she said, adding "We could have arrested him just for the cipher thing, the joke that he was moving around with he would have been behind the bars."

She said Imran Khan dissolved the KP and Punjab assemblies on what he called Mr Bajwa's advice. On the contrary, the then chief minister of the Punjab, Pervaiz Ellahi had categorically stated on a television channel that he never wanted to dissolve the provincial assembly, the minister added. Castigating Imran Khan, she said when he was not in power, he wanted the election should be held as per his desire. She said Imran's diktats could not be followed as there was a Constitution and law which would definitely take its own course and the election would be held after completion of constitutional tenure.



8 killed, 1,274 injured in 1,169 accidents

LAHORE (APP): At least eight people were killed while 1,274 injured in 1,169 road traffic accidents in Punjab during last 24 hours. Out of the total injured, 675 people were seriously injured who were shifted to different hospitals, whereas, 599 minor injured victims were treated at the incident site by rescue medical teams, said a spokesman for Rescue 1122 here on Monday.

The analysis showed that 618 drivers, 43 underage drivers, 129 pedestrians, and 535 passengers were among the victims of these road traffic crashes.

The statistics showed that 245 accidents were reported in Lahore which affected 261 persons placing the provincial capital at top of the list followed by 84 in Faisalabad with 92 victims and at third Multan with 83 accidents and 82 victims. As many as, 1025 motorcycles, 88 rickshaws, 106 cars, 34 vans, nine buses, 22 trucks and 99 other vehicles and slow-moving carts were involved in the traffic accidents.

NA Speaker, Deputy mourn demise of Shoaib

ISLAMABAD (APP): National Assembly Speaker Raja Pervez Ashraf and Deputy Speaker, Zahid Akram Durrani expressed profound sadness and regret on the passing away of Shoaib Hashmi, a well-known playwright, humorist, scholar and poet. In their separate condolence messages, the Speaker and Deputy Speaker conveyed their heartfelt condolences and sympathies to the bereaved family of Shoaib Hashmi on his demise. Shoaib Hashmi, brought a new dimension to comedy programmes, the Speaker and Deputy Speaker said while acknowledging his contributions.

CM inspects facilities at DHQ Hospital Mianwali

LAHORE (APP): Caretaker Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi paid a visit to the District Headquarters Hospital in Mianwali and inspected the medical facilities. He also visited the injured police jawans and expressed his concern for their well-being, offering prayers for their speedy recovery, said a handout issued here. Mohsin Naqvi commended the injured policemen for their unwavering spirit and appreciated their high morale. He provided necessary instructions to the hospital administration to ensure proper treatment of the injured policemen.

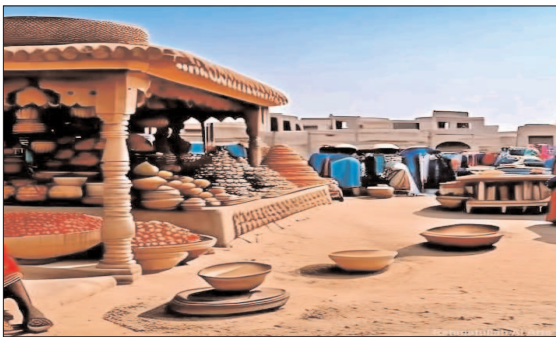
While conversing with the injured policemen, the Caretaker CM acknowl-

edged their bravery in foiling the terrorist attack on the airbase. He expressed the nation's pride in their heroic actions, as they crushed the malicious intentions of terrorism disguised under the pretext of politics.

Mohsin Naqvi extended his visit to other patients receiving treatment in the hospital, engaging in conversations with their attendants. He inquired about the facilities provided to the patients and their overall well-being.

Chief secretary, IG police, commissioner Sargodha, RPO Sargodha, Deputy Commissioner, and DPO Mianwali accompanied CM Mohsin Naqvi.

Mohenjo Daro



Allahdad Chandio

LARKANA: The famous historical palace in district Larkana is called as Mohenjo Daro, or "Mound of the Dead" is an ancient Indus Valley Civilization city that flourished between 2600 and 1900 BCE.

The site was discovered in the 1920s and lies in Pakistan's Sindh province. Only a handful of archaeologists have excavated here, described in the introduction and illustrated essay moen jo Daro An Ancient Indus Valley Metropolis. Recently a young man Artist/ painter Rehmatullah Mirbahr of Thatta Sindh has been completed artificially work of Mohan Jo Daro (Archaeology) as he

called was one of the major cities of the Indus Valley Civilization, which is now located in the Sindh Province of Pakistan. The city was founded around 2600 BC and for many centuries it served as a center of trade, culture and urban life. Mohan Jo Daro was known for its modern urban planning and architecture, with its streets laid out in a grid-like pattern and buildings made of baked bricks.

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as pottery, cloth and jewelry were produced.

The city also had a sophisticated economy based on agriculture, trade and commerce and was a center of regional and international trade.

The religion of the people of Mohenjo-Daro is not well understood, but archaeologists have identified various deities and religious practices, have uncovered evidence of rituals, including sculptures and seals depicting human-like figures and animals. Factors like climate change, environmental degradation and invasion by outside groups may have played a role in this.

The ruins of Mohenjo Daro were rediscovered in the 1920s and have since been excavated by archaeologists, providing valuable insight into the history and culture of the Indus Valley Civilization. Today, the site is a UNESCO World Heritage Site and attracts visitors from all over the world. A hard. The hard works of artificial thoughts done by a painter create artificial images of Moen Jo Daro in this modern world.



KARACHI: Lady Health worker administering polio drops to a child at district central.

CM inaugurates Sindh Institute of Advance Endoscopy, Gastroenterology

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah while speaking at the Inauguration ceremony of the Sindh Institute of Advance Endoscopy & Gastroenterology (SIAG) at Civil Hospital, congratulated Prof. Saad Khalid Niaz and his team for achieving this historic milestone in the field of advanced Endoscopy.

He also thanked the philanthropists, who supported the project.

The CM said that his government firmly believed that affordable, high-quality health care was the basic privilege of every citizen. "It is not only ethically and socially imperative but also a necessary ingredient for the sustainable long-term development of our economies and society," he said and added that the foremost challenge of the health system was to provide effective health coverage and equal access to medical services for all.

Mr. Shah said that when people have to pay for health care out of their pockets, they may delay or relinquish necessary treatments and risk becoming impoverished, especially by chronic diseases which require long-term care. Liver and Gastrointestinal

diseases are one of the leading causes of illness and death in our country and interventional and advanced endoscopic procedures are not only lifesaving but save patients from major invasive surgical procedures alleviating their pain and suffering, Murad Shah said and added that considering our social strata, a large number of patients were unable to receive endoscopic treatment due to the high costs, lack of availability, and expertise. The CM said that the allocation of funds by the Sindh government along with support from philanthropists has paved the way for the development of the Sindh Institute of Advance Endoscopy and Gastroenterology, SIAG.

Mr Shah said that these services were started in 2006 in Surgical Ward 4 and have finally converted into the first-ever Advance Endoscopy facility providing high-quality services in the province and the whole country.

According to the CM, the SIAG is at par with the world's best in structure services and equipment. It has also introduced the treatment of Pancreatic stones through a dedicated

ESWL machine for the first time in Pakistan and second in this region.

Murad Shah said that he has been told that Pancreatic stones were more common in our part of the world and a very painful condition affecting children and adults. He added that SIAG, like other institutions supported by the Sindh government, would provide treatment through a state-of-the-art facility, extend such services to other districts like NICVD, and train the future generation of endoscopists comparable to international centers. Minister Health Dr Azra Fazal Pechuho speaking on the occasion said that the Service Hospital was underutilized, and its space could be used for the expansion of the civil Hospital's OPD and other facilities.

Speaking on the occasion, Executive Director Prof. Saad Khalid Niaz said that in 2019 the chief minister advised him to establish the institute in the civil hospital and had assured him of financial support when he had contacted him for establishing the institute. He recalled that the CM had given Rs200 million for the institute and the work was started.

تمہیں تعلیم نفرت کی جو دے، دشمن تمہارا ہے
سازشی سیاست کی چڑھونہ بھینٹ، وطن ہم سب کو پیارا ہے



سوات موٹروے ٹول پلازہ



میہرون نشین، راولپنڈی



ریڈیو پاکستان، پشاور



پولیس موہال



شہداء یادگار، سرگودھا



یادگار میرزا نور خان شاہروہ، میانوالی



جی انکلیو



ایڈس ہسپتال، پشاور



جی الماک



کرتل خٹک خان شہید مجسمہ، سرگودھا



جانی باڈل، پشاور



پولیس قیدی دین



جناح پلاز، لاہور

شہیدوں کی وفا کی یادگاریں، فخر تھیں تیرا
یہ طیارہ نہیں تھا، استعارہ تھا کہ سرحد پار سے دشمن تیرے گھر آ نہ پائے گا



حکومت پاکستان

Amir Muqam led huge public rally from KP to attend PDM protest



PESHAWAR (APP): President Pakistan Muslim League (Nawaz) Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Engr Amir Muqam led the caravans of thousands of party workers and reached Islamabad to attend Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) protest. The main rally was started from Peshawar joined by thousands of workers from various parts of khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Other caravans at Nowshera, Mardan, Swabi and Swat Interchanges warmly received main rally led by Engr Amir Muqam from Peshawar. The huge number of party workers also joined the Carvan at Mardan Interchange. The party workers caravans emerging from different parts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa also joined main rally at Karnal Sher Khan and Swabi Interchanges. Engineer Amir Muqam, spoke to the media before the PML-N caravans left for Islamabad. He said “We have come out for the supremacy of Law and Justice. I am giving a message to the people that on one hand there are anti state elements in the country and on the other hand there are people who love the country and its institutions.” Engr Amir Muqam added. He said Justice and law should be the same for everyone. He said the caravans of thousands of the people would join us at the Mardan, Karnal Sher Khan and Swabi Interchanges would go to Islamabad for sit-in. On arrival at Islamabad, Engr Amir Muqam claimed that Imran Niazi was attacking country institutions. Later, the carvan comprised of thousands of party workers led by Engr Amir Muqam warmly received at the venue of the protest rally. The carvan of people comprised of thousands of vehicles also chanted slogans in favor of Engineer Amir Muqam and warmly received him with rose petals on his car.



PESHAWAR: Provincial PPP President Women Wing Senator Robina Khalid with other party activists chanting slogans during PDM's protest rally. — F.P. photo by Ghulam Murtaza

Two-day SAR training concluded

PESHAWAR (APP): A two-day training workshop on “Self-Assessment Report Writing” concluded at Northwest School of Medicine here on Monday. The workshop was organized by the Quality Enhancement Cell of Northwest School of Medicine at Auditorium Hall for program team members to facilitate them in writing Self Assessment Reports (SAR) of academic and clinical programmes. The resource person for the workshop was Dr. Syeda Asia Bukhari, Director, Khyber Medical University) Quality Enhancement Cell (QEC). The workshop was appreciated by the participants. On the last day, Chairman Alliance Healthcare Professor Dr. Muhammad Tariq Khan attended the closing ceremony as a special guest and distributed certificates among the participants of the workshop. Principal Professor Dr. Noor ul Iman also addressed the opening ceremony of the workshop. She appreciated the role of QEC and assured the department of its full support in organizing such events and workshops. At the end of the workshop, Focal Person QEC Dr. Neelum Ali thanked the Chief Guest, Principal, Resource Person of the workshop, participants and management of the workshop.

KP Governor lauds FC role in fight against terrorism

PESHAWAR (APP): The newly appointed Commandant Frontier Constabulary (FC) Moazzam Jah Ansari Monday appreciated the role of the Constabulary in fight against terrorism and maintaining law and order at the province. The FC commandant called on Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Ghulam Ali here and informed him about the professional services of Frontier Constabulary. Caretaker provincial cabinet members Fazl Elahi and Rahmat Salam Khattak, former Deputy Speaker Khushdal Khan, along with the representative delegations of the business community, lawyers and doctors from Peshawar and other areas of the province also met the governor separately and discussed various issues including public welfare. The delegation during the meeting expressed regret over the heartbreaking incidents on May 9 and 10 and said that the people of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, including Peshawar, are with the government and security forces against unrest. The governor said that this is our country and it is the duty of all the political parties and activists to protect its sovereignty. He assured that soon the reconstruction and rehabilitation work on damaged national properties would be carried out besides the development works across the province. He urged the people to monitor all the development projects themselves and ensure transparency and quality. The governor congratulated Moazzam Jah Ansari on assuming the new responsibilities and expressed his best wishes.

YDA stage protest

PESHAWAR (APP): The office-bearers of the Young Doctors Association KP including trainees’ doctors staged a protest against non-payment of salaries to medical officers. Boycott of elective services continues across the province, said Young Doctors Association Dr. Faisal while talking to media men. Salary has not been paid on time for the last three months and even this month, there is still no information about the salary, Dr. Faisal added. There are more than 6000 TMOs in the province, spokesperson Dr. Faisal said. He said in recent inflation the trainees’ doctors are in great trouble after stopping the salaries.



PESHAWAR: Members of All Municipal Workers Union WSSP chanting slogans during a protest in favour of their demands. — F.P. photo

Disclosing info to PTI leader: SHO Gulbahar sent to jail

Humayun Khan

PESHAWAR: Judicial Magistrate Peshawar Faheem Ahmad has sent Station House Officer (SHO) Gulbahar Fawad Ali to jail on judicial remand to jail for 14 days on alleged protection to former Member Provincial Assembly (MPA) Malak Wajid from arrest, on Monday. According to prosecution, SHO Gulbahar has disclosed information to former MPA for his nomination in First Information Report (FIR) against violence and burning state properties after arrest of Imran Khan by Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) activists in Peshawar. SHO Gulbahar Fawad has allegedly said to switch-off phone because Malak Wajid is nominated in FIR for instigating PTI's workers for violence. However, Sub Inspector Hassan Ali has filed complaint against SHO Gulbahar Fawad Ali while sent him to jail on 14 days judicial remand on his appearance before court. Meanwhile, Additional District and Session Judge Atta Ullah Jan has acquitted three culprits including School's principal in murder case. According to prosecution, Bilal Ahmad Shah, Essa Khan and Afzal Khan nominated in murder case of teacher Mehrab Nabi on the premises Parahipura police on 15th April 2019 on complaint the deceased's brother. The counsel Muhammad Ibrahim Khan Advocate argued that Ahmad Shah is school's principal and the other accused are his friends while deceased's Mehrab Nabi found dead in his room and added that prosecution has failed to establish evidence against the alleged culprits.

Transporters demand compensation for losses incurred by protestors

PESHAWAR (APP): The transporter community has suffered losses of millions of rupees due to suspension of their businesses during the violent protests of PTI workers on May 10th, last and demanded of the government to compensate their financial losses to enable them continue their transport services. President Public Transport Owners Association, Khan Zaman Afridi told media persons that due to the protest and ransacking spree of the PTI workers all the transport services remained suspended in the province causing losses of millions of rupees to the owners. He demanded of the provincial government to take notice of the situation as the transporter community adds its hefty share in government exchequer through taxes and penalties. He also demanded that the transporters must be provided security in future to run their businesses during such situations. The leaders of the transporters’ association demanded of the caretaker KP government and Transport Department to compensate their losses within three days after assessment of the losses so that their worries and concerns could be addressed.

Dr. Shuaib defends PhD dissertation

PESHAWAR (APP): Dr. Muhammad shuaib has successfully defended his PhD dissertation titled “Effect of inclusion of soybean hulls in ration on performance, nutrient digestibility, and egg quality at peak production period in laying hens”. He completed his work under the supervision of Dr. Abdul Hafeez, Associate Professor, Department of Poultry Science, Faculty of Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Sciences, the University of Agriculture Peshawar. It was recommended that soybean hulls may be used for inclusion at 3 percent along with enzyme β -Mannanase at 20mg/kg as replacement of soybean meal at 3 percent in layer diet at peak production period. This replacement will help in effective utilization of soybean hull as a replacement of expensive soybean meal in formulation of layer diet. His thesis was evaluated by renowned professors from Germany and USA. He is also awardee of HEC indigenous scholarship as well as IRSIP Fellowship for USA University of Georgia for PhD research study. The participants congratulated Dr. Muhammad Shuaib on completion of his PhD Degree.

Vandalised PBC building opened for public to witness scale of destruction violence



PESHAWAR (APP): The administration of Pakistan Broadcasting Corporation (PBC) on Monday opened the vandalized building of PBC Peshawar for public to witness the scale of destruction and violence caused by the miscreants on May 10 to the offices of the two national media organisations including PBC and Associated Press of Pakistan (APP). Students of different colleges and schools and general public visited different sections of the building here and were briefed about the losses caused by angry mob during violent protests in the provincial capital. They were informed that Peshawar Radio Station is the oldest in Pakistan and set up in 1935, while Marconi on the request of Abdul Qayyum Khan personally engineered a transmitter and donated to it which was inaugurated by Sir Ralph Edwin Hotchkiss Griffith, the Governor of the then North-West Frontier Province. The officials of Radio Peshawar told the students that the angry mob not only vandalized the building of PBC but also took computers and other electronic appliances with them which were having audio archive converted from tape to CDs and computers. An official of PBC Ikramullah said that the staff saved audio archive and record of prominent leaders, singers, scholars and others in their original form on the day of incident however the converted record was stolen by the attackers. The visitors were informed that PBC always promoted peace, tolerance and harmony in the society and attacking such an institution was unjustified, adding that those who attacked the building were not patriotic Pakistan.

The PBC building would remain open for public till Friday, May 19, Ikramullah said adding that students could visit the building from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. while the general public would be allowed from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. Meanwhile, with generous financial assistance by the Corp Commander Peshawar, the renovation and rehabilitation work started at the building while the Peshawar station started its transmission on the very next day of the incident after a transmitter donated by the Corp Commander.

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PESHAWAR: A view of block road front front of Provincial Assembly and Peshawar High Court. — F.P. photo



In brief

Five killed in firing incident

QUETTA (INP): Crossfire between two neighbors took lives of five persons including four real brothers and injured 14 others over a construction dispute in Quetta. According to police, two groups of Lehri tribe exchanged harsh words over the adjacent construction in Gahi Khan Chowk at the Sariyab Road area. The clash of words later on entered in exchange of fire which resulted in the death of four real brothers. Eight others including the victim's mother, father, and grandfather were also injured. One young man from the other group was also killed, and six others got bullets injuries. The Kechi Beg SHO said the clash started between two neighbors over the construction of a little extension in front of a house. The bodies and the injured were taken to the Civil Hospital and Bolan Medical Hospital. According to Justice Surgeon Dr Ayesha Faiz, those who died were hit by bullets in their upper torsos, causing instant death. The injured were taken to the trauma centre.

Buner activists to join sit-in

F.P. Report

BUNER: Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) Buner chapter has lift for Islamabad for participation in sit-in front of Supreme Court in a caravan of motorcades, on Monday. The caravan led by Jamiat-e-Ulema Fazal (JUI-F) Emir Mufti Fazal Ghafor and Maulana Saeed-ur-Rehman Mufakir, Qari Arifullah and PMLN district president Salar Khan and general secretary Shah Bakht Rawan Khan as well as PPP district president Saifullah Khan and general secretary Rafiqullah Khan advocate moved from Swari towards its destination Islamabad. However, the district police were active to arrest the activists of PTI who were identified through photo shoots during demonstration at circuit house gate on 9th this month. As per DPO 14 activists were charged and arrested on the same night and 25 more were later on charged after identification. He confided cases were registered and those were bailed out would have to face trials in court adding some of them were sent to judicial lockup under 3 MPO and they would have to stay there till detention period.

Political activists joined PPP

F.P. Report

HUB: Pakistan People's Party organized a grand inclusion program in the border city of Hub, Balochistan, in which the well-known and influential personalities of Hub district, Khalifa Nawaz Ali (Dargah Shah Noorani), along with all his community and devotees, joined the Pakistan People's Party. Apart from them, Mir Hamal Khan Murri, Allah Rakhia Bugti and Walin Murri also joined the Pakistan People's Party along with their entire community. Other dignitaries who joined the party include Raj Muhammad Marri, Kamal Khan Marri, Tal Khan Marri, Dr. Wahid Baksh Mughiri and Dr. Ali Gul Mughiri who joined the party under the high devoted leadership of Chairman Bilawal Bhutto, Mr. Asif Ali Zardari and Mir Ali Hassan Zehri. The dignitaries who joined the party on this occasion assured Mir Ali Hassan Zehri that they are with the PPP and were impressed by PPP and Mir Ali Hassan Zehri's services to the region and his leadership skills and the senior leadership of the party.



QUETTA: Governor of Balochistan Malik Abdul Wali Kakar addressing during a ceremony.

PHC CJ stresses early disposal of cases

F.P. Report

ABBOTTABAD: Chief Justice of Peshawar High Court, Justice Musarat Hilali on Monday stressed for early disposal of the cases of under trial prisoners. The Chief Justice, Peshawar High Court visited District Bar Association Abbottabad to grace the occasion as a Chief Guest on the Eid Millan Party, says a press release.

She was accompanied by Justice Abdul Shakoor, Justice Kamran Hayat Miankhalil and Justice Muhammad Ijaz Khan, Judges of the Peshawar High Court. She addressed the District Bar Association and sensitized the legal fraternity about their role in the administration of Justice. The lawyers were also sensitized to extend allout cooperation to the family courts enabling them to dispose of family cases at the earliest within the statutory period provided in law.

Stress was made on the early disposal of cases of under trial prisoners cases as the jails are over-crowded and there is alarming increase in pendency of



such cases with each passing day. Her ladyship also sensitized the legal fraternity about the importance of liaison between the bench and the bar, so as to maintain the confidence of the public on the judicial system. These two wheels of the justice system should act coherently and collaboratively to manifestly establish the rule of law across the board.

