

6 killed in Nukandi mishap

QUETTA (APP): At least six persons were killed and 16 sustained injuries when two passenger vehicles crashed on the Reko Diq Road in Landi area of Nukandi Tehsil of Balochistan. The two vehicles were en route to the Iran border in Chaghi district when they crashed and caught fire. At least six of the passengers were burnt to death and 16 others injured who were rushed to nearby hospitals by the rescuers.

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NSC urges resolving political rifts through talks

ISLAMABAD (APP): The National Security Committee on Tuesday, vowing "zero tolerance" against violence and miscreancy in the country, emphasised the resolution of political differences through dialogue as per democratic values, without any confrontation.

The NSC meeting, chaired by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, also resolved to bring all the elements involved in May 9 riots and arsons to justice as desecration of security installations, public properties and national dignity would not be tolerated.

The forum called for national unity and harmony amidst the complex geo-strategic situation caused by the global political confrontation as well as the enemies' policy of instability. Attended by federal ministers, Chairman of Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee, three services chiefs, heads of the security institutions and senior officers, the NSC meeting decided to observe May 9 as the "Black Day".

The participants expressed full solidarity and support to the armed forces of Pakistan and strongly condemned the attacks on security installations to serve personal or political interests. The meeting endorsed the decision of booking and trying the miscreants, planners, instigators and facilitators as per the Constitution and relevant laws, including the Pakistan Army Act and the Official Secret Act.

The forum made it categorically clear that no leniency to be shown towards those involved in the attacks on security installations and places

PM vows to bring all culprits of May 9 riots to justice

ISLAMABAD (APP): Terming the May 9 "the blackest day in the country's history", Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday said all the miscreants involved in the arson and rioting would be brought to justice and given exemplary punishment. Chairing the meeting of the National Security Committee (NSC), the prime minister directed to give strict punishment to the culprits to prevent recurrence of such violent incidents in future.

Millions of Pakistanis, he said, were upset on what happened on May 9 and they were demanding to hold all planners and instigators of the attack on security installations and historic buildings like the Jinnah House in Lahore, accountable. The NSC meeting expressed solidarity with the Pakistan armed forces, strongly condemned the violent incidents and vowed to bring all culprits to justice without victimizing the innocent people.

The prime minister said in the last meeting, he had directed the authorities concerned to register first information reports against the culprits involved in the incidents and arrest them within 72 hours. He said the people of Pakistan were upset and furious over what happened in the country on the said date as the incidents also brought disgrace to the nation.

PM Shehbaz said the Jinnah House that was burnt and destroyed by the miscreants was the abode of the valour troops who were busy in safeguarding the nation from its enemy. "When I visited the house after the incidents, the scenes were beyond imagination as it was totally burnt and destroyed," he added. Shehbaz Sharif said the miscreants had inflicted damage to the country which its arch enemy could not do even during the last 75 years. Such heart breaking events had never been witnessed in the country's history, he added. He said the 220 million people of Pakistan and the government were united to condemn such incidents in the strongest terms and stood behind the armed forces. He vowed that the criminals, who burnt and tarnished government properties, damaged the relics of the Pakistan armed forces and marched on the office of ISI in Faisalabad would not be spared. "I have asked the relevant authorities that even if the prime minister asks them to spare them, they must not obey him and act according to the law," he added.

under any agenda. The participants also paid tribute to the martyrs and their family members. The meeting instructed full implementation of the

social media rules and regulations to counter the propaganda patronised by foreign elements through local facilitation and penalise the perpetrators.

Contempt of Parliament

Lower House passes bill recommending punishment

ISLAMABAD (APP): The National Assembly on Tuesday passed a private member's bill aimed at condemning and awarding punishment for the actions that accounted for breach of the sovereignty and integrity of the Parliament in any form or shade.

The bill was moved by Chairman Standing Committee on Rules of Procedure and Privileges Rana Muhammad Qasim Noon which was passed by the House. Minister for Federal Education and professional Training Rana Tanveer Hussain appreciated the bill and said that this would help to improve oversight role of the Parliament. After the passage of the bill, the mover Rana Muhammad Qasim Noon said that it was an historical moment in the parliamentary history of the country.

It would ensure the supremacy of Parliament which was mother of all the institutions, he said adding that such legislation was made in four provinces but it did not exist at the federal level. He said this legislation would ensure proper functioning of the standing committees and parliamentary oversight role would be effective after it. Rana Qasim Noon said that it would be contempt to breach the privilege of the parliament and those involved in such acts could be punished. He thanked Speaker National Assembly, Secretariat, Minister for Commerce Naveed Qamar, Minister for Law and Justice Azam Nazeer Tarar and members of Standing Committee on Rules of Procedure and Privileges for their cooperation and guidance over the legislative proposal. According to this bill, a House through a motion may charge any person for contempt of a House and; the Speaker or the Chairman Senate, may refer the matter to the Contempt Committee. When a Committee is of the view that any person shall be charged for its contempt, the Chairman of that Committee may move such motion in the House.

The Speaker shall within thirty days of the commencement of this Act, constitute a Contempt Committee for the purposes mentioned in this Act. The Contempt Committee shall consist of twenty-four members having equal representation from each house. The Contempt committee shall have fourteen members from the Treasury Benches, duly

nominated by the Leader of the House including seven Members from each House and ten from the opposition Benches, five from each House duly nominated by the Leader of the Opposition of each House.

Secretary, National Assembly Secretariat shall act as the Secretary of the Contempt Committee. Decisions of the contempt Committee shall be the decision of majority of members present and voting shall be in the form of recommendations. The bill states that right of fair trial as enshrined in the Constitution shall be provided to each but no one shall be allowed to appear before the Committee through legal practitioner or an Advocate. The Contempt Committee in its first meeting shall elect a Chairman from amongst its members. It states that contempt committee shall have power to declare any of the proceedings before it as in camera. The Contempt Committee shall have powers as vested in civil court under the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908 (V of 1908), for enforcing the attendance of any person and compelling the production of documents.

The Chairman may direct the issuance of summons of any person, to appear before the Committee, to give evidence or to produce documents in his possession or under his control. Such summons shall be duly signed by the Secretary Committee. Any person so summoned, not being the official, shall be entitled to receive such travelling and daily allowances as may be admissible to a witness summoned by a Civil Court in connection with proceedings under the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908 (V of 1908).

Summons issued under this section shall be served through registered post/urgent mail service, addressed to the person to whom it is directed, at his last known place of residence or business; If a person to whom summons is issued, does not appear or willfully avoids to appear before the Committee, or avoids service, the Chairman may, upon being satisfied that the summons was duly served under this section, may issue a warrant for his appearance through local police, at such time and place stated in the warrant for his appearance, provided that no such warrant shall be issued without prior approval of the Speaker or the Chairman Senate, as the case may be.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif chairing a meeting of the National Security Committee.

PM orders to pace up flour supply to KP

E.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday directed to pace up the supply of wheat flour from Punjab to Khyber Pakhtunkhwa to end the crisis of commodity in the latter province.

In this regard, he said, negligence of any kind would not be tolerated, the PM Office said in a statement. Sharif asked the interim governments of the two provinces to improve their coordination in order to ensure a fast supply of flour.

The prime minister earlier had ordered to ensure an uninterrupted supply of flour in KP to end the flour crisis in the province. The statement mentioned that the prime minister himself was supervising the process of flour supply to KP.

Shehbaz directs implementation of Balochistan Commission's recommendations: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday directed the federal and provincial departments to ensure steps for the implementation of recommendations contained in the Commission's report, which was formed over the grievances of students of the Balochistan province.

A delegation of the Commission to enquire and investigate the grievances of the students of Balochistan called on the prime minister to brief him over their report and recommendations. The prime minister assured that all steps would be taken to address the Baloch students' issues as they had been the national assets and the country's progress and development was linked with their prosperity.

He also appreciated the efforts of the Commission to furnish a comprehensive report with honesty and diligence, the PM Office Media Wing said in a press release. The meeting was attended by Convenor of the Commission Sardar Akhtar Mengal (MNA) and members Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed, Senator Kamran Murtaza, Afrasiab Khattak, Nasir Mehmood Khosa and Additional Secretary Senate Major (R) Syed Hasnain Haider. Minister for Defence Khawaja Muhammad Asif, Minister for Interior Rana Sanaullah, Minister for Law and Justice Azam Nazeer Tarrar, PM's Adviser Ahad Cheema and other senior officials were also present during the meeting. The prime minister further said the political leadership of the country was giving a message of peace, friendship and prosperity to the people of the province.

IHC bars authorities from arresting Fawad

ISLAMABAD (Agencies): The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Tuesday approved Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) senior leader Fawad Chaudhry's two-day protective bail in all cases and barred the authorities from arresting him from within the limits of the federal capital till May 17.

Earlier on Tuesday, the former information minister shortly after being released on bail rushed back to the court to evade the possible arrest as the police made a move to detain Fawad as he was leaving the IHC. After securing bail from IHC, Fawad had just sat in his car and had barely moved when he saw Anti-Terrorist Squad personnel moving towards him.

As soon as he saw the cops moving towards him the PTI leader ran out of his car and into the premises of the IHC to evade arrest. He is currently back in the court room along with his lawyers. Interestingly, the police made a move to arrest the PTI leader despite him submitting an undertaking in the IHC of not violating the section 144 and taking part in protests. Subsequently, IHC Justice Mian Gul Hassan Aurangzeb heard the PTI leader's petition seeking protective bail in all cases.

The court had sought details of the case from the advocate general, who informed the court that two cases were registered against the PTI leader. The IHC accepted Fawad's bail petition and ordered the authorities concerned to send a copy of the verdict to the Islamabad police chief via "special messenger".

Earlier on Tuesday, the IHC had declared the arrest of PTI leaders Fawad, Shireen Mazari and Senator Falak Naz under Section 3 of the Maintenance of Public Ordinance (MPO) "illegal". The orders to release the PTI leaders were issued by Justice Mian Gul Hassan Aurangzeb's court while hearing separate pleas.

During Fawad Chaudhry's hearing, Islamabad Advocate General Barrister Jahangir Jadoon appeared before the single-judge bench. "I want to place some facts before the court," he said, informing the court that the copy of the court's order was not given to the IG office and law offi-

cers. He added that the biometric verification of the PTI leader was also not done on the petition.

At this, the judge rebuked the lawyer saying that he wasn't the judge and it was the court's authority to see whether the biometrics had been done. Moving on, the AG contended that Fawad Chaudhry had not been arrested in any case. He would have been required to be presented in court if the arrest had been made under a case. Barrister Jadoon further argued that Fawad through his conduct had to prove whether he is a peaceful citizen or not. He added that the nation incurred losses of billions due to the incidents of May 9.

At this, Justice Aurangzeb remarked that the court had not barred the authorities from taking action on those incidents. However, Jadoon mentioned that the court while stopping Imran Khan's arrest had mentioned the MPO separately. If they had stopped arrest in cases only, the arrest could have been made under MPO, he added. At this, the court asked who had advised that the arrest could be made under MPO.

To the court's query, the AG responded that no one had advised them, however, they were unaware of the court order against arrest. The government lawyer then presented a tweet by Fawad, posted on May 10, saying that it was a video of the PTI leader inciting workers to join the protests.

The government lawyer stated that Fawad in his tweet had said that it was liable to the PTI workers to take part in protests following Imran Khan's arrest.

On this point, Babar Awan argued that the deputy commissioner must have known about the high court's order on the arrest by now. He urged the court to extend its order stopping authorities from arresting Fawad and his client be given time to contact the relevant court. The court then asked if the police had shown any documents to the PTI leader at the time of his arrest. "When the order was read, the police officer said he did not know English," said Awan. He added that his client was arrested based on material that does not exist.

ECP contempt case: Imran ordered to appear on 23rd

E.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) summoned Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan to appear in a personal capacity in a contempt case on May 23. A four-member ECP bench chaired by its member Nisar Durrani on Tuesday heard the contempt case against PTI leaders Fawad Chaudhry, Asad Umar and its chairman Imran Khan.

The former ruling party's leaders are accused of using foul language against the ECP and its chief Sikander Sultan Raja. ECP member Justice (ret'd) Ikramullah Chaudhry expressed displeasure over the persistent non-appearance of the PTI chairman's counsel before

the bench

The assistant of Khan's counsel Faisal Chaudhry told the ECP bench that he appeared on the latter's behalf as he was busy in the Islamabad High Court (IHC) due to hearings of other cases against the PTI chief. To which, ECP member Ikramullah remarked: "We will go to the Islamabad High Court and listen to them." "You are taking this case lightly. The case has been pending for so long. At the last hearing, you appeared without a lawyer," he added.

The ECP member said earlier they issued a bailable warrant but no one appeared before the electoral body. "Shall we issue a non-bailable warrant for

Imran Khan today," member Durrani asked. However, he summoned the PTI chief to appear before the bench on May 23 in-person and adjourned the hearing of the case.

Meanwhile, Asad Umar's lawyer Anwar Mansoor told the ECP bench that his client was in custody and added the electoral body's lawyers had also sought a stay order in the Sindh High Court (SHC) on the matter. However, the ECP member said that according to the order of the Supreme Court Umar's counsel arguments were required in the case. "You have a last chance to present your arguments on May 23," the ECP member added charges against them on April 18.

Thousands wish to hear 'good to see you' in courtrooms: Marriyum

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb on Tuesday said thousands of people facing trials for years wished to hear reassuring words like "good to see you" in courtrooms.

"Judicial bias" was evident particularly in high-profile cases as the above words could be heard in the courtrooms only for Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf Chairman (PTI) Imran Khan, on whose order arson, vandalism and attacks on military installments, and public and private properties were planned and carried out on May 9, she said while addressing a news conference. Ironically, she said, no leader of the PTI, including Imran Khan, condemned the tragic events and even the instructions of the Chief Justice of Pakistan were also ignored in that regard. The entire political career of Imran Khan, she said, "is based on cre-

ating chaos and anarchy, mischief, conspiracies and enmity towards the country," the minister remarked.

Marriyum said despite the fact that the entire nation fully knew about the track record of Imran Khan, he still had the audacity to blame the intelligence agencies for what "his party goons" had done on his own instructions. She said every Pakistani citizen was upset over the violence and arson by the PTI protesters. The minister recalled that during Imran Khan-led 2014 sit-in, the PTI activists dug graves at the D-Chowk, hung dirty clothes on the boundary walls of the Supreme Court, and attacked the building of Pakistan Television, and all the more it was appreciated by the PTI chairman and other top party leadership.

"If Imran Khan had been taken to task in the PTV's attack case, such

incidents would not have happened today," she added. As regards the May 9 attacks, the minister asked whether the PTI leaders including Murad Saeed and Yasmin Rashid, who were issuing instructions to the workers to further disrupt law and order, were agents of the secret agencies. Similarly, she said, Imran Khan during his presence in the Islamabad High Court stated that if he was arrested again, there would be more strong reaction than May 9.

The minister pointed out that while Imran Khan was the prime minister, he used to do the same thing. If anyone questioned him, either their ribs were broken or they were thrown into the death cells of prisons, she added. Lambasting the PTI, she said what the enemy could not do in 75 years, its workers had done on May 9, who even attacked the General Headquarters.

She recalled that after the Lasbela helicopter crash, in which the Pakistan Army officers were martyred, a campaign was launched against them from the PTI's social media official accounts.

Similarly, she said, the PTI gangsters attacked the memorials of armed forces martyrs, which hurt the sentiments of their loved ones. Referring to the Pakistan Democratic Movement's sit-in on Monday, she said the patriotic parties of Pakistan gave a peaceful political response and the nation had witnessed that on the Shahrah-e-Dastur. It was a public reaction yesterday, but not even a flower pot was broken, she added.

Reacting to Imran Khan's claims of having proof of agencies' involvement in the May 9 incidents, she said had he any evidence, then why he had not presented them in court so far. She

said Imran Khan during his government resorted to political victimization of the opposition and put his political opponents in jails in fake cases. The minister said important buildings, including the Governor House, were in the vicinity of the Jinnah House, but only the latter burnt by the rioters which was highly questionable.

No relief could be given to those who burnt the country, she said, adding, "Imran Khan is a liar and a fraud, who cannot befool over 220 million population of Pakistan." The minister also played the leaked audios of PTI leaders Murad Saeed, Sheikh Imtiaz, Ali Chaudhry, Chaudhry Ejaz, Sagheer Waraich, Khawaja Tariq Rahim, Ejaz Minhas, Yasmin Rashid and Ibad Farooq. She said the above PTI leaders kept issuing instructions to the party workers to attack the Corps Commander's House, Army House

and other important installations.

She appealed to the youth followers of the PTI and their families to realise "what Imran Khan is doing is not politics but terrorism and anti-state activities". About reduction in petroleum products prices, Marriyum said in the current difficult economic situation, Minister of Finance Ishaq Dar had given relief to the people. Replying to the questions of media persons, she said Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif had already made it clear that those involved in the May 9 arson and violence would be tried under the relevant laws. Those who had stopped the Results Transmission System functioning on the polling day of 2018 general election, were also responsible for the loss the nation suffered in the form of Imran Khan becoming the prime minister, she added.



KARACHI: Traders of Timber market hold protest outside Governor house.

Administrator asks Land Deptt to issue notices of land leases

KARACHI (NNI): Administrator Karachi Dr. Syed Saifur Rahman has said that the Land Department should issue notices of land leases in every area of Karachi and the recovery targets of the current financial year should be achieved. Efforts should be made to increase lease rates in slums. Project Director Orangi should focus on achieving the recovery target with follow-up of land related cases. Tenders should be invited from private entities to enable gym and bowling alley facilities at KMC Sports Complex. He gave these instructions while presiding over a meeting with the officers of Land Department, katchi abadies Department, PD Orangi and KMC Sports Complex in his office on Tuesday. Municipal Commissioner Syed Shujaat Hussain, Senior Director Katchi abadies Mazhar Khan, Project

Director Orangi Rizwan Khan, Director Land Sabahul Islam, Director Sports Complex Kaiful Wara, Aftab Qaim Khani and other officers were also present on the occasion. Administrator Karachi Dr. Syed Saifur Rahman said that the purpose of recovery should not only be revenue acquisition but also the provision of facilities. During the current fiscal year, the departments which have not yet achieved their recovery targets should speed up the recovery process in the remaining part of the fiscal year. Expediting and compiling a complete region-wise list of how many notices have been prepared for recovery of dues and how many notices have been issued so far. He said that attention is being given to providing facilities to the slum dwellers under KMC management, but the lease rates should be fixed according to the

current market value. While giving instructions to the officials of the KMC Sports Complex Administrator Karachi said that shade should be installed on the basketball court and swimming pool constructed in the KMC Sports Complex and steps should be taken to rebuild the dilapidated part of the boundary wall of the sports complex. For the construction works, the work should be done in collaboration with the Technical Services Department of KMC. The squash court should also be completed soon and the Pakistan China Friendship Park, which is a part of the KMC Sports Complex, should also be used for sports for the citizens. He directed that attention should also be paid to Landhi Sports Complex and Baldia Sports Complex so that better sports facilities can be provided to the people of these areas.

Lahore’s population crosses 13m with three percent per annum rise

LAHORE (PPI): Lahore’s population has crossed 13 million with an increase at the rate of three percent per annum. According to the data shared by the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) on Tuesday, the population of Lahore has increased by 20 lakh 8 thousand 387 people during the last five years.

The latest figures come out by the 7th Digital Population and Housing Census-2023, that the total population in Lahore reached 13,128,372 individuals. In 2017, the population of Lahore was counted as 11,119,985 persons. The process of the census in Lahore has been completed 100%. The highest increase of 34.91%

has been calculated in the Raiwind population after the completion of the census. It was 848,541 individuals in 2017 which increased to 1,144,776. Raiwind's population recorded an annual increase of 5.82%. The population of Model Town also recorded an increase of 20.74%. Its population has increased from 2,703,569 to 3,264,172 individuals

‘Peace, conducive atmosphere inevitable for holding free, fair elections in country’

ISLAMABAD (PPI): PML-N leader Talal Chaudhry has said peace and conducive atmosphere is inevitable for holding free and fair elections in the country. Addressing a news conference here in Islamabad on Tuesday, he said holding free, fair and impartial elections in the prevailing situation is not possible when the PTI and its Chairman Imran Khan is being encouraged and given relief. The PML-N leader said the rioters belonging to PTI and Imran Khan are behind the recent incidents of arson and ransacking of public and private properties. He said if GHQ is not safe from the armed gangs of PTI, how the office of Election Commission of Pakistan and ballot boxes could be prevented from their hooliganism. He demanded exemplary punishment for the rioters of PTI in accordance with the law.

Hot, dry weather forecast

KARACHI (APP): Pakistan Meteorological Department on Tuesday predicted hot and dry weather in most parts of the Sindh province during the next 24 hours. However, rain with thunderstorm and gusty winds are predicted in Sukkur, Larkana, Dadu and their surrounding areas. The minimum and maximum temperatures recorded in Karachi 35-37 degrees Centigrade, Hyderabad 40-42 degrees Centigrade, Sukkur 44-46 degrees Centigrade, Thatta 36-38 degrees Centigrade, Mohenjodaro 45-47 degrees Centigrade, Dadu 44-46 degrees Centigrade, Mitthi 40-42 degrees Centigrade, and in Nawabshah 44-46 degrees Centigrade.

‘Clean campus ambassador’ program continues efficaciously

F.P. Report

LAHORE: Lahore Waste Management Company Community Mobilization Wing is active in the city to highlight the importance of cleanliness and a clean environment. In this regard LWMC is conducting Clean Campus Awareness drive in Government and Private educational institutes whereas multiple awareness campaign are being driven at parks, historical places, commercial markets, bus stops, Railway station and other prominent points of the city. CEO LWMC Babar Sahib Din directed to execute awareness campaign on mass level to highlight the importance of cleanliness and citizen's role in maintaining cleanliness in the city. CEO LWMC Babar Sahib Din stated that LWMC's Clean Campus Ambassador Program has been launched to promote the cleanliness mission. This year, the target is to make 50,000 students clean campus ambassadors to

raise awareness among masses. He added that organizing such awareness session is a very key component of the organization and reason behind to raise awareness is to reach maximum people and especially the upcoming new generation which can play a vital role in maintaining cleanliness in the city. He also said that the Campus Ambassador campaign is getting a huge recognition from international institutions. Clean Campus Campaign is Pakistan's largest cleanliness drive in educational institutions. LWMC workers and official are working day and night to keep the city clean but without the cooperation of citizens the mission clean Lahore cannot be achieved. Citizens are requested to adapt the environment friendly procedures to dispose of their waste and avoid littering. In case of any waste related complaint citizen can always dial LWMC helpline or can use social media.

‘E-registration training completed in all districts’

LAHORE (APP): Director General of the Punjab Land Records Authority (PLRA) Saira Omer has announced the completion of training for officers and officials, including deed-writers, regarding the e-registration of property records in all districts of Lahore, Rawalpindi, Gujranwala, Gujrat, Sahiwal, Multan, Sargodha, and Bahawalpur. In a statement issued here on Tuesday, she mentioned that the training process will be concluded next week in the districts of DG Khan and Faisalabad divisions. This e-registration initiative aims to preserve and facilitate the easy transfer of public properties while ensuring the security of revenue records.

It has been implemented in 90% of the districts, significantly enhancing the transparency and efficiency of property transfer. Manual registration is no longer possible in the districts where training has been completed, as adherence to the prescribed procedures is mandatory, she said. The DG PLRA provided insights into the automated process of e-registration, where citizens can enter registration details on a computer either personally or through a deed writer and submit them online to the sub-registrar. Once the statements and thumb impressions of both parties are verified at the registrar's office, the registration process is consid-


ered complete. Moreover, citizens can conveniently access a copy of the registered document online from their homes through the e-registration system. The introduction of e-registration will effectively safeguard revenue records against unauthorized alterations and serve as a valuable tool in combating corruption. It will greatly facilitate the public and enable efficient monitoring by officials. To ensure proper supervision, a monitoring cell has been established within the Punjab Land Records Authority, ensuring the effective implementation of the e-registration system, concluded Saira Omer.

Ulema stress unity, brotherhood for peace in country

LAHORE (APP): Chairman Ruet-e-Hilal National Solidarity Peace Committee / Pakistan / Khateeb and Imam of Badshahi Mosque Lahore / Chairman Majlis Ulema Pakistan / Chairman Interfaith Council for Peace and Harmony Ambassador of Peace Maulana Syed Muhammad Abdul Khabir Azad has said that there is dire need of unity, brotherhood and stability for the establishment of peace in the country. Speaking at the Pakistan National Solidarity Peace Conference under the 'Majlis-e-Ulema Pakistan here on Tuesday he said the ulema and nation stand in solidarity with the Pakistan Army and pay tribute to their sacrifices. "Pakistan is our country and we will never allow any kind of chaos and disorder at the behest of our cunning enemy," he resolved. Condemning burning of Lahore Corps Commander (Jinnah) House, military

memorials, life and property, he said this forum condemns all forms of violence and efforts to disrupt peace and harmony in the country. Maulana Khabeer also condemned the dastardly terrorists attack in the Muslim Bagh, and hailed martyred soldiers who laid their lives for the security of the country. The Chairman Majlis-e-Ulema Pakistan said the nation will thwart evil plans of the enemy with the help Pakistan Army, adding that

the agenda of anti-national forces will not be allowed to succeed in Pakistan. A large number of ulema from different schools of thought including Allama Dr. Muhammad Hussain Akbar, Sheikh ul Hadees Mufti Mubashar Ahmed, Maulana Abdul Wahab Ropri, Mufti Muhammad Ramzan Sialvi, Sardar Muhammad Khan Leghari, Archbishop Sebastian Shaw, Mufti Muhammad Ramzan Sialvi.



BALLOT PAPER

This is continuation of EOGM Notice published on Wednesday, May 3, 2023

Ballot Paper for voting through post for the Special Businesses at the Extraordinary General Meeting to be held on Wednesday, May 24, 2023, at 12:00 noon at factory premises in Pezu, District Lakki Marwat, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and through video conferencing.

Contact Details of the Chairman at which the duly filled in ballot paper may be sent:

Address: The Chairman, Lucky Cement Limited, 6-A Muhammad Ali Housing Society, Karachi. Attention of the Company Secretary

E-mail address: company.secretary@lucky-cement.com
Phone: +92-21- 111-786-555 **Website:** www.lucky-cement.com

Folio / CDS Account Number	
Name of Shareholder / Proxy Holder	
Registered Address	
Number of shares Held	
CNIC/Passport No. (in case of foreigner) (copy to be attached)	
Additional information and enclosures (in case of representative of body corporate, corporation, and federal Government)	
Name and CNIC of Authorized Signatory	

I/we hereby exercise my/our vote in respect of the following special resolutions through postal ballot by conveying my/our assent or dissent to the resolutions by placing tick (✓) mark in the appropriate box below: (In case if both the boxes are marked as (✓), your poll shall be treated as **"Rejected"**)

S. No.	Agenda / Description of Special Resolutions	I / We assent to the Resolution(s) (FOR)	I / We dissent to the Resolution(s) (AGAINST)
1.	<p>Resolutions For Agenda Item No. 1</p> <p>"RESOLVED THAT approval be and is hereby accorded to Lucky Cement Limited (the "Company"), under Section 88 of the Companies Act, 2017 read with Listed Companies (Buy-Back of Shares) Regulations, 2019 (the "Regulations"), to purchase / buy-back up to 23,800,000 (Twenty Three Million Eight Hundred Thousand) issued ordinary shares of the Company, having face value of PKR 10/- (Pak Rupees Ten) each, constituting up to approximately 7.59% of the current issued and paid up share capital of the Company, at the spot / current price acceptable to the Company prevailing during the purchase period, through the securities exchange (i.e. the Pakistan Stock Exchange Limited), in accordance with the salient features as mentioned in the Statement under Section 134(3) of the Companies Act, 2017.</p> <p>FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the ordinary shares purchased by the Company pursuant to these special resolutions be cancelled in accordance with the Regulations.</p> <p>FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Buy-Back shall be made through the securities exchange (i.e. the Pakistan Stock Exchange Limited), and the purchase period shall be from June 2, 2023 to November 20, 2023, or till such date that the Buy-Back is completed, whichever is earlier.</p> <p>FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Chief Executive of the Company, or any person authorized by him, be and is hereby authorized and empowered to determine and approve the quantum of shares that may be purchased by the Company (as may be deemed fit) on a day-to-day basis during the purchase period.</p> <p>FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Company Secretary (the "Authorized Person") be and is hereby, authorized to prepare, finalize, execute, issue and file all necessary documents, notices, applications and any ancillary documents, take and do, and / or cause to be taken or done, any / all necessary actions, deeds and things for and on behalf of, and in the name of the Company, as may be necessary or required as deemed fit for giving effect to the aforementioned resolutions or for the Buy-Back, as well as do all acts, matters, deeds, and things which are necessary, incidental and / or consequential to the principal or any ancillary matters thereto to fully achieve the aforesaid resolutions.</p> <p>FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Authorized Person be and is hereby further authorized and empowered, to take or cause to be taken all actions including, but not limited to, obtaining any requisite regulatory or third party approvals, wherever required, preparing all documents, engaging legal counsel, financial advisors and consultants for the purposes of the Buy-Back, opening accounts / sub-accounts with the CDC / securities broker, filing of all the requisite statutory forms, returns and all other documents as may be required to be filled with the regulator(s) or any other institution(s), executing all such documents or instrument, including any amendments or substitutions to any of the foregoing as may be required or necessary in respect of implementing, procuring and completing the Buy-Back and all other matters incidental or ancillary thereto.</p> <p>FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the aforesaid resolutions shall be subject to any amendments, modifications, additions or deletions that may be suggested, directed and advised by the regulator(s), which shall, if determined to be prudent or necessary by any Authorized Person, be deemed to be part of these resolutions, without the need of the members to pass fresh special resolutions."</p>		
2	<p>Resolution For Agenda Item No. 2</p> <p>"RESOLVED THAT Lucky Cement Limited (the "Company") be and is hereby authorized to circulate its annual report, including the annual audited financial statements, auditor's report, Directors' report, Chairman's review report and other reports contained therein, to the members of the Company through QR enabled code and web-link, in accordance with S.R.O. 389(I)/2023 issued by the Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan, and that the practice of circulation of the annual report through CD / USB be discontinued."</p>		

1. Duly filled ballot paper should be sent to the Chairman of Lucky Cement Limited at 6-A Muhammad Ali Housing Society, A. Aziz Hashim Tabba Street, Karachi. Attention of the Company Secretary or e-mail at company.secretary@lucky-cement.com

2. Copy of CNIC/ Passport (in case of foreigner) should be enclosed with the postal ballot form.

3. Ballot paper should reach the Chairman within business hours by or before **Tuesday, May 23, 2023**. Any postal ballot received after this date, will not be considered for voting.

4. Signature on ballot paper should match with signature on CNIC/ Passport. (In case of foreigner).

5. Incomplete, unsigned, incorrect, defaced, torn, mutilated, over written poll paper will be rejected.

6. In case of a representative of a body corporate, corporation or Federal Government, the Ballot Paper Form must be accompanied by a copy of the CNIC of an authorized person, an attested copy of Board Resolution / Power of Attorney / Authorization Letter etc., in accordance with Section(s) 138 or 139 of the Companies Act, 2017 as applicable. In the case of foreign body corporate etc., all documents must be attested by the Counsel General of Pakistan having jurisdiction over the member.

7. Ballot Paper form has also been placed on the website of the Company at: www.lucky-cement.com. Members may download the Ballot paper from the website or use an original/photocopy published in newspapers.

Shareholder / Proxy Holder Signature/Authorized Signatory
(In case of corporate entity, please affix company stamp)

ORIENT/MCANN



Delegations of business community calls on Governor

PESHAWAR (APP): A delegation of Hotel Association Kalam and business community here Tuesday called on Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor, Haji Ghulam Ali and informed him about their problems and concerns.

The delegation informed the governor that all the infrastructure of Kalam, Madayn, Behrain has been affected by recent floods and problems of visitors and hotel owners have increased due to bad condition of roads.

They urged governor and provincial government to take steps for rehabilitation of Bahrain-Kalam Road so that tourism reviving activities should be started.

Speaking on the occasion, KP Governor assured cooperation to delegation in resolution of their problems and directed National Highways Authority to rehabilitate roads damaged in recent floods.

He said that provincial government has taken steps to boost tourism in Kumrat, Chitral, Kalam, Naran and Chitral and to highlight the natural beauty and tourist attraction of KP.

Later, representative delegations of Peshawar, Mardan and merged districts business community met with governor and apprised him about their problems.

The delegation also expressed grief over loss of public property and damage to historic building of Radio Pakistan.

Governor listened to problems of delegation and said that handsome amount would be allocated for development of merged districts in coming budget.

He also urged people and public representatives to monitor ongoing development schemes and inform government about any corruption.



PESHAWAR: Federal Minister Sajid Hussain Tori alongwith provincial president of PPP's Women Wing Robina Khalid meeting with members of PPP's provincial cabinet. — F.P. photo Gulam Murtaza

Appointment of Associate Professor: High Court orders UOP to submit reply

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: Peshawar High Court has ordered University of Peshawar and newly appointed Associate Professor at Department of International Relation (IR) while holding Directorate of Philosophy (Ph. D) in political science to submit reply, on Tuesday.

The counsel Tariq Afghan Advocate informed that petitioner Dr. Minhas Majeed is serving as Assistant Professor IR at UOP while applied for position of Associate Professor but Dr. Sami Raza had appointed despite his Ph. D in Political Science, however, applicant qualification solely in the particular field of knowledge.

Traders express solidarity with Pak armed forces

PESHAWAR (APP): Mutaahida Anjuman-e-Tajran on Tuesday carried out a rally here to express solidarity with the armed forces of Pakistan and to condemn the violent protests on May 9 and 10.

The rally started from Yadgar Chowk and ended at Qisa Khwani Bazaar wherein the participants chanted slogans in favor of Pakistan Army and termed the force a valuable asset of the nation.

The speakers said that negative propaganda against Pakistan Army would not be tolerated and any such move would be countered strictly, adding that the whole nation stands united with Pak Armed forces.

They also condemned the mob attacks on public properties in Peshawar and other cities of the country and appreciated the patience shown by Pak Army at that time.



PESHAWAR: Provincial leader of Awami National Party Samar Bilour with students visiting burnt building of Radio Pakistan Peshawar.

ANP condemns attack on PBC

PESHAWAR (APP): The Awami National Party (ANP) Information Secretary Samar Haroon Bilour on Tuesday visited Pakistan Broadcasting Corporation and condemned the recent attack on the Radio Pakistan and Associated Press of Pakistan (APP) office.

Flanked by school children and women politicians of ANP, Samar Bilour said that the damage to the property is unacceptable and immoral act.

She expressed solidarity with the journalist friends of Radio Pakistan and APP. She said that such attacks cannot suit with politicians. She accused the PTI miscreants of destroying equipment and vehicles of the employees of PBC and APP. She called for strict action against those responsible for the cowardly attack.

Minister visits Radio Station Peshawar

PESHAWAR (APP): Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Caretaker Minister for Excise and Narcotics Control Haji Manzoor Khan Afridi paid a detailed visit to the Pakistan Broadcasting house here and went round its burnt sections that were set ablaze by certain miscreants.

During his visit the other day, he expressed deep grief and anguish over the burning of this historical media building as well as all the other ugly incidents of 9th and 10th May.

On this occasion, he said that the provincial government will provide all possible assistance to Radio Pakistan Peshawar in the restoration of its decrepit building. He said the chief minister has already summoned a report of the damages to provide all out help in this regard.

The minister, accompanied by Secretary Excise KP Ihsanullah, was briefed by the station director PBC Peshawar Ijaz Khan. Similarly Falak Niaz Khan from News Section and Engr Saifullah Khan from Engineering Section were also present.

Haji Manzoor Khan Afridi was given complete details of the damages. He especially lauded the valiant role of the PBC officials for restarting routine transmission of the broadcasting house on an emergency basis.

Wall graffiti begins under clean & green campaign



PESHAWAR (APP): District administration Peshawar in collaboration with Department of Youth Affairs CECOS University organized wall graffiti of the Khyber Teaching Hospital here on Tuesday.

The initiative is taken under the Clean and Green Campaign of the provincial capital and the walls are being beautified by making carvings all over Peshawar.

Under the directives of Deputy Commissioner Peshawar, the Assistant Commissioner Rao Hashim is supervising the campaign.

In order to highlight the culture, history and civilization of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, painters from all over Pakistan have been invited to come and beautify the walls of Peshawar and show their art and highlight the history of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and especially Peshawar. In this regard, painting of walls has been started from Khyber Teaching Hospital.

Talking on the occasion, Assistant Commissioner (AC) Rao Hashim said that Peshawar is being made a city of flowers and to increase its beauty, carvings are being made on the walls in different areas and students in this campaign.

He said that the local community has also been engaged to make the campaign successful and enhance the beauty of Peshawar.

New spell of rain forecast in KP

PESHAWAR (APP): The Met Office has predicted a new spell of intermittent rains with chances of hailstorm in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa from Tuesday evening to May 18.

Wind-dust, thunderstorm rain with isolated hailstorm is expected in Chitral, Upper and Lower Dir, Malakand, Buner, Swat, Shangla, Kohistan, Battagram, Torghar, Mansehra, Abbottabad, Haripur, Swabi, Mardan, Peshawar, Charsadda, Nowshera, Bajaur, Kurram, North & South Waziristan, Kohat, Karak, Hangu, Bannu, Lakki Marwat, Tank and Dera Ismail Khan districts.

Dust raising winds are likely to occur over plain areas of the province, it added.

In view of thunder and hailstorm, the provincial disaster management authority (PDMA) had issued instructions to the district administrations and concerned institutions to ensure the availability of small and heavy machinery by the district administration.

The farmers were advised to make proper arrangements for their activities keeping in view the forecast as the crops especially wheat could be affected by strong winds and hailstorms.

The weather remained mainly hot and dry over most district of the province with maximum temperature recorded in main cities of the province as: Peshawar 37C, Bannu 40, Mardan 37, DI Khan 42, Dir 30, Kalam 24, Malamjabbha 20 and Chitral 30.



PESHAWAR: Senior Lawyer Ishaq Ali Qazi meeting with Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Haji Ghulam Ali. — F.P. photo

Provision of 'Shuhada package': PHC orders to make finance dept as respondent

Humayun Khan

PESHAWAR: A divisional bench comprising of Chief Justice Peshawar High Court (PHC) Justice Musart Hilali and Justice Waqar Ahmad directed applicant to make Finance's department as respondent against refusal of 'Shuhada package' for late Inspector Khushdil Khan in writ petition then proceedings should be forwarded, on Tuesday.

The counsel Zahir Shah Marwat Advocate informed that Inspector Khushdil Khan was shot killed in front of Central Jail Peshawar in line of his duty and one constable was injured while protecting an acquitted person namely Sadaqat from rival on 30th January 2021 who was waiting outside the prison for his release.

The counsel added that Khushdil Khan has protected the acquitted Sadaqat but his rival opened firing in which Inspector Khushdil was dead while one was constable injured in the incident but martyr's family deprived from 'Shuhada package' with plea that Anti-terrorism Act section didn't incorporated in the case.

PHC has declared in several judgement that incorporation ATC sections in case for provision of 'Shuhada package' isn't mandatory because High Court has ordered to grant martyrdom benefit to constable killed road mishap faced by police van due to tier blast while providing consignment law enforcement agency while requested for provision of benefit to martyr's family, the counsel argued.

The divisional bench comprising of Chief Justice PHC Justice Musart Hilali and Justice Waqar Ahmad ordered applicant to made finance's department respondent in the writ while adjourned further hearing.

Moreover, the divisional bench has accepted appeal against acquittal of father and son allegedly killed two men while injured two others and issued notices to them.

Additional Advocate General Danyal Asad Chamkani appeared on behalf of state while informed that Saraf Shah and Mohib Shah killed Asfandiyar, Nauman and, injured Jasmia and Wasif in the premises of Khyber police station on 20th May 2020.

Additional Advocate General argued that trial court has acquitted the culprits on ground that injure Jasmia has recorded her statement under 161 before court with delay but it caused due to unpredictable situation in the region. He added that case is initiated with the plea that the dispute was happened due to cross firing but acquitted persons didn't establish it before court.

Peshawar High Court has ordered to produced the case's record by accepting appeal against acquittal while issued notices to Saraf Shah and Mohib Shah as respondents.

Institutions role and sacrifices unforgettable: Ghulam Bilal Javed

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: President of KP Traders Federation and a businessman Ghulam Bilal Javed has said they are neither against institutions, nor have forgotten the sacrifices of the brave soldiers of our country.

While issuing a news statement on Tuesday, he added it is the right of every Pakistani to protest peacefully and the services of institutions are also necessary to keep this protest peaceful. He stated that those faces should be completely exposed with the help of technology who damaged properties and those evil elements who set fire to valuable properties.

Mr Javed clearly said it is the right of every citizen to hold peaceful protest and within the limits of constitution. I request my administration to please not target ordinary citizens in this roundup along with those who protest peacefully, he asked.

He stated Pakistan army is our glory and will never allow it to be harmed and will thwart every conspiracy against the country.

About the sacrifices of Pakistan Army, he added those services cannot be wasted and underestimated. As the opposition is trying unsuccessfully to spread chaos in the country to gain power, he alleged.

PTI leader said that national interests should be prioritized for the sake of personal and political interests.



PESHAWAR: Activists of Tajran Khyber Pakhtunkhwa chanting slogans in favour of Pak Army during a rally at Qisa Khwani Bazaar. — F.P. photo

Budget Advisory Board holds pre-budget consultative meeting

PESHAWAR (APP): Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Budget Advisory Board organized a pre-budget consultative meeting for collecting budget proposals from line departments and business community for inclusion in the upcoming provincial budget.

The meeting was presided over by Advisor to KP Caretaker CM on Finance, Himayatullah Khan. Besides, Caretaker Minister for Industries & Technical Education, Mohammad Adnan Jalil and Officers of the line departments, Coordinator of the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FPCCI), Sartaj Ahmad Khan, and other representatives of the business community also attended the meeting at large.

Speaking in the meeting, Coordinator FPCCI Sartaj Ahmad Khan said that during the last 75 years economic growth has never remained the priority of rulers and despite having huge economic potentials we are begging before the international monetary institutions.

He said that now it is the need of the hour to fully focus on economic development and promotion of business activities and allocate at least 20% share in the provincial budget for economic and trade development.

The FPCCI official further stressed on giving special priority to bilateral trade with Afghanistan and Central Asian States and promotion of hydel power, tourism and horticulture sectors. He called for making policy and focusing on it in the annual budget to improve the economy of the province.

He called for the establishment of a women business centre at each district level to utilize the potential of women in the economic development of the province. He further demanded the allocation of land for the establishment of Gem City, which could prove a catalyst for economic growth.

Former president, Peshawar Chamber of Small Traders & Industry and president, Charsadda Chamber of Commerce, Sikandar Khan stressed the need for bringing improvement in the taxation system.

Addressing the consultative meeting, Advisor to KP CM on Finance, Himayatullah Khan assured that the proposals of the business community would be given special importance in the upcoming provincial budget and all-out efforts would be made to present a public and business friendly budget to guarantee economic development.

Mushtaq calls for punishment of attackers

PESHAWAR (APP): Senator Mushtaq Ahmed Khan of Jamaat e Islami Pakistan on Tuesday condemned violent protests on May 9 and 10 in big cities of the country and called for exemplary punishment to the culprits who attacked GHQ gate, Jinnah House Lahore, Radio Pakistan Peshawar building and other public properties.

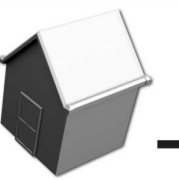
He said that the elements involved in the heinous crimes should be brought to justice and there should be no leniency in this regard, adding that peaceful protest was right of every individual and political party however vandalising the public properties was unacceptable.

Senator Mushtaq urged the government to take notice of the reports of arresting political leadership.

Power shutdown notified

PESHAWAR (APP): PESCO authorities have notified power shutdown in suburban areas of the city, Mardan and Charsadda due to necessary maintenance and repair work.

According to PESCO here Tuesday, power supply will remain suspended from 132 KV Peshawar Cantt Grid Station on May 17, 24 and 31 from 8:00 AM to 2:00 PM, resultantly consumers of 11KV Tehkal, Islamia College, KTH, Commercial, Jahangir Abad, University Town, NCR, Airport Road, PAF Base, Saddar Road, Mall Road, MES 2, MES Old, Babu Ghari, Marble Industrial, CAA, Palosi 1, Behria Colony, Tehkal Payan feeders will face inconvenience.



In brief

Quake jolts Swat, Malakand F.P. Report

MINGORA: A mild earthquake measuring 4.5 on the International Richter scale was reported in Swat, Malakand and adjacent areas in the afternoon on Tuesday. According to the Met Office, the epicenter of the earthquake was in the bordering area of Afghanistan and Tajikistan at a depth of 91 kilometers. No loss to life or property was reported from the earthquake till filing of this report.

Man kills sister, her paramour

SHEIKHUPURA (INP): A man stabbed to death his real sister and his paramour for honour here, police said on Tuesday. The incident took place Bhakki area of Sheikhupura where accused Ansar got furious after seeing his sister involved in immoral activities with a man named Adnan. The culprit stabbed both with sharp edged knife and escaped the scene of crime. The bodies were shifted to hospital for post-mortem and police after registering a case into the incident started raids to arrest the murderer.

Doctor saves drowning man

HYDERABAD (PPI): A doctor saved a man who was drowning in River Sindh after jumping into it, apparently in a suicide attempt in Hyderabad on Tuesday. Reportedly, several people gathered at Kotri Barrage on River Sindh when they saw that a man was ready to jump into the river. Seeing the multitude of people at the barrage, Dr Matiur Rehman pulled his car over and got off. But by that time, the man had jumped into the river. The onlookers were still watching him drowning, but the brave doctor dived into the river and swam the man back to the river bank. Seeing the courageous doctor who was in the river to save a drowning man, the Kotri Barrage rescue staff also revved up the engine of their rescue boat and launched it into the water. But the doctor had already done the needful and fished the man out. Then the doctor performed first aid on the drowning man by compressing his chest and provided soft puffs so that his breathing could be eased and he won't choke on any water regurgitation. Dr Mati is a neuro surgeon at the Liaquat Medical University Hospital, Hyderabad. He said that the man who was around 35-year-old was shifted to the hospital for further medical assistance.

Farmers to receive rice seed

QUETTA (APP): Balochistan Agriculture Secretary Umaid Ali Khokhar said that the supply of free rice seeds to the farmers in four districts of Balochistan has been commenced and 60 thousand farmers will be provided with the best rice seeds till May 31. "Farmers should also increase production by adopting modern methods of agriculture," he said while addressing a ceremony to provide free rice seeds to farmers with the help of Asian Development Bank and FAO in Naseerabad Division on Tuesday. DG Agriculture Irfan Ali Bakhtiyari, FAO Balochistan Chief Waleed Mehdi, Asian Development Bank Pakistan Banaras Khan, Deputy Commissioner Naseerabad Ayesha Zehri, FAO Project Officer Waheed Anwar, Spokesman Agriculture Department Abdul Karim Jafar were also present. Secretary Agriculture Umaid Ali Khokhar thanked the officers of FAO, the Asian Development Bank, the District Administration, and the agriculture department who worked hard day and night to bring this effort to the final stages of successful completion in this project.

Tribesmen stands against instigation of violence

F.P. Report

WANA: In a remarkable display of unity and support, hundreds of people from the civil society of Upper Waziristan arranged a grand rally, showcasing their unwavering solidarity with the Pakistan Army. The rally, organized under the auspices of Deputy Commissioner Upper Waziristan, saw participants including Mehsud Qabail Mashran, Malik, students from schools, and various civil society workers, all joining hands to express their patriotism.

Chanting fervent slogans of "Pakistan Zindabad" (Long Live Pakistan), the participants marched through the streets, proudly carrying play cards and banners adorned with patriotic messages. The rally commenced from the Deputy Commissioner's office and stretched all the way to the Mehsud Press Club, capturing the attention and admiration of onlookers along the route.

One of the key objectives of the rally was to denounce the recent attacks by protesters on the General Headquarters (GHQ) and other army buildings. The participants made it unequivocally clear that such violent acts were not representative of the sentiments held by the people of Upper Waziristan. Instead, they expressed their utmost respect and admiration for the Pakistan Army's unwavering commitment to safeguarding the nation.

Addressing the gathering, community leaders, and representatives from various organizations, passionately voiced their condemnation of the attacks on the military institutions. They stressed that violence and aggression were counterproductive and hindered the progress and stability of the nation. Emphasizing the significance of unity and peace, they called upon all citizens to work hand in hand with the armed forces to ensure the prosperity and well-being of Pakistan.

As the rally drew to a close, heartfelt prayers were offered for the prosperity and progress of the country, as well as for the continued strength and success of the Pakistan Army. The participants dispersed with a renewed sense of pride and commitment, vowing to support the military in its endeavors to maintain peace, security, and sovereignty.

The extraordinary display

of solidarity by the civil society of Upper Waziristan serves as a powerful testament to the deep-rooted love and respect the region holds for the Pakistan Army. This demonstration of unwavering support not only reinforces the bond between the people and the military but also showcases the determination of the citizens to stand united for the greater good of their beloved nation.

KUJ condoles with bereaved family of Khalid: The journalist community of Kurram Union of Journalists is saddened by the sudden death of journalist Khalid Khan from Shangla.

President Kurram Union of Journalists (KUJ) Azmat Alizai, while addressing the condolence meeting, said that the journalistic services of late Khalid Khan will always be remembered. He has highlighted the beauty and backwardness of his Shangla in the media. In the meeting, the soul of the deceased was reposited and heartfelt condolences were offered to the bereaved family. May Allah grant the deceased a place in Jannat al-Firdous and give patience to the bereaved.