Her ladyship was pleased to stress for expeditious disposal of the under trial prisoner cases. She while addressing the Family Court Judges, directed them to take genuine efforts for reconciliation in family cases before passing of decree for dissolution of marriage. Her ladyship also directed the Judicial Officers and the

members of the Bar to avoid unnecessary adjournments in all cases.

Her ladyship also inaugurated the newly constructed 06 Court rooms. She has undertaken the visit of Copying/Scanning Branch and Bar Room and stated that its establishment will provide copies of the record to the litigants without any delay. The president DBA requested for extension of the Bar Room. Her ladyship said that the request would be considered favorably. Her ladyship also held a meeting with the Judicial Officers. During the interaction she stressed on strictly observing the court timings, dress code, sitting in the court room and earlier disposal of family as well as cases of under trial prisoners.

Board secretary visits alternate exam hall

F.P. Report

LOWER DIR: The secretary Board of Intermediate and Secondary Education (BISE) Malakand Prof Saeed Ahmad Sani along with board's superintendent Haya Mehmood and assistant Khaista Zaman on Monday visited the examination hall at the district assembly hall Balambat allocated to the students of the damaged Frontier Corps School and College Balambat that was set on fire by violent protesters on May 9. The 37-room building of the school was fully damaged and ransacked.

The board officials provided stationary, examination sheets and other necessary documents to the

supervisory staff. They also met the school's principal Ijaz Ahmad and discussed the matters pertaining to the ongoing SSC annual examination. The visiting officials condemned the May 9 vandalism and looting and termed it an anti-education attempt. The board secretary also encouraged the students and asked them to attempt their papers wholeheartedly and fearlessly. He said the culprits would be defeated with the power of pen and book. He stressed upon the parents to keep a vigilant eye on their children so that no one could mislead them.

Recovery: The Lower Dir police on Monday claimed to have recovered a gun along with barrel, 5

sign boards, one table, 60 chairs, 10 wooden benches, one water filtration machine, one gas cylinder, one stove, one fan and a flag pipe which were taken away by protesters from the FC School and College Balambat and other government buildings on May 9 in the jurisdiction of Balambat police station.

According to a statement issued by the Lower Dir police five different cases against the 204 accused had been registered at Chakdara, Balambat, Timergara and Munda. It said that 174 of the total had been arrested so far while raids were being conducted to arrest the rest of the people charged in those cases.

Chilam Josh spring festival is in full-swing

F.P. Report

CHITRAL: The Four-day Chilam Josh spring festival is in full-swing in the three Kalash valleys Rumbur, Bumburate and Birir valley in Lower Chitral district.

The main function of the event was held in Bumburate valley, where the Kalash people sprinkled milk on their loved ones and prayed for good fortune. Large number of domestic and foreign tourist also witnessed the event and shown keen interest in traditions of local tribes. They also lauded the arrangements made by KPCTA for assistance and facilitation of visitors.

They would stay for several days to enjoy the local culture, traditions, tourist attractions and festival in the scenic valleys of the district. Attired in their traditional dresses, the women, children and men danced and sang together to celebrate the festival. The elderly Kalash women and children distributed milk and yogurt of goats and sheep among the children for drinking and eating.

The Kalash people, including men, women and children in groups along with

their goats and sheep go to the fields and green pastures. Officials at the Tourist Information Centre in Chitral briefed foreign tourists upon their arrival in the town. The tourists are provided brochures, pamphlets, maps and other informative material and guidelines about the local culture and traditions and the scenic attractions in the three Kalash valleys - Bumbure, Birir and Rumbur. Kalash people wear new dresses and prepare various dishes to welcome the Chilam Josh spring festival.

The festival is the most important event of the Kalash people as it signifies the end of chilling cold in the mountainous region and the people celebrate the arrival of spring and summer seasons. Kalashis make arrangements for taking their herds to the summer pastures. They dance to the traditional music and drumbeats. Young girls and boys sing and dance in groups in the community halls.

Main feature of the festival is selection of life partner for unmarried boys and girls and event culminates with the loving couples tying the knot. Speaking on the occasion,

the Director General of KPCTA highlighted the significant cultural and religious value of the Kalash community in the valley. He emphasized the unique cultural practices and traditions of the Kalash people, which have been preserved for centuries and continue to fascinate visitors from all over the world.

He also expressed his commitment to promoting tourism and cultural activities in the region, with a special focus on highlighting the indigenous Kalash culture. The Director General stressed the need to develop sustainable tourism practices that would benefit both the local communities and visitors while preserving the natural beauty and cultural heritage of the valley for future generations to enjoy. He urged everyone to continue working together for the betterment of the region. He said that festivals like introduce the serene valleys, ensure the access of local and foreign tourists to the beautiful sites of the province, and provide them with better facilities during their stay.

Tribesmen express unity with armed forces

F.P. Report

LANDI KOTAL: A rally was taken out to show support with the Pak Army here at Bacha Khan Square, Landi Kotal Bazaar on Monday. Led by former Member Provincial Assembly (MPA) Shafiq Sher Afridi and Tehsil chairman Shah Khalid Shinwari, a large number of political volunteers, traders and people from different walks of life took part in it.

The participants while holding national flags and banners inscribed with statements in favor of the forces and raising slogans like "Long Live Pak Army" marched from Bacha Khan to in front of the local press club. Addressing on the occasion Shafiq Sher Afridi and others said the Pak forces were the guardians of ideological and geographical guardians of the country and defamation of forces would not be tolerated.

They condemned the baseless allegations leveled by a specific political party and its workers against the forces and said "the whole nation stands aside with their brave soldiers". No one could deny the voluble sacrifices of the Pak Army, it rendered for the sake of the country they added and said the entire nation should respect the Pak Army from the bottom of their hearts.

The speakers also criticized the miscreants for dishonoring monuments of the martyred soldiers in their riots on May 09, 2023. They added that the purpose of the rally was to demonstrate their affectionateness with the forces.

PML-N flays PTI violent protests

Hafiz Aziz-ur-Rehman

HAFIZABAD: While rejecting and condemning Politics of arson and encirclement of PTI, Former Federal Minister and leader of PML-N Ch. Liaqat Abbas Bhatti said that our first priority is Pakistan and law enforcement agencies and Pakistan Army are guaranty of integrity, progress and prosperity of the Country.

While addressing a press conference at Pindi Bhattian, he said that as like Iltaf Husain (Karachi), end of Imran Khan and PTI would bad because PTI tried to harm Pakistan to adopt evil design and agenda of Anti-Pakistan forces. He said that people of Pindi Bhattian was rejected anti-Pakistan politics of PTI and condemned anti-army agenda of Imran Khan. He said that people of the country were standing shoulder to shoulder with Pakistan army and other law enforcement agencies. He said that our Pakistan Army was rendering great sacrifices to foiled evil designs of anti-Pakistan forces

PML-N leadership tortured: Political reviles broke legs of vice president PML-N union council Rasulpur Tarar and fled away from crime scene to leave him unconscious. Police have registered case against five accused and shifted injured Deed Abbas to hospital.

According to details, vice president PML-N Union Council Rasulpur Tarar Deed Abbas was carrying his children to school. On the way five accused Riasat and Faraz Ahmad etc. tortured, broke his legs and fled away to leave him unconscious.

Flour prices to up despite highest wheat cultivation in decade

Falze Haq

MARDAN: Despite the abundance of wheat in the country, the price of flour has increased. According to the details, the best bounty of wheat has ripened in the country, while the harvesting of wheat is going on vigorously all over the country, Sindh province.

Wheat harvesting has been completed and wheat has been preserved, while wheat harvesting is going on in most areas of Punjab and Pakhtunkhwa has been reserved for use, while the landowners who grow wheat on a large area have sold their excess wheat to the public and private sectors, due to which the production of wheat in the country has increased significantly, according to sources in Mardan district.

The price of government flour will be increased from Rs 1300 per 20 kg to the official rate of Rs 2480 per 20 kg from tomorrow at designated dealers. While the price of fine atta has increased to Rs.3400, special is available at Rs.3300 and normal is available at Rs.3100 per 20 kg pack.

MS inspects DHQ's wards: District Headquarters (DHQ) Medical Superintendent Mardan Dr. Javed Iqbal, visited various departments at the hospital. On this occasion, the staff of related departments were present. Dr. Javed

Iqbal checked the attendance of doctors, nurses and paramedics staff. made a detailed review of the provision of medical facilities to the patients, on this occasion the President of Paramedical Association Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Sharafat ullah Yousafzai was also present.

The doctors and hospital staff present on the occasion gave a briefing to Dr. Javed Iqbal went to various departments in the outpatient department and during his visit he discussed with the patients and their family members about the facilities provided and the problems faced by them and got awareness about the problems faced by the medical staff on duty. Dr. Javed Iqbal said on this occasion that providing the best treatment to the people is the first priority. There should be no problem in providing.

PTI's activists held in violence: Around a hundred activists of those who damaged national property were arrested in the protest held by PTI in Mardan, while the series of arrests continues rapidly. The arrested persons were transferred to Haripur, Dera and Mardan jails. According to Mardan police, the arrests are based on videos and authentic reports.

According to the details, the list of arrested persons was released to the institu-

tions by the various police stations of Mardan. After the arrest of Tehreek-e-Insaf Chairman Imran Khan on May 9, thousands of workers protested fiercely in Mardan like the rest of the country

Demonstrations were held in which a video of damage to military and national property was uploaded on social media. On the instructions of the higher authorities of Mardan Police, about 100 workers have been arrested from the limits of Sadar Police Station, City Police Station, Shehbazgarhi, Katlang, Jabbar, Lundkhwar Takhtbhai, Shergarh and other police stations.

But they have been transferred to Haripur, Mardan and Dera Central Jails. it is clear that Mardan Police has opened an FIR against former Minister Atif Khan and former Members of Assemblies Abdul Salam Afridi and Ifthar Mashwani, Tufail Anjum, Ameer Farzand, Zahir Shah Toru, Malik Shaukat. It has adopted a policy of not making the entire FIR public. In this regard, top police officials have clarified that the arrests of rioters are going on continuously, while the leadership and important leaders of Tehreek-e-Insaf have gone underground, due to which the rate of arrests is low.

Police arrests 174 PTI saboteurs in Dir

F.P. Report

LOWER DIR: Police arrested 174 Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) activists arrested, on Monday for damaging, stealing and torching government properties in the garb of protest in the district on 10th May.

Spokesman Dir Lower police on Monday informed that so far the police have arrested 174 accused out of 204 nominated in five separate cases from Chakdara, Balambat, Timergara and Munda areas.

In case number 124 Chakdara police station, the police have arrested a total of 31 accused while in case number 64 of police station Balambat, a total of 67 accused have been arrested. In case numbers 188 and 189 of Timergara police station, a total of 36 accused were arrested while in case number 63 of Munda police station, a total of 14 accused have been arrested so far. The police in Dir Lower have also arrested 26 people under 3MPO Act while the Munda police have recovered various items stolen by the PTI workers during the protest.

Jirga resolve blood feud at Timergara: A jirga of local elders and politicians resolved a blood feud between two families during a function held at Jamia Masjid Sheikhhan Timergara. A year ago a youth identified as Fazal Hayat, a resident of Sheikhhan Timergara was killed when two youths from the families of Sheikh Essa Muhammad of Sheikhhan and Abdul Khaliq of Danwa had clashed over a petty issue in the Danwa area.

A jirga of local elders and politicians started efforts to resolve the matter peacefully and after several attempts it succeeded to settle the feud. A

function in this regard was held at Sheikhhan Timergara which was attended by members from the rival families, local elders, jirga members, religious figures and political activists.

Ji district chief Izazul Mulk Afkari, Dr Muhammad Rasool Khan, Malik Muhammad Ayub, Sheikh Essa Muhammad, former provincial minister Mahmood Zeb Khan, JUI-F Maulana Nabi Shah and others addressed the function. They lauded the efforts of the jirga and said that Islamic teaching also stressed on reconciliation and forgiveness.

The speakers said the jirga system in Pukhtun society had a vital role in settling families' disputes. They said the jirga was honoured and regarded in society. They said that it was far better for a man to forgive his opponent instead of taking revenge from him.

The speakers said the people had lost trust in the judicial system as there had been no justice and people had to suffer more for getting justice. They said that millions of cases had been pending in courts for years and the petitioners had fed up. The rivals hugged each other on this occasion and promised to live like brothers in future.

Construction of bypass demanded: The residents of Talash on Sunday demanded the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government to immediately start work on the much-awaited Kalpani Talash bypass road. Talking to this reporter at Talash the area elders Dr Noor Muhammad, Sher Muhammad Utmankhel, former district councilor Muhammad Ibrahim and Haji Wali Rehman said that construction work on the road project had stopped due to unknown

reasons some six months ago.

The residents said the 10kilometer Kalpani Talash bypass road was approved by the PTI previous government in 2015 and work on it was started in 2016. They said that despite the passage of seven years the project was yet to be completed. The area elders said that work on the road was expedited a year ago by the previous deputy commissioner Muhammad Zubair Khan Niazi as he had taken it seriously.

They said that after the transfer of Mr Niazi work again was stopped on the project. They said that no one could deny the importance of this road project as it would benefit the people of Lower Dir, Upper Dir, Bajaur and Chitral once it was completed. They said the existing GT road always remained blocked due to rush or emergency. They also demanded the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government and NHA authorities to take notice of the matter and release adequate funds for it.

2 brothers shot dead in Swabi

F.P. Report

SWABI: Two brothers were killed by their rivals after an exchange of words in Swabi, police confirmed on Monday.

The shooting incident took place at the victim's shop near Swabi Link road. The suspects escaped from the crime scene. Emergency responders including cops rushed to the crime scene, collected necessary evidence and shifted the bodies to a state hospital for legal formalities. Police have formed a team to arrest the killers.



HYDERABAD: PPP leader Maula Bux Chandio addressing party workers.



Family with disabled children among hundreds of Gaza's homeless

GAZA CITY (AP): When Najah Nabhan learned that her home was about to be bombed by Israel, she knew she had to get out quickly. What she didn't know was how she would get her four children with special needs out of the building in time. With the help of neighbors, her children, who are unable to walk on their own, were carried to safety. But the airstrike flattened the three-story building, leaving 42 members of Nabhan's extended family homeless and leaving her children without the wheelchairs, crutches and medical equipment they need to move about.

"I needed time to think what to take and what to leave. We have important documents and reports of the children's conditions and history, medications and tools. All of them are gone," said Najah, sitting on a mat in the debris-strewn front yard of what used to be her home in northern Gaza. The entire family gathered in the yard, sitting under the shadow of a tree and receiving visitors who came to show solidarity. Nabhan's home was destroyed by the Israeli strike only hours before a cease-fire took effect. At least 11 other residential buildings, some containing many family homes, were destroyed by Israeli aircraft in the five days of fighting.

It was the latest in a long line of armed battles between the military and rocket-firing Palestinian militant groups over the past 15 years. Human rights groups say a total of 60 housing units were destroyed, displacing about 400 people during the campaign. Israel says all of the buildings it targeted were used as command centers by Islamic Jihad. "The Islamic Jihad terror organizations deliberately operates and embeds its military assets in densely populated civilian areas," the army said. An Israeli military official, speaking to reporters on condition of anonymity under briefing guidelines, said these command centers were usually hidden in residential buildings of one to three stories. He said Israel called the inhabitants and ordered them to evacuate ahead of time. Israel says such calls are meant to prevent harm to uninvolved civilians. But the army doesn't always take such precautions. At the start of the offensive, aircraft targeted apartments and homes of three Islamic Jihad commanders without warning, killing them. Some members of their families, including women and children, as well as neighbors were also killed.

Israeli officials say they do their best to avoid civilian casualties, but acknowledge that operations are carried out where uninvolved noncombatants may be harmed. They accuse militants of using civilians as human shields. Nabhan and other residents



said they were surprised by the sudden phone call. "I was at home, just finished having lunch and was making tea," she said. "I did not believe it's our house that is being targeted." "My feet could not hold me. I sat helpless until people took us out," she recounted.

In a video circulated on social media, a relative is seen pleading with the military not to carry out the strike. The man, a neighbor and distant relative, eventually asked the military to limit the airstrike "to the apartment of the guilty" rather than wiping out the entire building. It was unclear if he was referring to someone specific or speaking in hypothetical terms. With minutes to spare, the neighbors carried Nabhan's 24-year-old daughter, Ayat, who can't walk, Areej, 18, who suffers from epilepsy and walking difficulties, and 14-year-old Haneen, who has a chronic illness and movement issues, from the ground-floor apartment. They went upstairs and carried out her son Jalal, who also uses a wheelchair. After the bombing, the family worked late into the night sifting through the rubble, but was unable to recover Ayat's and Jalal's wheelchairs, Haneen's crutches or the correction belt of a 3-year-old niece, who has a deformity in her leg. Jalal Nabhan, 30, angrily dismissed the Israeli allegations. "Can people like me fire a rocket?" he said, pointing toward his legs and at his disabled sisters. "No one from us can fire a rocket toward Israel." The fighting erupted when Israeli airstrikes killed three senior Islamic Jihad commanders in what it said was a response to intense rocket fire the previous week following the death of an Islamic Jihad activist from a hunger strike while in Israeli custody. The five-day battle left 33 Palestinians dead, according to Palestinian health officials. Among them were 13 civilians, including four women and six children. At least three of the civilians,

including two children, were killed by misfired Islamic Jihad rockets, according to rights groups.

Eighteen militants, including six senior Islamic Jihad members, were killed, according to Palestinian officials, while two people were killed in Israel from Palestinian rocket fire. Islamic Jihad fired nearly 1,500 rockets toward Israel, according to the army. After the airstrike, the Nabhan family, including Najah and her husband, their children and grandchildren, spent the night at the homes of neighbors, friends and in-laws. Some slept in the front yard next to the rubble. Neighbors denied the Israeli claims that the family was connected to a militant group. "They are simple people who do menial, intermittent jobs to earn whatever," said Mohammed al-Arabid, a neighbor. One was a taxi driver, another was a construction worker, a third owned a donkey-drawn cart he would use to help people move garbage or furniture. The family, among Gaza's poorest, built the home just four years ago with donations from charities. Before that, they lived in makeshift structures with tin roofs.

Palasteen Nabhan, 30, lived on the third floor with her husband and four children. Her home was the last to be completed, just last year. "My apartment had windows, painted walls, and tile. It was a palace for me," she said. But rebuilding will not be easy. The family now joins the long list of displaced Gazans seeking aid from the Hamas government, the United Nations or international non-governmental organizations to rebuild homes lost in conflict.

Some of the houses destroyed in broader conflicts in 2021 and even 2014 still have not been rebuilt. Najah Nabhan says she will wait as long as it takes. "We can live in the yard, on the ground, eat tree leaves, for the sake of getting our house rebuilt," she said.

Sudanese singer Shaden killed in firing

KHARTOUM (Agencies): Shaden Gardood, a prominent Sudanese singer, has been killed in crossfire between the Sudanese army and the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF) in Omdurman city. Fierce battles engulfed Omdurman and its twin city Khartoum, when Gardood was killed, despite an agreement to protect civilians before ceasefire talks due to resume in Saudi Arabia.

Omdurman has seen heavy fighting since the war began on April 15 as the two sides fought through several truces and have shown no sign of being willing to compromise. Gardood lived in the el-Hashmab neighborhood, which is near the National TV and Radio building, a focal point for the fighting. Omdurman is a city of considerable significance, even giving its name to a genre of music called "Omdurman songs", which fuses Egyptian and European orchestral influences with Sudanese rhythms and melodies and was first broadcast on Radio Omdurman. The BBC reported that Gardood promoted peace and security in her region and promoted the culture of her marginalised community, the Baggara from South Kordofan.

Tributes flooded in online after her niece confirmed her death on Facebook, stating Gardood "was like a mother and a beloved to me, we were just chatting, may God give her mercy". Several posts suggested that Gardood had been killed after a mortar hit her home. The singer had been active on Facebook in the days leading up to her death, using the platform to criticise the war while offering encouragement to other civilians trapped in the fighting. In a recent post, she said: "We have been trapped in our houses for 25 days ... we are hungry and living in an enormous fear, but are full of ethics and values." The BBC reported that Gardood is survived by her 15-year-old son, Hamoudy, and her mother and sister. More than 600 civilians have been reported to have died in the war so far, although figures are expected to be much higher.

Iran summons Iraq envoy

TEHRAN (Agencies): Iran's foreign ministry has summoned the Iraqi ambassador to Tehran to "strongly protest" against the continued presence of groups it says conduct "terrorist" activities. The envoy was called in to receive Tehran's ire over "an invitation to members of secessionist groups for an official event" and "continued movements of some terrorist groups" in Iraqi Kurdish region, state-affiliated media reported.

Though the groups were not named, the reference appeared to be to Kurdish armed groups, including the Democratic Party of Iranian Kurdistan, a banned group that has advocated for the separation of the northwestern province of Kurdistan from Iran and the overthrow of the government. The foreign ministry reportedly conveyed that the groups' presence goes against a security agreement Iran and Iraq signed last month in Baghdad. Iran's security chief, Ali Shamkhani, had at the time said Tehran hopes the agreement "can completely and fundamentally end the vicious actions" of Kurdish groups and stop Iraqi borders being used to threaten Iran.

Iraq's semi-autonomous Kurdish region hosts camps and rear bases operated by several Iranian Kurdish factions, which Iran has accused of serving Western or Israeli interests in the past and conducting operations with their support. Last year, after protests erupted across Iran following the death in police custody of an Iranian Kurdish woman who was arrested for alleged non-compliance with the country's dress laws for women, the Kurdish groups came into renewed focus. Tehran repeatedly blamed them for smuggling weapons into the country through neighbouring Iraq's Kurdish region, and for trying to mount "terrorist" operations. It also called on Baghdad to disarm the groups and prevent Iraqi soil from being used against Iran.