Pakistan's current socio-political landscape

Ayman Shad

THE arrest of Imran Khan on May, 9 put the people all over the country on fire; people from the whole country came out for violent protests in different areas. They put fire to the schools, roads, motorway toll plazas, police stations, cars and each and every thing coming in their way.

The situation became more worst when the internet connections were blocked across the country. The very next morning all the schools, colleges and universities were closed following the order of the state as neither the buildings nor the schools were safe.

There was also a threat of curfew across the country so we were told to leave the hostels and go to homes. Very sadly and stressfully, we left our

hostels; we face difficulty while coming home as local transport was not available. This is not the first time, all this happen since the first day of creation of Pakistan. No leader has governed the country for the selected term. Let's take the example of Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, Benazir Bhutto, and Nawaz Sharif none of these have governed successfully the country.

When Nawaz was on lead, Khan was trying to let him down and when Khan was on lead, Nawaz and his companions were there in front of him. I'm not saying that Khan was wrong or Nawaz was right; the thing I want to say is what's going on when will we be free from all this stuff and will try to update our country according to the present time. When will we try to lead our youth to the right path. We have just involved the

youth in violent protests and they are just for 'Zindabad and Mordabad' in rallies. They are not focusing on what should be to focus on.

Being wild and stupid to problems like these, is not the solution, the way we are behaving right now is not fair, burning schools, cars, motorway express, closing schools, colleges and universities is not fair to the future of this country. Protest and violence; it's our own loss by ourselves which we will regret.

Let's be humans; lets solve the matter by a proper way the stuff we are doing is not solution. It will make more and more problems for us and then we will not be able to solve or even control. The youth should focus on their future and their careers as they are the positive potential of the country.



HYDERABAD: Students solving their papers during annual SSC examination.

Noor Aslam

LET begin with computer virus is a type of program which duplicates and replicates its own source code in host program causing modification in the intrinsic code of host program resulting the malfunction of that program.

A computer works on programs which are designed in a proper manner of strategically putting of codes. So each program is made of codes bearing its own identity for recognition as well as for its function to be needed. A virus is a set of codes which duplicates its own source code and insert it in the flaws of that host program inhibiting it from performing its fundamental function. The area where the modification takes place is called to be infected with computer virus. It basically infect the program overcoming its very nature.

Types: File infecting virus,

this type of virus is also called as parasitic virus which attach itself to an executable program which can overwrite the host files and even damage the hard drive. Macro virus: This type of virus is commonly found in Microsoft Word or Excel. They are stored as parts of documents which will spread when the file move from one computer to another.

Browser hijacker: This virus is often called as the browser redirect virus because it can redirect your browser to other malicious sites. It basically targets and alters browser source code setting. Web scripting virus: This type of virus targets popular sites by inserting links of malicious sites on that popular website which will eventually move you to that particular site.

Boot sector virus: This type of virus is found in physical fries such us and cds which will automatically loads into the memory enabling control of your computer. Polymorphic

virus: This virus change its own code every time it infects causing to mimic the anti virus codes to be able to not to identify it.

Resident virus: This type of virus stays in your system causing the break down of system codes leading to file and program corruption. Multipartite virus: This type of virus is very infectious because it will infect multiple parts of your system codes and programmer codes at the same time.

Anti-virus: Antivirus is a specifically engineered code to help detect, prevent, and remove malware (malicious software or computer virus). Antivirus is set of code for physical insecurity of protection of the data stored as well as the proper continuity of that system. An anti virus helps the system to safeguard against any threats against the malicious software and it helps in improving the state by getting rid of that computer virus and also the undoing of everything that virus has done. That's why most of the

antivirus runs automatically in the background to provide real time protection against computer virus. An anti virus provide real time protection, which can protect your system from incoming threats scan your entire system provide regular updates identify block and delete malicious software's.

Mostly used anti-virus in the market: Bitdefender is the most used antiviruses in the market because according to 2021 survey it has the industry's best detection rate for the past 5 years. Bitdefender is very light on your system to utilize its maximum potential for the safeguard by minimal resources. Its optimization tools can enhance your system's boot up time and over all performance. Because the lower the risk of virus detection the higher the rate of antivirus.

Ten ways to improve computer performance: 1: delete old programs. The old programs that are not used mostly bur are hid-

ing on your system hard drive are risk to the performance of that system. 2: limit program that start up automatically; The programs like skype uTorrent start automatically unless closed this option so by limiting such programs you can give a bit extra time to your system to refresh.

3: Clean and delete old files; The old files which are not useful but only takes place in the system hard drive must be deleted to give a bit of air to the system data storage facility. 4: Solid state drive; A solid state drive greatly increase the performance of your system including starting up and everyday regular tasks.

5: Run a cleaner tool; A cleaner tools is very useful because besides cleaning whole file cache data must also be deleted for the better performance of the system. 6: Upgrade your RAM; Upgrading the ram is like giving more strength to the performance of your system so adding an extra 2 or 4 gigs of RAM will make a noticeable difference.

7: Clean your browsing history and cookies; The browser saves all of your visits to sites and save cookies. These cookies add up quickly which can slow down your browser and eventually your system. 8: Check for viruses; A computer virus is often the cause of a slow system so it can be taken down by an anti virus which will help in real time protection against that virus.

9: Keep it cool; As computer works on electronic system so it will eventually heat up which will cause all of resistance in the electronic system causing to slow the system so the must be coolen down for its better performance. 10: Don't forget to shut down; Turning off computer after using is very important because if not it will start lagging due extensive use so it must be shut down after used.

The writer is student of Department of Political Science and International Relation (IR) at University of Sargodha.



HYDERABAD: OPD of Shah Bhittai Hospital seen deserted due to strike called by doctors against attack on Medical Superintendent and staff.

Five drug pushers held, narcotics recovered F.P. Report

ATTOCK: The police arrested five drug peddlers including a lady smuggler during separate actions in different localities of Attock on Tuesday besides recovery of narcotics from their possession.

In line with the directions of DPO Attock Dr. Sardar Ghyas Gul Khan, the police station during a crackdown in Mohallah Miskeenabad arrested a drug pusher Adil Khan s/o Gul Akbar Khan along with two kilogram hashish.

The police during an operation in Attock Khurd arrested Khuram Shehzad s/o Nasir Ali with 600 gram hashish and a female drug pusher with 650 gram hashish. ASI Zaheer Ahmed of Basal police arrested Mureed Khan s/o Nadir Khan of Basal, tehil Jand for holding hashish of 330 grams hashish while Sub Inspector Mohammad Ramzan intercepted Mudasar Mehmood s/o Ameer Afsar Khan of Basal with hashish of 370 grams from his possession. The police took the recovered hashish into custody and after registering separate cases against detainees at concerned police stations started investigations.

Addict confesses to killing

SARGODHA (PPI): A drug addict allegedly killed seven homeless people for money to fulfill his addiction in Sargodha, police said Tuesday.

They said a victim named as Rehan was killed in Company Bagh Sargodha on March 6, upon which the district police chief tasked the CITY ASP to investigate the matter. Police arrested a suspect named as Asghar Araein, a resident of Chak 43 Shumali.

The suspect was traced with the help of latest technological practices. The suspect during investigation admitted to killing seven people in the same way. The suspect used to steal money from people sleeping in the open. He would also use heavy stones to kill who awoke.

Excise Mardan recovers precious artifacts

F.P. Report

MARDAN: The Excise Police Mardan during an operation near Charsadda Interchange recovered artifacts worth millions of rupees from the truck of a car, informed Spokesman Excise police on Tuesday.

He said the valuable artifacts were being smuggled to Charsadda from Baluchistan. The 19 small and big recovered artifacts were later handed over to the Archeology Department Mardan. The spokesman said that further legal proceedings regarding the recovered artifacts would be carried out by the Archeology Department Mardan.

In another action, the Excise Police recovered a

large quantity of banned firecrackers from a car near Rashakai Interchange. The spokesman said the recovery was made during general checking. Two accused were taken into custody and a case was registered at Risalpur police station.

Meanwhile, following instructions issued by Secretary Excise, Ehsan Ullah and DG Excise, Akmal Khan Khattak to curb the menace of narcotics, the department has geared up its actions against narcotics dealers, smugglers and their facilitators across the province.

According to the spokesman Excise on Tuesday, a team headed by Excise Officer (Narcotics Control), Zahid Iqbal Khan

and Circle Officer, Sayed Naveed Jamal of Mardan Region, SHO Excise Mardan Muhammad Riaz conducted a successful action near PRC Market on GT Road Malakand, Mardan and recovered 7034 gms of hashish from two smugglers.

The spokesman said the narcotics were tied with legs of the smugglers, identified as Nawab Khan and Sher Rehman of Nodah Payan Peshawar. Bothe the arrested drug smugglers were shifted to Excise police station Mardan for further legal action. Secretary Excise, Ehsan Ullah has highly appreciated the efforts and services of the Excise Department Mardan for the recovery of narcotics.

Solidarity rally held after PTI's violent protest

Hafiz Aziz-ur-Rehman

HAFIZABAD: In order to express love, affection and solidarity with Pakistan Army, a rally was taken out in Sukheki Mandi held by District President Line Heart Foundation Sajid Ali Sapra. Prominent personalities including former Chairman District Zakat Committee Hafizabad Ch. Nasrullah Khan Bhatti, President Bazam-e-Zakare-Habaib Sukheki Mandi Rana Iqbal Hassan, Malik Azim Awan, Abdul Shakoor Gujar, Haji Bilal Akbar, Hafiz Naimat Ali Virk and other people participated the rally.

The rally started from office of Municipal Committee Sargodha Road and concluded at Milad Chowk Railway Road after passing thorough different areas. Participants of rally were chanting slogans in favour of Pakistan Army and they condemned and rejected politics of valance as well as attack on national installation and historic Jinnah house /Core-Commander house on 9 May.

Meanwhile, former federal minister and leader of PML-N Ch. Liaquat Abbas Bhatti said that our first priority is Pakistan and Pakistan Army is guaranty of integrity, survival, progress and prosperity of

the Country. He said that Imran Khan and PTI tried to damage integrity and survival of Pakistan to implement evil design and agenda of Anti-Pakistan forces while Imran Khan and PTI would reach logical end as like Ilfat Khan (Karachi) soon.

Former Minister said that people of Tehsil Pindi Bhattian including Sukheki Mandi 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 foil conservancies hatched by anti-Pakistan and anti-Islam forces.

Islam accords dignity to mothers: Islam accord great dignity, respect to mothers and according to the teachings of Islam Every Muslim is bound to obey the orders of his parents and there is no forgiveness for disobeying the mother in this world and hereafter.

These views were expressed by the District Officer Population Sajida Mushtaq while addressing a ceremony held to celebrate International Mother's Day. Women social workers,

employees and prominent personalities participated the function. DO Sajida Mushtaq said the aim of celebrating the day was to honour mothers and to highlight dignity of mothers among new generation.

She said mother was that entity which enrich the home with joys and gladness for their children and look after her all family members to stake her own joys and needs. District Officer Population Sajida Mushtaq cut cake along-with participants of the ceremony.

Crackdown against illegal oil agencies: District Civil Defence Officer, Hafizabad, Arfan Ali said that crackdown on illegal oil agencies and sale of LPG is underway in the district and 34 cases have been registered against owners of illegal oil agencies and LPG dealers in the district so far while oil agencies and LPG shops have also been sealed to avoid any untoward incident and to save precious lives of people.

He warned that people involved in running illegal oil agencies and LPG shops did not deserve any mercy because this dangerous business caused any fatal incident that is why the government of the Punjab imposed ban on illegal oil agencies and LPG shops.

Computer and information technology

LET begin with computer virus is a type of program which duplicates and replicates its own source code in host program causing modification in the intrinsic code of host program resulting the malfunction of that program.

Types: File infecting virus,

this type of virus is also called as parasitic virus which attach itself to an executable program which can overwrite the host files and even damage the hard drive. Macro virus: This type of virus is commonly found in Microsoft Word or Excel. They are stored as parts of documents which will spread when the file move from one computer to another.

Browser hijacker: This virus is often called as the browser redirect virus because it can redirect your browser to other malicious sites. It basically targets and alters browser source code setting. Web scripting virus: This type of virus targets popular sites by inserting links of malicious sites on that popular website which will eventually move you to that particular site.

Boot sector virus: This type of virus is found in physical fries such us and cds which will automatically loads into the memory enabling control of your computer. Polymorphic

virus: This virus change its own code every time it infects causing to mimic the anti virus codes to be able to not to identify it.

Resident virus: This type of virus stays in your system causing the break down of system codes leading to file and program corruption. Multipartite virus: This type of virus is very infectious because it will infect multiple parts of your system codes and programmer codes at the same time.

Anti-virus: Antivirus is a specifically engineered code to help detect, prevent, and remove malware (malicious software or computer virus). Antivirus is set of code for physical insecurity of protection of the data stored as well as the proper continuity of that system. An anti virus helps the system to safeguard against any threats against the malicious software and it helps in improving the state by getting rid of that computer virus and also the undoing of everything that virus has done. That's why most of the

antivirus runs automatically in the background to provide real time protection against computer virus. An anti virus provide real time protection, which can protect your system from incoming threats scan your entire system provide regular updates identify block and delete malicious software's.

Mostly used anti-virus in the market: Bitdefender is the most used antiviruses in the market because according to 2021 survey it has the industry's best detection rate for the past 5 years. Bitdefender is very light on your system to utilize its maximum potential for the safeguard by minimal resources. Its optimization tools can enhance your system's boot up time and over all performance. Because the lower the risk of virus detection the higher the rate of antivirus.

Ten ways to improve computer performance: 1: delete old programs. The old programs that are not used mostly bur are hid-

ing on your system hard drive are risk to the performance of that system. 2: limit program that start up automatically; The programs like skype uTorrent start automatically unless closed this option so by limiting such programs you can give a bit extra time to your system to refresh.

3: Clean and delete old files; The old files which are not useful but only takes place in the system hard drive must be deleted to give a bit of air to the system data storage facility. 4: Solid state drive; A solid state drive greatly increase the performance of your system including starting up and everyday regular tasks.

5: Run a cleaner tool; A cleaner tools is very useful because besides cleaning whole file cache data must also be deleted for the better performance of the system. 6: Upgrade your RAM; Upgrading the ram is like giving more strength to the performance of your system so adding an extra 2 or 4 gigs of RAM will make a noticeable difference.

7: Clean your browsing history and cookies; The browser saves all of your visits to sites and save cookies. These cookies add up quickly which can slow down your browser and eventually your system. 8: Check for viruses; A computer virus is often the cause of a slow system so it can be taken down by an anti virus which will help in real time protection against that virus.

9: Keep it cool; As computer works on electronic system so it will eventually heat up which will cause all of resistance in the electronic system causing to slow the system so the must be coolen down for its better performance. 10: Don't forget to shut down; Turning off computer after using is very important because if not it will start lagging due extensive use so it must be shut down after used.

The writer is student of Department of Political Science and International Relation (IR) at University of Sargodha.



S Africa army chief visits Moscow in wake of US weapons claim

MOSCOW (Agencies): The commander of South Africa's ground forces has visited Moscow for talks with Russian counterparts just days after Washington accused South Africa of secretly providing arms to Russia. The South African National Defence Force (SANDF) said that the meeting was "planned well in advance" as part of "a long-standing arrangement" and was a "goodwill visit" at the invitation of the Russian army.

In a statement, SANDF said it "confirms that the Chief of the SA Army, Lieutenant-General Lawrence Mbatsha, is in Moscow for a bilateral between the two military establishments". "It must be noted that South Africa has Military to Military bilateral relations with various countries in the continent and beyond," it said. "The SANDF receives numerous military delegations into the country and sends its own delegations to other countries to discuss matters of mutual interest." Russian news agencies reported that Mbatsha was heading a delegation that discussed "issues relating to military cooperation and interaction". Mbatsha had "visited educational institutions of the ground forces and enterprises of the military-industrial complex" of Russia, the agencies said. "Agreements were reached to further increase cooperation between ground forces in various fields," Russian news agency Interfax said.

Last week, United States Ambassador to Pretoria Reuben Brigety said that

the US believed weapons and ammunition had been loaded onto a Russian freighter that docked at a Cape Town naval base in December. Brigety said he was confident that a Russian ship under US sanctions took on board weapons from the Simon's Town base in December, suggesting the transfer was not in line with Pretoria's stance of neutrality in Russia's war against Ukraine. South African officials swiftly rejected claims made by the US ambassador, who also said senior US officials had "profound concerns" over South Africa's professed policy of non-alignment and neutrality over Russia's war in Ukraine. The claims of secret weapons shipments to Russia drew an angry response from South Africa's President Cyril Ramaphosa, who did not deny the charge but said an investigation into the matter would be launched.

Several ministers, including the one responsible for arms control and the communications minister, as well as a foreign ministry spokesperson, have said South Africa had not approved any arms shipment to Russia in December. Brigety was summoned to meet South African Foreign Minister Naledi Pandor and he apologised "unreservedly" to the government and the people of South Africa, a foreign ministry statement said. "I was grateful for the opportunity to speak with Foreign Minister Pandor ... and correct any misimpressions left by my public

remarks," Brigety said in a tweet that did not confirm whether he had apologised. South Africa, which has abstained from voting on UN resolutions on Russia's war in Ukraine, says it is impartial. Western countries, however, consider it one of Moscow's closest allies on the continent.

South Africa has refused to condemn Russia's war on Ukraine, saying it wants to stay neutral. Following the US claims, Russian President Vladimir Putin spoke on the phone with Ramaphosa, where both leaders reportedly agreed to "intensify mutually beneficial ties", according to the Kremlin. Ramaphosa reiterated that his country would not be drawn "into a contest between global powers" over Ukraine despite having faced "extraordinary pressure" to pick sides. Ramaphosa also hinted that Putin would visit South Africa for a meeting of leaders of the BRICS economic bloc in August. The Kremlin has not confirmed that Putin plans to attend the BRICS summit. Such a trip would entangle South Africa in another diplomatic mess because the country is a signatory to the treaty that created the International Criminal Court, which issued an arrest warrant for Putin in March for alleged war crimes involving the abductions of children from Ukraine. Since the indictment, Putin has travelled rarely and only to countries that are close allies of Russia. Countries that are parties to the treaty would be obliged to arrest the Russian leader.

Sudan fighting: One month on and no solution in sight

KHARTOUM (Agencies): One month ago, fighting broke out in Sudan. For some observers, it was not a surprise, given the tension that had built up over the preceding weeks as the country's two biggest armed groups, the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF), wrangled for power. The quiet, April 15 was shattered by the sounds of artillery as residents of the capital Khartoum stood frozen in their living rooms, unsure whether the shooting would stop or even what they were actually hearing.

"Then the messages started: attacks, clashes, gunfire," Dalia Abdelmoneim wrote for Al Jazeera in her account of fleeing Khartoum with her family, which subsequently split up among four or more destinations as they scattered from Port Sudan. That same day, people reported fighter planes roaring overhead as the army began aerial attacks, ostensibly to rout RSF forces that had their camps in the midst of residential neighbourhoods. The death toll began to climb. The world's attention turned to Sudan as the fighting continued in Khartoum and other cities, including Merowe, a northern city on the way to the Wadi Halfa border crossing with Egypt that has big gold mines and a military airport, as well as an important reservoir on the Nile River. In an odd twist to the story, news emerged that there were Egyptian troops stationed at

the Merowe airport and that they had been captured by the RSF, which quickly said that it would be releasing them. Ignoring international calls for a ceasefire, the two generals who head the SAF, General Abdel Fattah al-Burhan, and the RSF, General Mohamed Hamdan "Hemedti" Dagalo, allowed one short, three-hour pause on April 16 to allow people stuck in schools, offices, shops, and the Khartoum airport to return to their homes. The international community began to make plans to evacuate its citizens and Sudanese people began trying to get out any way they could. Saudi Arabia and Jordan began evacuating their citizens and others by ship from Port Sudan, on the Red Sea in eastern Sudan. Khartoum airport was closed, as it was the site of fierce fighting between the two sides, so families were paying exorbitant fees and enduring grueling journeys to get to Port Sudan, Egypt, Ethiopia, and Chad. Port Sudan became a hub for people who needed refuge while they figured out their next steps.

Not everyone was so lucky, as a number of Sudanese people had applied for visas to travel to Western countries, and as the embassies evacuated and emptied out their premises, the passports were left behind, destroyed or moved to third countries for "safekeeping". Once the foreigners left, the Sudanese people who could not escape found

themselves faced with deteriorating humanitarian conditions in addition to the danger of daily bombardments. Those living near the border with Chad started long journeys on foot to try to escape the violence. From the beginning of the conflict, civilians in the cities had been helping each other, getting medicines and food to people who couldn't leave home for one reason or another - and their work became even more essential as supplies ran short. By April 20, the alarm was raised by the Central Committee of Sudanese Doctors (CCSD), which said 39 out of 59 hospitals in Khartoum and nearby provinces were no longer operational.

But stories of heroism prevailed, as doctors persisted in healing whoever came through their doors, delivering babies under fire and treating hundreds of wounded people. Multiple ceasefires were announced and broken as the two generals remained locked into an existential battle for control of the country. Theories multiplied that both were struggling to control their forces, and analysts began to wonder if there could be a potential rival to Hemedti in his home state of Darfur. Darfur, the site of fierce fighting in the past, remains a focal point as April nears its end, with fears rising that violence there could easily become a civil war.

3 killed by New Mexico gunman

FARMINGTON, N.M. (AP): Three people were killed and two police officers were among at least seven people injured when an 18-year-old opened fire in a northwestern New Mexico community before law enforcement fatally shot the suspect, authorities said. The shootings occurred around 11 a.m. in Farmington, a city of about 50,000 people near the Utah state line that is a supply line and bedroom community to the region's oil and natural gas industry.

Officers responding to several calls about a shooting found "a chaotic scene" where a man was firing at people on a residential street, Farmington Police Deputy Chief Baric Crum said during a news conference. Police confronted the suspect before fatally shooting him. They found three people dead. Crum did not identify the suspect and said he didn't know the ages of any of the victims. Police were trying to determine why he was in the neighborhood. San Juan Regional Medical Center received seven injured people, including a Farmington police officer and a State Police officer. Roberta Rogers, a hospital spokesperson, would not comment on their status. The two officers were in stable condition, according to Crum.

Mayor Nate Duckett said in a statement that both had been shot but their injuries were not life-threatening. "Today, our community experienced a horrific tragedy that claimed the lives of three innocent citizens and injured several others," Duckett said, adding that the shooting "has left us reeling in anguish and disbelief." Farmington police have not responded to repeated requests for further details about the injured. "There are no other known threats at this time," police said, adding that city, San Juan County and State Police officers were involved. Joseph Robledo, a 32-year-old tree trimmer, said he rushed home after learning that his wife and 1-year-old daughter had sought shelter in the laundry room when gunshots rang out. A bullet went through his daughter's window and room, without hitting anyone. Robledo jumped a fence to get in through the back door. Out front he found an older woman in the street who had been wounded while driving by. She appeared to have fallen out of her car, which kept rolling without her, he said. "I went out to see because the lady was just lying in the road, and to figure just what the heck was going on," Robledo said. He and others began to administer first aid.

Neighbors directed an arriving police officer toward the suspect. "We were telling (the officer), 'He's down there.' ... The cop just went straight into action," Robledo said. Robledo's own family car was perforated with bullets. "We've been doing yard work all last week. I just thank God that nobody was outside in front," he said. "... Obviously, elderly people - he didn't have no sympathy for them. Who's to say he would have sympathy for a little kid." Investigators will now have to look at a crime scene that spans several blocks, according to Crum. Police are asking for anyone with information to come forward.

UN chief in Jamaica urges int'l response to Haiti's spiraling crisis

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP): UN Secretary General António Guterres warned that Haiti's "tragic situation" is threatening the security of the Caribbean region and beyond as he pressed the international community for a response. Guterres spoke after meeting behind closed doors with Jamaican Prime Minister Andrew Holness in his first visit to the island, which comes more than three months after Holness announced that his government was willing to send soldiers and police officers to Haiti as part of a proposed international armed forces deployment.

Guterres noted that no other country has stepped forward despite the plea from Haiti's prime minister and other top officials last October for the immediate deployment of an international force to fight a surge in gang violence. "We are kind of in a stalemate right now," he said, adding that it's been difficult to mobilize the will of countries who could best lead such an operation. Holness, who visited Haiti in February as part of a regional push to help mediate the country's crisis, said countries that would support such a deployment want to first see political consensus in Haiti and a timeframe for ending the proposed deployment.

"It is not that our pleas have fallen on deaf ears," he said. "It is being heard to and listened to. The question is the pace of action." Haiti's capital and surrounding areas have largely succumbed to warring gangs that have invaded neighborhoods and killed people in a fight to control more territory, with the UN estimating that they now control up to 80% of Port-au-Prince. The violence has worsened since the July 2021 assassination of



President Jovenel Moïse. More than 840 people were killed in the first three months of this year, in addition to more than 600 people slain in the month of April alone, according to the UN. More than 400 people also have been kidnapped so far this year.

"You have dramatic humanitarian needs. You have a political system that is paralyzed, and you have levels of violence by gangs that are absolutely appalling," Guterres said. He previously said that insecurity in Haiti had reached "levels comparable to countries in armed conflict." The deaths have prompted a growing number of angry and frustrated Haitians to unleash gruesome vigilante justice, lynching at least 164 alleged gang members last month, according to the UN.

Frantz Elbé, director of Haiti's National Police, said in a video posted on social media that officers are fighting gangs, seizing weapons and releasing hostages, but he did not provide any figures. The UN has noted that just over 13,000 officers are on active duty in a country of more than 11 million people, with at least 21 police officers reported killed in the first three months of this year. "I want to once again ask the international community to understand that an effective solidarity with Haiti is not only a matter of generosity," Guterres said. "It's essentially a matter of enlightened self-interest because the present situation in Haiti reflects a threat, a threat to the security of the whole region and further afield."

Border crossings off from last week's highs

TIJUANA, Mexico (AP): Pandemic-era limits on asylum known as Title 42 have been rarely discussed among many of tens of thousands of migrants massed on Mexico's border with the United States. Their eyes were - and are - fixed instead on a new US government mobile app that grants 1,000 people daily an appointment to cross the border and seek asylum while living in the US. With demand far outstripping available slots, the app has been an exercise in frustration for many - and a test of the Biden administration's strategy of coupling new legal paths to entry with severe consequences for those who don't follow them.

"You start to give up hope but it's the only way," said Teresa Muñoz, 48, who abandoned her home in the Mexican state of Michoacan after a gang killed her husband and beat her. She has been trying for a month to gain entry through the app, called CBPOne, while staying in a Tijuana shelter with her two children and 2-year-old grandson. US Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas said the Border Patrol made 6,300 arrests - the first day after the Title 42 restrictions expired - and 4,200. That's sharply below the 10,000-plus on three days last week as migrants rushed to get in before new policies to restrict asylum took effect.

"It is still early," Mayorkas said on CNN's "State of the Union." "We are in day three, but we have been planning for this transition for months and months. And we will continue to do so." Despite the drop in recent days, authorities predict arrests will spike to between 12,000 and 14,000 a day, Matthew Hudak, deputy Border Patrol chief, said in a court filing. And authorities cannot confidently estimate how many will cross, Hudak said, noting intelligence reports failed to quickly flag a "singular surge" of 18,000 predominantly Haitian migrants in Del Rio, Texas, in September 2021. More than 27,000 migrants were in custody along the border one day last week, a number that may top 45,000 by the end of May if authorities can't release migrants without orders to appear in immigration court, Hudak said.

The administration plans to ask an appeals court for permission to release migrants without orders to appear in court. Authorities say it takes between 90 minutes and two hours to process a single adult for court - potentially choking Border Patrol holding facilities - and longer to process families. By contrast, it takes only 20 minutes to release someone with instructions to report to an immigration office in 60 days, a common practice

since 2021 to ease overcrowding along the border. The Justice Department even raised the possibility of declining to take people into custody if it can't quickly release migrants, calling that a "worst-case scenario." President Joe Biden, spending the weekend at his home in Rehoboth Beach, Delaware, said his hope was that the border numbers would "continue to go down" but that "we have a lot more work to do." "We need some more help from the Congress as well, in terms of funding and legislative changes," Biden told reporters. The administration is touting new legal pathways in an effort to deter illegal crossings, including parole for 30,000 Cubans, Haitians, Nicaraguans and Venezuelans a month who apply online with a financial sponsor and arrive at an airport. Hundreds of predominantly Colombian migrants waited to be processed in searing heat near Jacumba, California, having slept for days in thatched tents east of San Diego and getting by on the Border Patrol's limited supply of cookies and water. Several said they crossed illegally after trying the app without success or hearing tales of frustration from others. Ana Cuna, 27, said she and other Colombians paid \$1,300 each to be guided across the border after reaching Tijuana. She said she touched foot on US soil hours before Title 42 expired Thursday but, like others, was given a numbered wristband by the Border Patrol and, two days later, had not been processed.

Under Title 42, a public-health rule, migrants were denied asylum more than 2.8 million times on grounds of preventing the spread of COVID-19. When it expired, the administration launched a policy to deny asylum to people who travel through another country, like Mexico, to the US, with few exceptions. "We want to come according to the law and be welcomed," said Cuna, whose thatched tent included Colombian women and families hoping to reach Chicago, San Antonio, Philadelphia and Spartanburg, South Carolina. Releasing migrants without court orders but with instructions to report an immigration office in 60 days became widespread in 2021. Directing that processing work to US Immigration and Customs Enforcement offices when migrants report to the agency's offices created additional delays - with ICE offices in New York backed up until 2033 just to schedule an initial court appearance. US District Judge T. Kent Wetherell in Pensacola, Florida, in March ordered an end to the practice, which the administration had effectively stopped by then anyway.

UN urged to 'suspend' Israel

GAZA CITY (AFP): Palestinian president Mahmoud Abbas called for Israel to end its "aggression" against Palestinians or be suspended from the United Nations during a speech marking the 75th anniversary of the "Nakba". More than 760,000 Palestinians fled or were expelled from their homes in 1948 when Israel was created, an event Palestinians call Nakba, or catastrophe, and mark on May 15.

The United Nations is commemorating Nakba at its headquarters in New York this year for the first time, after a resolution was passed in November. "We demand today officially, in accordance with international law and international resolutions, to make sure that Israel respects these resolutions or suspend Israel's membership of the UN," Abbas said during an hour-long speech. Abbas, whose "State of Palestine" has observer status at the UN, spoke in Arabic at a special session of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People, to which dozens of UN ambassadors had been invited. Israel's UN representative, Gilad Erdan, branded the event "despicable" and wrote a letter to other ambassadors urging them not to attend. According to the Israeli foreign ministry, 32 countries, including the United States, Canada, Ukraine and 10 from the European Union, did not participate.

The UN's under-secretary general for political affairs and peace building, Rosemary DiCarlo, reaffirmed the UN's "clear position" that Israel's occupation of Palestinian territories must end because it is "illegal under international law." Israel was established on May 14, 1948, following a UN vote in November 1947 that divided the British Mandate for Palestine into two Jewish and Arab states.

South Korea and Japan use G-7 to push improvement in ties

TOKYO (AP): Amid the high-level efforts to deal with a raft of global emergencies, this weekend's Group of 7 summit of rich democracies will also see an unusual diplomatic reconciliation as the leaders of Japan and South Korea look to continue mending ties that have been marked for years by animosity and bickering.

At first glance the two neighbors would seem to be natural partners. They are powerful, advanced democracies and staunch US allies in a region beset with autocratic threats. The continuing fallout, however, from centuries of complicated, acrimonious history, culminating in the brutal 1910-1945 Japanese colonization of the Korean Peninsula, has resulted in more wariness than friendship. A big part of the sudden recent shift in tone is a shared focus on China's growing aggressiveness, the threat of North Korea's fast-improving arsenal of nuclear-capable missiles - and deep worry about how Russia's war in Ukraine is influencing both issues. Some diplomatic nudging by Washington, which provides military protection for both its allies

and wants them to more strongly counter China's rising global influence, has also helped.

Tokyo and Seoul "understand that their survival, both nationally and politically, depends on subordinating themselves to the US President Joe Biden administration's global and regional priorities," according to Daniel Schneider, an East Asia lecturer at Stanford University. Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida's invitation for South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol to be a guest at the G-7 talks in Hiroshima is only the most recent sign of these reset ties. It follows back-to-back summits by the leaders, which hadn't happened in years. Japan also agreed to South Korea's request to send an experts' team later this month to visit the destroyed Fukushima nuclear power plant to view preparation for a planned release into the ocean of treated but still slightly radioactive wastewater.

The G-7 summit, will allow the leaders to deepen their burgeoning relationship - Kishida, Yoon and Biden plan to meet on the sidelines - while also working to persuade the

world's most powerful leaders to tighten defense cooperation as China and North Korea expand their military postures in the region. History issues have long harried Seoul and Tokyo. Ties worsened in 2018, for instance, after South Korean court rulings ordered two Japanese companies to compensate a group of Korean plaintiffs who the companies had used for wartime slave labor. Disagreement over the rulings later spilled over to trade and military cooperation issues. Japan insists all compensation issues were settled by a 1965 treaty that normalized relations.

Yoon's summits with Kishida came after his government announced a domestically unpopular plan in March to use South Korean corporate funds to compensate the forced laborers. The move was aimed at preventing the courts from liquidizing the Japanese companies' local assets, which would cause a further diplomatic rupture. Kishida agreed to a resumption of defense, trade and other talks in his meetings with Yoon, and Japan recently announced that it is negotiating an agreement with

Washington and Seoul on sharing real-time data on North Korean missile launches.

Seoul and Tokyo are both worried about the geopolitical uncertainty created by Russia's invasion of Ukraine, which has raised fears about similar Chinese aggression in the South and East China Seas and against Taiwan, the democratic, self-governing island that Beijing claims as its own. North Korea also used the global focus on the invasion to ramp up its tests of nuclear-capable missiles. Japan is one of many nations in Asia that has territorial disputes with China, something that has strongly figured into Kishida's push to distance Japan from its post-World War II principle of self-defense only. Last year, Tokyo adopted a new national security strategy that includes the goals of acquiring preemptive strike capabilities and cruise missiles to counter threats from North Korea, China and Russia.

Alarmed by the growing North Korean threat - Pyongyang has test-launched around 100 missiles since the start of 2022 - Yoon may be using

better relations with Japan as a way to forge a stronger alliance with the United States. Yoon's government has expanded its combined military exercises with the United States, which also included three-way drills with Japan, while seeking greater assurances from Washington that it would swiftly and decisively use its nuclear weapons to protect its allies in the event of a North Korean nuclear attack. "There's growing recognition (in both Tokyo and Seoul) that the region's various security issues are becoming increasingly interconnected," which is leading the countries to reassess their importance to each other, said Jin Chang Soo, an analyst at South Korea's Sejong Institute.

During a recent meeting in Washington, Yoon and Biden agreed to a declaration that includes more nuclear information-sharing and regular visits to South Korea by a US nuclear-powered sub. The Biden administration may now be pushing for an extended deterrence dialogue among Washington, Seoul and Tokyo that "would convey a formidable response both to North Korea and to

China, and even to a potential Chinese-Russian military axis," Schneider recently wrote. Hiroshima, the first target of a nuclear weapon in history, could provide a symbolic backdrop for Kishida and Yoon to raise awareness about the North Korean threat while underlining goals for nuclear non-proliferation.

In another trust-building gesture, Kishida and Yoon plan to pay their respects at a Hiroshima memorial for Korean atomic bomb victims. Despite the improving ties, however, there's no certainty how long reconciliation will last. After decades of poverty and dictatorship following the 1950-53 Korean War, South Korea has become a developed economic and military power. But there are large policy swings between conservative governments, like the one in power now, and liberal governments that are more wary of stronger ties with Japan and the United States. And then there are the historical issues, including continuing court hearings on forced labor, which remain "buried like landmines, not far from the surface and ready to be set off," Schneider said.

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State responsibility, Constitution versus vandalism

THE Pakistan Army top brass held a Special Corps Commanders Conference (CCC) at the GHQ and reviewed the whole gambit of the current situation in the post-violence scenario. The meeting was briefed in detail about the prevailing internal and external security environment. As said, the forum took comprehensive stock of the Law and Order situation in the past few days that was created to achieve vested political interests. According to the Army media wing, Military top brass condemned those politically motivated and instigated incidents against military installations and public and private properties. The meeting observed that based on the irrefutable evidence collected so far, Armed Forces are well aware of the planners, instigators, abettors, and perpetrators of those attacks, and attempts to create distortions in this regard. The Forum expressed the firm resolve that the perpetrators of those heinous crimes will be brought to justice through trials under relevant laws including the Pakistan Army Act and Official Secret Act.

The entire world has witnessed scenes of utter disobedience, treacherous acts, and vandalism by the PTI workers and supporters on May, 9 and afterward. A well-coordinated arson plan involving the desecration of Shuhada pictures and monuments, burning down of historical buildings, and vandalism of military installations was executed to malign the institution and provoke it towards giving a foolhardy reaction. Pakistan Army has termed May 9, as the Black Day in the history of the country and observed utmost restraint and passion while not responding to the violence created by the violent political mob and rioters. The creation of a war-like situation and a conflict between the public and military had been long a part of the enemy's plan that was implemented on May 9, in an attempt to push the country into a situation like Sudan and Syria. At this time, the hyper-nationalism and political extremism have become effective weapons for political strategists and foreign intelligence who not only use these conditions to their benefit but continuously widen the gap and try to transform this political disarray into a civil conflict that could prove to be the last nail in the coffin of nuclear Pakistan.

Apparently, the military leadership has demonstrated a high level of soberness and leniency regarding persistent name-calling, baseless accusations, and charges of treason and conspiracy leveled by the PTI leadership and its influential social media cell. PTI Chairman has been endlessly accusing senior military leadership and serving Intelligence officials of conspiring against him, facilitating his ouster, planning his assassination bid, etc. The group perceives that the military establishment was the real architect behind IK's arrest, therefore PTI workers specifically targeted military installations and personnel and later blamed the Security Agencies for staging violence to allegedly use against the party. However, lies and propaganda could not hide the facts in the current-day world as the events of violence and vandalism had been captured by the local and international media besides the CCTV cameras installed on the roads and streets in the major cities. The military men and defense installations are duly covered by all civil laws under the constitution of the country along with the Pakistan Army Act and the Official Secret Act respectively. Every individual including foreign spies or civilian citizens obstructing military operations or harming defense installations during the war or in peacetime is liable to prosecution under the relevant military laws.

In fact, the recent incidents of vandalism had fulfilled the enemy's agenda by damaging the sanctity of military uniform, undermining national security, and disrespecting the war memories/ Yadgars-e-Shudahas, while the severity of the crime could not lessen because of the involvement of a political group and its violent workers. The government and Pakistan Army have rightly decided that all those involved in these heinous acts would not be spared without any leniency disregard of their association with any political groups including the PTI, PML-N, or the PPP. Meanwhile, the need for a national consensus among all stakeholders is paramount which is essential to address the ongoing political instability, strengthen democracy and reinvigorate economic activities in an economically fragile nation. Efforts should be made to bring politicians toward elections for the ultimate objective of restoring peace and bringing stability to the country.

The nightmares of a '48 Palestinian

Lana Tatour

WHEN Zionist militias started attacking Palestinian villages and ethnically cleansing them in 1948, news reached my grandparents in the village of Reineh in Jalil, northern Palestine. Fearing Zionist violence, they packed their bags and along with their newborn (my uncle) and several members of their family, they fled to Lebanon, where they found haven in a refugee camp in Baalbek. Despite facing misery and destitution, my grandparents remained in the camp, as news of the atrocities the Zionists were committing - what came to be known as the Nakba - continued to come.

Several months later, the holy month of Ramadan began and then came Eid, which was usually a time of happiness, when families and communities came together. But being away from their homeland, my grandparents felt much more pain and sense of loss during the holiday. The cries of women and children filled the camp and broke my grandfather's heart, and that was the moment when he became determined to return to Palestine. "We are going home," he declared. And they did, risking their lives in the process. My grandparents were of the few fortunate Palestinians who managed to return. They were also fortunate to find their village and their home still intact. But a new reality awaited them in their homeland. Their village fell within the borders of the newly founded Israeli state, and they, the natives of the land, became "infiltrators" and were, therefore, deportable under Israeli law.

Now, their struggle was to remain in their homeland. The Israeli army would regularly raid their home looking for my grandfather. Every time they found him, they would expel him to the outskirts of Jenin, which at that time was under Jordanian control, and every time he would make his way back to this village and his family. Soon my grandparents realised that in order to remain in Palestine, they would have to secure a (semi) permanent residence status from Israel - the very state that was occupying their land.

They despised it for what it was doing to them and their people, but they had to acquire these papers. It was the only way to survive, to be in Palestine; it was an act of sumud (steadfastness). As a result, all of their children and grandchildren, including myself, would eventually become Israeli citizens - part of the so-called '48 Palestinian community. Decades later, under different circumstances, I would find myself terrified of losing my Israeli citizenship. Over the past few years, successive Israeli governments have indicated they are looking for ways to denaturalise Palestinians, considering us a "demographic threat". This has increasingly fed my anxiety. Several months ago, I began to have a recurring dream, a nightmare to be precise, in which I am stripped of my Israeli citizenship.

In one version of the dream, the Israeli authorities had made the citizenship of '48 Palestinians resemble the permanent residence they have issued to Palestinian Jerusalemites since the occupation of the city in 1967. This status is contin-

gent on Palestinians - who have lived in Jerusalem for centuries - being able to prove that the city is their "centre of life". Given that I have been living outside of Israel for nearly 15 years now, in my dream I was not able to claim my residency any more and the authorities stripped me of my citizenship. This meant I was permanently barred from entering or living in my homeland, unable to visit or return, which is the fate of many Palestinian Jerusalemites and Palestinian refugees. I woke up from this nightmare in panic with a pounding heart, sweating and breathing heavily. To calm down, I had to remind myself that this had not happened... yet. My attachment to my Israeli citizenship is not a choice but a necessity. I hate that I have to hold on to this citizenship so my kids and I can continue to visit our homeland and maintain the possibility to live there. This is a citizenship of a state that is colonising, occupying, and disposing us, and yet I have to fight to keep it - just like my grandparents fought to acquire it. My nightmares, the deep-seated anxiety, are not merely paranoia. Israeli citizenship for Palestinians is fragile and conditional. With Israel having the most far-right government in its history in power, not only do Israeli ministers and lawmakers publicly call for a second Nakba, but they are also actively pursuing ways to expand their ability to strip Palestinians of their citizenship, as a means to eliminate Palestinian presence in Palestine.

From day one, 75 years ago, Israel grappled with the

question of the Palestinians who remained in Palestine. David Ben Gurion, Israel's first prime minister, objected to a proposed citizenship law as it would have led to the naturalisation of the Palestinians who remained. Instead, he wanted to keep them under the status of residents as it would have been easier to expel residents than citizens. The citizenship law, he told his cabinet ministers, can wait. "When you have a country in a stable condition, then the question of citizenship is a simple one. But here you are asking to make decisions about matters that we are not interested in finalising ... We are in an unstable and changing situation, so why should we get ourselves into trouble by resolving this matter? I don't understand the urgency." Despite Ben Gurion's position, in 1952, Israel legislated a citizenship law that led to the naturalisation of the Palestinians who remained. This citizenship, however, did not grant them the full rights that Jewish Israelis enjoyed. It was a racialised, inferior citizenship - one that did not allow many of the Palestinians who received it to return to their villages, homes and land, of which Zionist forces had dispossessed them.

More than seven decades later, Israel is taking active steps to undermine the already crippled citizenship for Palestinians and to make them more vulnerable to denaturalisation. Enjoying total impunity for its crimes on the international arena, Israel knows it can continue to water down the little protection that its citizenship offers to Palestinians. It is now gradually advancing the

Jerusalem model to apply to '48 Palestinians, which remarkably resembles Ben Gurion's initial plan. Between 1967 and 2016, Israel revoked the residency of 14,595 Jerusalemites. The goal is to make the citizenship of 1948 Palestinians more easily revokable as well.

The process started with the Palestinian Bedouin. In 2010, the Ministry of Interior began a review of the citizenship status of the Bedouins, concluding that thousands of them had been "erroneously" registered as citizens under the 1952 Citizenship Law. So far hundreds have officially lost their citizenship. Then, the Israeli authorities started pushing for a legal framework that allows denaturalisation based on perceived "disloyalty". In July 2022, Israel's Supreme Court ruled in the case of Alaa Zayoud, a Palestinian citizen who allegedly drove his car into Israeli soldiers, that a "breach of loyalty" is sufficient grounds for denaturalisation, even if the person would become stateless as a result of this action. The ruling, which is in direct violation of international law, impacts both '48 Palestinians and Palestinian Jerusalemites. It means that Israel can prosecute on bogus charges and strip Palestinians of their legal status, leaving them stateless and stateless. In the last two years alone, hundreds of Palestinians, who hold either Israeli residence or citizenship, have been indicted on terrorist charges. After the events of May 2021 - known as the Unity Intifada - close to 200 Palestinians were charged with terrorist offences, simply for defending their homes, communi-

ties, and holy sites from state and settler violence. They now face the danger of losing their status. In February 2023, Israel took a further step to solidify the possibility for denaturalisation by adopting a law that legalises revoking the residency or citizenship of Palestinians imprisoned on terror charges who receive financial aid from the Palestinian Authority (PA). The PA supports financially the families of Palestinian prisoners in Israeli jails or those who have been killed or severely injured by Israeli forces.

The law, along with the July 2022 Supreme Court ruling, opens the door for the mass expulsion of Palestinians. That is, a settler colonial apartheid state is adopting and applying laws that enable the deportation of the native population, which is a violation of international law. As we mark 75 years to the Nakba, millions of Palestinian refugees continue to be denied their right of return, while '48 Palestinians continue to face the violence of their dependency on their citizenship to remain in Palestine. Our citizenship allows us, for now and in most part, to remain in our homeland, but we are also imprisoned by its paradox. Even though Israeli citizenship is part of our colonisation, we are bound to it, and we are forced to fight for it. Our very existence necessitates the management of this paradox, of being both Israeli citizens and colonial subjects. But at the same time, our presence also undermines the Israeli narrative that seeks to erase Palestinians and the history of Palestine and is yet another act of resistance to Israeli apartheid and colonisation.

How Russia torpedoed its own influence in Moldova

Galiya Ibragimova

RUSSIA'S invasion of Ukraine has turned neighboring Moldova into a tinder box. Its border with Ukraine stretches for almost 1,000 kilometers, and Russian missiles have entered Moldovan airspace on more than one occasion. Moscow has threatened to prevent Moldova from becoming another "anti-Russia," while making fear-mongering accusations that the Ukrainian army has plans to seize Moldova's breakaway region Transnistria.

The direct military threat to Moldova, however, receded after the Ukrainian army defeated Russia in Kherson, and the Moldovan government appears to have successfully adapted to the new situation and restored relative stability. Despite historically strong pro-Russian sentiment, the vast majority of Moldovans now agree that cooperation with Moscow has become too toxic, while the allure of EU integration - such as the opportunity to work there - is more tempting than anything Russia has to offer. Chisinau is accordingly taking increasingly decisive measures in its fight against Russian interference. A state of emergency has been in effect in Moldova ever since Russia invaded Ukraine on February 24, 2022, affording the government and law enforcement agencies additional powers. So far, the authorities have not resorted to radical measures, but the fact that the state of emergency is extended every two months shows that they are seriously concerned about the threat of destabilization. Throughout the past year, Chisinau has condemned Moscow for the war, but avoided direct confrontation, and was initially reluctant to actively oppose

Russian interference. Moldovans welcomed Ukrainian refugees, but declined Kyiv's requests to sell it six MiG-29 fighter jets, which was a bitter pill for Kyiv to swallow, considering that the Ukrainian army had thwarted Russia's attempts at the start of the war to carve a corridor through Ukraine to Moldova's Moscow-backed breakaway region, Transnistria.

If it were not for Ukraine's counterattack, then Moscow would likely have already taken control of Moldova and installed a pro-Russian president there: Russia's rhetoric about the illegitimacy of the current Moldovan leadership is getting louder and louder. It is unlikely that Moldova, neither a large nor wealthy country, would have been able to put up much of a fight. Chisinau's caution is understandable: after all, there are 1,500 Russian troops stationed in Transnistria, both as peacekeepers and as guards for Soviet-era arms depots. Moldova only joined anti-Russian sanctions this spring.

Before that, the government demurred, citing the country's dependence on the Russian economy, even though Moldova's main trading partner has long been the European Union. Last year, almost 60% of Moldovan exports went to the EU, while less than a quarter went to the entire Commonwealth of Independent States, including Russia. And while exports to the EU increased by a third in 2022, those destined for Russia decreased by about the same amount. Even Moldova's long-standing and almost complete dependence on Russian gas supplies has significantly weakened during the past year, largely due to the

actions of Russia itself. Last October, Russia's Gazprom reduced gas supplies to Moldova from 9 million to 5.7 million cubic meters per day in a payment dispute. Moscow also reduced gas supplies to Transnistria, which almost left Moldova without electricity, since until 2022 up to 70% of electricity supplied to the rest of Moldova came from Transnistria and its regional power plant, which runs on Russian gas. The rest was supplied by Ukraine. Due to the reduction in gas supplies, Transnistria stopped selling electricity to Chisinau, while Kyiv also stopped exports due to the Russian missile strikes against its energy infrastructure, which had caused severe energy shortages across the war-torn country.