Three dead after Cyclone Mocha hits Myanmar, BD

YANGON (Agencies): Cyclone Mocha has crashed ashore in Myanmar as thousands of people sought shelter in monasteries, pagodas and schools. One of the most powerful storms to ever hit the region crossed the coast of northwestern Rakhine State, south of the Bangladesh border, uprooting trees, bringing down pylons and cables, and creating a tidal surge that inundated streets in the low-lying region.

Rescue services in Myanmar said two people were killed in a landslide, while local media said another man died after he was hit by a falling tree. With winds of up to 250 kilometres per hour (155 miles per hour), Mocha struck between Myanmar's Sittwe and Cox's Bazar in Bangladesh, the home to nearly one million mostly Muslim Rohingya refugees who were forced out of Myanmar in a 2017 military crackdown that is now the subject of a genocide investigation at the International Court of Justice. The main Rohingya refugee camp in Cox's Bazar appeared to have been spared the worst of the cyclone, but it is likely to take some time for a clearer picture to emerge. "It will take days and weeks to confirm the real damage [from the cyclone] as there are several small scattered coastal islands where fishermen don't have means to communicate and don't pay heed to warnings," Al

Jazeera's Tanvir Chowdhury said from Cox's Bazar. In Myanmar, early reports suggested Sittwe, the capital of Rakhine state, had been badly damaged.

Local media showed hoardings buckled and thrown onto the road, and fallen trees and pylons blocking the streets. A storm surge of as much as 3.5 metres also caused extensive flooding in the low-lying area, according to a flash update from the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA). Myanmar's military information office said the cyclone had caused damage in Sittwe, Kyaukpadaung and Gwa townships. It also tore roofs off sports buildings on the Coco Islands, about 425km (264 miles) southwest of the country's largest city, Yangon, it added. The collapse of a communication tower also cut out internet and phone services, complicating damage assessment efforts. "Early reports suggest the damage is extensive and needs among already vulnerable communities, particularly displaced people, will be high," UNOCHA said in its update after the storm hit. Myanmar was plunged into crisis when the military seized power in a coup in February 2021, sparking mass protests that evolved into an armed rebellion when the army responded with force.

People in Rakhine have

suffered years of conflict and displacement, with hundreds of thousands of Rohingya confined to temporary camps where their movements are restricted. The military and the United League of Arakan (ULA), the political wing of the ethnic Arakan Army, each claim administrative control in Rakhine state, which could further hamper relief efforts. A large number of structures in Sittwe and Kyauktaw had been damaged, and schools and monasteries where people had been sheltering were left without roofs. "The whole northern Rakhine has suffered severe damage," Arakan Army spokesperson Khine Thu Kha said. "People are in trouble." A rescue team from the country's eastern Shan state announced on its Facebook page that they had recovered the bodies of a couple buried when a landslide caused by heavy rain hit their house in Tachileik township. Local media reported that a man was killed when a banyan tree fell on him in Pyin Oo Lwin township in the central Mandalay Region of Myanmar.

More than 4,000 of Sittwe's 300,000 residents were evacuated to other cities, and more than 20,000 people took shelter in sturdy buildings such as monasteries, pagodas and schools located on the city's highlands, said Tin Nyein Oo, who is volunteering in shelters in Sittwe.

Syria extends permission on bordercrossing

DAMASCUS (Agencies): Syria has extended permission for the United Nations to use two additional border crossings for post-earthquake aid for three more months, a Syrian official has said. Syria "has decided to extend the permission it granted to the UN and its specialised agencies to use the two border crossings of Bab Alsalama and al-Ra'i for an additional period of three months ending on 13 August," Bassam Sabbagh, Syria's UN ambassador, said in a tweet.

"This decision is based on Syria's keenness on enhancing stability and improving the living and humanitarian situation of all Syrians, and comes within its efforts to facilitate the delivery of humanitarian aid to all those in need in all Syria," he added. Syrian President Bashar al-Assad initially agreed to open the two crossings for three months starting on February 13, a week after an earthquake that killed more than 50,000 people in Turkey and Syria. Parts of

the northwest are held by groups opposed to al-Assad in the 12-year-long war. The UN asked Syria's government to extend its approval for the two crossings to deliver aid into opposition-held zones, a spokesperson said. The UN said in a statement that Syrian Foreign Minister Faisal Mekdad conveyed to the UN under-secretary-general for humanitarian affairs, Martin Griffiths, the decision to allow the UN to use the crossings for an additional three months.

The Bab al-Salam crossing was opened to UN humanitarian assistance in February, marking the first time a United Nations convoy crossed to deliver aid since its closure in 2020. Damascus had long opposed cross-border aid deliveries to the rebel enclave. The delay in opening new crossings stalled immediate relief and search and rescue efforts when the "time for effective search and rescue is tragically running out," the International Rescue Committee said in a

statement. The UN has pushed for aid to flow more freely into Syria, especially into the country's northwest, where it estimated more than four million people already required aid before the quake. It wants the aid to move across the front lines within Syria and through border crossings with Turkey.

After years of animosity during Syria's war, the foreign ministers of Russia, Syria, Turkey and Iran met in Moscow this month for high-level talks on rebuilding ties between Ankara and Damascus. Al-Assad was also formally invited to attend the Arab League summit in Saudi Arabia on May 19 in a significant sign that the regional isolation of Damascus has thawed. The restoration of ties with Damascus quickened pace following the deadly February 6 earthquake in Turkey and Syria, and the Chinese-brokered re-establishment of ties between Saudi Arabia and Iran, which had backed opposing sides in the Syrian conflict.

Germany's Scholz vows to support Ukraine

BERLIN (Agencies): Germany will support Ukraine as long as needed, Chancellor Olaf Scholz has said during Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy's first visit to capital Berlin since the start of the Russian invasion in February last year.

"I have said it many times, and I repeat it here today: we will support you for as long as it is necessary," Scholz said during a joint news conference, adding that Germany stood with its partners "for Russia to be held to account for its misdeeds". The Ukrainian leader said Kyiv would always be grateful to Berlin for its support during the war, adding that Ukraine's Western allies could make Russia's defeat "irreversible" as early as this year.

The German government announced 2.7 billion euros (\$3bn) of military aid to Ukraine, its biggest such package yet since the war broke out. The new military aid package, first reported by German weekly Der Spiegel, includes 30 Leopard 1 A5 tanks, 20 Marder armoured personnel carriers, more than 100 combat vehicles, 18 self-propelled Howitzers, 200 reconnaissance drones, four IRIS-T SLM anti-aircraft systems and other air defence equipment. In a tweet soon after the meeting,

Zelenskyy thanked Germany for "the largest military aid" since the invasion. "German air defense systems, artillery, tanks and infantry fighting vehicles are saving Ukrainian lives and bringing us closer to victory," he said. Germany, Europe's largest economy, faced criticism at the start of the war for what some called a hesitant response, but it has become one of Ukraine's biggest providers of financial and military assistance, crucially giving the green light for the delivery of modern battle tanks in the form of its own Leopard 1 and 2 models, along with sophisticated anti-aircraft systems needed to fend off drone and missile attacks. Speaking in Berlin, Zelenskyy reassured his Western allies that his country was preparing a counteroffensive designed to liberate areas occupied by Russia, not to attack Russian territory.

There has been speculation that Ukraine might try to capture areas in Russia and use them as bargaining chips in possible peace negotiations to end the war launched by Moscow in February 2022. Pressed by reporters on the issue, Zelenskyy said: "We don't attack Russian territory, we liberate our own legitimate territory." "We have neither the time nor the strength [to

attack Russia]," he said, according to an official interpreter. "And we also don't have weapons to spare, with which we could do this," Zelenskyy last visited Germany for the Munich Security Conference in February 2022, just before the war broke out.

Berlin was constrained in its support for Ukraine at that time, both by its energy dependence on Russia and a pacifism rooted in its bloody 20th-century history. But days after the war broke out, Scholz announced a major policy - and mindset - shift that Scholz dubbed a "Zeitenwende" or turn of the era. Earlier in the day, Zelenskyy met President Frank-Walter Steinmeier, Germany's head of state, who was snubbed by Kyiv last year, apparently over his previous close ties to Russia, causing a chill in diplomatic relations between Ukraine and Germany. Since then, both Steinmeier and Scholz have visited Ukraine, assuring Zelenskyy of their support for his country's fight against the Russian invasion. After meeting Scholz and other senior officials at the chancellery, the two leaders are expected to fly to the western city of Aachen for Zelenskyy to receive the International Charlemagne Prize awarded to him and the people of Ukraine.

US-Mexico border sees orderly crossings

EL PASO, Texas (AP): The US-Mexico border was relatively calm as the US ended its pandemic-era immigration restrictions and migrants adapted to new asylum rules and legal pathways meant to discourage illegal crossings. A full day after the rules known as Title 42 were lifted, migrants and government officials were still assessing the effects of new regulations adopted by President Joe Biden's administration in hope of stabilizing the Southwest border region and undercutting smugglers who charge migrants to get there.

Migrants are now essentially barred from seeking asylum in the US if they did not first apply online or seek protection in the countries they traveled through. Families allowed in as their immigration cases progress will face curfews and GPS monitoring. Those expelled can now be barred from reentry for five years and face possible criminal prosecution. Across the river from El Paso, Texas, in Ciudad Juárez, Mexico, many migrants watched their cellphones in hopes of getting a coveted appointment to seek entry. The official app to register to enter

the United States underwent changes this week, as it offers appointments for migrants to enter through land crossings. Many migrants in northern Mexico resigned themselves to waiting for an appointment rather than approaching the border without authorization.

"I hope it's a little better and that the appointments are streamlined a little more," said Jeremy Depablos, 21, a Venezuelan traveling with seven cousins who has been waiting in Ciudad Juárez for a month. Fearing deportation, Depablos did not want to cross illegally. "We have to do it the legal way," The US Homeland Security

Department said it has not witnessed any substantial increase in immigration. But in southern Mexico, migrants including children still flocked to railways at Huehuetoca, desperate to clamor aboard freight trains heading north toward the US. The legal pathways touted by the Biden administration consist of a program that permits up to 30,000 people a month from Haiti, Cuba, Nicaragua and Venezuela to enter if they apply online with a financial sponsor and enter

through an airport. About 100 processing centers are opening in Guatemala, Colombia and elsewhere for migrants to apply to go to the US, Spain or Canada. Up to 1,000 can enter daily through land crossings with Mexico if they secure an appointment on the app. If it works, the system could fundamentally alter how migrants come to the southern border. But Biden, who is running for reelection, faces withering criticism from migrant advocates, who say he's abandoning more humanitarian methods, and from Republicans, who claim he's soft on border security. Two legal challenges already loom over the new asylum restrictions.

Title 42 was initiated in March 2020 and allowed border officials to quickly deport asylum seekers on grounds of preventing the spread of COVID-19. But with the national emergency officially over, the restrictions have ended. While Title 42 prevented many from seeking asylum, it carried no legal consequences for expulsion like those under the new rules. In El Paso, a few dozen migrants lingered outside Sacred Heart Catholic Church and shelter, on

streets where nearly 2,000 migrants were camped as recently. The Rev. Daniel Mora said most of the migrants took heed of flyers distributed by US immigration authorities offering a "last chance" to submit to processing and left. El Paso Mayor Oscar Leeser said that 1,800 migrants turned themselves over to Customs and Border Protection. Melissa López, executive director for Diocesan Migrant and Refugee Services at El Paso, said many migrants have been willing to follow the legal pathway created by the federal government, but there are fears about deportation and possible criminal penalties for crossing the border illegally. Border holding facilities in the US were already far beyond capacity in the run-up to Title 42's expiration. In Florida, a federal judge appointed by former President Donald Trump has temporarily halted the administration's plans to release people into the US Customs and Border Protection said it would comply, but called it a "harmful ruling that will result in unsafe overcrowding" at migrant processing and detention facilities.

France promises more tanks, armoured vehicles for Ukraine

PARIS (Agencies): France has promised to send dozens more light tanks and armoured vehicles to Ukraine and provide the necessary training for the country's soldiers to use them effectively. The announcement came after Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy flew into France late to join French President Emmanuel Macron for a working dinner at the Elysee Palace in Paris.

"In the coming weeks, France will train and equip several battalions with tens of armoured vehicles and light tanks including AMX-

10RC," the two leaders said in a joint statement after some three hours of talks. Paris would also focus its efforts "in supporting Ukraine's air defence capacities in order to defend its population against Russian strikes". The statement also warned of enhanced sanctions. "Ukraine and France agree on the need to increase collective pressure on Russia through further sanctions to weaken Russia's ability to continue its illegal war of aggression." The visit to Paris was part of Zelenskyy's whirlwind weekend tour of several key European allies to

drum up military and financial support ahead of an expected major Ukrainian counteroffensive against Russian forces.

After securing a new \$3bn military package from Germany, Zelenskyy said in Berlin that Kyiv and its allies could make a Russian defeat "irreversible" as early as this year. In Paris, Macron reaffirmed that France will continue to provide political, financial, humanitarian and military support to Ukraine for as long as necessary, the statement said. A source at the French presidency told reporters that additional,

more modern defence systems would be made available to Ukraine. "Paris. With each visit, Ukraine's defence and offensive capabilities are expanding," Zelenskyy tweeted as he flew into the Villacoublay airbase. "The ties with Europe are getting stronger, and the pressure on Russia is growing." The French AMX-10RCs vehicles have high speed and manoeuvrability, allowing them to move quickly on the battlefield and change positions. Ukraine's Defence Minister Oleksii Reznikov called them a "sniper rifle on ... fast wheels."

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Political wrangle and national commitment

RECENTLY, Lahore Police and Crime Investigation Agency (CIA) launched a coordinated campaign and arrested PTI leaders Mehmood-ur-Rasheed, Mehar Faisal, and Hammad Azhar along with numerous PTI workers for their alleged involvement in recent violence and attacks against the state institutions. Meanwhile, PTI's key leaders including Shah Mahmood Qureshi, Asad Umar, Chaudhry Fawad Hussian, Omer Sarfraz Cheema, Dr. Yasmin Rashid, Musarrat Cheema, and others were already in police custody over the past few days. The reports suggest that Punjab police have arrested over 3,185 criminals following the violent protests, arson, and vandalism by the workers and supporters of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) after the arrest of Imran Khan.

Pakistan went through unimaginable turmoil following the arrest of the PTI Chairman Imran Khan, when a large number of PTI workers/supporters came out to the streets, took the law into their hands, blocked roads, burnt private properties, and vehicles, attacked the government installations, and particularly targeted Pakistan military and LEAs across the country. Despite burning hundreds of public and private properties including banks, government offices, and vehicles, the PTI protestors torched Radio Pakistan building in Peshawar, Jinnah House/Corps Commander House in Lahore and attacked General Headquarters (GHQ), and other army installations of sensitive nature and of high value that seriously breached national prestige and caused embarrassment for the government and Pakistan Army. Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Asim Munir has already announced that no more attacks on army installations would be tolerated. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif termed May 9 a black day and vowed to bring the perpetrators to justice. Meanwhile, the former premier and the PTI Chairman Imran Khan denied any involvement in the attacks and insisted PTI is a peaceful party.

The recent series of events following Imran Khan's arrest, PTI's violent protests, IK's release from the court, and an apparent disassociation from the violence, the Police's campaign against the perpetrators of violence, amid a high level of propaganda and online defamation campaigns of contesting political groups portrays a gloomy picture of the national politics and create fear/doubts about the future of the country. Realistically, politics has no relation with violence and no one has a right to fuel violence, obstruct the routine life of the public, and spread chaos and destruction as a tactic to achieve political objectives through coercion and intimidation. Meanwhile, the judiciary is firmly stuck on fundamental rights while ignoring the essential duties of the citizens as well as the state's responsibilities regarding the maintenance of peace, protection of public properties, and preservation of the writ of the law.

Presently, each group, every leader, state institutions, courts, and government servants, as well as common citizens had chosen to pursue their political ideology, following their favorite leader with extreme levels of impunity toward national interest, constitution, and sovereignty of the state. After the PTI's violence and chaos, Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) has directed its workers to reach D- Chowk to stage a protest in front Supreme Court against the release and bail of Imran Khan and several other PTI leaders who were allegedly involved in recent violence. The prevailing political culture and role of public institutions and bureaucracy is highly condemnable, in that they all failed to adopt a rational and lawful course, and could not differentiate their preferences vis-a-vis obligation toward their duty and the nation. Thus, the leaders' selfishness starked the Pakistani nation among the global community and caused great embarrassment for faithful and patriots. Such politics is disastrous for the country and must be abandoned by the warring political groups as early as possible.

The top court has recently ordered both political parties to negotiate their issues and create consensus over the upcoming elections and other relevant electoral issues but both groups did not move an inch from their agenda which is deplorable and unfortunate. After all, talks are the only way forward and a charter of democracy is the only solution to the current wrangle, however as early as our leaders grasp this reality, would benefit their politics, the democracy, and the entire nation.

Israel-Palestine conflict: 75 years of failed negotiations

Chris Doyle

WHY after so many years, so many decades, after so much suffering has the international community so notably failed to resolve the Israel-Palestine conflict? This is an understandable question as Palestinians mark another miserable anniversary, the 75 years of the Nakba, the catastrophe. It is reflected in the findings of the Arab News-YouGov poll that highlight the pessimism at the situation, the disenchantment with the international community and Palestinian despair with the possibility of a two-state solution.

This is even more intense as Palestinians reflect on those 75 years - for them the Nakba is a continuous process, one they are still suffering from today, oppression and dispossession at the hands of Israel. So why has peace been so elusive? The amount of attention internationally has rarely been meager. The UN Security Council has debated this issue more than any other, passing dozens of resolutions. It was the UN General Assembly that opted for the partition resolution in 1947.

Since 1967, nearly every US president has made an effort to push some peace plan or other. The European powers have looked to have a role, and Norway even had its chance brokering the Oslo channel. Few conflicts anywhere on the planet have attracted such interest.

Those unfortunate to be caught up in other protracted wars must be truly jealous of. No, the issue was never the amount of attention but the quality. Time was available but serious political will was rarely there to match and not just amongst the parties to the conflict.

From the outset, the international actors never understood the situation in Palestine, and ever worse, at times did not bother. Going back to 1917 and the Balfour declaration, its authors had never visited the country nor did they understand its make up. All too often many politicians took the Bible as their guide not the reality that was actually on the ground. Zionist myths were all too readily swallowed that this was a land a land without a people for a people without a land; that it was a case of an Israeli David against an Arab Goliath and that Israeli brilliance had made the desert bloom. Having taken dozens of British politicians to Palestine over the last 30 years, it never ceases to amaze me how shocked they are at a reality they discovered so at odds with what they imagined. Secondly, many of the international actors were ignorant at best and deeply prejudiced at worst. Arthur Balfour himself was anti-Semitic. Lloyd George was deeply anti-Muslim. From the outset a colonial mentality ensured Palestinians were never treated as a people with rights that had to be honoured, a situation that still

persists in too many quarters today.

Many European leaders tried to save their conscience of the appalling treatment of Jews in Europe by giving in to Zionist demands in Palestine regardless of the impact on the Palestinian Arab population. Germany is a specific case here and Israeli leaders continue to remind them of their historic guilt for what happened under the Nazis. Thirdly, the Zionist movement and Israeli leaders were very successful in targeting the major powers of the day. This started with the Ottoman empire, shirted to the British and then of course the US. The Palestinian leaderships were never so well connected in these quarters nor as adept at persuading these world leaders. The impressive Israeli lobbying operation in the US has particularly born fruit after 1967 as the US began to see Israel as its natural ally in the Middle East. Today any aspiring American politician figure addresses the Israel lobby group AIPAC and routinely gives unalloyed support to it.

In short, Israel has always enjoyed being depicted as a good faith actor when this was far from the case. Under President Trump, the Israeli leadership could do almost anything and expanded settlements at will. Under some less forgiving presidents, the Israeli leadership occasion-

ally has to slow the pace but nothing more. The US has committed not to propose anything to the Palestinian side without having first run it by the Israeli leadership. The result is that US is not and never has been an impartial broker. It is no wonder as the Arab News-You Gov poll shows that most Palestinians, around 59 percent, do not trust the US as a broker. The remarkable thing is that this figure is not higher. Other powers such as Russia and China are now viewed by Palestinians more sympathetically as potential brokers. Fourth, supporters of Palestinians have often been divided. Whilst Israel has benefited from major power backing, all too often Arab and other states were all too easily divided and took divergent paths. Some states like Iran attempt to use the Palestinian issue for their own benefit rather than push for a resolution of the conflict.

The high point of Arab unity was the Arab Peace Initiative of 2003 that called for full Israeli withdrawal from occupied territory in exchange for full peace. Sadly, that offer was never pushed as hard and as far as it should have been. The opinion poll only highlights these divisions. Palestinians are just not sure about the future options, a reflection of the grim state of play. Only 51 percent are in favour of a two-state solution which is

hardly a massive endorsement. Fifth, the sheer asymmetry of this conflict, the lopsided relationship between Israel and Palestinians. Even in 1948, Israel was in the more powerful position against the Arab armies that attacked. By 1967, it smashed the Arab armies in six days. It is a nuclear power. For decades it has been a regional superpower, militarily, economically and diplomatically. Against that, the Palestinians are largely in enforced exile or under occupation and blockade. The Palestinians cannot contest Israel on any front except perhaps one - the legal and even here the diplomatic obstacles line up against them. Israel's demands for territory just get larger, and its rejectionism more entrenched. Sixth, the international community has suspended any effort to enforce its own laws and resolutions when it comes to Israel. The UN Security Council and General Assembly resolutions, the Fourth Geneva Convention and all the human rights conventions that Israel is in routine violation attract just statements shifting from concern to guarded condemnation.