Soon afterward, Chisinau reached an agreement with Tiraspol, Transnistria's de facto capital. Chisinau agreed to send its own Russian gas supplies to Transnistria in exchange for the resumption of electricity supplies from the latter. To meet its domestic requirements, Moldova began buying gas from the EU, which by January 2023 had enabled it to save \$330 per 1,000 cubic meters compared with Russian prices thanks to the relative stabilization of the European gas market. In the spring, Ukraine resumed electricity exports, and the Transnistria power plant returned to its prewar capacity. The energy crisis hit Moldovan consumers hard, but prodded Chisinau to establish alternative gas suppliers, including Romania and Greece, with plans to add Azerbaijan to that list. This energy diversification has strengthened the Moldovan government's position in its rela-

tionship with Moscow. By this spring, following the resignation of the government and a subsequent reshuffle, Moldova had begun to toughen its stance on Russia. New Prime Minister Dorin Recean was previously a national security advisor and interior minister, and his appointment was a signal that security issues are Chisinau's top priority right now.

A few days before the reshuffle, President Maia Sandu said that Ukrainian intelligence had intercepted a Kremlin plan to organize a coup in Moldova through opposition protests and the involvement of foreign mercenaries. It's hard to verify the claims, but what is certain is that Russia has always had extensive influence in Moldova, and has traditionally enjoyed the support of about half the population. Even now, polls show that while the majority of Moldovans condemn the Russian invasion of Ukraine, about 30% still admire Putin. Since last fall, the Shor party has been leading Moldovans in anti-government protests, officially against high utility prices. Russian propaganda portrays the protests as anti-European and nationalist, and describes the party's head, the fugitive oligarch Ilan Shor, as the leader of the Moldovan opposition. But in reality, the protests only attract a couple of thousand people, and those participants do not hide the fact that they are paid to attend. Ilan Shor fled to Israel after being sentenced to fifteen years in prison in Moldova for his role in laundering \$1 billion through three Moldovan banks. A change of regime in Chisinau to a pro-Russian government would allow him to avoid prosecution and return to Moldova.

Many believe that the Kremlin has offered him precisely these guarantees.

The Moldovan government was concerned by the protests, but did not dare to take tough action: the Shor party has six seats in parliament, and freedom of assembly is enshrined in the constitution. But the reports of Kremlin plans to destabilize Moldova, and then the emergence of a document titled "Strategic Goals of the Russian Federation in the Republic of Moldova," which spelled out a plan for regime change, forced Chisinau to act more decisively. The new Moldovan cabinet has appealed to the Constitutional Court to declare the Shor party illegitimate for promoting the interests of a foreign state. Meanwhile, in response to the opposition rallies, Sandu has called on Moldovans to assemble on Chisinau's main square on May 21 in support of EU integration. About 60% of Moldovans are in favor of their country's accession to the EU. The reshuffled government has also stopped the broadcasting of Russian TV channels, and stepped up its efforts to publicly refute dubious Russian claims, such as that Ukraine is preparing to occupy Transnistria. The powers of the Information and Security Service, Moldova's main intelligence agency, have been expanded, and a number of Russian officials - including President Vladimir Putin - have been banned from entering the country.

Chisinau's position on Transnistria has also become tougher. In February, the Moldovan parliament amended the law to make separatism an offense punishable by jail time, prompting outrage in Tiraspol. Chisinau insists that the amendments will

not be applied retrospectively: only to future manifestations of separatism. Still, it is not yet clear how the new law will work in practice, so for now, Transnistrian officials prefer not to be seen in Chisinau. Russia's actions have also prompted a public discussion in Moldova about the country's Armed Forces, which will not be able to put up much resistance to a serious security threat. At the Munich Security Conference in February, Sandu asked NATO countries to provide Moldova with air defense systems. The government has not yet abandoned neutrality, but is making it clear that it is ready to turn to NATO for help in the event of an escalation. Chisinau's course toward more resolute resistance to the Kremlin doesn't mean that the country will be able to rid itself of its dependence on Russia overnight, of course. Nor will Moscow relinquish its foothold inside the country without a fight. Most likely, the Kremlin will continue to interfere in Moldovan political life by financing pro-Russian parties, portraying NATO as a threat, and accusing Sandu of trying to drag Moldova into the war. It's possible that the pro-Russian forces will be able to take advantage of the country's socioeconomic problems to put in a decent showing in the next elections.

Even that scenario, however, will not result in fundamental changes to Moldova's foreign policy. Russia's aggression against Ukraine is helping to consolidate Moldovan society in favor of EU integration and emancipation from Moscow. No matter who ends up leading the country in the future, they will not be able to ignore that consensus.

The Moscow Times

Putin is on ropes. Britain can prepare Ukraine for final blow

Hamish De Bretton-Gordon

THE Russians are down, but not quite out. With Volodymyr Zelenskyy in the UK meeting Rishi Sunak, British arms could soon enable the Ukrainian armed forces to deliver the killing blow. Today's announcement has covered attack drones and air defence missiles; last week, we saw the donation of Storm Shadow missile systems. And, of course, there's the offer of training for jet pilots.

It's all good stuff, but Britain's lead must be followed by others. America and Europe must rally and give Kyiv everything it asks for this week; long range missiles do no good on the shelves of warehouses when they could be blowing up Russian tanks. And if we don't enable Ukraine to finish the war this year, we will be storing

up trouble for years to come. What was meant to be a "Special Military Operation" lasting a few weeks has turned into a 15-month military disaster for the Russian autocrat. Things are bad on the battlefield, and a quick scan of the headlines in the last month hints that far worse could be following. In a signal humiliation, the defences of the Kremlin were apparently breached by a drone, while a much-vaunted Russian hypersonic missile, supposedly over-matching anything Nato could muster, was unceremoniously shot out of the sky by a US-provided Patriot missile system.

It's not as if all is well at home, either. The price cap on oil exports has forced the Kremlin to tax domestic producers more, slowly eroding its capability to produce in the future. This

is only going to get worse as the summer will further lessen demand and reduce prices. Putin's "magic money tree" is failing him when he needs it most. Meanwhile, the infighting between the Wagner group and the Russian MoD speaks to deep tensions that may further degrade battlefield performance, with Wagner now apparently able to call the shots on tactics and supplies.

And the situation is worsening in Ukraine. A short time after their arrival in Ukraine, it is clear that Western tanks and armoured vehicles are almost ready to conduct dead-end combined arms manoeuvre warfare. They will brush aside the untrained conscripts thrown onto the front-lines by the Kremlin. Antiquated

Russian tanks hauled out of storage won't last a minute in a scrap with a Challenger 2; the depleted uranium shells fired by the British tanks will punch through them as if they weren't there, while the return fire is unlikely to do more than scratch the paintwork. What's more, the operational security around their deployment has been outstanding. We don't know where they are, or what the plan of attack is; neither do the Russians. The sudden appearance of formations of Western made armour is likely to produce a rout in troops already low in morale, badly led and with little ammunition.

Things have become so desperate that the Russians are now apparently using phosphorus bombs to try and burn their way to victo-

ry. Using this chemical in civilian areas is a war crime. That won't stop Putin. He knows that this medieval style of scorched earth warfare proved highly effective for the Russians and Assad Regime in Syria, rapidly becoming their go-to weapon when conventional fighting failed.

The last resort was chemical weapons, which we have not yet seen in Ukraine. I would not bet against an increasingly desperate Kremlin turning to their use; they secured Assad's survival, the West did nothing in response to their deployment, and Putin is aware that failure could be the end of both his regime and his life. It is this fear that could lead to Putin's deployment of his deadliest weapon. Civilians are being evacuated in droves, and in panic, from the area around the

Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant. Many analysts believe this is in response to Ukrainian shelling and the threat posed by a strong counter-attack spearheaded by modern Western tanks. But while it may be speculation, there are some who believe Moscow may be planning to use the plant as some form of "improvised nuclear device"; a kill-switch for Russian occupation in the area. It seems inconceivable, but how many times have we seen Putin cross red lines we believed inviolable?

This war cannot be allowed to drag into next year. We must give the hawks circling Putin the "carriage" they need to remove him. And we must give Zelenskyy all the military capability needed to kick the Russians out of Ukraine.

Victory is within Remainers’ grasp. If they win, it will impoverish us all

Sherelle Jacobs

BREXIT is dead in all but name. That has been clear for quite some time. Still, as the project dismally implodes on all fronts, matters are coming to a head. The Tories' flagship pledge to "take back control" of immigration upon leaving the EU is on the brink of collapse: official figures are expected to soon reveal that overall numbers have reached a high of 700,000. Plans to revitalise the UK economy by diverging from the EU are also in tatters. The Conservative Party's last-ditch bid to remove thousands of EU laws by the end of this year has been hastily pared back, prompting an ugly slanging match between Kemi Badenoch, the Business Secretary, and the ERG. The DUP is resisting the Windsor Framework, which reinforces rather than removes the border down the Irish Sea.

Meanwhile, the prospect of a second referendum has gone from being a risible fantasy to a realistic scenario. Sir Keir Starmer's plans to extend the franchise to millions of EU citizens who are resident in the UK is likely motivated more by a desperate bid to shore up Labour votes than a malevolent desire to rejoin "by stealth". Still, such a move, coupled with the increasing likelihood of a Lib-Lab coalition, means the country may well be sleepwalking towards a re-run.

Remainers then might indeed be on course to triumph due to a mixture of accident and inertia. But they should not be too quick to celebrate. To start, the idea that re-joining the EU (possibly on worse terms) would arrest the country's decline is absurd. Despite hysterical claims that Brexit has been an unmitigated economic disaster, it has little to do with the UK's current economic woes. The country's troubles predate Brexit, with productivity and wages stagnant since the financial crash. At worst, Brexit has aggravated pre-existing problems, hindering trade growth by a few percentage points and mildly weakening foreign direct investment flows, which remain at energetic, if not quite exuberant, levels.

What is striking about Brexit is that it failed to make much of an impact either way.

Even more importantly, while Remainers might succeed in reversing Brexit, they cannot reverse the populist sentiments behind it. Brexit was a clear warning siren to the ruling class that, for liberal democracy to survive, the "democracy" component needs to

lazy opinion, which overlooks the fact that it is not simply trade that drives economic progress, but innovation - an area in which Brexit's deregulatory agenda had formidable potential. The systemic failure to tap this potential is symptomatic of the Treasury's backwards attitude to economic growth. It reflects the severe myopia that handicaps a rotting ancien regime.

In its failure to diverge from Brussels, Britain ultimately risks being dragged down by a colossal strategic error that has been committed not by the country but by the EU. Brussels' bid to ride out the fourth industrial revolution by entrenching itself as a global regulatory superpower will prove destructive to European growth in the decades to come. The EU is institutionally anti-innovation.

prove that it can actually function. Underlying this was two sentiments: first, democratically-elected politicians rather than unaccountable Brussels bureaucrats should decide the nation's use of resources and direction. Second, liberalism should never be allowed to unilaterally impose its ideals such as global integration and relaxed borders, even if its proponents might believe they were for the greater good. The failure of politicians to properly implement Brexit makes a mockery of this deadly serious message. It ultimately risks destroying faith in parliamentary democracy and sooner or later unleashing a populist revolt even more bitter than the last.

The fact that Brexit's disruptive agenda was crushed by a deeply pathological system should be ?equally concerning to so-called progressive Remainers. There are those who insist that Britain's attempt to cut ties with its largest trading partner was doomed from the start. This is something of a

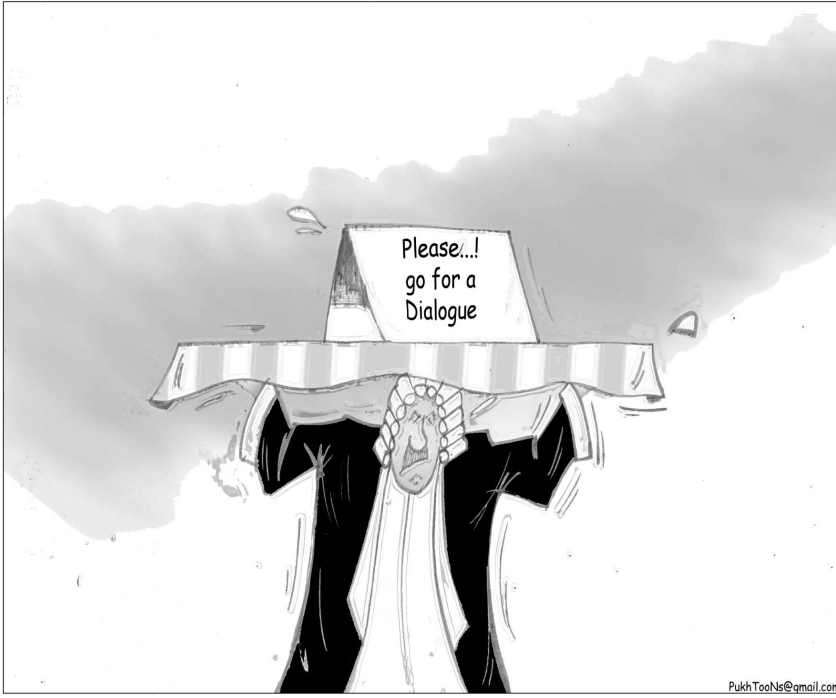
Small firms are too burdened by red tape to think seriously about innovation. Meanwhile, big business is content to live with cumbersome EU regulation in the knowledge that it hurts their upstart rivals more.

The paralysis that plagues the political system is equally alarming. Brexit has proved a dispiriting reminder that liberal democracy, with its division of powers and civil service which operates according to its own logic, is weak by design. This may be the price of staving off tyranny and dealing with complexity. But it makes it fiendishly difficult to pursue change using political levers. It has also been a wake-up call that in the era of "algorithm politics", poll-obsessed politicians sensitive to real-time shifts in popular opinion will run scared of a disruptive agenda - even when they have a stonking majority. In its failure to diverge from Brussels, Britain ultimately risks being dragged down by a colossal strategic error that

has been committed not by the country but by the EU. Brussels' bid to ride out the fourth industrial revolution by entrenching itself as a global regulatory superpower will prove destructive to European growth in the decades to come. The EU is institutionally anti-innovation. Its tendency to focus on the risks of a new product or service rather than its benefits - in accordance with the precautionary principle - is a disaster for emerging industries like biotechnology and genetic engineering. Nor is it a secret that its cack-handed approach to regulating Big Tech has only served to entrench their monopolies. Such idiocy could have existential consequences. The knowledge economy is the only sector that has the potential to replace traditional manufacturing, both in terms of its innovation prowess and its capacity to produce well-paid jobs. It is our best shot at transitioning workers out of repetitive low-skill work at risk of mass layoffs due to AI.

Growing the sector requires an atmosphere of competitive, decentralised dynamism, which taps the creative potential of every member of the labour force. But the EU's conscious decision to style itself as a regulatory hegemon is instead strengthening the dominance of monopolies, retarding innovation while locking workers out of creative production. Take Europe's large tech firms, which generate their profits not by cutting edge inventions but by routinising and then outsourcing the most promisingly creative aspects of their business, such as software development, to the Global South. Perhaps Brussels bureaucrats will eventually figure out their catastrophic error. But given that the EU is an unaccountable behemoth, it will be very difficult to correct. All this is lost on those Rejoiners who believe that progress is an elite project, and that the ruling class's great challenge is to resume business as usual after wresting control back from the reactionary masses. Events will soon overtake such an obsolete view.

The Telegraph



The challenge of migrant problem in Europe

THE largest migration movement in the modern period occurred during World War II. More than 50 million people were forcibly uprooted from their habitats and forced to migrate between 1939 and 1950. In 2014, for the first time since World War II, the number of displaced people worldwide exceeded 50 million. In 2023, more than 90 million people were forced to migrate due to conflicts, violence, human rights violations, and torture.

After the establishment of the UNHCR, in 1951, the legal foundation for these efforts was provided by the Geneva Convention on the Status of Refugees. In addition to the primary texts regulating international forced migration and refugee rights such as the Geneva and New York Conventions, many other regional or national conventions provide complementary protection. With the collapse of the Soviet regime and the acceleration of globalization, a series of conventions such as the Dublin Regulation (1990), the Amsterdam Treaty (1997), the Tampere Summit (1999), and the Malta Declaration (2002) have been implemented in the EU region to regulate the asylum claims emerging in Europe. Although the EU does not have a common migration and refugee policy, many joint agreements were signed between 2000 and 2020. The international migration regime, which emerged on humanitarian grounds in 1951, had become insufficient to serve human rights and the security of people, especially after the 2000s, when migration was seen as a security problem and securitized in the EU region. EU member states have introduced a series of new regulations that have tried to turn the EU region into an insular, almost protected fortress.

On the one hand, the EU is trying to establish a Common European Asylum System (CEAS) that is relatively respectful of human rights, such as the Malta Declaration (2002), the European Refugee Fund (2007), and the Lisbon Treaty (2007). On the other hand, EU countries such as Germany, France, the Netherlands, Hungary, and Greece are trying to deprive people of their fundamental human rights such as asylum, shelter, and protection through their national regulations. The erection of barbed wires and walls on borders, the abduction of asylum seekers by land with rubber bullets, gas bombs, and masked persons, the return of asylum seekers after being beaten, or the pushing back or capsizing of boats by coast guards at sea have become among the daily routine border practices of EU states. The European Border and Coast Guard Agency (FRONTEX) was established in 2004 to ensure border security.

Its budget increased from €6 million in 2005 to €254 million in 2016 and €845 million in 2023. Rather than helping regulate migration, the security measures taken have become an obstacle to asylum seekers even submitting asylum requests to EU member states. Asylum seekers who leave their homes out of fear for their lives may lose their lives in the search for safety. Between 2014 and 2023 alone, 26,689 asylum seekers died in the Mediterranean Sea. NGOs and their staff who rescue drowning asylum-seekers in the Mediterranean and try to deliver humanitarian aid risk being accused of human trafficking, breaking the law, and

Soner Tauscher

facing prison sentences.

As long as development took place, European countries respected international migration, human rights, and refugee law, and took policy steps by the law. The 1973 oil crisis, the economic contraction in the 80s, the economic volatility that followed the collapse of the Eastern bloc in the 90s, and the 2008 financial crisis, which still continue to have an impact, pushed the EU to impose limitations on the universality of human rights and refugee law. Adding to the economic crises of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, the actions of al-Qaeda and Daesh, and the waves of Syrian, Iraqi, and Afghan migration, EU politics and society have tended to feel under a new attack. The EU's critical political actors believe that the EU itself is under attack by Muslim migrants and will collapse, just as the Roman Empire collapsed due to the migrations of Germanic and Hun tribes. With this in mind, far-right and racist political views and parties are rising and gradually becoming the central parties in European politics. Even parties that position themselves as egalitarian, respectful of human rights, and libertarian produce right-wing populist discourses and political discourse that excludes immigrants, refugees, and foreigners.

For the EU, migration policy is two sides of the same coin. On the one hand, there is the increasingly popular far-right racist discourse that sees itself under siege and even invasion by Muslim and Black migrants. On the other side, there is the necessity to continue the blood renewal that the EU needs from outside the EU to ensure economic growth and a stable presence in the world technology market due to its aging and declining population. In this respect, the EU's common migration policies, border security strategies, the establishment and upgrading of FRONTEX, the 30 readmission agreements with states near and far, and the UK's attempts to abolish asylum applications are issues that need to be carefully considered. In the last days of 2022, Rishi Sunak, the prime minister of the United Kingdom and the child of an immigrant family, announced that asylum seekers who come to the country through irregular migration and seek asylum would be arrested and sent to their country or a third country, in violation of the international human rights convention, and that these people will not have the right to come to the UK for life. Although it is guaranteed by international texts to process all asylum claims without any discrimination and to provide protection to asylum seekers, similar statements have started to emerge from many EU member state politicians.

There have been not only readmission agreements but also bilateral agreements with countries of origin or neighboring countries where the demand for asylum is high in exchange for money and economic support to establish concentration camps violating human rights. Libya is one of the places where this is done in violation of human rights. The EU provides money, ships, and equipment to restructure and equip Libya's coast guard to stop asylum seekers' movement to Europe via Libya. In return for this aid, which amounts to €200 million annually, the Libyan

coast guard has established a "Search and Rescue Zone" in the Mediterranean. Asylum seekers caught during regular checks are arrested and taken to prisons in Libya. Despite the living conditions in these prisons, the torture and rape they are subjected to, the violation of human rights and dignity, and the calls of international human rights organizations, the EU continues to maintain this partnership with Libya. Similarly, with the new refugee law, the UK plans to send asylum seekers to a refugee camp in Rwanda before their asylum applications are received. Accordingly, asylum claims will not be processed in the UK but will be processed in Rwanda. Rwanda will be paid £120 million for the costs of asylum seekers. The UK has implemented a similar readmission agreement with Albania. In April 2023, the parliament of EU member Lithuania voted to reject asylum seekers at the border and push them back. Similarly, EU member states such as Spain, Poland, Latvia, Greece, and Hungary continue to use daily push-backs, classified as torture by the Council of Europe, and seek to legalize them.

There are two fundamental problems with international migration and refugee law. The first is that the right to seek asylum is limited to the five articles of the 1951 Geneva Convention, which include persecution on race, religion, ethnic origin, political opinion, or membership of a social group. Secondly, the right to protection and non-refoulement is limited to persons whose refugee status has been recognized. These two situations prevent asylum-seekers, especially those fleeing torture, murder, and death, from being quickly secured. International legal texts treat asylum and refugee rights equally regarding protection. However, in practice, countries such as the UK, Greece, Libya, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, and Spain discriminate between asylum seekers and refugees and deny people the right to apply for asylum by preventing them from crossing borders through push-back practices. They claim these people are not refugees and do not violate human rights and international agreements. Although there are still reactions from international organizations such as the European Court of Human Rights and the UNHCR, these reactions remain weak, and many political moves are made to prevent their implementation. Thus, Western states and societies, which claim to be the defenders of human rights and dignity, increasingly see human rights as a right that belongs only to Western states and societies, dehumanizing the rest of the world.

Finally, the issue of acceptance and non-refoulement of asylum seekers who can apply to EU member states will become increasingly complex. EU member states accept a high proportion of applications from asylum seekers threatened by conventional war and civil war. Nevertheless, asylum claims due to terrorism, invasion, epidemics, famine, economic depression, and climate disasters are much less accepted. However, more than 25 million people face climate-related forced migration today. Therefore, international human rights and refugee law must be reformed, considering the new global problem areas and the EU's regulations and practices that violate human rights.

Anadolu Agency

Germany’s change of heart is now pivotal to the war in Ukraine. Here’s why

John Kampfner

UNLIKE British or French politicians, Olaf Scholz doesn't do pomp. Nor does he do charm. A man who screws up his eyes when he tries to smile, the German chancellor welcomed Ukraine's president to Berlin on Sunday with characteristic stiffness. Yet of all Volodymyr Zelenskyy's meetings with fellow European leaders over the past few days - from Rome to Paris to Chequers today for more hardware and more embraces with Rishi Sunak - his day in Germany may be remembered as the most important. The announcement on the eve of his visit of a doubling of military aid to Ukraine to a total of more than €5bn finally brings Germany in from the cold. The consequences may take months to be seen on the battlefield, but in geo-strategic terms they are immediate.

Zelenskyy knows that he has perhaps only six to eight months for his counteroffensive to make sufficient inroads to force Russia out of the areas it seized in 2022 and, better still, out of lands it annexed in 2014. Doing this would also demonstrate to the west the effectiveness of the support given so far. He knows that if he cannot finish the job this year, he will have to continue into next year in even more difficult circumstances. He sees the Chinese, the French and others showboating diplomacy not necessarily on Ukraine's terms. At the same time he is aware that public opinion in

several countries is wavering. Most of all, he sees the lumbering figure of Donald Trump coming into view. Even the prospect of a return to the White House of a man who cannot say which side he supports provides succour to Vladimir Putin and the forces on the far right and far left in Europe who put the vague notion of "peace" ahead of international law, self-determination and human rights. That is why the debate in Europe, and Germany in particular, is so important. Germans are told to pull their weight but not to throw their weight about. They pride themselves on Vergangenheitsbewältigung, their coming to terms with their past. Yet in recent years among some sections of society, particularly Scholz's Social Democrats, one wrong lesson was learned. These "salon pacifists" reinterpreted the phrase "never again" to mean never again going war, rather than never confronting tyranny. The terrible invasion of Iraq reinforced that view.

Ukraine has now shattered that, inserting a concept alien to several generations of "the good war". But it has required two heaves to get there. The first was the Zeitenwende, the speech Scholz gave three days after Putin's invasion in which he declared a new approach to hard power and an extra €100bn to be spent on reinforcing Germany's ailing armed

forces. Having broken the mould so dramatically, the German chancellor returned to type, second-guessing each step, fearful of a backlash from his party. Relations became so toxic that the German president, Frank-Walter Steinmeier, was prevented by the Ukrainians at the last moment from visiting Kyiv. Zelenskyy feted all-comers but froze out the Germans, who complained they were not getting the credit for being one of the largest donors of military aid, amounting to more than €2bn. The problem was that it was offered grudgingly and delivered slowly. Tensions reached a high in the autumn over the stalled delivery of German-made Leopard 2 tanks. Not only did Scholz refuse to send them, but he also held back re-export licences to Ukraine by other countries of the tanks. He eventually relented, arguing that his position had forced the Americans to release tanks too.

So why this change of heart and is it irrevocable? Several factors in recent months have transformed the relationship between Germany and Ukraine. One is the appointment of Boris Pistorius, the first defence minister in years to get to grips with the transformation required to make Germany the major military player Nato needs it to be. Speaking at a conference last week, one of Germany's leading diplomats, Thomas Bagger, who will shortly take over as the

top official at the foreign ministry, said: "My country is now on a path to correct what in hindsight was its biggest mistake." Announcing the new €3bn package of measures for Ukraine, Pistorius declared: "Germany will provide all the help it can, for as long as it takes." People around Scholz argue that if he had been more gung-ho, he would not have brought the German people with him. Meanwhile, his foreign ministry and now his defence ministry are showing greater mettle, not just towards Russia, but also in navigating the increasingly difficult dilemma about China as a business opportunity and a security threat. On Sunday evening, Zelenskyy was in the beautiful medieval city of Aachen to receive the Charlemagne prize for services to Europe. Before an audience of luminaries, he spoke not just about the war but about Ukraine's place in the European Union.

That is why, if - and it remains a huge if - Ukraine prevails and wins the war, its biggest goal will be accession to the EU, and the role of Germany (and France and Poland) will be so pivotal. The UK, sadly, will not be at the table. As for Scholz, every time he was referred to warmly by Zelenskyy in his speech ("my friend Olaf"), the chancellor appeared to fidget with his headphones or tie. He may not be able to do human, but he is the most important human being the Ukrainians will have to do business with.

The Guardian

Sudan crisis holds real danger for Arab, North Africa and Sahel nations

Dr. Mohammed Al-Sulami

IT has been somewhat inevitable that Sudan's geopolitical position has seen the crisis in that country spill over into the region including the Sahel and North African countries. These nations are not immune to the ongoing conflict, especially considering their shared Arab cultural and political bonds.

The danger now posed by the potential mirroring of the Sudanese crisis in North African countries has become of utmost concern to other Arab nations. This realization is growing especially among those who thought that any type of regional fallout would see them remain unscathed - which was based on the rather erroneous notion that they had escaped the waves of protests of 2011 and 2018. In reality, not a single country has been spared from those uprisings.

And so it is also that the Sudanese crisis will certainly send shockwaves reverberating through the region. The conclusion should be avoided that Sudan's crisis and outcome would be different because of the supposed dissimilarity in context and parties involved. The situation in Libya is one of the most troubling, given that the country is mired in a strug-

gle for power between east and west; and considering that the warring factions have complex ties to the parties involved in Sudan's crisis.

Of second-most concern is the potential effect on the political situation in Chad and the consequent security and humanitarian problems likely for other Sahel nations including Mali and Niger. The Chadian government is perhaps rightly concerned that armed opposition forces in their country could seek some form of alliances with Sudan's Rapid Support Forces. The increasing political vulnerability of Chad and Libya could see the possibility of foreign military intervention that may cause further problems. Such turbulence offers fertile ground for terror groups, enabling them to move freely throughout the Sahel region. These groups were emboldened by the 2011 protests, and the subsequent lack of security throughout the region. It is perhaps obvious to point out that relatively improved security in the region following the Arab Spring protests, saw a consequent decline in the activities of various terror groups.

Sudan's crisis may also see terror groups increase their activities

in the border regions between Tunisia and Algeria. These groups are entrenched in Tunisia's Chaambi Mountains and all along the Algerian-Libyan border areas up to northern Mali. In such circumstances, the likelihood increases of an attack, like the one in 2013, which targeted a military base in Algeria's Tiguentourine region. The attackers' launching pad for that operation was the border area between Niger and Libya, with the terror group citing France's military intervention in Mali as supposed justification. Algeria has rightly reiterated that there needs to be a solution to the crisis in Sudan that would avoid any foreign military intervention, which it considers one of the primary reasons for the intensification of various crises in the region.

In addition, North African countries fear the security threats posed by illegal immigration, asylum-seekers and organized crime in all its forms since these countries are on the southern flank of the Mediterranean from which boats carrying illegal immigrants set sail toward Europe. In recent years, there has been a spike in the number of asylum seekers and illegal

immigrants heading toward North African countries due to the deteriorating conditions in the Sahel nations. While North African countries were previously merely transit points, they have now become a hub for those seeking illegal immigration to Europe amid tightened European control over illegal migration flows. This has caused several domestic problems in these countries, the latest of which was the racism accusations leveled against Tunisia due to the way it treated African refugees and immigrants. This even prompted the Tunisian presidency to issue clarifications to dismiss such accusations.

Lastly, the decades-old structural problems in the Sahel countries could reduce their ability to prevent the seemingly intractable Sudanese crisis from spilling over into their nations. If the conflict continues, it could see the entire region being catapulted into conditions that prevailed ahead of the first wave of the so-called Arab Spring. It now becomes imperative for these countries to step up their efforts to maintain their security and stability, as well as contribute to the international efforts aimed at reaching a peaceful settlement in Sudan.

Arab News

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PSX's 100-index gains 287.82 points

ISLAMABAD (APP): The 100-index of the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) on Tuesday witnessed a bullish trend gaining 287.82 points, with a positive change of 0.69 per cent, closing at 42,006.25 against 41,718.43 points on the previous day.

A total of 196,243,549 shares valuing Rs 5.768 billion were traded during the day as compared to 109,172,310 shares valuing Rs 3.370 billion the previous day. As many as 317 companies transacted their shares in the stock market; 176 of them recorded gains and 115 sustained losses, whereas the share price of 26 companies remained unchanged.

The three top-trading companies were PTCL with 15,602,500 shares at Rs 6.75 per share, WorldCall

Telecom with 14,050,017 shares at Rs 1.15 per share, and Hum Network with 12,681,500 shares at Rs 5.69 per share.

Bhanero Tex witnessed a maximum increase of Rs 73.58 per share price, closing at Rs 1054.58, whereas the runner-up was Pak Services with a Rs 50.00 rise in its per share price to Rs 790.00.

Unilever Foods witnessed a maximum decrease of Rs 200.00 per share closing at Rs 20800.00, followed by Premium Tex with a Rs 38.98 decline to close at Rs 480.78.

Rupee stands at break-even point against Dollar
Pakistani rupee witnessed stability against the US Dollar in the interbank trading on Tuesday and closed at the rate of previous day - Rs 284.96.

According to the Forex Association of Pakistan (FAP), the buying and selling rates of Dollars in the open market were recorded at Rs 294 and Rs 298, respectively.

The price of the Euro increased by 75 paise to close at Rs310.47 against the last day's closing of Rs309.72, according to the State Bank of Pakistan.

The Japanese Yen remained unchanged and closed at Rs 2.09, whereas an increase of Rs1.2 was witnessed in the exchange rate of the British Pound, which traded at Rs356.97 as compared to its last day's closing of Rs355.76.

There was also no gain or loss in the exchange rate of the Emirates Dirham and the Saudi Riyal as the currencies closed at Rs77.60 and Rs75.98, respectively.

Gold prices decrease by Rs 2000 to Rs 233,100 per tola

The per tola price of 24-karat gold decreased by Rs 2000 and was sold at Rs 233,100 on Tuesday against its sale at Rs 235,100 the previous day, All Sindh Sarafa Jewellers Association reported.

The price of 10 grams of 24-karat gold also declined by Rs 1714 to Rs 199,846 from Rs 201,560, whereas the price of 10 grams of 22-karat gold went down to Rs 183,192 from Rs 184,764.

The price of per tola silver decreased by Rs 50 to close at Rs 2950 and that of ten-gram silver also dipped by Rs 42.86 to Rs 2529.14.

The price of gold in the international market decreased by \$9 to close at \$2006 from \$2015, the association reported.



MULTAN: Vegetable trader selling fresh corn cobs to retailer at vegetable market.

Shipping activity at Port Qasim

KARACHI (APP): Six ships namely, MSC Silvia, Lisa, Myny, YM Satrun, Al-Soor-II and Calypso Gas carrying containers, Palm oil, gas oil and LPG, berthed at Qasim International Container Terminal, Multipurpose Terminal, FOTCO Oil Terminal and Sui Southern Gas Terminal on Monday.

Meanwhile, five more ships, Express Rome, Easline Zhang-Jia-gang, XT Dolphin, Al-Salam-II and DM Dragon with Containers, palm oil, gas oil and Chemicals also arrived at the outer anchorage of the port during the last 24 hours.

A total of 08 ships were engaged at PQA berths during the last 24 hours, out of them three ships, Lisa, MSC Silvia and FMT Gumuldur left the port on Tuesday morning and two more ships, Myny and Al-Soor-II expected to sail later today.

A cargo volume of 140,344 tones, comprising 106,310 tones of imports cargo and 34,034 tonnes of export cargo, including containerized cargo carried in 4,426 containers (2,424 TEUs Imports and 2,002 TEUs export) was handled at the port during the last 24 hours.

There are 05 ships at the outer anchorage of Port Qasim, out of them two ships, Al-Salam-II and DM Dragon, and two more ships, Maersk Sentosa and MSC Elaine carrying gas oil, chemicals and containers are expected to take berths at FOTCO, EVTL and QICT respectively today, whereas, two more container ships, Clemens Schulte and EM Astoria are due to arrive at Port Qasim on Wednesday.

Connectivity fuels economic growth: LCCI

LAHORE (APP): In a significant development for businesses, online services and trade, connectivity through land and air routes has emerged as a vital catalyst for economic growth.

LCCI President Kashif Anwar expressed these views in a meeting with a delegation of British and US businessmen led by Prince Naem Malik here at LCCI on Tuesday.

Chaudhry Ijaz and former LCCI Executive Committee Member Haji Muhammad Asif Sehgar also spoke on the occasion.

Kashif Anwar said that seamless and efficient flow of goods, services, and information across regions had revolutionized the way businesses operate and opened up new avenues for expansion and collaboration.

With enhanced connectivity, companies can now establish their presence in previously untapped markets, enabling them to access a larger customer base and foster economic development.

Head of the delegation Prince Naem Malik briefed the president LCCI regarding their purpose of visit to the LCCI and said that a lot of investors from the UK and US were keen to invest in Pakistan but lack of facilitation was coming in the way. He said that the government of Pakistan should facilitate the foreign investors. Highlighting the potential areas where investors could focus, Naem said that there was a lot of scope of power generation through waste in Lahore.

Reduction in POL prices to provide impetus to industry

ISLAMABAD (APP): United Business Group (UBG) of the Federation of Pakistan Chamber of Commerce and Industry on Tuesday hailing the decision of the government to reduce fuel prices said that it will help curtail inflation, cut down the cost of production and provide impetus to industry.

In a press statement, Chairman UBG Shahzad Ali Malik said that it's a good decision of the government to pass on the impact of petroleum prices to the people and the continuation of the ban on luxury goods.

The reduced petroleum prices will lower transportation costs for businesses, particularly those heavily rely on fuel, such as logistics and shipping companies, he said adding that it will improve profit margins and potentially reduce the prices of goods and services, benefiting people.

He said petroleum prices have a significant influence on inflation. When petroleum prices decrease, it helps alleviate inflationary pressures, as fuel costs are often a major component of production and transportation costs.

He said this will lead to

lower overall inflation rates and contribute to stable prices, he added. He said reducing petroleum prices will also have a positive impact on the economy.

Reducing petroleum prices can have several impacts on the economy.

He urged the government to slash super tax and lower the slab of other taxes levied on Industries and the business community to speed up the slow-down economic growth and accelerate the commercial activities in the country which he added will help steer the country out of economic turmoil.

‘Access to Finance for Women Businesses’ held

SIALKOT (APP): The Women Chamber of Commerce and Industry Sialkot (WCCIS) on Tuesday organized an awareness session on ‘Access to Finance for Women Businesses’ in collaboration with the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) and Meezan Bank Ltd at the Sialkot Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SCCI).

Speakers from the SBP and Meezan Bank briefed various loan schemes for women entrepreneurs, their criteria, eligibilities, documentation and procedures.

Senior Deputy Chief Manager SBP BSC Sialkot Nasir Ahmed, Regional Credit Manager Meezan Bank Rahmeel Umar, Area Manager Meezan Bank Ltd Hassan Abu Bakar, Assistant Director SBP Sufian Taseer, WCCIS Executive Committee

Member Nadia Qaiser, Chairperson Legal Aid Committee & Legal Advisor WCCIS Lubna Tabassum, Secretary General WCCIS Omaira Babar and other members attended the session.

Females from educational institutions and organizations also attended.

Addressing the session, WCCIS President Dr Mariam Nouman said that the event had been organized through a collaborative effort between the WCCIS, the State Bank of Pakistan and Meezan Bank. She expressed sincere gratitude to the SBP and Meezan Bank for their support in organizing the session.

The WCCIS president said: “We have gathered here with a vision of creating a level playing field for women entrepreneurs in accessing financial

resources. We recognize the immense potential and talent that women possess and it is our responsibility to ensure they receive necessary support to realize their aspirations.”

“It is our collective duty to address challenges and pave the way for a more exclusive and equitable financial ecosystem,” she added.

“Through the session, we seek to shed light on the existing barriers faced by the women entrepreneurs in accessing finance. We will also explore various initiatives taken by the State Bank and Meezan Bank and to promote women's financial inclusion,” the president said.

She urged the participants to actively participate, contribute valuable insights and share success stories and challenges.

Cars’ sale decreases 53.65% in 10 months

ISLAMABAD (APP): The sale of cars during the first ten months of the current fiscal year 2022-23, has dropped by 53.65 per cent as compared to the same months of last year, the data released by the Pakistan Automobile Manufacturing Association (PAMA).

According to the data, as many as 88,620 cars were sold during July-April 2022-23 as opposed to 191,238 units during July-April 2021-22.

The breakup figures showed that 12,540 units of Honda Civic and City were

sold during the corresponding period of the year 2022-23 as compared to the sale of 29,095 units last year, thus showing a dip of 56.89 per cent.

Toyota Corolla and Yaris cars sales also decreased by 64.44 per cent as it went down to 17,001 units the current year from 47,812 units in the same period of the previous year.

However, Suzuki Swift's sales went up by 215.12 per cent as sales increased to 8,729 units from 2,770 units last year. Sale of Suzuki Cultus decreased to

6,410 units during the current year, whereas during the same period last year, the sale was recorded at 19,431 units while the sale of Suzuki WagonR also decreased to 5,121 units from 18,739 units in the same period of last year.

Suzuki Alto's sales also witnessed a sharp decline of 45.81 per cent from 58,250 units to 31,564 units during the months under review, whereas the sale of Suzuki Bolan decreased to 4,028 units as opposed to the sale of 10,422 units in the same period of last year.

Tokyo shares close higher on US debt ceiling hopes

TOKYO (AFP/APP): Tokyo shares closed higher on Tuesday, following Wall Street's lead on growing hopes that the United States will avoid a default.

The Nikkei 225 index rose 0.73 percent, or 216.65 points, to end at 29,842.99, while the broader Topix index added 0.58 percent, or 12.33 points, to 2,127.18.

In the US, the three major indexes all rebounded as caution over the debt ceiling issue eased and buying was particularly strong

in chip-related companies, which led to large gains by Japanese semiconductors,” Iwai Cosmo Securities said in a note.

The dollar stood at 136.00 yen, staying firm and little changed from 136.10 yen in New York.

US President Joe Biden has voiced optimism on reaching an agreement, though Republican House Speaker Kevin McCarthy said he thinks they remain “far apart”. US Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen reiterated that the government

could run out of cash as soon as June 1.

McCarthy said this weekend would be key, though Biden is slated to travel to Japan for the G7 summit before visiting Papua New Guinea and Australia.

“It has been reported that Biden will want significant progress made in the debt limit talks before he leaves to avoid criticism of him travelling ahead of a potential debt limit breach,” said Tapas Strickland of National Australia Bank.

Decision on oil import from Russia hailed

LAHORE (APP): Coordinator to Federal Tax Ombudsman and Chairman Kyrgyzstan Trade House Meher Kashif Younis Tuesday hailed the government's decision to import crude oil from Russia in currencies of friendly countries as mutually agreed by the two countries.

Talking to a delegation of industrialists led by Faran Shahid here, he said that it was a good omen that Pakistan would pay in the currencies of friendly countries which, he added, would definitely ease dollars pressure on either sides and help pave way for further strengthening of existing economic cooperation and bilateral relations. He said agreements between both sides would pay dividends in the days to come.

He appreciated that Islamabad wanted to import 35 per cent of its total crude oil requirement from Russia.

Meher Kashif Younis said earlier recent decision of the government was also good one for direct settlement and clearing in RMB between China and Pakistan which will help balance greatly the possible trade fluctuations caused by changes in US dollars.

He said moreover, RMB clearing can be fast track for two countries to further deepen industrial cooperation in financing and purchasing. He said the trade volume of Belt and Road countries had reached 11.6 trillion Yuan last year. If RMB clearing and settlement is fully encouraged, trade efficiency in countries along the Belt and Road will improve as will more extensive financial cooperation, he added. Quoting “2022 RMB internationalisation” report, he said about 78.8 percent of the surveyed global industrial and commercial firms are thinking about adopting RMB or growing its [RMB] share in cross border transactions.

Concluding, he said as inflation and energy crisis in Europe and the United States had eroded market confidence and China's economy was the same size as the EU's, the RMB may become a future safe haven for investors. He said Bank of China and State Bank of Pakistan accord would support cross border transactions.

ICCI for focusing on local production of smart phones

ISLAMABAD (APP): President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari Tuesday urged the government to formulate a more attractive and conducive mobile phone policy to encourage the local production of smart phones, as Pakistan could earn billions of dollars by increasing their exports.

He said that the mobile phone manufacturing industry was currently the fifth largest industry in the world with an annual sales revenue of over \$500 billion, but Pakistan's share in it was negligible, so there was a great need for the government to promote local production of smart phones by providing better incentives to the investors.

While expressing his views after inaugurating an outlet of mobile phones, he said that China's annual exports of mobile phones were more than \$150 bil-

lion and if the local production of smart phones in Pakistan was better encouraged, the country could earn billions of dollars from their exports, said a press release.

He said that currently about 30 companies were engaged in local assembling and manufacturing mobile phones in Pakistan and in 2022, more than 20 million mobile phones were assembled and manufactured in Pakistan, including many international brands like Samsung and Nokia.

However, Pakistan is a big market for mobile phones because the number of mobile phone subscribers in our country is over 190 million.

Therefore, the government should pay special attention to increase the local production of smart phones to precious forex reserves and make significant increase in exports.

Mian Akram Farid, for-

mer President ICCI, said that Pakistan was mostly dependent on textiles and few other products for exports, due to which our annual exports were still limited to 25 to 30 billion US dollars.

He said that the time had come for the government to encourage the production of value-added products, including the mobile phones, so that instead of running the country on debt, Pakistan could emerge as a strong economy by rapidly increasing exports.

Sardar Yasir Ilyas Khan, former President ICCI demanded that the government to revise taxes on the telecom sector to attract more investment in this sector.

He said that the imposition of high taxes on telecom services including the mobile calls was a major hurdle in the better development of this industry.

FFC delegate presented FFC's ESG Journey



F.P. Report

KARACHI: Fauji Fertilizer Company Limited nominee was invited as guest speaker in the joint session organized by Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) and the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Pakistan (ICAP) on Capacity build-

ing and Sustainability disclosures & reporting at Lahore. The session was attended by diverse stakeholders comprising of representation from regulators, companies, multilateral institutions, professional bodies, capital market institutions and business forums.

Syed Imran Rizvi, being member of PSX-ESG Task

force & Steering Committee, represented FFC. He apprised the house about FFC's ESG journey while appreciating the efforts of SECP, PSX & PICG in leading the ESG drive and creating awareness among various segments of corporate sector. The Chairman SECP presented him with the SECP memento.

Stocks lack direction as United States struggles to reach debt deal

LONDON (AFP/APP): European stock markets edged higher on Tuesday after a mixed showing in Asia, as traders grew increasingly concerned by the lack of a US debt deal necessary to avert a default.

Sentiment was weighed also by data showing China's economic recovery remained sticky, with key indicators missing expectations owing to weak domestic demand.

Oil prices nudged up, while the dollar dropped against main rivals.

“Concerns are rising that not enough progress is being made to avoid a US default, which would send shockwaves through financial markets,” noted Susannah Streeter, head of money and markets at Hargreaves Lansdown.

Elsewhere, “China's pandemic snapback is losing elasticity, adding to worries about growth unravelling across the global economy”. Separate data Tuesday showed UK unemployment edging higher as inflation remains elevated.

In the US, Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen has again said the government would likely run out of cash on June 1, meaning it would not be able to meet its debt repayment obligations, sparking a potentially devastating default.

While there is a general feeling that a debt agreement will be reached, Republican House Speaker Kevin McCarthy has warned that staff-level meetings were “not productive at all” and they were “nowhere near reaching a

conclusion”. Republicans are demanding spending cuts as a condition for passing the bill while Democrats want a “clean” increase of the borrowing limit with no strings attached.

US President Joe Biden, who has expressed confidence the two sides can bridge the gap, is scheduled to meet with McCarthy and other congressional leaders at the White House later Tuesday.

Meanwhile, two top Federal Reserve officials suggested they were in favour of pausing the US central bank's interest rate-hiking drive next month.

Chicago Fed boss Austan Goolsbee said he wanted to wait for the effects of more than a year of increases aimed at bringing inflation down from

multi-decade highs.

“There is still a lot of the impact of the 500 basis points we did in the last year that's still to come,” he told CNBC.

“And you add on that there are tight credit conditions, and I think that we should be extra mindful.”

Atlanta Fed president Raphael Bostic added that he favoured staying put at the June meeting, though he threw cold water on any hope for a cut before the end of the year.

But Minneapolis Fed President Neel Kashkari said monetary policymakers still had plenty of work to do to rein in prices, citing the still strong labour market and the fact that inflation, at five percent, remained well above the bank's two percent target.



In brief

Ali Shehanshah Club wins

FAISALABAD (APP): Ali Shehanshah Kabaddi Club has won the All Punjab Open Kabaddi Tournament by defeating Tiger Kabaddi Club Mannanwala. Spokesman of organizing committee said here on Tuesday that the tournament was organized under the Divisional Kabaddi Association at Makkoana where various Kabaddi teams across the province participated. However, Ali Shehanshah Club got first position while Tiber Club Mannanwala was declared second. Similarly, Barkaat Sharif Club Wazir Abad got third position whereas Pepsi Club Sammundi Road stood at fourth. Later, the position holder teams were also provided cash prizes and trophies whereas a player Kamran Pathan was awarded man-of-the-match award. International commentator Tayyab Gilani and others were also present on the occasion.

34th National Games

LAHORE (APP): Wushu, judo, table tennis and taekwondo training camps of Punjab teams continued here on Tuesday at Nishtar Park Sports Complex Gymnasium Hall in connection with 34th National Games scheduled to be staged at Quetta from May 22. The rigorous training camps of different Punjab sports squads are being organised on the directions of Director General Sports Punjab Dr Asif Tufail so that Punjab athletes could offer medal winning performances in National Games. Dr Asif Tufail said that National Games is the biggest sports event of the country and keeping in view this factor our athletes must demonstrate their best performance to script favourable results against top athletes of the country. He further said that all members of Punjab contingent must focus on demonstrating their best sports skills and techniques during National Games. "Our athletes are quite talented and we are pretty confident that they will bag plenty of medals in the National Games sports extravaganza".

Archer out for summer

LONDON (Agencies): Fast bowler Jofra Archer has been ruled out for the summer but Jonny Bairstow has returned to the England Test squad as wicketkeeper in place of Ben Foakes. Bairstow, who has not played for England since breaking his leg in August, will take the gloves against Ireland on 1 June. Fast bowler Archer has a recurrence of the stress fracture in his right elbow. James Anderson is named in the 15-man squad despite suffering a groin injury whilst playing for Lancashire. The four-day Test against the Irish at Lord's is England's final preparation for the Ashes series against Australia, which begins on 16 June. England Squad: Ben Stokes (c), James Anderson, Jonathan Bairstow, Stuart Broad, Harry Brook, Zak Crawley, Ben Duckett, Dan Lawrence, Jack Leach, Ollie Pope, Matthew Potts, Ollie Robinson, Joe Root, Chris Woakes, Mark Wood.

Djokovic beats Norrie to reach quarter-finals

ROME (Agencies): Novak Djokovic criticised Cameron Norrie's behaviour after the Briton hit him with a smash while his back was turned in their Italian Open match.