Even when the UN General Assembly seeks a legal opinion from the International Court of Justice on whether Israel's 56-year-old occupation is legal, major powers voted against it including the US and UK. If Israeli leaders know they can operate outside the boundaries of the

norms of international law, why bother coming to the peace table with serious offers. None of the failures of the international community should take away from those of the parties to the conflict themselves. Israeli leaders have never made a serious offer to the Palestinians nor acknowledged the wrong that was done to them. The Palestinian leaderships over the years have alienated friends, and even their own people. It often has lacked a clear realistic strategy. The split between Fatah and Hamas has been disastrous.

Those on all sides who have perpetrated deliberate acts of violence on civilians have only pushed back chances for peace. Is it any wonder that this poll shows that over half of Palestinians in the West Bank no longer trust their leadership? A significant 44 percent say that neither Fatah nor Hamas represent them. It should be food for thought. Moving forward from the present low point, the international community has to reengage but in a different mindset. The US has cease monopolising its brokering role and allow other parties a significant say, opening the space for creative solutions. A peace process has to be founded on core principles that has to include the end of Israeli occupation, a fair settlement for refugees and a solution that respects the rights of both peoples rather than privilege Israelis only.

Arab News

The Trump-shaped question mark hanging over NATO

Frida Ghitis

FORMER President Donald Trump and Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, perhaps two of the world's most prominent and controversial authoritarian leaders, are fighting for their political lives. Their fates will reverberate across the globe, shaping history. Among other consequences, the impact will go a long way in determining the future - perhaps even the survival - of NATO, the military alliance of democracies that seemed on the verge of unraveling just a few years ago and now looks as strong and purposeful as it has in decades.

This Sunday, Turkish voters will decide if, after 20 years of increasingly autocratic rule, they want to reelect Erdogan, a man whose democratic credentials are as questionable as his commitment to NATO. Then there's the former US president, who in a CNN town hall this week reminded the world that American foreign policy, its relations with allies and the quality of its democracy could be upended if he returns to power after the 2024 election. No president since World War II has done more to undermine the NATO alliance than Trump did. And no current member has equivocated more about his allegiance to NATO's goals than Erdogan

has. Trump's televised performance was a vertigo-inducing flashback to the days of his presidency, when his interactions with allies were disruptive, disrespectful and profoundly damaging to the alliance and to global security. Damaging because when malign global players see the US and NATO as a barrier to their aggression, they are less likely to go on the attack.

That's why even though Trump claimed Russia would not have invaded Ukraine if he were president, it's more likely his actions contributed to Russian President Vladimir Putin's belief that NATO would not get in his way, making him think he could succeed. Today, NATO's most crucial mission is supporting Kyiv in its existential effort to repel aggression from Russia, a country whose leader falsely claims Ukraine is not a real country. Putin has made similar suggestions about former Soviet republics - which include NATO members Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania - now also feeling threatened. When asked in the town hall if he wants Ukraine to win the war, Trump said he just wants the fighting to stop, refusing to say if he wants Ukraine or Russia to prevail. And that's despite the fact that Putin's unprovoked invasion has been

conducted with such brutality that the International Criminal Court has issued an arrest warrant for him.

Eighteen months before the 2024 election, America's European allies are experiencing a familiar angst. Can they trust the United States as an ally? Trump said the US is giving too much to Ukraine. As in the old days, one could almost picture Putin's face breaking into a grin hearing Trump speak. As president, Trump reportedly pondered pulling the US out of NATO. He moved to cut US contributions to its budget. His former national security adviser, John Bolton, said he might have left NATO if he had won in 2020. Even before he became president, Trump questioned the usefulness of the alliance, calling it "obsolete." Allies worried they could no longer count on America. Who can forget Trump's first NATO summit in Brussels in 2017, when he shoved aside the prime minister of Montenegro, Dusko Markovic, to clamber to the front of a photo op. Even as he wanted to stand in front, Trump continuously cast doubt on whether the US would stand by its allies. Under Article 5 of the NATO charter, all allies are committed to each other's defense. Trump equivocated

about whether he would, preferring instead to lambast America's friends on their inadequate defense spending, a high-profile cringe-worthy spectacle of friction that delighted dictators everywhere.

After Trump left office, President Joe Biden worked to rebuild the trust of allies. He declared America's bond with NATO members "sacred" and rallied the alliance to support Ukraine, while maintaining that Russia would not be allowed to go "one inch" into NATO territory. Thanks to his efforts in the face of Putin's aggression, NATO members are boosting defense spending like never before. NATO is even in talks to open a liaison office in Japan, its first one in Asia. And the alliance is growing - in spite of the obstacles placed in its path by Turkey's Erdogan. When Sweden and Finland decided to end their tradition of neutrality and join NATO to protect themselves from Russia, Erdogan found yet another way to break with his allies, accusing the Nordic countries of sympathizing with Kurdish militants. Though, in the end, he lifted a veto on allowing Finland to join. Sweden's NATO hopes are still on hold. In a 30-member alliance where decisions are made by consensus,

Erdogan has made his country a relentless irritant, and worse. As NATO fought to integrate its weapons systems so the alliance could work better together, Erdogan seemed to sabotage the plan, buying missiles from Russia in 2019. In neighboring Syria, he has launched attacks on US-backed Kurds fighting against ISIS. Time and time again, Erdogan complicates NATO's plans, and draws close to the world's dictators, NATO's adversaries and democracy's enemies. Erdogan has frustrated NATO members so much, that some would like to suspend it from the alliance. But Turkey's strategic position at the crossroads of East and West - the connecting point of the Mediterranean and the Black Sea and on the edge of the Middle East - make it too important to let go. Its unique position - friendly with Russia yet also selling armed drones to Ukraine - has also cast Turkey as a possible mediator in the war. Last summer, Turkey helped broker the grain deal between Russian and Ukraine that got vital exports moving again. Domestically, not unlike Trump, Erdogan has eroded democracy in Turkey. In fact, he all but invented the current model of 21st century authoritarian rule by elected leaders. Erdogan has weaved a post-truth

world, inflamed his followers with divisive rhetoric, rejected election results that didn't suit him and relied on loyal media and censorship to pitch his version of reality and maintain his devout followers in his thrall. He's a bad fit for NATO, whose charter embraces democracy. We won't know for a while yet how Trump's future plays out. Erdogan's is another matter. The opposition is closing in. It's unclear how he will fare in Sunday's vote - or how he will respond if it doesn't go his way.

Erdogan's main challenger, opposition candidate Kemal Kilicdaroglu, has vowed that in a post-Erdogan Turkey, he would repair democratic institutions and strengthen frayed ties with NATO. Whichever way it goes, ties with NATO will be affected. If Erdogan loses, NATO will grow stronger, more cohesive. Otherwise, Turkey will remain a reluctant member, a bad team player. The bigger question for the alliance will come next year, with the US election. If Trump returns to power, NATO will undoubtedly weaken. In fact, it may not keep its most powerful member, reducing it to a memory of what has been the mightiest alliance in history.

CNN

What happens when leaders disregard the truth?

Peter Pomerantsev

THE powerful were meant to be afraid of the truth. Journalists were meant to "hold truth to power". Evidence was meant to destroy wrongdoers as sunlight does a vampire. Find the evidence, the logic went, and the powerful could be shamed and brought to justice.

Historically, the powerful would try to censor and suppress the facts. The Nazis tried to keep the truth about their atrocities hidden. The Soviet leadership would howl with embarrassment when dissidents passed information about conditions in the gulag to the outside world. Richard Nixon was brought down after the facts of his bugging his political opponents, and his ensuing cover-up, were brought to light. But what happens when the powerful stop being scared of the truth, indeed flaunt their disregard for it - as we see in the behaviour of Russia's Vladimir Putin and America's Donald Trump? Why has shame disappeared and why does impunity reign? Are we now helpless to hold the powerful to account?

In the US last week, Trump was again lying "bigly" and brazenly. At a televised CNN town hall

event, the journalist Katie Collins tried to rein him in with ropes of evidence and rational argument but he just revelled in rejecting any truth or logic. According to Trump, the presidential election that he lost in 2020 was "rigged", despite there being no proof for any such claims; the reporter E Jean Carroll, whom a civil jury found Trump guilty of defaming and sexually abusing, was just a "whack job"; when Collins pulled him up over the classified documents that Trump had removed from the White House, he dismissed her as a "nasty person". The audience in New Hampshire, full of Trump fans, whooped and cheered. Instead of being "held to account" with the truth, Trump had a field day showing how he didn't give a hoot about it. Why do his supporters enjoy this so much? There is, first of all, a powerful relief that comes from throwing off the weight of facts, the constraints of glum reality.

Facts are generally unpleasant things, but they are useful for politicians who are trying to establish some sort of proof that their big policy is working. But Trump had no stable policies: he can be rightier than right, and then pivot left when it suits him. Ever

since Florida governor Ron DeSantis, his rival to head the Republican party, has tried to show he is more conservative than Trump - and most Americans - on issues such as abortion, Trump has made himself look more liberal. Nor has Trump any ideals that you could shame him into having betrayed. Instead, he appeals to a sense of pure resentment, where throwing off all forms of authority and responsibility - the authority of logic, ideals, rational policies, the "elites" - is what makes him attractive to people. In a democracy such as the US, however, reality can take revenge. Trump's rejection of the facts about Covid cost him the 2020 election. Every month, more court cases pile up against him: most seriously, for (allegedly) trying to force officials in Georgia to count more votes in his favour in 2020. Fox News, the Trump-supporting television network that has knowingly peddled conspiracy theories supporting his claims of a "rigged" election, has just paid out \$787m (£633m) to the company it accused of falsifying votes.

Putin has fewer restraints. Unlike previous

warmongering dictators, he doesn't even try to hide his atrocities and intent to commit genocide in Ukraine. Putin and his propagandists speak openly about their desire to destroy Ukrainian identity and sovereignty, of abducting Ukrainian children and forcibly re-educating them. The Russian army shells maternity hospitals, obliterates civilian infrastructure and entire cities. Putin wants to show he can mass murder openly, and there is nothing anyone can do about it. He wants to open a chasm between truth and justice so the connection between the two is utterly ruptured. But the Russian invasion of Ukraine could also be a turning point: Putin's plague of impunity is starting to be confronted by innovative initiatives great and small.

Since the war started, I've been working with journalists and lawyers at the Reckoning Project to help "quicken" justice around atrocities. Lawyers and journalists don't often work together - but in this case we are both on the same side. Teams of Ukrainian reporters trained in international human rights law are gathering evidence of atrocities on

the ground through testimonies from victims. We then create media content based on this evidence for "the court of public opinion", while our legal team develops cases. Usually, war crimes cases come long after a conflict ends; in this war, however, we need to construct them as it rages.

But when we think about justice we need to go beyond old-fashioned cases of war crimes, where a general or politician is brought to trial. While that is obviously important, waiting for it can take a long time. Moreover, some of the Putin elite are only too proud to be accused of atrocities: it shows their loyalty to the leader. We need to broaden our concept of how justice can be achieved. One of the more innovative ideas floated recently comes from Ilona Khmeleva, of the Economic Security Council of Ukraine, and the British law firm McCue Jury. They propose an economic justice tribunal. This will adjudicate on how to seize the international assets of the Russian state and its oligarchs, and distribute them to specific victims of Russian aggression. I would add (billion-dollar) fines against western companies and enablers that continue to

support Putin's war machine despite sanctions. Such a tribunal would both give tangible compensation to victims and undermine the corrupt, global system that Putin has created and whose existence he uses to prove how entrenched his power is. Putin's domestic propaganda is always trumpeting how many supporters it has across the world: from Viktor Orbán in Hungary to Trump in the US. President Joe Biden had tried to isolate us, the argument goes, but he's too weak and everyone needs our oil, gas and metals.

Polls in Russia show that Russians tend to believe anyone who is in authority: truth is not a value in itself, but a subset of power. As one recent poll by the Open Minds Institute concludes, Russians tend towards "belief that the government is right, solely because it is the government and it has power". If Putin can show he is powerful, through impunity globally and vicariously on the battlefield, then he is "believed". Defeat him on the battlefield, undermine his system in the courts, and his power to define reality will slip. It's not just truth that leads to justice, it's justice that leads to truth.

The Guardian

America’s dream is dying. That is why Trump may still win

Janet Daley

AMONG all the absurd delusional things that Donald Trump has said in his second incarnation as a prospective president, there is one statement which should - by all the standards of conventional wisdom - have put an end to his campaign. In his deposition for the civil case in which he was found guilty of sexually assaulting E Jean Carroll, he was asked to comment on the notorious Access Hollywood tape in which he is heard to say that powerful men were able to "grab women" in their genitals (he used another word) with impunity. He explained that this was simply a historical truth: for millions of years (which would be longer than Homo sapiens have existed) it had been the case that male "stars" could do whatever they wanted to women - and then he added "unfortunately [short pause] or fortunately".

Have you got that? It might be "fortunate" that famous men could sexually assault women. Can you imagine any American politician (let alone a presidential candidate) or public figure - any celebrity in any sphere - saying that without his career being instantly vaporised? Quite a few men have famously expended enormous amounts of blood and treasure trying to disprove the notion that they would even think such a thing. But Trump's prospects seem to have been not just undamaged but actually enhanced by this display of what should - in what is assumed to be the current political climate in

the United States - have been fatal. So what is going on here? There is clearly a significant proportion of the American population that not only rejects the Liberal consensus but is so enraged by it that it will enthusiastically support views that are brazenly offensive.

What we are seeing is the evolution of something that has not been an acknowledged aspect of American life since the 1930s. Yes, this is class war - but not as we know it in Britain or anywhere in the old European nations. It has little to do with hereditary cultural assumptions, because American social prestige is almost entirely to do with money that has been made within one or two generations. What passes for a ruling elite in the US is an educated professional cohort who run the media and academic life. Most of them got where they are within their own lifetimes. Making your own fortune is the American dream and you do that by taking advantage of the opportunities that your immigrant forebears braved the journey to the New World to give you. Until very recently the general assumption was that if you did not succeed in escaping from poverty, it was your own fault. Everybody had an equal chance - indeed a moral obligation - to do better than their parents. That was the whole purpose of life. (I was shocked when I arrived in Britain to hear the word "ambitious" used as a pejorative.) Social mobility was not an idealistic promise made by aspiring political

leaders, as it is here. It was a given, an essential part of the national character.

This open access to personal success clearly did not apply to black Americans and so race became America's substitute for class inequality. But any idea of inherent white disadvantage could not be compatible with this ethos. America recognised that it had its poor who had suffered misfortune (sometimes of their own making), but they were not a fixed stratum of society whose station was inevitable. Not until the industrial heartland collapsed and left a great mass of the blue-collar population unemployed and destitute. People who had been seen as "middle class" (what used to be called "respectable working class" in Britain) - from the car and steel factories of what is now the Rust Belt - were abandoned, disinherited and, most pertinently, disenfranchised. Then along came Donald Trump who sold unapologetic protectionism with the old fascist slogan "America First" - and he became their man.

Along with that promise to bring jobs back home came a full-blown vendetta against the Left-liberal social philosophy which had come to dominate public discourse. This was going to be a revival not only of the American manufacturing industry and the livelihoods it provided but of the unabashed virility of redneck life. Trump would say what was supposed to be unsayable. And the forgotten peo-

ple whose anger he channelled would cheer because at last somebody was speaking for (and like) them. What the "... or fortunately" crack at the deposition makes clear is that he may be conducting a vendetta against foreign powers stealing American industries - and migrants taking jobs that might have gone to American voters - but he is also defying the Left intelligentsia whose "believe all women" credo is seen as a threat to just the sort of men who are inclined to support him and who regard all of this as part of the same conspiracy. It is really important to grasp that Trump is not gaining popularity in spite of his ugly rants. He is gaining popularity because of them.

But Joe Biden is an old-fashioned blue-collar Democrat. He is advocating solutions in the Franklin Roosevelt tradition: subsidies for new green energy industries (to create what he calls "good union jobs"), which he promises will revive the economy of middle America. But he combines this with an embrace of Liberal orthodoxy which keeps the elites on board. It's an uncomfortable juxtaposition. But there is nothing clear-cut or predictable about the US political scene now. The most fundamental principles are collapsing. Ordinary people distrust the institutions that they were taught to revere. This country, which once thought itself unique, is falling into the old historical trap of turning to a demagogue out of confusion and despair.

The Telegraph



The forever war on Julian Assange

Belén Fernández

IMAGINE, for a moment, that the government of Cuba was demanding the extradition of an Australian publisher in the United Kingdom for exposing Cuban military crimes. Imagine that these crimes had included a 2007 massacre by helicopter-borne Cuban soldiers of a dozen Iraqi civilians, among them two journalists for the Reuters news agency. Now imagine that, if extradited from the UK to Cuba, the Australian publisher would face up to 175 years in a maximum-security prison, simply for having done what media professionals are ostensibly supposed to do: report reality.

Finally, imagine the reaction of the United States to such Cuban conduct, which would invariably consist of impassioned squawking about human rights and democracy and a call for the universal vilification of Cuba. Of course, it doesn't take a stretch of the imagination to deduce that the above scenario is a rearranged version of true events, and that the publisher in question is WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange. The antagonising nation is not Cuba but rather the US itself, which is responsible for not only the obliteration of Assange's individual human rights but also a stunning array of far more macro-level assaults on people across the world. As per the US narrative, Assange's WikiLeaks endeavours endangered the lives of people in Iraq, Afghanistan, and elsewhere - although it would seem like one surefire way to not endanger lives in such places would be to not blow them up in the first place. It is furthermore perplexing that a nation for which military slaughter is an institutionalised pastime should make such a selective stink

about the exposure of certain gory details. Granted, footage of defenceless civilians being picked off at close range like videogame targets by a laughing helicopter crew does little to uphold Americans' projected role as the "good guys" - a façade that is key in terms of justifying the country's self-presumed right to wreak international havoc as it pleases.

Had Assange wanted to save his own skin, he could have stuck to the sort of imperial propaganda that functions as mainstream journalism, a field that was itself instrumental in selling the wars on Afghanistan and Iraq to the US public. Instead, he is incarcerated at Belmarsh prison in southeast London, awaiting extradition to the so-called "land of the free" while serving as a veritable case study in prolonged psychological torture, as documented back in 2019 by the UN Special Rapporteur on Torture. In a caustic letter addressed to King Charles ahead of his recent coronation, Assange described himself as a "political prisoner, held at your majesty's pleasure on behalf of an embarrassed foreign sovereign". He observed: "One can truly know the measure of a society by how it treats its prisoners, and your kingdom has surely excelled in that regard".

The embarrassed foreign sovereign has certainly exhibited excellence in that realm, as well, boasting the highest incarceration rate on the planet and an impressive track record of executing innocent people. To be sure, domestic efforts to sentence a citizen of another country to 175 years in prison for telling the truth is also a pretty good indication that something is very, very wrong with a society. Then there's the whole matter of

the United States' offshore penal colony in Guantánamo Bay, Cuba, the former CIA torture den and persistent judicial black hole into which the US has sought to disappear some of the human fallout of its forever wars. Indeed, the fact the US feels entitled to call out the Cuban government for its own "political prisoners" while operating an illegal prison on occupied Cuban territory can be safely filed under the category of mind-blowingly sinister hypocrisy.

If only there were more journalists who wanted to talk about such things. But just like you can't cover up the crimes of Guantánamo by classifying prisoners' artwork, you can't hide the horrors of US policy by effectively redacting Julian Assange out of existence. It's the old kill-the-messenger approach - in which the "killing" takes the form of long-drawn-out psychological erosion conducted in tandem with a campaign to normalise the idea that Assange should be behind bars for eternity-plus.

In the end, the assault on Assange is not just your average disproportionate imperial conniption fit. Whatever the ultimate outcome, it has already set a perilous precedent in criminalising not only freedom of speech and the press but also - if you think about it - freedom of thought. Although Australian officials are making increasing noise agitating for Assange's release, Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese has refused to say whether he will address the issue with US President Joe Biden at the Quad Leaders' Summit in Sydney on May 24. And as the forever wars of the US rage on increasingly out of sight, so, too, does the forever war on Julian Assange.

Aljazeera

Westminster forgot its promises to ‘coastal communities’, and left them to rot

John Harris

ABOUT a decade ago, politicians and journalists were suddenly confronted with an issue that had always festered at the edge of the national conversation: the dire state of England's seaside towns, and their deep social problems. The referendum that would pull us out of the EU was a couple of years away, but one of the key things that made it happen was already plain to see: the rise of the UK Independence party, and a surge of grievance and complaint that had particularly strong roots on the East coast. In 2014, the faded Essex resort of Clacton held the byelection that resulted in the Tory turncoat Douglas Carswell becoming the first of Ukip's two elected MPs. His new party was doing equally brisk political business in coastal towns clustered in Norfolk and Lincolnshire.

When the vote for Brexit came, such places as Blackpool, Great Yarmouth, Canvey Island and Margate were among the leave side's enthusiastic sources of support. As Nigel Farage and his friends endlessly said, many people in those towns were anxious and angry about immigration. But as I well knew from repeated reporting trips, what they tended to talk about most passionately was stuff that Ukip rarely mentioned: dreadful public transport, poor housing, nonexistent opportunities for young people, and local economies that effectively died for half the year. In the wake of the result, politicians and journalists maintained a sort of guilt-stricken interest in the kind of "left-behind" places that looked out to sea. But then, as the 2019 election came into view, there was a shift. The most vivid political stories suddenly seemed to centre on the old coalfields and former factory towns grouped into the so-called "red wall". That continuing story has since been joined by that of the supposed "blue wall":

Tory-held seats in the south of England where disgruntled remainers are looking to other parties. There have been a few rather laboured attempts to conceptualise a "sea wall" centred on coastal constituencies, but they have failed to catch on: the plight of seaside towns remains as clear as ever, but they have once again fallen back to the political margins. Among plenty of others, this is one of the stories that runs through a brilliant new book titled The Seaside: England's Love Affair, by the former Guardian writer Madeleine Bunting. It is a travelogue, an impressive work of social history, an affectionate celebration and much more besides. But a grim English irony burns through almost every page: the fact that the places many of us still associate with leisure, noisy enjoyment and the health-giving wonders of sea air are also full of isolation, misery and poor health.

Each chapter has a sobering passage that recounts basic facts. "Over 80% of the residents of Skegness and Mablethorpe live in areas categorised as the 20% most deprived in England. Around a third of residents have no or low qualifications ... Scarborough's quaint streets translate into a tragic set of health statistics on the diseases of despair: suicide in the town is 61% higher than the national average, and hospital admissions are 60% higher ... Despite the success of Margate's regeneration, parts of the centre of the town are still among the most deprived in the country; it has three areas in the top half per cent on the index of multiple deprivation." What all these numbers reflect is the reality of living on the edge, in every sense. Coastal towns are often not just distant from Westminster, but also on the periphery of local government districts, and therefore neglected even by their own councils. They tend not to have any institutions of higher educa-

tion. And their public transport is largely terrible: this week's story about the nationalisation of the failing train operator TransPennine Express, for example, is not only about Leeds, Sheffield and Manchester, but places where dire rail transport compounds glaring economic problems: Redcar, Scarborough, Cleethorpes, Hull, Grimsby. Such are the results of a neglect that is evident even when people in positions of power are in a mood to help. One of the most telling features of last year's levelling up white paper was a seemingly reflex tendency to fold coastal areas into generalised descriptions of places with problems - "Urban areas and coastal towns", "former industrial centres and many coastal communities" - and thereby underplay their very specific issues. The same sense of condescension surrounds the government's £229m coastal communities fund. As one of the most damning parts of Bunting's book explains, it has been spread pathetically thinly: £1.6m to renovate the centre of Bognor Regis, £1.4m for "a visitor centre at Walton-on-the-Naze", £1.2m for Hastings' new "food court".

And then there are the government's much-hyped plans for so-called freeports, replete with promises of thousands of new jobs. These deregulated, low-tax zones - still shrouded in secrecy - are the cheapest kind of regeneration option, reflecting the old laissez-faire idea that if the state steps out of the way, it will somehow open the way to dynamism and innovation. But without huge improvements in transport, housing, training, education and all the rest, the kind of employers who might offer more than low-paid, precarious work will never pitch up. Besides, the plans are centred on a large handful of existing commercial ports, not coastal communities in general: even

if their supposed miracles materialise, they will not touch most of the UK's coastline. Elsewhere, there are glimmers of hope. The annual £28bn the Labour party is still pledging to spend on new climate measures - which sits alongside other plans for government-led investment in deprived areas - will have clear benefits for coastal places, not least because of the centrality to the plans of offshore wind. Its promised "take back control" bill will at least increase the responsibilities of local councils, and thereby bring some decisions closer to the places they affect. But as ever, more radical thinking might be a good idea. Within central government, coastal communities should surely have their own dedicated minister. Clusters of seaside towns should perhaps be grouped into federations led by mayor-like figures, and given responsibility for collective regeneration plans, along with the kind of substantial spending power that Westminster politicians never like to talk about. Last summer, I took a family holiday not far from Minehead, a coastal town on the edge of Somerset long associated with deprivation, scarce job opportunities and a sense of being woefully cut off. It is actually a gloriously located place, overlooked by a spectacular headland, with an elegantly wide main street and a lovely beach. It is 60 miles from Bristol and about 40 from Exeter: in the era of working from home, it could thrive.

But besides steam trains that slowly transport tourists across the nearby countryside, its 12,000 residents have no rail service: the town's station closed in 1971. As with so many other places, choices were made in distant centres of power that condemned it to long years of stagnation and decay. Now, instead of fixating on coastal towns one day and forgetting them the next, could we not just give them what they need?

Pressured by China, South Korean NGO stands firm on rights award

William Gallo & Lee Juhyun

ASouth Korean human rights group has condemned what it calls inappropriate pressure from the Chinese government, after the organization selected a jailed Hong Kong pro-democracy activist as the winner of its annual human rights award. The May 18 Foundation - an organization based in South Korea's southwestern city of Gwangju - earlier this month named labor activist and lawyer Chow Hang-tung as the recipient of its 2023 Gwangju Prize for Human Rights.

Chow is serving 22 months in prison for attending and helping organize vigils to commemorate the 1989 Tiananmen Square crackdown. She faces up to 10 more years in jail after being charged with "inciting subversion" under Hong Kong's far-reaching National Security Law. A day after Chow was announced as the winner, the Chinese consulate in Gwangju demanded a meeting with the May 18 Foundation and later dispatched three officials in an attempt to get the award rescinded, the group told VOA. It is the latest instance of China attempting to control conversation about its policies and silence critics in South Korea, a trend also seen globally. "It's absurd that the national government would visit and condemn an NGO," said Won Sun-seok, chairperson of the May 18 Foundation. "This is not an issue related to the national government."

The rights group's name is a reference to a 1980 student-led protest in Gwangju, also known as the

May 18 Democratic Uprising. The protest movement was crushed by South Korea's brutal, US-backed military leaders, but helped kindle a nationwide pro-democracy movement. Since 2000, the May 18 Foundation has presented an annual award to those who embody the fighting spirit of the Gwangju protesters. In announcing Chow as the winner, the organization said she "tirelessly challenged the government's unjust and unfair treatment of human rights defenders." "As a prisoner of conscience, she continues to struggle against the system that oppresses the people of Hong Kong," the group said. "Despite her imprisonment, she has become a symbol of courage and hope."

Chow was the vice chairman of the now-disbanded Hong Kong Alliance in Support of Patriotic Democratic Movements of China, which organized an annual vigil to commemorate those killed by the Chinese military during 1989 protests in Beijing's Tiananmen Square. According to fellow activists, Chow kept a relatively low profile for years as she worked to defend fellow pro-democracy advocates targeted by Hong Kong's government. But after a sweeping crackdown on pro-democracy protests in 2019, Chow emerged as one of the relatively few remaining dissidents in Hong Kong who dared to openly challenge the Chinese government. Chow's motivation to continue speaking out despite grave personal risk can be

attributed to her belief that human rights and freedom are the birthright of the Hong Kong and Chinese people, says fellow Hong Kong political activist Glacier Kwong. "She simply thinks this is the right thing to do, and nothing can stop her. It's just as simple as that," said Kwong, who is currently studying in Britain. According to the May 18 Foundation, Chinese consulate officials claimed Chow was a "dangerous person" and a "criminal" who led protests that threatened the Chinese government. If the group proceeded with the award, the officials warned, it would impact the opinion that many Chinese people have of Gwangju and the May 18 Foundation. The Chinese consulate in Gwangju did not respond to VOA's request for comment on the matter. Hong Kong's pro-democracy movement has attracted support from many South Koreans who see overlap with their own country's past struggle for freedom. But China has often responded to South Korean shows of solidarity with heavy-handed tactics. The Chinese pressure was especially intense in 2019, when South Koreans held demonstrations in support of the Hong Kong pro-democracy movement. At the time, South Korean activists claimed that pressure from the Chinese consulate in Gwangju resulted in a university canceling an event with a Hong Kong pro-democracy activist. There were also reports of Chinese students attacking Korean

classmates and vandalizing so-called "Lennon Walls," which contain messages of support for Hong Kong protesters.

Those incidents, along with China's broadly more combative stance toward its neighbors, help explain why South Korean views of China have plummeted in recent years. Opinion polls now suggest South Korean perceptions of China are roughly equal to views about Japan, Korea's former colonial ruler. Some observers say it is notable that Chow was given the award by a rights group based in Gwangju, which is located in a region where voters overwhelmingly support left-leaning political causes. "There is this idea that if you criticize China then you are a conservative, and if you don't then you're a liberal. But the May 18 Foundation dispelled this notion. In fact, this award was given based on universal principles," said Na Hyun-phil, secretary general of the Seoul-based Korean House for International Solidarity, which focuses on global human rights issues. Won, head of the non-partisan May 18 Foundation, insists his group will not single out any country. But the soft-spoken 72-year-old, who as a college student was sentenced to two years in jail for participating in the 1980 Gwangju protests, has experience standing his ground. "We don't bow to that kind of pressure," said Won, who stressed the importance of global solidarity against government oppression, no matter where it exists.

VOA

Scrapping Ulez and cleaner air can go together

Susan Hall

SADIQ Khan's dreadful Ulez expansion is causing so much damage already. Visiting friends and family is going to cost some people £12.50 per day. Nurses on night shifts are having to find new ways of getting to work after midnight - or change job. If you're a builder with a van that isn't compliant, you're going to have to buy a new vehicle or leave the industry. Small businesses are already shutting down because they can't afford to pay Mr Khan's tax.

The Ulez expansion makes virtually no difference to air quality, but it will make a big difference to the poorest Londoners who cannot afford to replace their cars. It must stop. And if I am the Conservative candidate for mayor, I will beat Mr Khan and stop it. Conservatives have been fighting Ulez, but not always in the right way. We need to be honest about that. In London's mayoral election next year, we have to be so much more than just an anti-Ulez campaign. The role is far too important for a single-issue candidate. We have to offer something serious on all the issues that matter.

While we fight back against Mr Khan's smears and misinformation, we

cannot ignore the fact that some people are suffering from health problems linked to air pollution. We must listen to people who are worried about air quality and show them we have a common-sense plan to improve it. They deserve our help, just as much as those affected by Mr Khan's tax.

There has been too much arguing with scientists and quibbling over exactly how many people are affected by air pollution. We should be bringing people together, protecting the poorest Londoners from Mr Khan's tax while taking steps to actually improve air quality at the same time. That does not mean we compromise on our principles or shy away from doing the right thing. It would be a mistake for the mayoral candidate to propose holding a referendum on Ulez, as some have suggested. It is not practical, it is not decisive, and it would cost over £3 million of taxpayers' money, funds not being used to pay police officers or firefighters. We also must not trim the edges of a policy that fundamentally does not work, by means-testing it or creating more exemptions. The next mayor has to be clear that

they would stop Ulez and offer an alternative that works. I have thrown my hat into the ring to be the Conservative mayoral candidate. I am standing because I believe I am the only candidate strong enough and experienced enough to beat Mr Khan and fix the mess he has created.

If I am elected mayor, on my first day in office, the Ulez expansion will stop. If you are charged or fined for driving in the expanded zone from May 3 2024, I will cancel it. But for the remaining 1,460 days, from 2024 to 2028, my focus will be delivering on a common-sense plan to tackle crime, build a lot more homes in the right places, improve air quality and the environment, sort out our transport system, deal with the rising cost of living, support businesses and the high street, and so much more. This Ulez disaster has shown people who Mr Khan really is and how much damage he has done. He will not learn a single lesson from the backlash he has experienced. But as Conservatives, we have to learn from this experience if we want to beat Mr Khan, stop his Ulez expansion and clean up London. And if I am the candidate, we will win.

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Pakistan Stock Exchange gains 230.85 points

ISLAMABAD (APP): The 100-index of the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) on Monday witnessed a bullish trend gaining 230.85 points, with a positive change of 0.56 per cent, closing at 41,718.43 against 41,487.58 points on the previous day.

A total of 109,172,310 shares valuing Rs3.370 billion were traded during the day as compared to 89,474,706 shares valuing Rs3.401 billion the previous day.

As many as 306 companies transacted their shares in the stock market; 142 of them recorded gains and 135 sustained losses, whereas the share price of 29 companies remained unchanged.

The three top-trading companies were WorldCall Telecom with 16,946,710 shares at Rs1.16 per share,

Telecard Limited with 11,162,667 shares at Rs7.30 per share, and Hum Network with 7,501,000 shares at Rs5.89 per share.

Sapphire Fiber witnessed a maximum increase of Rs80.01 per share price, closing at Rs1159.00, whereas the runner-up was Blessed Tex. with a Rs24.30 rise in its per share price to Rs349.30.

Bhanero Tex witnessed a maximum decrease of Rs79.00 per share closing at Rs981.00, followed by Reliance Cotton with a Rs45.00 decline to close at Rs555.00.

Rupee gains 12 paise against Dollar

Pakistani rupee gained 12 paise against the United States Dollar (USD) in the interbank trading on Monday and closed at Rs284.96 against the previous day's closing of Rs285.08.

According to the Forex Association of Pakistan (FAP), the buying and selling rates of Dollars in the open market were recorded at Rs293 and Rs297, respectively.

The price of the Euro decreased by Rs1.23 to close at Rs309.72 against the last day's closing of Rs310.95, according to the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP).

The Japanese Yen declined by 02 paise to close at Rs2.09, whereas a decrease of Rs1.2 was witnessed in the exchange rate of the British Pound, which traded at Rs355.76 as compared to its last day's closing of Rs356.96.

The exchange rate of the Emirates Dirham and the Saudi Riyal went down by 03 paise each to close at Rs77.60 and Rs75.98, respectively.

Gold prices increase by Rs1100 to Rs235,100 per tola

The per tola price of 24-karat gold increased by Rs1100 and was sold at Rs235,100 on Monday against its sale at Rs234,000 the previous day, All Sindh Sarafa Jewellers Association reported.

The price of 10 grams of 24-karat gold also surged by Rs943 to Rs201,560 from Rs200,617, whereas the price of 10 grams of 22-karat gold went up to Rs184,764 from Rs183,900.

The price of per tola silver increased by Rs100 to close at Re 3000 and that of ten-gram silver also rose by Rs85.72 to Rs2572.

The price of gold in the international market rose by \$5 to close at \$2015 from \$2010, the association reported.



ISLAMABAD: Chairman Federal Board of Revenue Asim Ahmed in a meeting with Ambassador of Kazakhstan Yerzhan Kistafin at FBR Headquarters.

Kazakhstan envoy calls on Chairman FBR

ISLAMABAD (APP): Ambassador of Kazakhstan to Pakistan Yerzhan Kistafin Monday called on Chairman Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) Asim Ahmad and discussed matters of mutual interest pertaining to cooperation in Customs.

According to the FBR statement issued here, the meeting also discussed the matters of trade facilitation and regional connectivity.

Mutual satisfaction was expressed over the Pakistan-Kazakhstan Mutual Administrative Assistance Agreement in Customs matters, which is in final stages of execution.

Asim Ahmad assured that maximum facilitation will be extended to Kazakhstani businessmen intending to invest in Pakistan.

During the meeting, it was agreed that both countries would continue to explore more avenues to further enhance cooperation in various areas of mutual concern.

Kosovo ambassador visits FPCCI office

LAHORE (APP): Ambassador of Republic of Kosovo to Pakistan Dr Beqir Ismaili visited the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI) Regional office, here on Monday.

He discussed with FPCCI President Irfan Iqbal Sheikh and Regional Chairman Muhammad Nadeem Qureshi measures for enhancing cooperation in diverse fields such as tourism, trade, investment, technology, and exchange of business delegations.

Melhan Memuti, first secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) Kosovo, and Zahid Anjum, honorary consul, Republic of Kosovo, were also present.

The ambassador appreciated Pakistan's support in their struggle for independence. He said that Kosovo wanted to strengthen its trade and economic relations with Pakistan as both countries have good potential to trade in many areas. Pakistani investors might use Kosovo as a hub to pro-

mote their exports to European markets.

Dr. Beqir Ismaili said that Kosovo was interested in developing sector-specific relations with Pakistan to make some tangible progress and later those ties could be diversified to cover more areas of cooperation.

He was of the view that regular interaction between the private sectors of the two sides with follow-up meetings should be the way forward to further strengthen bilateral trade and economic ties between Kosovo and Pakistan.

Irfan Iqbal Sheikh said that presently, there were no significant trade agreements between Pakistan and Kosovo along with a negligible trade volume, however, both countries had expressed their willingness towards increasing their trade and economic cooperation.

A major hurdle in enhancing bilateral trade between the two countries would be the lack of direct air links as well as shipping

routes, he added.

Muhammad Nadeem Qureshi said that two sides could mutually benefit from starting Joint Ventures in the Special Economic Zones (SEZs) in Pakistan under the CPEC (China-Pakistan Economic Corridor) project. Pakistan is the world's leading player in the apparel industry, cereals, fruits & vegetables, salts, spices, honey, cutlery, surgical instruments, sports goods, and the leather and footwear market, Nadeem added.

He said that business associations & communities need to come closer through dialogue and a MOU would be the first step in unlocking trade and investment potential between the two countries.

He suggested, "We organize trade and investment seminars and conferences that can highlight areas of bilateral cooperation and uncover the existing challenges the business community is facing in both countries."

SBP, MoFA conducted training program for ASEAN member states



F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: National Institute of Banking and Finance (NIBAF), a subsidiary of State Bank of Pakistan, in collaboration with Ministry of Foreign Affairs organized a 5-day training program on

'Digital Payments Landscape and Financial Inclusion in Emerging Markets' for ASEAN Member states. The program was held from May 8-12, 2023, which was attended by 24 participants from Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Thailand,

Vietnam, ASEAN Secretariat and Pakistan. The training program was part of efforts to improve Pakistan's status on ASEAN platform from Sectoral Dialogue Partner to Full Dialogue Partner.

The program, designed for the personnel of central

banks of ASEAN member states, provided an orientation of Digital Payment Systems infrastructure and its constituent components in Pakistan.

In addition, deliberations were made about the critical role of SBP in democratization of digital financial services. Program participants also discussed their experiences regarding Central Bank Digital Currency, cryptocurrencies, disruptive potential of fintech and culture of entrepreneurship in emerging markets.

The program came to a close with an endeavor to reinforce the view of financial inclusion as a key enabler to reduce poverty and enhance economic growth in developing countries.

Chal Dil Mere - Social Media Awards 2023 launches in Pakistan



F.P. Report

LAHORE: The Chal Dil Mere - Social Media Awards 2023, Presented by Masaud Khan and Mahmood Khan, is excited to announce its launch event on May 12th, 2023, from 2:00 PM to 5:00 PM at Shalimar Hall - Flatie's Hotel Lahore. The event will announce the details of the Awards and how to register and participate for the ceremony which offers a unique opportunity for Pakistan's creative talent to become a filmmaker or

video maker in Poland.

Participants can showcase their creativity by entering one of three exciting categories, including creating an inspiring Instagram reel on Chal Dil Mere song by Mahmood Khan, making a YouTube video discussing the script of the same song, or creating an innovative video on any subject of their choice. The top nominees from each category will be invited to Warsaw, Poland, for the Chal Dil Mere - Social Media Awards 2023 ceremony, as guests of the management, and will enjoy Business Class travel and a 5-Star Hotel Stay in Warsaw.

The winners from each category will be selected at

the mega event and receive their first project in Poland by creating a complete video for the song "Chal Dil Mere" by Mahmood Khan. Furthermore, the winners will be supported in securing a regular job as a filmmaker or video maker in Poland.

Registration for the

event begins on June 1st, 2023, and entries will be accepted until September 30th, 2023. The top nominees from each category will be selected by 10th October, 2023. After the visa processing of all the nominees, the final date of awards in Warsaw, Poland, will be announced for any date in December 2023.

Mahmood Khan is a celebrated singer-songwriter, producer, and sound engineer who has sold over 6 million copies of his albums worldwide. Masaud Khan is a prominent figure in the media industry, having organized successful concerts and promoting Pakistani music and culture in the West and America. Together, they are bringing this golden opportunity for Pakistanis in collaboration with the Jobs in Poland (www.jobsinpoland.org), Institute of Public-Private Partnership - Poland and ASEAN / ARF Business Council - Poland.

Tokyo markets end higher

TOKYO (AFP/APP): Tokyo markets ended higher Monday, supported by a cheaper yen as investors shunned the currency under the Bank of Japan's monetary easing policies.

The Nikkei index rose 0.81 percent, or 238.04 points, to end at 29,626.34, while the broader Topix index added 0.88 percent, or 18.46 points, to 2,114.85.

The dollar stood at 136.14 yen, against 135.69 yen in New York on Friday.

"The weakening of the yen against the backdrop of US rate hikes encouraged the buying of stocks with good earnings results," IwaiCosmo Securities said.

The yen has weakened as the BoJ sticks to its long-standing ultra-loose policies -- the opposite tactic to the US Federal Reserve and other central banks, which have hiked interest rates to tackle soaring inflation.

In the United States, the Congressional Budget Office said there was a "significant risk" that the country could default by

June 15 if there is no deal on raising the debt ceiling. The uncertainty weighed on Wall Street, with all three main indexes ending in the red on Friday, and Asia mostly followed suit.

Among major shares in Tokyo, SoftBank Group inched up 0.02 percent to 4,950 yen, Sony Group rose 0.74 percent to 12,875 yen and Toyota sank 0.46 percent to 1,933 yen.

Traders reacted also to a mixed inflation picture out of Europe and weekend elections in Thailand and Turkey.

Asian stock markets kicked the week off with gains amid "growing hopes that the Democrats and

Shipping activity at Port Qasim

KARACHI (APP): Three ships namely, MSC Monica, FMT Gumuldur and TormThyra carrying Containers, 5,183 tonnes of Chemicals and 29,999 tonnes of Palm oil, berthed at Qasim International Container Terminal, EngroVopak Terminal and Liquid Cargo Terminal respectively on Sunday.

Meanwhile, three more ships, Myny, MSC Silvia and Fasline with Containers and Palm oil also arrived at the outer anchorage of the port on (today) Monday morning.

A total of 06 ships were engaged at PQA berths during the last 24 hours, out of them three ships, Cap Carmel, MSC Monica-III and Gulf Jumeirah left the Port on Monday morning & another ship Al-Thakhira is expected to sail (today).