Djokovic reached his 17th successive Rome quarter-final with a 6-3 6-4 win in a tetchy encounter on Tuesday. He had already been irritated by the British number one's shouts of "Come on", before being hit in the ankle when he had already given up the point. "Those are the things we players know are not fair play," Djokovic said. "It's not how we treat each other, but it is allowed."

Having delayed the start of the match for a few minutes while he was in the treatment room, Djokovic wasted no time in racing into a 3-0 lead before Norrie slowed down his opponent's charge with a couple of holds.

The 27-year-old Briton saved three set points but could do nothing about the fourth as Djokovic wrapped up the opener. Norrie, seeded 13th, went a break down early in the second and immediately broke back - but in controversial fashion. Djokovic had already surrendered the point when he hit high to leave Norrie with an open court to put the ball into and was walking away when Norrie fired his smash into Djokovic's left ankle.

Norrie uttered a brief "sorry" and raised his hand in apology, earning whistles from the crowd and a huge glare from a clearly riled Djokovic.

With conditions cool and the mood on court even frostier, Djokovic went on to break to love for 5-4.

Having been made to wait at the start of the match, it was then Norrie's turn to keep Djokovic waiting as he received treatment on court on his hip while the Serb prepared to serve for the match.

Djokovic went 0-30 down but resumed his focus as he sealed victory on his second match point to stay on course for a seventh Italian Open title, with the pair exchanging a tense handshake and no words at the net.

"I have got along very well with Cameron over the years that he's been on tour. He's a very nice guy off the court so I don't understand this kind of attitude on the court," said Djokovic, who faces Danish seventh seed Holger Rune in the last eight. "He brought the fire and I responded to that. I'm not going to allow someone behaving like this bending my head. "That's all it is. What happens on the court, we leave on the court and move on."

Djokovic finding form in time for French Open Djokovic's preparation for the French Open has been disrupted by injury but he is finding form in time for his bid for a 23rd Grand Slam singles title when it starts on 28 May.

Djokovic missed the recent Madrid Open with an elbow injury and before that had made earlier-than-expected exits from tournaments in Monte Carlo and Bosnia and Herzegovina to leave his clay-court preparations in less than ideal shape in the run-up to the French Open.

He and Rafael Nadal both have a chance to win a record 23rd men's major singles title at Roland Garros, but with the Spaniard having been unable to play since the Australian Open in January because of a hip injury neither is a red-hot favourite to win in Paris.

Spain's US Open champion Carlos Alcaraz, who will take over as world number one from Djokovic when the rankings are updated next week, has been looking good for a French Open challenge after back-to-back titles in Madrid and Barcelona. However, the 20-year-old suffered a shock last-32 defeat in Rome on Monday by Hungarian qualifier Fabian Marozsan to make his earliest exit in a tournament since October.

Adviser to CM Punjab Wahab Riaz announces monthly stipend for 20 hockey players

LAHORE (APP): Adviser to Chief Minister Punjab on Sports and Youth Affairs Wahab Riaz has announced to give monthly stipend to 20 hockey players who demonstrated excellent performance in recently organised Ramadan Sports Series Hockey Championship.

He made this announcement while talking to the media at National Hockey Stadium here on Tuesday.

He said that Punjab Caretaker Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi had announced giving scholarships to the best players of the Ramadan Sports Series Hockey Championship.

Revealing details of monthly stipend, Wahab Riaz said that the talented hockey players will be given a monthly stipend of Rs 20,000 for one year from next month. "We are giving scholarships to those players who do not have a job. In this regard a committee was formed to select the players on merit for the scholarships," he added.

Adviser to Chief Minister Punjab on Sports informed that the said

committee has selected 20 Names after evaluating their performance and job status etc. "The scholarship of a player will be cancelled if it is revealed that the player has a job or sufficient source of income. The players' stipends will also be increased in future".

He said that definitely, it is a major programme and it has been taken for the first time in the history of the province. "We have taken this initiative so that our talented players can concentrate on hockey fully.

Through these scholarships, we can enhance the interest of our players in hockey".

Wahab Riaz further informed, "We are going to launch a program for the welfare of players according to which the Punjab Sports Department will bear the sports expenses of around 300 athletes for utilising different sports facilities in their respective cities of the province. We are also taking steps to provide free medical facilities to 300 athletes".

PCB unhappy with new ICC revenue model, demands clarity

KARACHI (Monitoring Desk): The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) is unhappy with the proposed new revenue distribution model for international cricket although it accepts that India, the game's financial engine, should get the biggest share, chairman Najam Sethi told Reuters.

The International Cricket Council (ICC), the game's global governing body, has proposed a new revenue-sharing model for the 2024-27 cycle to be voted on at its next board meeting in June.

According to figures leaked to Cricinfo, India would claim 38.5 per cent, while England and Australia would pocket 6.89pc and 6.25pc respectively. Pakistan stands to earn 5.75pc of the ICC's projected earnings, primarily from its media rights sale.

The 12 full members of the ICC would collectively get 88.81pc, while the rest would be distributed among

its 96 associate members.

"We are insisting that the ICC should tell us how these figures were arrived at," Sethi told Reuters from London. "We are not happy with the situation as it stands.

"Come June, when the board is expected to approve the financial model, unless these details are provided to us, we are not going to approve it."

India generates an estimated 80pc of ICC revenue and Disney Star shelled out \$3 billion last year to acquire the 2024-27 media rights for the Indian market.

Sethi said the PCB had already asked the ICC to explain how its finance and commercial affairs committee, headed by Indian cricket board secretary Jay Shah, determined the share.

Despite the fact that all nations will get more money, Sethi said at least two other Test-playing nations were not happy with the model and had

sought more details.

The ICC, which considered factors such as the performance of a country's men's and women's teams and their contribution to the ICC's commercial revenue, was not immediately available to comment.

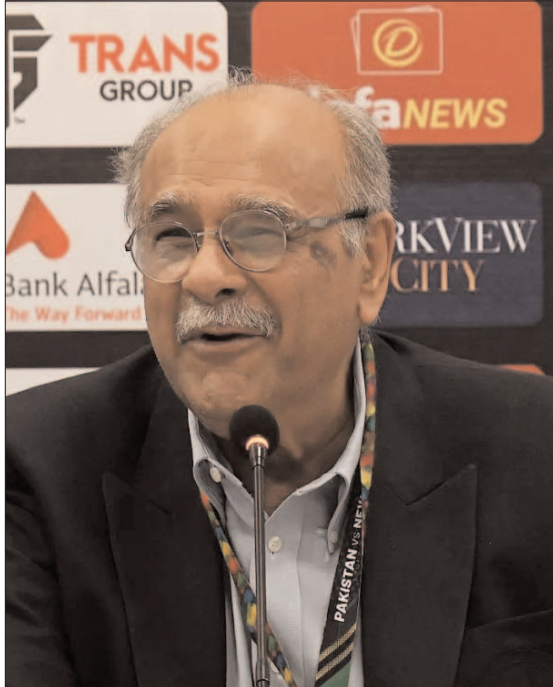
"In principle, India should get more, there is no doubt about that but ... how is this table being developed?" Sethi said.

The proposed revenue split has become a major talking point in world cricket, which is already facing a rapidly altering landscape because of the Indian-driven rise of franchise-based leagues.

Former England captain Mike Atherton, writing in The Times newspaper on Monday, criticised the

"flawed" model, which he feared would only deepen the game's existing inequality.

"If that distribution comes to pass, then the strong will get stronger, the



weak weaker (relatively) less competitive — which and international cricket is in nobody's long-term will continue to become interest," Atherton wrote.

National Basketball Training camp start

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Pakistan Basketball Federation (PBBF) has resumed the training camp of the national basketball team at Pakistan Sports Complex after the law and order situation returned to normal in the federal capital Islamabad.

According to Pakistan Basketball Federation (PBBF) associate secretary Ouj E Zahoor PBBF has already selected talented players from across the country for the national training camp after the trials were held to select the probable players for the Pakistan basketball team. He said that PBBF started national training camp on 11th may but due to current law and order situation, we temporarily closed the national training camp which is now resumed with full swings under the guideline and collaboration of Pakistan Sports Board (PSB).

"The selected players will go through an extensive training plan to enhance their skills and fitness standard during national camp under the supervision of head coach Riaz Malik", Ouj said, adding that Pakistan Basketball Federation are trying its best to provide maximum opportunities to the talented players.

He said that the Pakistan team will participate in the four-nation championship to be held in Maldives this year and our main target is to earn a position in an international event as the Pakistan team will take part in any international championship after a long time.

The selected players reported in the camp includes Hamza Bin Javed (Army), Muhammad Shahbaz Ali (Army), Atif Shah (Army), Muhammad Shahid (Army), Imad Ahmed (Army), Rana Haris Ahmed (Faisalabad), Sameer Khan (Hayderabad), Sammar Abbas (Islamabad), Ali Hamza Kazmi (Islamabad), Zain Ali (Karachi), Safi Ullah Khan (Lahore), Ibtisam Murtaza (Lahore), Muhammad Hamza (Multan), Zia Ur Rehman (Navy), Muhammad Umair Jan (PAF), Saqib Ullah Khan Mahsood (PAF), Mehtab Akram (PAF), Naem Ullah (Peshawar), Abdul Wahab (Peshawar), Izhar Ullah (POF), Rana M Usman (Police), Muhammad Usman (Police), Muhammad Hamnad (Rawalpindi), Muhammad Sajawal (Sargodha) and Zain ul Hasan Khan (Wapda) and Jamil Ahmed (Kohat).

Naila, Nadia etch their names in history by scaling Mt. Lhotse



ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan's women climbers Naila Kiani and Nadia Azad etched their names in history when on Tuesday they successfully summited Mount Lhotse (8,516m), the fourth-highest mountain in the world.

Situated at the border of Tibet and Nepal, Lhotse is unique in that it is climbed from virtually the same route as Mount Everest. Naila was the first of the two female mountaineers to ascend Lhotse.

"With this accomplishment, she has become the first Pakistani woman to climb the peak [Mount Lhotse] and the country's fastest woman to ascend six peaks higher than 8,000 metres", Secretary Alpine Club of Pakistan Karrar Haidri said in a statement.

Nadia Azad, a British Pakistani mountaineer followed in the footsteps of compatriot Naila, becoming the second Pakistani woman to summit Lhotse.

According to Haidri, Nadia along with Pemba Chhiri sherpa of Imagine Nepal reached at the top the peak at 11:00 am today (Tuesday).

Earlier on Sunday, Naila ascended Mt Everest (8848m), the world's tallest peak. A mother of two kids, Kiani is a Dubai-based Pakistani banker and an amateur boxer. She first rose to prominence after images of her wedding shoot at K2 Base Camp in 2018 circulated on social media.

She summited Gasherbrum-II (8,035m) in 2021, Gasherbrum-I (8,068m), K2 (8611) in July 2022 and Annapurna (8,091m) in 2023. She had climbed K2, the world's second tallest peak shortly after Samina Baig, who was the first Pakistani woman to achieve the feat.

Another female British Nadia, who is a member of Imagine Nepal's Annapurna Expedition Team had also successfully summited Everest on Sunday. She had climbed Annapurna in April. She also plans to embark on a daring expedition to Pakistan in June-July, aiming to summit all five 8,000m peaks in the country.

Pakistan's ace climber, Sajid Ali Sadpara, also made history on Sunday by climbing Everest solo without using supplemental oxygen and taking personal sherpa assistance.

Pakistan Shaheens all set for one-day series challenge

LAHORE (PPI): The one-day series between Pakistan Shaheens and Zimbabwe Select is set to kick off on 17 May at the Harare Sports Club in Harare. After a dominant performance in the two four-day matches, where Pakistan Shaheens emerged victorious with a convincing 2-0 win over Zimbabwe A, they are now geared up for the limited-overs action.

The six 50-over matches will be played at the Harare Sports Club from 17 May to 27 May. The 16-member Shaheens squad includes eight players who have already represented Pakistan in international cricket. Besides the eight international players, Shaheens will be hoping left-arm spinner Mehran Muntaz to replicate his red-ball form in the white-ball series. He took 15 wickets across the two four-day matches, including 11 wickets in the first game at the Kwekwe

Sports Club in Kwekwe.

In the batting department, Shaheens will be banking on Haseebullah, Mohammad Huraia and Omair Bin Yousuf – all of whom struck centuries in the two four-dayers – to take their form with the bat in the limited-overs series. Additionally, with the inclusion of Saim Ayub, who recently represented Pakistan in eight T20Is, the Shaheens have added more depth to their batting lineup. Saim's presence is expected to bolster their batting order and provide stability in critical junctures of the game.

On the eve of the series, Saim Ayub said: "Representing the Pakistan men's team in T20Is has been an incredible experience, and I'm thrilled to bring that valuable experience to the Shaheens for this 50-over series against Zimbabwe Select.

"I'm looking forward to

the series with great anticipation. We have performed well in the four-day matches, but this is a new series and we respect Zimbabwe as opponents.

"The preparations at the Harare Sports Club have been intense and focused. We have been working hard on all aspects of our game, from batting to bowling and fielding. The coaching staff has left no stone unturned to make sure we are well-prepared for the series."

Pakistan Shaheens: Imran Butt (captain) (Lahore), Hussain Talat (vice-captain) (Lahore), Aamir Jamal (Islamabad), Abdul Wahid Bangalzai (Quetta), Haseebullah (Quetta), Kamran Gulam (Peshawar), Mehran Muntaz (Rawalpindi), Mir Hamza (Karachi), Mohammad Ali (Sialkot), Mohammad Huraia (Sialkot), Mubasir Khan (Islamabad), Omair Bin Yousuf (Karachi), Qasim Akram (Lahore), Rohail

Nazir (wicketkeeper) (Islamabad), Saim Ayub (Karachi) and Shahnawaz Dahani (Larkana).

Player Support Personnel – Aizaz Cheema (coach), Imran Abbas (manager), Abdul Rehman (team consultant), Saboor Ahmed (trainer), Muhammad Asad (physiotherapist) and Faisal Rai (team analyst).

Tour schedule: 3-6 May – 1st Four-day match; KSC, Kwekwe (Pakistan Shaheens won by eight wickets)

10- 13 May – 2nd Four-day match; MSC, Mutare (Pakistan Shaheens won by an innings and 41 runs)

17 May – 1st 50-over match; HSC, Harare

19 May – 2nd 50-over match; HSC, Harare

21 May – 3rd 50-over match; HSC, Harare

23 May – 4th 50-over match; HSC, Harare

25 May – 5th 50-over match; HSC, Harare

27 May – 6th 50-over match; HSC, Harare.



In brief

IRSA releases 154,800 cusecs water

ISLAMABAD (APP): Indus River System Authority (IRSA) on Tuesday released 154,800 cusecs water from various rim stations with inflow of 131,100 cusecs. According to the data released by IRSA, water level in River Indus at Tarbela Dam was 1429.47 feet and 31.47 feet higher than its dead level of 1,398 feet. Water inflow and outflow in the dam was recorded as 33,700 cusecs and 50,000 cusecs respectively. The water level in River Jhelum at Mangla Dam was 1117.40 feet, which was 67.40 feet higher than its dead level of 1,050 feet. The inflow and outflow of water was recorded 42,600 cusecs and 50,000 cusecs respectively. The release of water at Kalabagh, Taunsa, Guddu and Sukkur was recorded as 61,300, 62,200, 44,000 and 13,400 cusecs respectively. Similarly, from River Kabul, a total of 29,900 cusecs of water released at Nowshera and 15,700 cusecs released from River Chenab at Marala.

Gang busted; 4 dacoits arrested

RAWALPINDI (APP): In an operation against criminal elements, Rawalpindi Police have busted a gang and arrested four dacoits including a ringleader besides recovering three snatched motorcycles, cash Rs 100,000, weapons and other items from their possession. According to a police spokesman, Airport Police arrested four accused namely Khalid alias Koila, ringleader, Amir, Farrukh and Waqas, who were allegedly involved in various dacoity cases. He informed that the police team constituted under the supervision of SHO Airport Police Station on the directives of SP Potohar Muhammad Waqas Khan conducted a raid and managed to net the criminals. The accused are being sent to jail for an identification parade, he added.

Man held for obnoxious call

RAWALPINDI (APP): Police on Tuesday claimed to have arrested a man for making an obnoxious call in the jurisdiction of the Airport area. According to a police spokesman, Aziz made a phone call to police emergency helpline 15, saying that around four people intercepted him at gunpoint and took away cash and other valuables. The airport police immediately rushed to the scene and were surprised that no such incident had taken place. Airport police arrested the accused and registered a case against him. SP Potohar Waqas Khan said that strict action will be taken against such elements who were involved in mischievous activities. He urged the citizens to avoid such practices as a wrong call on your part may deprive a needy of access to emergency services.

50 lady workers counselling

RAWALPINDI (APP): As many as 50 lady workers of the Social Welfare Department along with psychologists and experts of the higher education department were conducting psycho-social counselling of the drug addicts at the Potohar Rehabilitation Center, Wah. This was stated by the Divisional Director of Social Welfare Rawalpindi Muhammad Shahid Rana while addressing an awareness seminar organized at Capacity Building Training Center (CBLC) to control drugs. He said that Potohar Rehabilitation Center had been established in Wah General Hospital for free treatment of drug addicts with 50 beds.



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of the Republic of Kazakhstan to Pakistan H.E. Yerzhan Kistafin called on the Chairperson Benazir Income Support Programme Ms. Shazia Marri at BISP headquarters.

New Parliament Lodges Project Speaker NA expresses dismay over prolong delay

ISLAMABAD (INP): Speaker National Assembly, Raja Pervez Ashraf has expressed dismay over poor performance of Capital Development Authority (CDA) over prolonged delay in execution of New Parliament Lodges project. The Speaker NA along with Chairman Public Accounts Committee (PAC) Noor Alam Khan visited Parliament lodges on Tuesday to inspect the progress on construction of 104 additional family suites including 500 servant quarters. On the occasion, they were briefed by senior officers of CDA regarding issues and basic contours of the project construction of New Parliament Lodges.

Raja Pervez Ashraf criticizing the poor performance of CDA said that delay of more than a

decade in completing this project is tantamount to severe negligence and non professionalism. He also instructed National Assembly Secretariat to arrange meeting with Chairman Senate in order to deliberate upon finding ways to complete this project. He also said that in order to complete such projects there is need to find out of box solution. Chairman PAC Noor Alam Khan highlighted the significance of completing this project in Phases and stressed on the need to complete family suites on priority basis as more than seventy percent work has already been completed.

He also mentioned the project of connecting parliament lodges with Parliament House through tunnel. He said that drainage issue is destroy-

ing the whole building and there is an urgent need to resolve this issue. Furthermore, the issue of parking and lift were also deliberated upon in the meeting.

The member planning CDA briefed NA Speaker and chairman CDA that CDA is the executing agency of the project and The project of construction of new Parliamentary lodges was to be completed in 2013.

He also briefed that due to this delay the cost of the project has exponentially increased from Rs1600 million to Rs6.4 billion.

The Speaker and Chairman CDA expressed dismay and displeasure over the non-professionalism on part of CDA for not completing this project even after more than a decade has lapsed.

Special desk to be set up at BISP headquarters for special persons

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety & Chairperson Benazir Income Support Programme Ms. Shazia Marri was called on by Ambassador of the Republic of Kazakhstan to Pakistan Mr. Yerzhan Kistafin. During the meeting held at BISP headquarters on Tuesday, both sides discussed the bilateral issues and agreed to work together for exchange of experiences in the fields of education, culture, and particularly in the field of social protection. While highlighting the similarities of common cultural and religious heritage of Pakistan and Kazakhstan, Shazia Marri said that connectivity between the brotherly countries is vital to enhance mutual cooperation.

She also emphasized on strengthening bilateral relationship at governmental level as well as the people to people contacts. Ms Shazia Marri, on this occasion, presented brochure on Benazir Income Support

Programme and traditional gift of Sindhi Ajrak to the visiting diplomat.

Ambassador Yerzhan Kistafin appreciated the warm welcome extended by the Federal Minister and said that Benazir Income Support

Programme is one of the best social safety programmes of the developing world. He said that such programmes of direct cash transfer to the most vulnerable segments of the society need to be replicated in other countries as well.

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NSA shuts down 3 fuel stations

KANDAHAR (Agencies): Three fuel supply companies have been shut down in Kandahar over the continued sale of sub-standard fuel. The Afghanistan's National Standards Authority (ANSA) ordered the companies to suspend operations, according to a statement issued by the watchdog. ANSA said the three companies, Azim, Taher Noori and Sani Noorzai, were ordered to stop work after laboratory results on fuel samples were below standard.

Illegally weapons seized

KUNAR (Agencies): Local officials said that 33 light guns were discovered and confiscated in the Dangan district of Kunar province by the commission responsible for collecting illicit weapons in the country's eastern region. Mawlawi Wahidullah Mohammadi, spokesman for 201 Khalid Bin Walid Corps, told Bakhtar News Agency, that the commission had found and seized the weapons as well as a significant amount of ammunition in the district.

Ministry: Agricultural complexes to be built in four national zones



KABUL (TOLOnews): The Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock (MAIL) officials said the ministry will establish agricultural complexes in four zones of the country. Fazl Bari Fazli, Deputy Minister of MAIL said that eighty percent of the country's citizens are engaged in agriculture. "The Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan's Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock plans to establish large agricul-

tural complexes in the areas of Jalalabad, Herat, Qoshtipa, in the south of Helmand, and Kandahar," Fazli stated. The Qoshtipa Canal project has progressed by 40%, according to the ministry. Meanwhile, the head of the prime minister's office asked businesspeople to work for the growth of the country's economy and said the Islamic Emirate is committed to supporting businessmen and investors. "The Islamic Emirate collaborates with every businessperson and institution that invests in Afghanistan or establishes a company," said Abdul Wase, head of the PM's Office. "We want Afghanistan to be connected to the rest of the world, therefore we're planning to offer eight hours of cargo services with no weight restrictions, regardless of the size of the cargo. We have a huge plane and we don't have any problem with transfer," said Adil Baig, the representative of Mofid Group. This came as the first air cargo company started operating in Kabul on Saturday, 23 Saur (solar calendar).

Hard choices in Afghanistan humanitarian crisis: rights watchdog

KABUL (Agencies): The ongoing crisis in Afghanistan has thrust upon the United Nations two vital but seemingly incompatible responsibilities in Afghanistan: keeping aid flowing to those most in need while also keeping pressure on the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan (IEA) to end its appalling human rights violations, says Human Rights Watch Associate Asia Director Patricia Gossman. She said in a post on HRW's website that Afghanistan has largely disappeared from the media, but it remains one of the world's worst humanitarian disasters. Two-thirds of the country's population is food insecure, including 875,000 children facing acute malnutrition. Women and girls remain most at risk, she said. "The abrupt loss of most international aid after the Taliban (IEA) takeover in August 2021 prompted the initial crisis, but the Taliban's increasingly repressive policies, such as banning women from working for the United Nations and nongovernmental organizations, have made the situation much worse. "Now humanitarian aid groups must navigate trying to deliver crucial assistance while ensuring they do not reinforce the Taliban's abusive dictates. This is not a situation that lends itself to hashtag campaigns. For aid workers trying to adhere to both the humanitarian imperative of saving lives and the principles of neutrality and impartiality, these are difficult times," Gossman said. She said recent United Nations statements have led to confusion and charges of incoherence among United Nations agencies, as some have allowed men staff to keep working while women cannot. "While acknowledging the need for local flexibility, it is essential that heads of key agencies like the World Food Programme and UNICEF maintain a firm, consistent line that the Taliban's (IEA) actions are in violation of international human rights law and the UN Charter," she said. A recent meeting of UN special envoys in Doha reportedly agreed on continued engagement without recognition of the IEA until there is progress on human rights. "While some Afghan civil society groups have rejected all engagement, others see it necessary to relieve the economic crisis," Gossman said. In conclusion she said: "But all this will mean little if current humanitarian funding levels also do not improve. A drastic loss of aid will leave many Afghans poorer and hungrier." The Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan (IEA) has not yet commented on her assertions.

‘Int’l community must engage with Taliban’

KABUL (Khaama Press): Taliban's Acting Deputy Prime Minister Mawlawi Mohammed Abdul Kabir met with the United Nations' special representative for Afghanistan Roza Otunbaeva, and said the international community should engage with the group. Abdul Kabir, the Political Deputy Prime Minister and Khairullah Khaikhw, the Minister of Information and Culture of Taliban on Monday met with Roza Otunbaeva at Sapedar Palace and discussed Afghanistan issues. During the visit, the senior Taliban officials asked UN's special representative Roza Otunbaeva to invite Afghanistan's caretaker authorities to international meetings in the future. Referring to the Doha conference held in Qatar's capital and hosted by the UN on May 1 and 2, in which representatives from at least 25 countries and international organizations participated, however, Taliban officials were not



invited. Following the summit, the Taliban had described the meeting as "one-sided and ineffective" to which the group was not invited. The UN representative in Afghanistan highlighted about the Doha conference during the meeting according to Taliban officials. Taliban officials on Twitter said that Minister Khairkhw appreciated the result of the Doha conference about the emphasis on the continued delivery of humanitarian aid to Afghanistan during these difficult times. "Taliban representatives should be invited to international conferences held on Afghanistan issues in the future so that pathways for meaningful interaction and engagement are sought," Minister Khairkhw said. Toward the end of the Doha conference, the United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres announced that another summit will be held in Afghanistan in the near future.