A cargo volume of 71,763 tonnes, comprising 43,101 tonnes imports Cargo and 28,662 tonnes export cargo, including containerized cargo carried in 2,057 Containers (371 TEUs Imports and 1,686 TEUs export) was handled at the port during the last 24 hours.

There are 05 ships at Outer Anchorage of Port Qasim, out of them three ships, Al-Soor-II, Myny and MSC Silvia & two more ships, Lisa and Calypso Gas carrying Gas oil, Containers and LPG are expected to take berths at FOTCO, QICT and SSGC respectively on Monday, 15th May and two more Container ships, Maersk Sentosa and MSC Elaine are due to arrive at Port Qasim on Tuesday.

RAWALPINDI (APP): The Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI) has urged stakeholders to put joint efforts to end the current political and economic crisis.

RCCI President Saqib Rafiq while addressing a meeting at the chamber said, "We strongly believe that the economic situation of the country will improve only when there is political stability". The business

community was deeply concerned about the current political uncertainty and economic crisis, he added.

President Saqib Rafiq said that the vandalism of public properties and violent incidents had badly distorted the image of Pakistan.

The internet shutdown not only affected online businesses but citizens and businessmen had to face severe difficulties in communication and banking

payments.

Group leader Sohail Altaf on the occasion said that "Pakistan is everything, it is the responsibility of all stakeholders to protect the rights and interests of the 230 million people of Pakistan."

He added that the stakeholders should come forward in the national interest and play their role as 230 million people were now eyeing them.

Bilateral ties to increase cooperation in science



F.P. Report

KARACHI: An Agreement regarding Bilateral Cooperation between Pakistan and Ethiopia to increase cooperation in science, technology, engineering and education for mutual benefit and peaceful purposes held in the Office of Ministry of Science & Technology, Government of Pakistan at Islamabad.

During the visit of Ethiopian official delegation led by Minister of State

Dr. Fozia Ameen, an agreement was signed between two countries and from Pakistan the Agreement was signed by Mr. Zainul Abidin, Director General, Pakistan Standards & Quality Control Authority on behalf of Ministry of Science & Technology.

This cooperation has a crucial importance in establishing a framework to increase cooperation in Science, Technology, Engineering and Education for mutual benefit and peaceful

purposes between the Science and Education Communities in both the countries.

All activities under this agreement will be undertaken in collaboration with partners in Ethiopia and Pakistan. The diplomatic ties between both the nations were established in 1958, since then Pakistan and Ethiopia have enjoyed a cordial relationship and made great progress on bilateral, regional and international concerns.

Stocks skittish on US data shock, debt standoff

LONDON (AFP/APP): Dismal US economic data and the ongoing standoff in talks to find an agreement on averting a first-ever US default kept stocks from gaining traction on Monday.

Traders reacted also to a mixed inflation picture out of Europe and weekend elections in Thailand and Turkey.

Asian stock markets kicked the week off with gains amid "growing hopes that the Democrats and

Republicans will reach a deal to avert the disastrous scenario of a government default" in the world's biggest economy, said Victoria Scholar, head of investment at Interactive Investor.

Biden said Sunday that "I really think there's a desire on their part as well as ours to reach agreement" ahead of fresh talks Tuesday with Republican leaders, including House Speaker Kevin McCarthy.

Officials have said the US government could run out of measures to avoid a default by early June. But investor enthusiasm petered out as the open of trading on Wall Street approached, with most European markets falling in the red after starting the day in the green.

The Dow edged higher at the opening bell, but then sank before climbing back to its starting point in late morning trading. European stocks ended flat for the most part.

"Until we have Republicans and Democrats move a little on tax increases, increasing the debt ceiling, or federal spending, any optimism is premature," said market analyst Edward Moya at OANDA trading platform.

Meanwhile, sentiment was dented after a key manufacturing survey showed a sharp drop in activity. The New York Fed Empire State Manufacturing Survey plunged from 10.8 in April

to -31.8 points in May. The figure was much worse than expected and indicates a contraction.

"This is the type of data that should give the Fed some pause about raising rates further," said Briefing.com analyst Patrick O'Hare.

The US Federal Reserve has repeatedly raised interest rates to tame high inflation, which analysts have worried may ultimately push the economy into recession.

Public Notice

It is Published Through This Notice That I Mr Muhammad Asif Son of Gul Sharif R/o Muhammad Khawaja District Hangu Pakistan Presently R/o at UAE is The owner of Plot no 273 Sector IV Size 11.1 Marla Phase I KDA Kohat Has Appointed Mr Muhammad Abbas S/o Bakhtaj Muhammad R/o Chamrang p/o Garhi Kapora District Mardan Through (Special) Deed no 251 Bahi no 04 Dated 11/05/2023 which is Registered in The office Kohat of Tehsildar/Sub Registrar The Attorney Holder now wants to Transfer The Above Said Plot if any Bank/ Institution/Firm/Person Has any objection About The Transfer He Should Contact The Housing officer UADA Within 15 Days in Writing with Proofs otherwise Plot will be Transfer and no objection will Be Accepted (Project Director Urban Area KDA Kohat)

Court Notice

In the Court of Abdul Halem Civil Judge V /Alaqa Qazi Buner at Daggara. Case No.89/1. Institution 27/2/2023. Date of hearing. 6/6/2023. Saidur Rehman VS Said Rehman. Declaratory Suit. Notice no 8.Riaz Mohamad s/o Taj Mohamad resident of Kankoy Chamla tehsel Mandan district Buner. Whereas in the above mentioned case the mentioned defendant can not be served in the ordinary way, it is, therefore, proclaimed that if the said defendant will/shall not appear personally or through duly authorized agent or pleader in the court at 8.30 am dated 6/6/2023 the proceeding will be taken ex parte. Given under my hand and seal of this Court.



In brief

Pogba likely to miss end of season

LONDON (Agencies): Paul Pogba's injury-blighted season is ending as it started with the French midfielder out for two to three weeks after tests Monday revealed a thigh injury. His club, Juventus, said the 2018 World Cup winner re-injured his left thigh on Sunday against Cremonese, his first competitive start of the season. After taking a shot, Pogba immediately pulled up and left the field after 23 minutes hiding his face under his shirt. Examinations on Monday morning at the club's medical centre "revealed an injury" to the "right femoral muscle of the left thigh," said Juve on their website. This type of injury usually requires a recovery time of about "15/20 days", a club source told AFP. The Turin club's last Serie A match of the season is away to Udinese on June 4, in 20 days time. The Juventus timeline suggests Pogba could be fit for France's Euro 2024 qualifiers against Gibraltar on June 16 and then Greece on June 19. Pogba missed a huge chunk of the season following his return from Manchester United last summer after suffering an injury to his right knee pre-season. He initially elected to not to go under the knife in a bid to make the World Cup in Qatar. However, despite later changing his mind, Pogba did not recover in time to play for France who lost their crown as world champions in a thrilling final with Argentina. He returned to club action at the end of February but after two brief appearances off the bench was sidelined with an injury to the right thigh. He had made brief appearances off the bench in several matches in April before starting on Sunday.

Tatum haul leads Celtics

NEW YORK (Agencies): Jayson Tatum led the Boston Celtics to a 112-88 game-seven victory over the Philadelphia 76ers to reach the NBA Eastern Conference finals. Tatum's 51 points beat the game-seven record of 50 set by Golden State's Stephen Curry against the Sacramento Kings earlier this month. He also added 13 rebounds, five assists and a couple of steals. Boston will now face the Miami Heat - the team they beat in seven games in last year's conference finals. The opening game of the series takes place on Thursday at 01:30 BST. The Celtics defence restricted NBA Most Valuable Player Joel Embiid, who was held to 15 points. Jaylen Brown added 25 points for Boston, who broke open a close game in the third quarter as they out-scored the 76ers 33-10. Philadelphia went the six minutes of the period without a basket and trailed by 26 heading into the fourth, when Boston pushed the lead to 30 with less than four minutes to play after Tatum was taken out of the game. "It felt great," Tatum told ESPN. "This was a back and forth series. Obviously I didn't play well the first half of the last game and I was just happy to get an opportunity to bounce back. To come back home, game seven on Mother's Day. I had to put on a special performance for her." It was another crushing play-off exit for the 76ers who were led by Tobias Harris' 19 points, while star guard James Harden scored just nine as they were limited to 37.3% shooting from the floor.



ROME: Carlos Alcaraz of Spain in action during the matcg between Marozsan vs Alcaraz at the Internazionali BNL D'Italia 2023 - Day Eight at Foro Italico.

World number one Alcaraz knocked out of Italian Open

ROME (AFP): World number one Carlos Alcaraz suffered a shock third round defeat in the Italian Open at the hands of unheralded Hungarian Fabian Marozsan, losing 6-3, 7-6 (7/4) on Monday.

The 20-year-old Spaniard had come into the tournament on the back of wins in Barcelona and Madrid but was outplayed by Marozsan, who is ranked 135th in the world.

Marozsan, 23, won the final six points of the second-set tiebreaker to hand US Open champion Alcaraz a wake-up call with the

French Open starting in less than a fortnight.

Marozsan, who next plays Borna Coric for a place in the quarter-finals, had not won a match on the ATP Tour prior to the tournament -- indeed this is the first time he has qualified for the main draw at a tournament on the Tour.

"Everything was perfect today, I was doing my job," the winner said. "I cannot imagine this win, even if it was my dream last night. I thought I might win a few games or a set. I tried to hit back every ball, I was trying to do my

best." Marozsan produced 24 winners in a victory which took an hour and three quarters.

"I had hoped I could do something special," he said. "Now I've just beaten the best in the sport so I'm very happy."

Alcaraz now stands 30-3 on the season as he prepares to head to Roland Garros as top seed for the first time at a Grand Slam.

In other results at the ATP-WTA tournament, sixth seed Andrey Rublev defeated Spain's Alejandro Davidovich Fokina 7-6 (10/8), 6-3.

ICC makes fresh changes to playing conditions

LONDON (Agencies): On-field umpires will now consult with the TV umpire before making any decision as the International Cricket Council (ICC) has scrapped the soft signal rule.

In the revised playing conditions, the soft signal rule has been scrapped from the playing conditions after the approval of the Chief Executives' committee.

"The on-field umpires will consult with the TV umpire before any decisions are taken," the ICC confirmed. The men's cricket committee led by Sourav Ganguly and the women's cricket committee suggested changes to the playing conditions. Moreover, helmets have now become mandatory for high-risk positions such as when batters are facing fast bowlers, when wicketkeepers are standing up to the stumps, and when fielders are close to the batter in front of the wicket.

"We also discussed player safety, which is very important for us," said Ganguly in a statement released by the ICC. "The committee decided that it was best to make the use of helmets mandatory in certain positions to ensure the safety of players," he added. "There was also a minor addition to the 'Free Hit' rule with any runs scored off a Free Hit when the ball hits the stumps counted as runs scored from now. This would mean that if a batter is bowled off a Free Hit and runs are scored off it, they would be attributed to the batter," the ICC announced. All the changes will be effective from June 1, 2023. The changes will be practised for the first time in a one-off four-day Test match between England and Ireland.

Ko Jin-young beats Minjee Lee to win Founders Cup for third time

CLIFTON (Agencies): A fourth straight LPGA tournament was decided by a play-off as Ko Jin-young beat defending champion Minjee Lee to win the Founders Cup for a third time.

The South Korean won with a par on the first extra hole where Australian Lee could only three-putt for bogey. Lee led by two with three holes to go in New Jersey but a bogey at the 16th opened the door for Ko, who birdied the last to join her on 13 under.

"I played really, really good," said Ko, who shot a five-under 67 on Sunday. "It was so windy, was too windy out there, so I thought if I play really well I could have a chance to win. So I really focused myself and focused shot by shot on every hole and didn't look at the scoreboard. I didn't think about the other players."

South Africa's Ashleigh Buhai finished third at 10 under with South Korea's Hae-Ran Ryu one shot further back at Upper Montclair Country Club.

England's Georgia Hall finished tied for 10th on four under. Ko, who won the Founders Cup on different courses in 2021 and 2019, now has 15 wins, including two major championships, in just six years on the LPGA Tour.

Pakistan may boycott World Cup if Asia Cup hosting rights lost: Najam Sethi

KARACHI (Reuters): There is a "very real possibility" that Pakistan will boycott this year's World Cup in India if they lose hosting rights to the Asia Cup, Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) Management Committee Chairman Najam Sethi told Reuters.

Bilateral cricket has been a casualty of the soured political relations between India and Pakistan over the last decade and the neighbouring countries now play each other only in multi-team events in neutral venues.

India, citing safety concerns, have ruled out travelling to Pakistan for the Asia Cup in September and the PCB has offered to let them play their matches in the United Arab Emirates in what has been dubbed a "hybrid model".

While the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) has yet to deliver a formal response to the offer, Sethi said India wanted the entire tournament moved out of Pakistan.

That could have serious ramifications for the 50-overs World Cup in India this year as well as the 2025 Champions Trophy in Pakistan, he added.

"They want all the matches in a neutral venue," he said in a Zoom interview.

"BCCI should take a good, rational decision so that we don't have any problems going forward."

"India should not be looking at a situation where we end up boycotting the Asia Cup and also the World Cup,

and then India ends up boycotting the Champions Trophy."

"That will be a huge mess." Sri Lanka and Bangladesh have also come out against playing in the UAE, citing the heat and logistics issues, heightening speculation in local media that the Asian Cricket Council may look to move the entire tournament out of Pakistan.

Sethi said that was "not acceptable" and reaffirmed that Pakistan may boycott the World Cup if that happened. "That's a very real possibility, of course," he added. Should India agree to the hybrid model for the Asia Cup, Sethi said, Pakistan would expect reciprocal terms for their team at the World Cup in October and November.

"We also have security concerns for our team in India," he said. "So let Pakistan play its matches in Dhaka or Mirpur, or UAE or in Sri Lanka."

"This is the solution going forward, until such time that India agrees to play Pakistan, in Pakistan and outside Pakistan, bilaterally."

BCCI Secretary Jay Shah was not immediately available for comment but neither the Indian board nor the International Cricket Council (ICC) have said they are even considering staging any World Cup matches outside India.

Sethi said Pakistan, World Cup champions in 1992, was a top cricketing nation which should not be

ignored and that they would have to talk to the ICC about the Asia Cup problem.

"The ICC should step in but my sense is India would not like the ICC to step in, especially during the Asia Cup," he said.

The ICC was not immediately available for comment.

Pakistan was starved of international cricket after a 2009 attack on the Sri Lankan team bus in Lahore and had to lobby hard to convince top teams to resume touring the country over the last couple of years.

"We worked so hard to bring international cricket back to Pakistan," Sethi said.

"Every major country has toured Pakistan in the last few years. You name them, they've all been there. They all appreciated the security arrangements. That's not a problem anymore."

Citing the hype surrounding any meeting between India and Pakistan, Sethi blamed the BCCI's "stubbornness" for failing to turn it into the greatest rivalry in cricket.

"The India-Pakistan game is the biggest game in town. It's bigger than Australia v England, it's bigger than India v Australia. How can we jeopardise that by a stubbornness?" he said.

"The Indian bridge team has been to Pakistan, the Indian kabaddi team has been to Pakistan, the Indian baseball team has been to Pakistan ...

"So what's going on? Why can't the Indian cricket team come to Pakistan?"



CLIFTON: Jin Young Ko, of South Korea, poses for a photo with the trophy after winning the LPGA Cognizant Founders Cup golf tournament in a playoff.

Pakistan to field 10 cyclists in Asian Road Cycling Championship

ISLAMABAD (APP): A 10-member Pakistan cycling team will feature in the Asian Road Cycling Championship, set to be held in Thailand, next month.

Pakistan Cycling Federation (PCF) said on Monday.

"The training camp for preparation of our cyclists for the Championship has commenced today (Monday) in Karachi in collaboration with Pakistan Sports Board. The camp will continue till the end of the first week of June," Syed Azhar Ali Shah, the president of PCF told APP.

The 42nd edition of the big-ticket event will be held along with the 29th Asian Junior Road Cycling Championships and 11th Asian Para Road Cycling Championships.

"A total of 15 cyclists are attending the camp. They were selected purely on merit, especially based on their performance in the National Road Championship that was held in Peshawar in February," he said.

Azhar said that the federation wanted to send all the 15 cyclists for the continental event but due to scarcity of funds, it believed it would hardly manage to field six men and four women cyclists in that. "Participation of our athletes is very necessary for the championship as it

also serves as qualifiers for the next year's Paris Olympics," he said.

The Paris Games will run from July 26 to August 11, 2024, featuring 32 sports disciplines across 37 sites.

"The federation on its part is trying its best to give maximum exposure to the cyclists but the road to the Olympics is not easy. The athletes need to undergo at least two to three years of training besides chipping in qualification rounds to earn a ticket for the prestigious event. Frankly speaking, we are not in a position for that as we don't have sufficient funds. However, we are doing what we can in our limited resources," he added.

Anderson suffers groin injury ahead of Ashes

LONDON: James Anderson has suffered a "mild strain to his right groin" just a month before the Ashes get underway, the England and Wales Cricket Board announced late Sunday.

The 40-year-old Anderson, the most successful fast bowler in Test history with 685 wickets, sustained the injury on Thursday's opening day of Lancashire's County Championship match against Somerset at Old Trafford and took no further part in a match that ended in a draw on Sunday.

The ECB added Anderson's fitness will be assessed nearer the time of the lone Test against

Ireland at Lord's starting on June 1. England are due to name a squad for the Ireland game, which precedes a five-match Ashes series against arch-rivals Australia commencing on June 16, later this week.

Anderson had a scan on the injury on Saturday, with Lancashire coach Glen Chapple telling the BBC it was not "anything too serious". Nevertheless, England will want to avoid a repeat of the situation in the 2019 Ashes opener at Edgbaston where Anderson bowled just four overs before pulling out, having torn his calf playing for Lancashire.

With substitutes unable to

bowl, his absence left a huge hole in England's attack as Australia won by 251 runs.

That series ended in a 2-2 draw, with holders Australia retaining the Ashes.

Anderson's latest injury adds to a growing list of fitness problems suffered by England fast bowlers, with Jofra Archer, Olly Stone and Brydon Carse all sidelined in recent weeks.

Archer returned from the Indian Premier League with a recurrence of his longstanding elbow problem, Stone suffered a hamstring injury playing for Nottinghamshire and Carse, uncapped at Test level, was laid low by a side injury playing for Durham.



B A R C E L O N A (Agencies): Barcelona president Joan Laporta said on Monday the club will "do everything possible" to bring Argentine superstar Lionel Messi back in the close season.

The Paris Saint-Germain forward is set to leave in the summer when his contract expires and new La Liga champions Barcelona are hoping to lure their all-time top goalscorer back, despite strong interest from Saudi Arabia.

Messi has had two lacklustre seasons in Paris after a glorious era at Barcelona where he won four Champions League and 10 La Liga titles, and is still worshipped by the fans there.

Laporta said he has spoken with Messi to try and rebuild the relationship between them, which was damaged when he left in

2021. Messi wanted to stay at Barcelona but the club could not afford to keep him because of debt of over one billion euros (\$1.1 billion).

"I have spoken to Leo to somehow redirect a situation that occurred, in which I had to put the club ahead of everything, even him, who is the best player in the world," Laporta told Catalan regional public television station TV3.

"The truth is that it was a very affectionate conversation, very pleasant, and we have also been sending each other messages lately -- I congratulated him on the World Cup." In the early hours of Monday morning after Barcelona won 4-2 at Espanyol to clinch La Liga, Laporta said on Twitch that "we will do everything possible" to sign Messi.

However, speaking on

TV3, he was more cautious.

"He is a Paris Saint-Germain player and what we will do is improve the team in all areas, we have already worked on that," said Laporta.

"I think it would do me a disservice to talk about these questions about Leo, because he belongs to a team like Paris Saint-Germain, and we have to wait until the end of the season, until it is over and then we can talk more calmly about this." AFP reported last week that sources close to negotiations said it was a "done deal" that Messi would move to Saudi Arabia next season.

However, Laporta said that despite the money on offer in the Middle East -- a reported 400 million dollars a year -- Barcelona could compete for Messi's signature. "With all due respect to Saudi Arabia, Barca is Barca, and it is his home," added Laporta. "We can compete with everyone. History backs us, the feelings are too strong, we have 400 million fans around the world too."

Barcelona need to make over 200 million euros in savings, or new income, to be able to operate without restrictions under La Liga financial fair play rules.



In brief

IRSA releases 150,000 cusecs water

ISLAMABAD (APP): Indus River System Authority (IRSA) on Monday released 150,000 cusecs of water from various rim stations with an inflow of 122,700 cusecs. According to the data released by IRSA, the water level in River Indus at Tarbela Dam was 1430.80 feet and was 32.80 feet higher than its dead level of 1,398 feet. Water inflow and outflow in the dam were recorded as 33,400 cusecs and 50,000 cusecs respectively. The water level in River Jhelum at Mangla Dam was 1118.00 feet, which was 68.00 feet higher than its dead level of 1,050 feet. The inflow and outflow of water were recorded at 39,300 cusecs and 50,000 cusecs respectively. The release of water at Kalabagh, Taunsa, Guddu and Sukkur was recorded as 58,500, 62,200, 43,100 and 13,400 cusecs respectively. Similarly, from River Kabul, a total of 27,700 cusecs of water were released at Nowshera and 13,100 cusecs were released from River Chenab at Marala.

Int'l Day of Light to mark on May 16

ISLAMABAD (APP): International Day of Light will mark on May 16 (Tuesday) across the globe, with an aim to strengthen scientific cooperation and harness its potential to foster peace and sustainable development. The celebration will allow many different sectors of society worldwide to participate in activities that demonstrate how science, technology, art and culture can help achieve the goals of UNESCO — building the foundation for peaceful societies. The study of light has led to promising alternative energy sources, life-saving medical advances in diagnostics technology and treatments, light-speed internet and many other discoveries that have revolutionized society and shaped our understanding of the universe.

All roads open for vehicular traffic

RAWALPINDI (APP): All city roads including Murree Road are open for vehicular traffic and traffic is normal on the main arteries, said a City Traffic Police (CTP) spokesman here on Monday. Due to the rallies of the political parties, there is unusual traffic pressure on Murree Road, he said, adding, but the Traffic police officers and Traffic Wardens are present in the field and monitoring all the arrangements. Traffic officials are maintaining the normal flow of traffic on the main roads, said, City Traffic Officer, Taimoor Khan. Special arrangements regarding alternate routes in case of traffic diversion have also been made, he informed. Information about the traffic situation is being provided to the citizens on FM 88.6 and official social media pages, the CTO said. He advised the citizens to travel with 15 to 20 minutes extra time to reach their destination on time and avoid any problems.

AIOU to close admissions

ISLAMABAD (APP): Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU) has announced May 18 as the last date for new admissions for the second phase of semester spring 2023, however, the continuing students can enroll themselves till May 25 without late fee charges. According to the Director of Admissions, Syed Zia ul Hussain Naqvi, the date of admissions will not be extended any more, so the students are advised to avail of this opportunity to take admissions by May 18, otherwise, they will have to wait for the next semester.



ISLAMABAD: Government of Pakistan signs Agreement with the Republic of Korea under the G-20 Debt Service Suspension initiative.

NA body on religious affairs holds productive meeting addressing key issues

ISLAMABAD (APP): The National Assembly Standing Committee on Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony on Monday convened here to discuss and address several important matters, yielding fruitful outcomes.

The committee also took a moment to pay tribute and recite Fatiha for the late Minister, Mufti Abdul Shakoor, honouring his significant contributions.

A warm welcome was extended to the new minister, and the Committee expressed their good wishes for his success in his role. The Minister emphasized the crucial role of the Standing Committees and pledged support to the committee's endeavors.

The Convener of the Sub-Committee, "to look into the arrangements of Hajj 2022 and removal of blasphemous content from the websites" also presented a comprehensive report. It highlighted the findings of the Committee.

It was noted with con-

cern that the Ministry had not extended sufficient support to the Committee. In response, the Minister assured the Committee of conducting an internal inquiry into the matter.

The Committee reappointed the said Sub-Committee to again look into the matter.

The Ministry requested the withdrawal of the Evacuee Trust Properties (Management and Disposal) (Amendment) Bill, 2021, as they are working on a new bill.

The Committee accepted the Ministry's request and treated the bill as withdrawn.

The Committee rejected the National Council for Minorities Rights Bill, 2023 and decided to thoroughly examine The National Commission for Minorities Bill, 2023 in the next meeting. The Ministry also briefed on the policy regarding Moavineen-e-Hujjaj for Hajj-2023.

It provided an overview of the structure and system of the Hajj Moavineen Mission.

It informed that 1,725 Moavineen for Hajj would be selected, with a ratio of one Moavin for every 100 Hujjaj. Furthermore, the criteria for selecting Moavaneen include being a government employee in Grades 7 to 18, aged 45 or below, and prioritizing individuals with higher literacy and endurance levels.

The meeting was presided over by the Chairman Standing Committee of National Assembly on Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony, Syed Imran Ahmad Shah, MNA and attended by Members National Assembly; Chaudhry Faqir Ahmed, Kesoo Mal Kheela Das, Naveed Aamir Jeeva, Shagufta Jumani, Muhammad Anwar, Shahida Akhtar Ali and Seema Mohiuddin Jameeli.

In addition, Minister for Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony Senator Muhammad Talha Mahmood, also attended the meeting along-with officers of the Ministry.

ANF recovers 18,257,700 intoxicated tablets

RAWALPINDI (APP): Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) in an operation seized 18,257,700 intoxicated tablets from a container booked for Lagos, Nigeria, said an ANF Headquarters spokesman here on Monday.

He informed that acting on a tip-off, ANF conducted an operation at South Asia Pakistan Terminal and foiled a bid to smuggle a huge quantity of intoxicated tablets to Lagos, Nigeria. During a search of a container, 18,257,700 intoxicated tablets were recovered from the container. After a preliminary investigation, an accused resident of Lyari was also rounded up.

The spokesman informed that ANF after registration of a case had started investigation to net other accused involved in the smuggling of intoxicated tablets.

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, Islamabad Circle, GOR, I-11/1, I-11/3, Metro, Anguri, NCP, Mangyal, Shahdara, Shahpur, Khayaban Iqbal, Pir Suhawah, Quid-e-Azam University, Punjab House, Bari Imam, Mandala, Athal, NIH Feeders, Rawalpindi Cantt Circle, RCCI-I, II, III, IV & V, Chowk Pindori, Sehala, IST, New Rawat, Shah Pur, Dhok Najo, Chahan, Chontra, Rajar, Chakri, SPD, SPF, Kahota City.II, Hanif Shaheed, Army Flats, RA Bazar, Islamabad Feed Mill, Jhata Hatial, Basali, Pind Jatla, Lab-I & II, Reliance Weaving Mill, Industrial, Bhal, Jarrar Camp Feeders, Rawalpindi City Circle, Kayani Road, Tench Bhatta, Dhok Chaudhryan Feeders, Jhelum Circle, Garmala, Sanghui, Chotala, Domeli, Mumtaz Shaheed, Col. Akram, Dinah City, Riaz Shaheed Feeders, Chakwal Circle, Murat.

The programme being attended by 28 PhD Fellows will continue till May 24, 2023, a press release on Monday said.

Chairman HEC Dr. Mukhtar Ahmed presided over the opening ceremony as chief guest.

Managing Director NAHE Ms. Noor Amna Malik and Director General NAHE Mr. Muhammad Faisal Butt were also pres-

No one be allowed to disrespect Parliament, Constitution: Asad

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Communications Maulana Asad Mehmood on Monday alleged that the "superior judiciary is making 'Imrandarana' decisions, apparently under the influence of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan".

"However, the public has given its verdict as evident from the massive sit-in outside in front of the apex court. No one will be allowed to disrespect the Parliament and the Constitution," he said while speaking in the National Assembly.

Maulana Asad expressed his concern over the targeting of sensitive buildings by Imran Khan's supporters, which was equally condemned by the nation.

The agenda of Imran Khan, he said, was to create chaos in the country and the JUI-F had pointed it out well before time. His party believed in the supremacy of Constitution and that was why it joined hands with other parties to oust Imran Khan from the Prime Minister's House in a constitutional manner. He claimed that the Constitution (Article 63-A) was re-written, which was the reason for the current constitutional crisis. However, the Parliament had passed legislative proposals and resolutions defining the role of every institution, which could not be ignored.

The Parliament would uphold the supremacy of the Constitution, he reaffirmed. Parliamentary Leader of Balochistan Awami Party (BAP) Khalid Hussain Magi said a rational approach was required to handle the current political crisis and challenges being faced by the country. The law should take its due course against those who had created anarchy and unrest after the arrest of Imran Khan, he added.

Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Prof Ahsan Iqbal alleged that partial decisions by the superior judiciary had caused the constitutional crisis. He accused Imran Khan of embezzling Rs 60 billion for personal gains, who, he alleged, was "given undue favour by the courts" and such an attitude was not acceptable as it would promote an unjust system. "The Parliament should file a reference against the top judge in the Supreme Judicial Council", he added.

Minister for Climate Change Sherry Rehman accused Imran Khan of inciting the PTI workers to violence and arson after his arrest.

She recalled that the Pakistan Peoples Party workers did not resort to violence over the 'judicial murder' of the party's founder and former prime minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto. On the contrary, the PTI workers went on rampage across the country and set the state buildings on fire though their leader were arrested legally.

The minister stressed that elections should be held simultaneously throughout the country. Muhammad Akhtar Jan Mengal of the BNP said the current situation had not emerged in a day. Had the institutions worked in their constitutional domains then there would not have been any political and constitutional turmoil in country. He called for "public execution of the corrupt elements" to purge the system of all its ills.

Abdul Akbar Chitrali of the Jamaat Islami said the country was passing through a tumultuous and critical situation with a severe economic crisis, and the common people were its worst victims as the inflation had made their lives miserable and they could not afford to buy even daily essential items.

RDA gives two weeks to regularize illegal commercial buildings in 14 days

RAWALPINDI (APP): Rawalpindi Development Authority (RDA) here on Monday gave 14 days to the owners of illegal commercial buildings to regularize their units. According to RDA spokesperson, RDA on the directives of Director General, Muhammad Saif Anwar Jappa was taking solid steps to regularize the illegal buildings and also making the authority a business friendly organization. He said that on the directives of the DG, a survey of commercial areas was conducted and the illegal buildings were identified. He said that RDA wanted to give a chance to the owners of the illegal buildings and they had also been advised to get regularized their commercial buildings else strict action in accordance with the law would be taken against the rules violators.

RDA as a business friendly organization was trying to facilitate the owners of such buildings, he said adding, the DG had directed the owners of such commercial

projects to avail the chance, deposit the Land Use Conversion Fee and get regularized their illegal projects within 14 days.

The DG also requested that the business community, Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Traders Associations should cooperate with RDA.

He said that the application could be submitted at RDA One Window Operation Center, E-Khidmat Markaz and Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce to get the commercial buildings regularized. The DG had directed the authorities concerned to complete all the work within two weeks, adding, in case of any difficulty, the citizens could contact the DG office or register a complaint on 051-9334303.

President, RCCI, Saqib Rafique appreciating the regularization scheme also requested the citizens to take advantage of this opportunity and get their illegal commercial buildings regularized within two weeks.

NAHE launches Cohort-1 of National Faculty Development Programme

ISLAMABAD (APP): The National Academy of Higher Education (NAHE), an academic wing of the Higher Education Commission (HEC), Pakistan has launched the Cohort-I of National Faculty Development Programme (NDFP) 2023 for Interim Placement for Fresh PhDs (IPFP) Phase-II (Batch-IV).

The programme being attended by 28 PhD Fellows will continue till May 24, 2023, a press release on Monday said.

Chairman HEC Dr. Mukhtar Ahmed presided over the opening ceremony as chief guest.

Managing Director NAHE Ms. Noor Amna Malik and Director General NAHE Mr. Muhammad Faisal Butt were also pres-

ent on the occasion.

In his address, Dr. Mukhtar Ahmed appreciated NAHE and outlined the effectiveness of these faculty development programmes and its impact on the learning achievements of teachers and students.

He stated that the better a teacher is trained, the better he or she can educate tomorrow's generation of the nation. A well-educated and trained workforce that embraces knowledge, innovation and lifelong learning will be the very basis for our future competitiveness in the global market, he added. Congratulating the participants, Managing Director NAHE Ms. Noor Amna Malik highlighted the importance of this programme and advised the participants to gain maxi-

mum benefits from this unique and valuable opportunity. She guided the audience about the various other initiatives taken by NAHE for capacity building of Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) faculty and administration at different stages of their careers. NDFP is structured to accelerate the transfer of essential knowledge, skills, and attitudes in three dimensions of a successful career as a faculty member, including effective teaching and learning, Course designing, lesson planning & delivery, research, and professional practices.

Successful completion of NDFP is a pre-requisite for the placement of IPFP fellows at Higher Education Institutions for a period of one year.

Commissioner visits sixth road metro bus station to review damages

RAWALPINDI (APP): Commissioner Rawalpindi Division Liaquat Ali Chattha here on Monday visited Sixth Road Metro Bus Station and reviewed the damages caused to the station during violent protests on May 9.

On this occasion, Deputy Commissioner Rawalpindi, Hasan Waqar Cheema, Assistant Commissioner Rawalpindi, City, Bilawal Ali, officers of Rawalpindi Development Authority and other departments concerned were present.

Commissioner Rawalpindi Division Liaquat Ali Chattha visited different parts of the station. The Commissioner was briefed about the damages. He was informed that so far the losses worth Rs 107 million at sixth road metro bus station have been estimated.

The Commissioner said that Metro bus service is quality travelling facility for the public. Along with the adminis-

tration, every citizen should also play a role to protect the national and public assets, he added.

The miscreants and lawbreakers would be dealt with strictly, the Commissioner said adding, no one would be allowed to take the law into their hands. The repair work should be completed within shortest possible time frame, he directed the authorities concerned. The citizens were facing difficulties due to the damages at Sixth Road Metro Bus Station.

The administration would bring those involved in vandalism to justice and they would be sent behind the bars, he added.

The Metro Bus Station should be opened for public as soon as possible, he instructed of administration officers.

Liaquat Ali Chattha also directed the committee formed to assess losses to complete its work at the earliest.



ISLAMABAD: A CDA worker watering plants at Margalla Road in the Federal Capital.

MoIC to maintain heritages

KABUL (Agencies): Acting Information and Culture Minister, Mullah Khairullah Khairkhwā met with the Chief Executive Officer of the Aga Khan Trust for Culture (AKTC) in Afghanistan, Engineer Ajmal Maiwandi, the Director of the UNESCO World Heritage Centre, Francesco Bandarin and Professor of History and Archeology of Fudan University of the People's Republic of China Oshek, the ministry said.

36 criminals arrested

KABUL (Agencies): As many as 36 individuals have been arrested in connection with theft, murder, robbery, moral corruption and other crimes in six provinces of the country, the Ministry of Interior Affairs said in a statement Monday. "The police personnel in a series of clearance operations have arrested 35 individuals in connection with stealing, murdering and moral corruption in Kunduz, Takhar, Balkh, Paktia, Patika and Khost provinces".

China seeking to in gas, oil sectors: MoMP

KABUL (TOLONews): The Ministry of Mines and Petroleum (MoMP) said that China wants to invest in the gas and oil sectors in Afghanistan.

A spokesman for the MoMP, Homyaon Afghan, said that they have provided essential facilities for the investors.

"The minister thanked the investors and said that Afghanistan is rich in gas and oil and it is expected that in the near future there will be announced the extraction of gas and oil in some areas," he said.

The Afghanistan Chamber of Industry and

Mines (ACIM) said foreign investment is important for a rise in national income and the creation of job opportunities for citizens.

"This is a good opportunity for Chinese companies and also for Afghanistan... This is a good opportunity both for Afghanistan and China," said Sakhi Ahmad Payman, deputy head of the Afghanistan Chamber of Industry and Mines (ACIM).

This comes as economists said that the surge in foreign investment will pave the way for job opportunities.

"The direct foreign

investment can be effective in the improvement of economic conditions but what is important is how to direct the investment. There should be specifically investment in the mine sector and there should be attention paid so that the Afghan mines should not be dealt with at lower price," said Mir Shikib Mir, an economist.

Earlier, the Ministry of Industry and Commerce reported that China had invested and signed contracts in Afghanistan worth \$2 billion in investment after the fall of the former government.

IEA team leaves for Iran

KABUL (BNA) The Head of Afghanistan Food and Drug Administration (AFDA) of the Islamic Emirate Dr. Abdul Bari Omer and his accompanying delegation have met with the Deputy Minister of Health in International Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Dr. Mohammad Hossein Niknam, in Tehran, to discuss quality of food, drug and health products, the authority said in statement Monday.

Both sides discussed the issues of mutual interest include strengthening of economic relation, export of drug to Afghanistan and high investment in production of healthy products and drug in the country, the statement said, adding that necessary efforts should be made to prevent drug trafficking.

In the meeting, the Deputy Minister of Health in International Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Dr. Mohammad Hossein Niknam, has assured that Afghanistan will be provided with any possible cooperation in health sector, according to the statement.

This is to be noted that the Head of Afghanistan Food and Drug Administration (AFDA) of the Islamic Emirate Dr. Abdul Bari Omer and his accompanying delegation have left to Iran three days ago to talk with health officials of that country, the statement added.

A few weeks back, head of AFDA Dr. Omer has also met the Kabul-based Iranian Embassy's Economic Officer Hassan Shirzadi and assured that the foreign companies which are interested to invest in Afghanistan, particularly in health sector will be provided with necessary facilities in the country.

AWCC opens new branch in Kapisa

KABUL (Agencies): The Afghan Wireless Communications Company (AWCC) opened a new sales and services center and rolled out 4G internet services in Mahmood Razi, the capital of Kapisa province.

The deputy governor of Kapisa, the head of telecommunications and information technology, the head of Afghanistan Telecommunications Regulatory Authority (ATRA) and a number of other local officials attended the opening ceremony.

The head of the central zone of AWCC said that the new branch is equipped with advanced facilities and going forward, customers' queries and problems will be addressed in a timely manner.

"This branch is equipped with all the facilities and is at the service of the people of Kapisa. It solves problems in telecommunications services, be it SIM card or internet," said Suleiman Khurram, head of the central zone of AWCC.

Balkh governor meets with senior diplomats

KABUL (Khaama Press): Taliban's governor for the northern Balkh Province Hajji Mohammad Yosouf Wafa on Sunday met with the Consul General and senior diplomats of six regional countries in Mazar-e-Sharif.

The provincial Information and Media Center in a statement said that Governor Wafa met with the senior diplomats of six regional countries including Pakistan, Turkey, Iran, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan in his office in Mazar-e-Sharif.

During the visit, Mr. Wafa discussed several sociocultural and economic issues bilaterally and multilaterally with foreign diplomats.

According to a newsletter published by the Information and Media Center of the Balkh



province, Mohammad Yusuf Wafa in this meeting said that the international community should recognize the Taliban regime as the legitimate rulers of Afghanistan, and respect it as a sovereign and inde-

pendent country. In their turn, the representatives of the six countries in the region have emphasized on the development of cultural, educational and commercial ties between their respective

countries and Afghanistan. It was also discussed that a stable, peaceful and prosperous Afghanistan would boost economic development, trade and connectivity in the region and beyond.

Minister Azizi meets Türkiye ambassador to Afghanistan

KABUL (Agencies): The Industry and Commerce Minister, Nooruddin Azizi in a meeting with Cihad Erginay Turkish ambassador and his accompanying delegation discussed the expansion of trade relations.

Minister Azizi hailed Türkiye's cooperation and said, "Our people have full confidence in the brotherhood and activity of that country in Afghanistan," according to a statement.

The two sides discussed the introduction of the new trade Attaché for the Republic of Türkiye in Kabul, said the statement adding the trade center will increase bilateral trade, solve problems and trade

challenges between the two countries.

Also issuing visas to Afghan businessmen, and transit through the Türkiye the European Union countries, increasing the diversity of Afghanistan's export items and the standard packaging of Afghanistan's export items with international standards were discussed in the meeting, according to the statement.

Minister Aziz mentioned the valuable export assets of Afghanistan and demanded a suitable market for Afghanistan's export assets in Türkiye.

Ambassador of the Türkiye Erginay, said that



many Turkish companies have invested in Afghanistan, and asked for providing ground for the Turkish traders and companies with the leadership of the Ministry of Industry and Commerce, according to the statement.

Azizi assessed the expansion of trade relations with the Türkiye as good and added that the officials of the ministry are ready to cooperate with investors in all aspects and consider it as one of their basic responsibilities.

Girls display handmade products in Kabul exhibition

KABUL (TOLONews): An exhibition of handmade products was held in Kabul, in which more than 100 women also participated.

Many school-aged girls, above grade six, who are currently not allowed to attend school, attended the exhibition and displayed their handmade products.

Zahra, a student in 10th grade, said she turned to miniature art after she was banned from school.

"It has been two years since I have not gone to school. We the girls call for an early reopening of schools," she said.

Many other schoolgirls also displayed their handmade products.

There are more than 100 booths for women. "We are hopeless because of school. We want our schools to be reopened," said Rukhsar, a student.

"The reason that we engaged in business is because our schools were closed and we were at



home and we needed to engage in business to cope with mental pressure," a student said.

Women entrepreneurs who supported the girls in making handmade products called for the reopening of schools for girls in grades 7-12.

"We call for the reopening of schools so that our girls can have a good future and be educated and together with us help serve the

country," Parween said.

The Afghanistan Chamber of Industry and Mines (ACIM) said that more than 550 companies attended the exhibition.

"More than 550 companies attended the exhibition and 100 stalls were organized for women," said Sakhi Ahmad Payman, deputy head of the ACIM.

"The expenses of these exhibitions are being paid by business owners and

domestic companies. Based on our plans, we will have 10 exhibitions during the ongoing year across the country," said Akhundzada Abdul Salam Jawad, a spokesman for the Ministry of Industry and Commerce. It has been more than 600 days since the schools have been closed for girls I, with some of them engaged in crafting and other fields in a bid to cope with the mental strain of the situation.

Afghanistan launches anti-polio campaign



KABUL (Khaama Press): The Ministry of Public Health announced the four-day polio vaccination campaign across 23 country provinces on Monday.

The campaign, which got underway on May 15, intends to immunize 6.4 million kids in 23 provinces.

The campaign came a day after the country reported the first case of the poliovirus of 2023, as it was detected in the eastern Nangarhar province of Afghanistan.

According to the state-

ment released by the Public health ministry, a four-year-old child has been identified as having a decrease in the province.

Compared to previous years, the cases of Polio have declined as the two cases were reported last year.

However, the cases of Polio were more in 2020 as a total of 56 cases were reported. As a result, it would increase the chances of the disease's recurrence.

Therefore, the Ministry of Public Health has also started a public awareness

campaign to inform the masses about the value of vaccination in eradicating polio disease.

Meanwhile, the Ministry collaborates with international partners, including the World Health Organization (WHO) and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), to ensure the successful execution of the immunization campaign.

The Ministry has also urged parents to assist vaccine providers and ensure their children receive the shot.

Two polio cases reported in Nangarhar province

KABUL (TOLONews): The Ministry of Public Health of Afghanistan reported two cases of polio in Nangarhar. A spokesman for the Health Ministry, Sharafat Zaman Amerkhail said that these two cases have been reported in Koot and Batikoot districts of Nangarhar province. One polio-stricken child has died.

This ministry said they will start a polio vaccination campaign soon.

"In these two cases one child is 4 years old and the other is 11. One of them lost their life and we want to start a polio vaccination campaign to prevent this disease," said Amerkhail.

Family members of the child who died in Batikoot

district said that one year ago their child was infected with polio and was paralyzed from the neck down and after severe diarrhea died in the hospital.

The child was named Nazo.

"Her neck became paralyzed. She couldn't control it. We took her to the hospital and on the night of Eid she died," said Iqbal Shah, the grandfather of Nazo.

"After this disease (polio) her feet become tiny. Her stomach become acidic, she lost control of her neck and she couldn't digest food," said Zarmina, the mother of Nazo.

At the same time, a number of citizens and health

volunteers asked partner organizations to cooperate with them on vaccination campaigns.

"We will go for vaccination campaigns after one month and people must vaccinate their children on time," said Fida Mohammad, a health volunteer.

"We want more clinics and more public awareness campaigns," said Albani, a Nangarhar resident.

Based on numbers of the Ministry of Public Health, in 2020 there were 56 cases of paralyzed children, in 2021 there were four positive cases, and in 2022 there were two positive cases of this disease recorded in the country.

Women in Herat start kitchen with takeaway food service



HERAT (TOLONews): A group of women and girls in Herat have provided work for themselves by establishing a kitchen and selling Afghan meals.

They made this kitchen

in their house and daily sell food to their customers.

"Women are banned from working out of the house, we planned to be at home and have activities, so we started making Afghan

traditional food," said Manizha Sadat, head of the kitchen. Several women and girls asked the government to provide them with work outside their house.

"We ask the government

to support us and cooperate with us and allow us to work outside of our houses," said Yalda Hashimi, a kitchen worker.

According to the officials of this kitchen, they prepare hot food according to the order of their customers and send it to them. "Recently we know about them through social media and now we are their customers and whenever we order the food they deliver it to our office," said Abdul Qadus Janidi, a Herat resident.

After universities and schools closed for girls and amid restrictions on the work of women and girls in foreign and domestic NGOs in the country, thousands of women have stayed at home. But some women and girls have turned to work such as learning skills and trades or other commercial activities to earn income.

23 Afghan prisoners released

NIMROZ (Agencies): A total of 23 Afghan refugees earlier imprisoned by Iranian officials, have recently been released and returned home, the provincial Foreign Affairs Department said in a statement Monday.

"As a result of the efforts of the Embassy of Afghanistan in Tehran, 23 Afghans which had been imprisoned on charge of not having illegal travel documents, have been released from Zahidan's jail of that country," the statement quoted Director of the provincial Foreign Affairs Department Mawlawi Yar Mohammad Haqyar as saying.

Based on the reports, as a result of the efforts of the officials of the Islamic Emirate, as many as 54 Afghan inmates have been released from Iranian jails in the past two months and returned to their home country, the statement said.



ISLAMABAD: JUI-F's crossing gate to enter in Supreme Court during a sit-in.

Joint sitting of Parliament passes 8 bills

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Joint sitting of Parliament took up legislative business on Monday and passed eight bills including a government bill, Minister for Law and Justice Senator Azam Nazeer Tarar moved the National Accountability (Amendment) Bill, 2023 which was sent back to parliament by the President for reconsideration. The minister said that bill has been returned to the Parliament on the grounds that amendments brought earlier in the National Accountability Ordinance 1999 were sub-judice before the Supreme Court.

The minister said that the power and authority of the Parliament is absolute and no institution can stop the Parliament from legislation. He said that President is also part of Parliament but he does not know that the authority of Parliament is absolute and it cannot be stopped from legislation on sub-judice issues. He said

that the new law guarantees fair trial as per the constitution and it would check political engineering. The bill seeks to remove the legal complication in the transfer of cases from the Accountability Court to the relevant forums which do not fall within the jurisdiction of the NAB Ordinance.

The sitting rejected the amendments moved by the JI Senator Mushtaq Ahmed proposed in the bill. Another bill – the Protection of Parents Bill, 2022 – was deferred on the request of the Minister for Law and Justice.

Moved by MQM lawmaker Kishwer Zehra, the House passed the Transplantation of Human Organs and Tissues (Amendment) Bill, 2021. PPPP Senator Quratulain Marri moved three bills including the Trained Paramedical Staff Facility Bill, 2019; the Day Care Centres Bill, 2019 and the Maternity and Paternity

Leave Bill, 2020 which were passed during the sitting. The joint sitting passed the Criminal Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2022 which was moved by PML-N lawmaker Kesoo Mal Kheela Das. The bill aims to amend the Prevention of Electronic Crimes Act, 2016, Pakistan Penal Code, 1860, and the Qanun-e-Shahadat Order, 1984. Parliament also passed the amendments moved by MNA Mehnaz Akbar Aziz in this legislative proposal.

Moved by PML-N MNA Syed Javed Husnain moved the Limitation (Amendment) Bill, 2022 which proposed to give the right of appeal to the person awarded death penalty within 30 days. The House passed the Specific Relief (Amendment) Bill, 2022 which aims to ensure share of women and their legal heirs from inheritance. The bill was moved by PML-N MNA Syed Javed Husnain.

‘Agencies men’ involved in arson attacks: Imran

F.P. Report

LAHORE: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan has blamed the “agencies men” for arson and shooting in some areas during the May 9 violent protests, which were triggered following his arrest in the Al-Qadir Trust case.

In a tweet from his official handle on Monday, the former premier said his party has “ample amount of evidence” to prove that agencies’ men carried out arson and shootings during the protests to blame it on PTI. His statement comes shortly after the military’s top brass vowed to try pro-

testers and their abettors under relevant laws, including the Pakistan Army Act and the Official Secrets Act, after PTI workers and supporters stormed military installations on May 9, which the army dubbed as “Black Day”.

In a video statement, Khan said the government buildings and the Lahore Corps Commander’s House were ransacked under the “organised conspiracy”. He said miscreants were infiltrated into the PTI protesters and instigated his workers, video evidence of which he said available with the party. “I want an independent inquiry [into the vandalism].”, he said

adding that this was all being done under the “London plan” to ban his party and put all the leaders behind bars.

Earlier in another tweet, he also shared videos stating that PTI Punjab chapter President Dr Yasmin Rashid and her sisters “clearly telling the protesters not to harm Jinnah house”. “Clearly this was all stage managed by those who wanted to use this as a pretext to further crack-down on PTI, jail our workers and senior leadership along with me so that the assurances given to NS [Nawaz Sharif] in the London plan could be honoured,” he alleged.

Judiciary’s biased conduct: Asif seeks body for probe

ISLAMABAD (APP): Defence Minister Khawaja Muhammad Asif has demanded the formulation of a parliamentary committee to investigate the incidents of undue support to a person (PTI Chief) by the judiciary alongwith a reference to be sent to the Supreme Judicial Council under Article 209 of the Constitution on the matter.

While expressing his views in the National Assembly Session on Monday, he said that the time has come for the Parliament to play its constitutional role in this situation. He said that in the 75-year history of the country’s judiciary, there had been incidents that have had a profound impact on the country, but recently a group of the judiciary started supporting a political group. He said that political support is seen from the current decisions of the judiciary, adding, the decision of 4-3 has no constitutional value, because the only purpose of judiciary is to give relief to Imran Khan.

“The time has come for the Parliament to send a reference of misconduct to the Supreme Judicial Council, under the authority and law given to it by the Constitution”, Khawaja Asif stressed. He lamented that the Judiciary changed the structure of the Constitution by rewriting 63-A to protect the interests of a specific person. While quoting the attacks on Corps Commander’s house, Rangers post, GHQ and PAF Base Mianwali, he said that protection was

being provided to those who desecrate the memorials of martyrs. “The entire nation is indebted to its martyrs because they have sacrificed their lives for our tomorrow.”

He said that PTI violent supporters on the direction of their leadership had attacked Quaid-e-Azam’s house which was a shameful act as the building was a national heritage of the country. He said that India provided vast coverage of the incident on its mainstream media. He questioned that the judiciary does not understand these incidents. Khawaja Asif while giving an example of Islamic history, quoted that when a judge saw a criminal and stood up, Hazrat Umar Farooq (R.A.) denotified him. “I demand that the Parliament send a reference to the Supreme Judicial Council”, he added.

Khawaja Asif went on to say that Nawaz Sharif’s wife was dying but he was not given a phone facility but Imran Khan was given a facility in the custody. “This person (Imran Khan) cannot be loyal to anyone except his own interests” Defense Minister informed the lower house. He said that Malik Riaz’s money laundering money was used in Al-Qadir Trust and both Imran Khan and his wife took benefit of billions of rupees from it. Two hundred and fifty kanals of land was also acquired in Bani Gala.

He said that a lot of money was spent on the inquiries against Nawaz Sharif and Shehbaz Sharif,

but the UK’s National Crime Agency (NCA) acquitted them as no evidence was presented. He said that Imran Khan could also have investigated this case during his government but he did not as he knew that this was a fake case.

Masses rejected enemies of Pakistan

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb on Monday called Imran Khan a “mastermind of terrorists and enemy of the country” who had been rejected by the masses.

The people were not ready to be a part of terrorism and anti-state activities carried out by Imran Khan, the minister said in a news statement while reacting to remarks made by the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chairman. “Since terrorists, armed groups and gangsters have been arrested according to the law then whom you are asking to be ready,” she said while referring to the recent statement of Imran Khan.

Those who had desecrated the memorials of martyrs had also been arrested, she said while asking Imran Khan to whom he called to be ready. She said the terrorists who attacked sensitive government buildings had already been arrested. Those who set mosques, schools, ambulances and livestock on fire had also been in police custody, she added.

15 killed in Dara Adam Khel firing

F.P. Report

DARA ADAM KHEL: At least 15 persons were killed and several other injured during exchange of fire between two tribes over a boundary dispute at Dara Adamkhel area of district Kohat. According to Dara Adamkhel Police, the incident occurred due to clash between Sunni and Zarghoon tribes over the demarcation of a coal mine boundary in Dara Adamkhel.

Both groups resorted to firing, resulting in the reported deaths of 15 individuals, 11 from one side while four from the other side but didn’t disclosed of which group and numbers of injured. The deceased and injured were rushed to hospital in Peshawar for medical treatment and post-mortem examinations.

According to sources, law enforcement agencies and security forces swiftly intervened to halt the gun-fire and restore peace in the area. The police didn’t register FIR as currently investigating the matter, and additional security measures have been put in place to prevent any further escalation of violence in the area. Further updates on the situation will be provided as more information becomes available, and the police continue their investigation into the tragic incident.

Bushra Bibi granted protective bail

LAHORE (PPI): A two-member bench of the Lahore High Court on Monday granted till May 23 protective bail to Bushra Bibi, wife of PTI chief Imran Khan, in Al-Qadir Trust case.

Former prime minister Imran Khan and his wife Bushra Bibi appeared in the Lahore High Court for protective bail. A two-member bench of the Lahore High Court led by Justice Shehbaz Rizvi conducted hearing of the case. The court barred the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) from arresting Bushra Bibi till May 23 in Al-Qadir Trust case.

Bushra Bibi marked her attendance after reaching the court. An application had been filed by Bushra Bibi through her counsel Khawaja Haris, Intizar Panjutha and Ali Ijaz Buttur in the Al-Qadir Trust case. The federal government, the NAB chief and others had been made parties in the petition. The petition stated that the NAB had started investigation in the Al-Qadir Trust case and it was illegal. There was a fear that NAB might arrest them, it said. In the application, the court has been informed that the petitioner has to approach the accountability court of Islamabad. Therefore, the court should approve the protective bail in the Al-Qadir Trust case.

Meanwhile, the Lahore High Court (LHC) was also likely to take up a plea moved by Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan over the cases registered against him on May 9 and onwards. The former prime minister was arrested in Al-Qadir Trust case on May 9. The PTI chief, a day after being released on bail from Islamabad High Court, had filed a petition in the Lahore High Court on Saturday fearing re-arrest in the new cases.

In the plea, Khan had sought details of the cases registered against him in the light of countrywide protests that broke out following his arrest, as well as immunity against being detained. He stated in the plea that he was being politically victimized and there was a risk of arrest as police had nominated him in several cases. The Punjab inspector general and advocate general have been made respondents in the case by the PTI chairman.

Mr Khan’s dramatic arrest came last week when he was getting his biometrics done at the Islamabad High Court (IHC). Heavy Rangers force took the former cricket star into custody, acting on National Accountability Bureau (NAB) orders, and whisked him away in a black Rivo. Violence erupted after the event which proved to be a major turn in the country’s restive politics as thousands of supporters and PTI workers took to streets against arrest of their leader.

Elections to be held on time: Maryam Nawaz

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) Senior Vice President Maryam Nawaz Monday said justice should be delivered impartially and emphasized that the general elections would be held in the country on time. Speaking at a demonstration organized by the Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) outside the Supreme Court (SC), she said the PDM had respect for the law, the Constitution and the apex court.

They, however, would not accept the “decisions made by the minority judges. Imposing a lifetime ban on some politicians while granting a lifetime bail to others raises significant concerns”, she added Maryam, who is also the Chief Organizer of PML-N, commended the PDM leadership and workers for their massive but peaceful gathering. It was commendable that a massive crowd had gathered without causing any disruption or damage, she added.

She said the PDM fully respected “the white building (SC) on the Constitution Avenue. However, its respect and sanctity are tied to the administration of justice. This building is meant to serve justice to the people and strengthen the Constitution, the democracy, and the Parliament. However, from it an elected prime minister was labelled as ‘Sicilian Mafia and Godfather’, while certain politicians are continuously being favoured and facilitated. “A person involved in a Rs 60 billion scam is welcomed to this building, while an elected prime minister is sent packing also from the same building.”

Instead of having equal scales of justice for all, she added, “some individuals receive capital punishment, are exiled, are disqualified for not withdrawing salary from their sons, or face a lifetime ban”. Whether any dictator had ever been removed from office for the above, she questioned, mentioning, “The individuals sitting in this building had taken oaths under the Provisional Constitutional Order (PCO) and the Legal Framework Order (LFO).” Maryam alleged that the “doctrine of necessity” was always used in favour of the dictators. The rules of all the four dictators were legitimized from “this building”. However, “the current military high-ups have no intention to impose martial law, rather they stand with the democracy and the Constitution”, she added.

The PML-N leader said it was shameful that during a telephonic conversation of Imran Khan’s lawyer Khawaja Tariq Rahim, it was lamented that why martial law was not being



imposed in the country. Maryam Nawaz remarked, “Whether the ‘doctrine of necessity’ has ever been used for the common people or democracy. Those who refer to Justice Cornelius in their remarks are actually the followers of Justice Munir, and they are denying justice in a bid to protect Imran Khan.” She said a thief, who had stolen a gifted watch, was granted bail in the Toshakhana case. Likewise, “his wife ‘Pinky Peerni’ received diamond rings as gifts, sold watches, and acquired land in the name of Al Qadir Trust, but when questioned, she stated in the court, ‘I am a housewife’.”

Maryam Nawaz pointed out that she, too, was a woman, but despite being a woman, she was not provided any privileges and was not spared from vindictive actions. “I did not even apply for bail and declared that anyone who wanted to arrest me should proceed. On the other hand, Peerni was escorted to the courtroom in a carriage wrapped in white sheets.” She questioned whether there was no respect for the wives, sisters, and daughters of others. She recalled how she and others were pushed and taken to court during Imran Khan’s tenure.

She claimed that the Constitution was rewritten to favour Imran Khan. “Although it was a decision of 4 to 3, but it was insisted that the minority decision of 3 to 2 should be accepted. Why such a decision should be accepted when the judges who dissented against it argued that suo motu powers were being misused and that it had turned into a one-man show,” she added. She pointed out that Hamza Shehbaz’s government was toppled and Punjab was handed over to Imran Khan, despite having the knowledge that he would dissolve the

assembly. It was in fact a conspiracy against Pakistan involving not only Parvaiz Elahi and Imran Khan but also “other characters who had promised relief to Imran”.

She alleged that former chief justice Saqib Nisar could not go on the public since his son was caught selling PTI tickets in black. Another judge Asif Saeed Khosa, she claimed, had asked Imran Khan to approach him with an application for relief after the failure of his sit-in, implying that a favourable treatment would be granted. Maryam Nawaz said everyone was aware of the corruption stories associated with the Twin Towers on the Constitution Avenue.

She emphasized that the PDM’s protest demonstration was peaceful because it was not foreign funded but rather a gathering of patriotic people. She condemning the attacks and violence on May 9, which, she said, were the manifestation of the “fitna” (mis-chief) that had been nurtured for long. “The gang of miscreants have done that job of terrorism which the arch enemy like India could not do in the country’s 75-year history. Numerous public and private properties, including radio station and hospitals, were set ablaze. Even the Corps Commander House (Lahore), which was historically the house of Quaid-e-Azam, was also not spared.

Maryam said the first attack on the General Headquarters was carried out by the TTP and now the PTI was behind the second one. Imran Khan had let loose his gang of criminals set the aircraft – the symbols of the courage shown by brave soldiers in the war, on fire. She asserted not more than 500 people had come out anywhere in Pakistan after Imran Khan’s arrest.



LAHORE: PTI chief Imran Khan arriving to High Court in full proof security, for his hearing.

PHC to decide maintainability of writs against 3MPO on 18th

Humayun Khan

PESHAWAR: Peshawar High Court (PHC) has to decide maintainability of writ petitions filed against arrest of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) activists under Maintenance of Public Order (MPO) commonly known 3MPO on 18th May while directed provincial government to submit reply in this regard, on Monday.

PHC divisional bench comprising of Justice Shakeel Ahmad and Justice Waqar Ahmad observed the remarks during hearing of more than two dozen identical cases. Advocate General

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Amir Javed raised objections on maintainability of petitions while argued that the current didn’t maintainable at this stage because provincial cabinet has evoked of Article 245 Constitution of Pakistan in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa due to extraordinary law and orders situation which bars High Court from hearing such constitutional pleas.

The petitions stated that under 3MPO police is arresting and raiding PTI’s leadership residences after violent protests which has resulted in damages of public properties and national exchequer. Police has arrested activists who were identified for violence

while now arresting PTI’s leaderships under 3MPO who have nothing to do with it, the counsel argued.

The counsel requested for release of inmate activists while demanded withdrawal of arrest’s warrant under 3MPO of PTI’s leadership. However, AG Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Amir Javed argued that arrest’s warrants have been issued under 3MPO while added that High Court doesn’t such petitions because Article 245 has implemented in the province which has suspended fundamental rights.

AG added that orders regarding 3MPO should be provided whom its lacks while claimed that no political worker should be victimized and every action is taken as per law with evidence while requested to provide time for submission of reply. PHC has ordered to provide order under MPO who didn’t obtained it yet while declared that court shall decide maintainability of petitions on 18th May and adjourned further hearing.

Meanwhile, Naem Ahmad Advocate challenged 3MPO and district government’s jurisdiction at PHC stating that it is against the constitution because Administration can detain any citizen without disclosing reason. One administrative officer exer-

cise power of issuance of warrant, implementation of order, granting punishment and conducting trial while Supreme Court has separated judicial jurisdiction from administration in several judgements. Advocate Azeem Afridi will present petitioner before PHC while Chief Secretary and Secretary Law KP are made respondents in the writ petition.

Imran will definitely be arrested: Sana

ISLAMABAD (INP): Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah on Monday announced to arrest former prime minister and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf Imran Khan. “Not Bushra Bibi but Imran Khan will definitely be arrested,” Rana Sanaullah said in his statement while reacting to the rumors of arresting Bushra Bibi, wife of Imran Khan.

The minister said PDM Chief Fazlur Rehman has not shared details of sin-in in Islamabad. “We have requested Fazlur Rehman to keep the protest’s duration short.” Commenting on “relief” to Imran Khan from the judiciary, Rana Sanaullah said when a top court is saying ‘good luck’ to an accused, there is no reason for the lower judiciary to deny ‘relief’ to him.

Turkiye braces for momentous runoff after election drama

ISTANBUL (Agencies): Türkiye braced on Monday for its first election runoff after a night of high drama showed President Recep Tayyip Erdogan edging ahead of his secular rival but failing to secure a first-round win. Erdogan sounded triumphant as he emerged before a sea of supporters shortly after midnight to proclaim himself ready to lead the nation for another five years.

Almost complete results from Türkiye’s most important election of its post-Ottoman era showed Erdogan — in power since 2003 and undefeated in more than a dozen national votes — falling just short of the 50-per cent threshold needed to win. “I wholeheartedly believe that we will continue to serve our people in the coming five years,” the 69-year-old leader said to huge cheers. He also claimed his ruling party and its ultranationalist allies had captured a clear majority in parliament. Figures from the Anadolu state news agency showed Erdogan picking up 49.3pc of the vote.

Opposition leader Kemal Kilicdaroglu was trailing with 45pc — a disappointing outcome after late pre-election polls had shown him in the lead. Türkiye’s first presidential runoff in the mostly Muslim but officially secular state’s 100-year history is planned for May 28. Kilicdaroglu’s camp had initially contested the vote count and claimed to be ahead. But the 74-year-old looked slightly despondent as he faced reporters early Monday and admitted that a runoff seemed inevitable. “If our nation says second round, we will absolutely win in the second round,” he said. “The will for change in the society is higher than 50pc.”

The lira fell against the dollar and euro on investor disappointment that Erdogan’s era of unconventional economics may not be over. Reported turnout approached 90pc in what has become a referendum on Türkiye’s longest-serving leader and his Islamic-rooted party.