Acting minister of Mines meets UN Secretary



KABUL (Khaama Press): The acting minister of Mines and Petroleum, Shahabuddin Delawar, met with the United Nations Secretary and advisor Tom Gragg on Tuesday in Kabul. According to the statement released by the ministry, both sides discussed various topics, including economic development and growth, attracting foreign investors to the country's mines, and the reparation of

Afghan refugees. Meanwhile, both sides stressed on the continuation of bilateral relations. Earlier, the minister announced on Sunday that the ministry would announce the bedding process to extract some of the oil and gas blocks in the country. In the meantime, the ministry said that the Chinese private company showed interest in investing in oil and gas in Afghanistan.

"Afghanistan has rich oil and gas resources, and the Ministry of Mines and Petroleum will shortly announce a part of the country's oil and gas fields for bidding." The interested investors may lawfully participate in the bidding, the ministry added. Afghanistan is rich in natural resources, but the untapped resources have yet to be exploited due to political unrest.

Iranian President orders officials to pursue issue of Helmand water treaty

TEHRAN (TOLOnews): The Iranian President, Ebrahim Raisi, in a government board meeting instructed Iranian officials to seriously pursue the issue of the Helmand water treaty. Raisi ordered the country's ministry of foreign affairs and ministry of energy to pursue the matter, Iranian media reported. This comes as the Iranian ambassador to Afghanistan, Hassan Kazemi Qomi, in an inter-

view with Iran's 3 Media Network Organization, said that he hopes the issue of the Helmand water treaty will be solved in the ongoing year. "The amount of water which comes from Afghanistan to our soil is not more than 27 million cubic meters... there is a big difference between the numbers stated in the water treaty and what happens," he said. The spokesman for the Ministry of Energy of

Islamic Emirate, Matiullah Abid, said that Afghanistan is committed to the water treaty of Helmand. "We have allocated water to Iran based on the water treaty of Helmand of 1351 (solar year) and we are committed to the treaty in the future as well," Abid said. However, some analysts said that Iran seeks to take more water than agreed in the water treaty. "If the water of Helmand river is near to 6 billion

cubic meters (per year), then Iran deserves 820 million cubic meters. But if it is not a normal year, or there is drought, then the water is provided based on the amount," said Mohammad Asim Mayar, a water analyst. According to the 1973 treaty, Afghanistan is committed to sharing the water from the Helmand River with Iran at the rate of 26 cubic meters of water per second, or 850 million cubic meters per annum.

UNICEF to launch classes for female students

BAMYAN (Khaama Press): The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) will conduct community-based education classes for female students in Afghanistan's central Bamyan province, the organization said on Tuesday. UNICEF posted a photo of female students in the classroom saying they could complete two years of school in a condensed one year. This community-based education program is initiated by UNICEF and the financial support of the Asian Bank, the World Bank in South Asia and the European Union's

Humanitarian Assistance Program. With the support of these organizations, United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) will be to organize 466 education classrooms to accommodate some 9400 male and female students to get an education. UNICEF has announced by the end of 2023, the organization will organize 21,000 such programs throughout Afghanistan. These educational programs come as the Taliban-run administration has closed school doors for female students above grade six for more than 600

days. In addition to many promises, the Taliban authorities have not yet clarified when they will resume school for female students in Afghanistan. Banning secondary school and university education for female students prompted widespread condemnations in Afghanistan and overseas. Despite the overwhelming pressure from the international community and Afghanistan's neighbors, the Taliban administration has its own policies and priorities regarding girls' education and women's employment.

Iranian diplomats visit Kunduz to enhance trade relations

MAZAR-E-SHARIF (Khaama Press): An Iranian delegation led by Hussein Yahyawi, the country's consul general in Mazar-e-Sharif, met with the governor of the Kunduz province to discuss commerce and tourism-related matters. "The Consul General of the Republic of Iran in Mazar-e-Sharif has discussed the expansion of commercial relations with the local authorities of this province with several Afghan diplomats during a trip to Kunduz Province," According to Iranian media, Asadullah Niazi, the director of foreign affairs, said. In the meantime, the Afghanistan Chamber of Trade and Investment revealed plans to create a joint Afghan-Iranian chamber of commerce. Establishing this combined chamber is expected to increase trade and investment prospects, strengthen economic relations, and make collaborating easier for business leaders and



entrepreneurs from both countries. Since the return of the Taliban to power in August 2021, the Iranian government has shown interest in investing in Afghanistan, prompting efforts to expand economic and trade relations. Iran has been one of Afghanistan's most impor-

tant trade partners for many years. The two neighbouring countries have much in common, including their culture and history. In the meantime, according to officials in Afghanistan, more than \$1 billion has been imported from Iran this year in fuel and food. Iran is one of the few countries that has contin-

ued to have close ties with the Taliban government in Afghanistan. Since the Taliban seized control again in August 2021, Iran has kept up trade relations with Afghanistan, continued to grant Afghans visas, and provided humanitarian aid to the Afghan people throughout these difficult times.

Exhibition showcasing domestic products organized in Kabul



KABUL (TOLOnews): At the "Kabul International Exhibition," traders were able to sign contracts for their products. At the exhibition, 600 companies selling wares like carpets, jewellery and dried fruit were featured, and women participated.

"They signed agreements between themselves and there were governmental contracts and private sector contracts that were signed with foreign organizations," said Rafiullah Hamad, the exhibition organizer. "It was a good opportunity to show our

domestic products and for people to get to know domestic products, and the consumption of domestic products should become normal," said Sakhi Ahmad Payman, first deputy of the Chamber of Industry and Mines. Some businessmen said that holding such exhibitions is beneficial for selling and marketing their products and handicrafts. Sudaba Behroz is a businesswoman, and she has been running her business for one year. She wants to hold exhibitions at an international level. "We were able to do marketing and attract customers and also we were able to get some orders. It was good for us," said Sudaba Behroz. "We got more contracts, we got more orders, we were introduced to more people, they saw our products," said Zarghona, a businesswoman. Meanwhile, some participants said it is difficult without more foreign buyers. "Domestic production companies are not able to have contact with foreigners," said Shoyeb, a trader. "In raising the level of the country's economy, the culture of our country plays an important role," said Zahir Zuhor, a visitor. At the exhibition 100 women participated and they displayed their handmade products.

2 children killed in drone strike

KHOST (Khaama Press): A house in the Bahramkhel village of Ismailkhel and Mandozai district of Khost province was the target of a drone strike on Tuesday early morning. Two children were reportedly killed in the attack, while two others, including a woman and a child, were injured. The injured people were transferred to the local hospital for medical treatment. Shabir Ahmad Osmani, the Taliban's director of information and culture in Khost, would not confirm the airstrike but said that a blast had occurred at a residential house and the matter is under investigation. Locals in the Khost province reported that a drone had been hovering above the Ismailkhel and Mandozai district since Monday night and throwing a bomb on a residential house at around 3 to 4 AM on Tuesday. Meanwhile, several media reported that since the regime change in August 2021, unknown drones have been flying in several regions of the country. On the other hand, Pakistani officials have expressed concern about the Tahreek-e-Taliban hideouts across the border area, which were rejected by the Taliban authorities.

3 historical sites discovered in Baghlan province

BAGHLAN (Agencies): At least three historical sites have been surveyed and discovered in the country's northern province of Baghlan, the provincial Information and Culture Department said in a statement Tuesday. "The professional team of the provincial Information and Culture Department has surveyed and discovered three historical sites include a fort in Poza Ishan area and two hills one in Sheikh Ali area and one other in Hussainkhel area of Pul-i-Khumri center of the province, the statement quoted the Protection Director of Cultural Heritage of the provincial Information and Culture Department Karimdad

Rahimi as saying. The fort [Kohna Qala] dated back to the Koshanid's era and the two hills dated back to the pre-Islamic era, the statement said. Since the resumption of power by the Islamic Emirate, hundreds of historical monuments, sites and relics have been surveyed and discovered by the professional teams of the Ministry of Information and Culture, as well as trafficking of hundreds of historical relics have been prevented across the country. The ministry is making efforts to survey and discover more historical monuments and restore those historical sites which are in the verge of destruction countrywide.

Bank fraud victims

Alvi directs banks to refund over Rs 0.5m

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi on Tuesday directed two private banks to refund an amount of Rs 564,469 to three victims of bank fraud in cases of online funds transfers and fraudulent ATM transactions. The President gave these directions while deciding on three separate representations filed by Allied Bank Ltd (ABL), United Bank Ltd (UBL), and a citizen against three different verdicts of the Banking Mohtasib (BM).

The complainants named Muhammad Saleem Zafar, Hidayatullah, and Ghulam Muhammad maintained separate accounts with ABL in Lahore, UBL in District Karak, and ABL in Peshawar respectively. Zafar, on receiving a call from a number similar to ABL's helpline, shared his banking information with the caller who introduced himself as the bank's representative.

Similarly, Hidayatullah lost Rs 170,969 to some unknown person using UBL Digital App even though he had neither requested for Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) Facility nor had he ever used it.

Ghulam Muhammad

lost Rs 45,000 when his card was captured by an ATM machine and he later found out that some fraudsters got hold of his card through deception, conducted ATM transactions, and withdrew funds from his account unauthorizedly. The complainants approached the banks for relief but in vain. Feeling aggrieved, they separately approached the Banking Mohtasib (BM) which in the cases of Zafar and Hidayatullah directed them to refund the lost amounts to them whereas in the case of Ghulam Muhammad, BM directed them to close the complaint. The cases were later referred to the president through separate representations, who directed the banks to pay the defrauded amount to all three victims of bank fraud.

The president in his decisions observed that in the cases of Zafar and Hidayatullah, the respective banks had opened EFT Facility by default without the consent and knowledge of the customers, which was in violation of the State Bank of Pakistan's rules/regulations and the Payment System and Electronic Fund Transfer (EFT) Act, 2007. He noted

that the complainants had not requested the opening of such channels and the banks could not produce any evidence with regard to the full disclosure of terms of fund transfer in a clear manner as stipulated in the EFT Act 2007. He upheld the decisions of the Banking Mohtasib that since malpractice and maladministration on the part of banks had been established, therefore, the banks were liable to make good the loss of Rs 348,500 and Rs 170,969 to the customers.

In the case of Ghulam Muhammad, the president observed that it was proved unambiguously that the card was captured and later on some swindlers got hold of his card through their sleight of hands/deception from the ATM. He said that it was the primary responsibility of the bank to protect the interests of the depositors optimally and recently representations of similar nature filed by banks were rejected, therefore, justice demanded consistency in cases of similar nature. The president, therefore, rejected the decision of Banking Mohtasib to close the case and directed ABL to pay Rs 45,000 to the victim of fraud.

Khursheed demands for filing reference against CJP

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Water Resources Syed Khursheed Ahmad Shah on Tuesday demanded of the Parliament to file a reference against Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Umar Atta Bandial before the Supreme Court Judicial Council (SCJC).

In response to Al-Qadir Trust case, role of judiciary and attacking the sensitive state institutions, the minister said Pakistan People Party (PPP) also strongly protested the judicial killing of Zulfikar Ali Bhutto but did not attack any government facilities. Even on the martyrdom of Benazir Bhutto, the government installations were not damaged, he added. He said the CJP was fully aware of the corruption in Al-Qadir Trust case. The amount in Al-Qadir Trust was to be deposited in the Supreme Court, he added.

Has any judge ever said welcome and good luck to the accused, the minister questioned? However, he said 450 kanals of land was purchase in Jhelum in lieu off the said amount. The land was first transferred in the name of Zulfi Bukhari and then Imran Khan and his wife, he added.

The minister said it was decided to build a building on the land at a cost of Rs 800 million. A deal was made to transfer the amount illegally from Britain to Pakistan, he said. He said Pakistan was our country and we have to solve our problems together. Parliament was functioning under the constitution and they would not allow anyone to make decisions by bypassing the august house, he said. The minister also demanded that the elections be announced on October 13. India would be more happy over attack on military installations by the protesters, he added. He said Israeli supporters were also happy over the current situation in Pakistan. Hakeem Saeed, Dr. Israr had also warned that Imran Khan was being prepared against Pakistan, he added.

IHC extends Imran's bail in two cases

LAHORE (PPT): The Islamabad High Court Tuesday extended the interim bail of former premier PTI Chairman Imran Khan in two cases till June 8. IHC Chief Justice, Justice Aamer Farooq heard the petitions filed by Imran Khan seeking interim bail in two cases pertaining to levelling allegations against top officers of state institutions and manhandling of PML-N leader Mohsin Ranjha by PTI workers.

At the outset of the hearing, Imran's lawyer Barrister Gohar submitted a request seeking PTI chief's exemption from the court appearance. The chief justice remarked that the contempt case has also been fixed for hearing today. The CJ inquired whether a case has been registered against making the arrest from the court premises or not. To which, Islamabad advocate general replied that the detailed order of the Supreme Court has not yet been released. The AG said that the Supreme Court has declared the high court contempt order null and void.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Interior, Rana Sanaullah receiving Deputy Interior Minister of Saudi Arabia Nasser bin Abdulaziz Al-Dawood on his arrival.

Trial of PTI protestors in mily courts: MPs draw mixed opinion

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Parliamentarians on Tuesday in a mixed opinion put their weight behind the decision of the Army to trial the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) protestors in military courts for desecrating the state institution's installations and memorials of the martyrs of the Armed Forces.

Talking to APP outside the Parliament, Defence Minister Khawaja Muhammad Asif said the blatant and violent attack on the Army's installations and its resitutions gave a justification to allow the government to trial the PTI protestors under the military courts. "When Army installations and memorials will be attacked then the state institution is being forced to take action. Just like Article 209 of the Constitution, the Army and other institutions have constitutional provisions to protect their honour and sanctity," he said.

He further said the Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) protest was a peaceful activity and as per the law whereas the same facility could be extended to other political and social groups if they exercise the same restraint within the limits of the law. Member National Assembly (MNA), Syed Ali Musa Gilani of Pakistan Peoples Party Parliamentarians (PPPP) said the cases against a political party's workers in military courts should not be held in a democracy. He added that the political workers trial should not be held in military courts, but rather in the civil courts whereas those iden-

tified other than the political workers should be held accountable as per law in the military courts. He condemned the trial of political workers in the military courts.

MNA, Nasir Musazai of PTI opined that the protestors should be charged as per Army Act who attacked Balahisar Fort and Corps Commander's House in Lahore which was equal to enmity with the country. He underlined that the PDM protest was held a day earlier and no damage was incurred to any property or institution, whereas Article 144 was imposed to protect the federal capital from the damage of protestors which did not happen. MNA, Javaid Latif of Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) said the PTI had been proved as a terrorist organisation after the attacks on the key sensitive state installations and there was no room to hold dialogue with the terrorists.

In that case, he said there were also many terrorist organisations in the country and the coalition government could never hold dialogue. MNA, Shagufta Jumani of Pakistan Peoples Party Parliamentarians (PPPP) observed PTI chief Imran Khan was the blue eyed of the Apex Court. He was arrested a day before and the next day was presented in the Supreme Court from the pathway used by the judges to enter the court. The way Khan was welcomed, received and got bails and given liberty by the Courts was regrettable, she added. What happened on May 9 was ignored completely by the Court as the way Metro busses were damaged

that were established from the precious national exchequer and tax payer's money.

She regretted that Imran Khan had disowned his party workers which was shameful and pitiable for his party workers who blindly followed him. "Imran Khan was getting bail in every case but he resisted his arrest whereas politicians extend their arrest themselves like former President Asif Ali Zardari did during his arrest by the Police. But the Chief Justice's conduct for Imran Khan expressed his tilt towards the latter's personality," she added. MNA, Syed Imran Shah of PML-N said, "We are all bound to the law but the way Imran Khan resisted his arrest had after-shocks on 9th May across the country. The people get exposed when they get power or authority that happened in the case of Imran Khan as his loyalty to the nation was well exposed before everyone after that unfortunate incident."

He said a national accused who was arrested and under remand, whereas his arrest was declared legal by the Islamabad High Court (IHC) and the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) but the Chief Justice of the Apex Court welcomed him which was regrettable. He pointed out that Rana Sanaullah was also arrested but no attacks were made on the state's assets whereas the apex court and IHC condemned these attacks but he (Imran Khan) did not. He mentioned that politics had no end of word for dialogue but the time had passed.

Cop firing outside girl's school kills one, 5 injured

Shafi Ullah

MINGORA: One girl student killed while five other injured including a teacher due to policeman firing outside a private school at Sangota area of distric Swat, on Tuesday. According to details, two girls are in critical condition while the policeman who opened firing has been arrested.

Regional Police Officer Malakand along with District Police Officer Swat visited Saidu Teaching Hospital and meet the injured girls in the incident, they reiterated their deter-

mination to fulfill the demands of justice. The deceased student identified as Roma 10 years of age, resident of Char Bagh, was killed on the spot. However, policeman identified as constable Alam Khan resident of Islampur, who was posted outside a private school in Sangota.

The injured students identified as Rahiba, Warish, Nahid and Hureen while the victims belong to Swat were seriously injured and were rushed to Saidu Sharif Hospital for medical assistance. After the incident, the officials of Manglawar police station

arrested the police constable Alam Khan who fired on the students.

After the incident, RPO Malakand Region Nasir Mehmood Sati and District Police Officer Shafiullah Gandapur have ordered an investigation into the incident in this regard. They said that special investigation team has been formed which is investigating. DPO swat Shafi Ullah visited Saidu Teaching Hospital and meet the injured students. He issued orders to the hospital administration to provide all facilities to the injured students.

PPP Azad Kashmir leaders calls on Bilawal

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: A delegation of leaders of Pakistan Peoples Party Azad Kashmir called on the Chairman PPP and Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari. Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari was appraised by the leaders of PPP Azad Kashmir about India's holding of G20 conference in Occupied Srinagar. The Advisor to the Prime Minister on Kashmir Affairs, Qamar Zaman Kaira

accompanied the Chairman PPP on the occasion.

Chairman PPP was briefed that holding of G20 conference in occupied Srinagar by India is unacceptable for Kashmiris. The PPP AJK leaders invited Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari to visit Muzaffarabad and Bagh during the G20 conference in Occupied Kashmir to present the case of Kashmiris all over the world.

Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari said

that the case of Kashmir is at the top of his priorities and accepted the invitation of PPP Azad Kashmir leaders to visit Bagh and Muzaffarabad. He will take all political parties into confidence regarding the G20 conference in Occupied Jammu and Kashmir.

Chairman FM Bilawal will meet the refugees on the invitation of PPP Azad Kashmir and will also have contacts with the civil society.

Rana flays Imran's party

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Interior Rana Sanaullah on Tuesday criticized Pakistan Tehreek e Insaf (PTI) for training dozens of people to damage public property and targeting security institutions.

Talking to a private news channel programme, he said that involving Afghan people in ransacking public property was a

matter of serious concern. He said the government will take action against the lawbreakers. The minister said the punishment would be rewarded to those guilty of a crime. He said Imran's party had trained the people a year back for attacking public and security places.

He said that planning was made by Imran's party well before time to attack

security and public institutions and added that some people who are guilty of criminal acts had been apprehended by law investigation departments. In reply to a question, he accused Imran's party of evolving strategy before coming into power for spreading anarchy in this country. "We will not spare any law violators," he warned.

Hubris & egos or humility & wisdom what should prevail?

President Dr Arif Alvi

I have been thinking whether my interest in politics is because of nature (my genes) or nurture (experiences). In undivided India, my father was the President of the Nainital Muslim League. He was arrested immediately after partition and spent six months in jail on fabricated charges of 'anti-state' activities and was only released when my mother wrote to Jawaharlal Nehru who was my father's patient.

The earliest memory of my life is that of a three-year-old. We used to live, in the clinic of my father facing Victoria Road in Karachi directly across Paradise Cinema. The students were protesting on the road on January 9 1953. Suddenly, there was commotion and shots were fired. My father (and I observing from between his legs) watched from the balcony. Tear gas shells and, immediately thereafter, real bullets were fired. I remember seeing a body slumped on the road. An inspector warned my father to go inside. That's all I remember. Reflecting on it today, it was a story of hubris that has been repeated throughout our history.

Protesting students were pushed

aside by a flag-carrying automobile whose occupant was Minister of Interior Mr Mushtaq Gurmani. That is when the firing started. Gurmani lost consciousness because of tear gas and was lifted away. Sadly and criminally, 26 students were killed. The first to lose his life was a young boy scout, Nainsuk Lal, who was tendering to a bullet-injured student protester. The entire city joined the protest and life was paralysed. Public property was damaged including Gurmani's car. During the negotiations that followed, peace was restored on the appeal of a student leader Kazim, not on the request of the government. Did we learn anything?

The next year in 1954 in memory of those killed, a convention was held in Katrak Hall. Mr A K Brohi, then a Minister was supposed to speak. Gurmani felt insulted the year before. He was also against negotiations that had brought peace, and his hubris and ego was yearning for revenge. Brohi arrived, but a planned pandemonium was started with plain clothes people along with arranged gangsters mixing among the students unknown to them. The peace squad among students was led by Dr Adeeb Rizvi (of SIUT today).

Our long history of labelling par-

ties and leaders as traitors and anti-state dates back to 1951 when the Rawalpindi Conspiracy case was initiated. Those arrested included Faiz Ahmed Faiz, Maj. Gen. Akbar Khan, Sajjad Zaheer and Capt. Zafarullah Poshni (who recently died and has written an excellent book 'Prison Interlude' a memoir of those days). A special law was passed to try them. All were sentenced but then released after four years of imprisonment when an Appeals Court declared the allegations to be totally false. I simply cannot imagine Faiz Sahib, and the army personnel of that time to be traitors.

I move forward to Fatima Jinnah's burial in 1965. She was maligned as a candidate and was labelled as anti-state when she contested against President Ayub Khan. When she died, my father and I as a young matriculate, were at her funeral. A huge crowd was there. Because of a few isolated slogans, tear gas was fired right into the centre of the huge but peaceful crowd, that turned violent. We never learnt.

Mujeeb was called a traitor following Agartala Conspiracy Case. Ayub Khan refused to invite him to the Round Table Conference (RTC) in 1969 but relented when the opposi-

tion insisted. The RTC collapsed in a couple of days because of the clear inability of the politicians to reach a deal. However, many politicians in East Pakistan were dubbed traitors and the rest is history. Imagine our desperation, when hubris had spectacularly failed, that before Mujeeb was released, Shaheed Zulfikar Ali Bhutto went to meet him in prison and urged him to consider a loose confederation.

Hyderabad conspiracy case was instituted in 1975 by PM Zulfikar Ali Bhutto Shaheed in which National Awami Party (NAP) was banned. Its entire leadership including Wali Khan, Bizenjo, Ataullah Mengal, Khair Bakhsh Marri, Najam Sethi and Habib Jalib were arrested and tried for treason. The 3rd Amendment was passed hurriedly to give a very broad definition to anti-state activities. I remember reading an excellent 40-page patriotic rejoinder of Mr Wali Khan on the allegations of treason. Were the above traitors? We should also not forget that in July 1977, when politicians delayed the conclusion of negotiations, it provided an excuse for an 11-year-long take-over that was painful in all respects.

Many experiments have been con-

ducted and many somersaults taken in our political processes, for example, the 'creation' of political parties, the creation of their anti-dotes, then destroying them, then creating 'Pro-Pakistan' alternates, then destroying them too. Suppression, then appeasement, then accommodation - policies emerging from the thinking of whoever was in power, rather than through a serious, broad-based, inclusive strategic process.

Where do we go from here? I urge everybody to take a deep breath. I will stick my neck out as I have learnt from experience and history both, and state that no political party today has ever been anti-Pakistan or that it comprises of traitors. Excesses have been committed by all during our history, out of frustrations including during the MRD. When all avenues are closed, anger in all its dimensions is the only route left which then colours the national landscape into a lethal red.

I have urged all stakeholders to 'Think Again', and have even gifted a book of the same title by Adam Grant to many of them. An outstanding example of today is the remarkable peace achieved between Iran and Saudi Arabia. A great achievement of their leaders, kudos to HH

Mohammad bin Salman and Irani leadership along with the positive role played by our friend China. This signifies a major reversal of thinking by these great leaders, who would go down in history for ending decades of animosity.

Can we find a similar greatness in our leadership? I personally know there are many on all sides of the spectrum, including in the establishment, but everyday events and hot exchanges between them fogs their perception into dangerous arguments, even unrealistic questions are floated like, 'Are you with Pakistan or against Pakistan?'.

The first and last thing elders would say would be to cool down, learn from the past, and save the family. Our friends who have a clear view from outside are urging us too. Those nations achieve greatness which learn from history. Those who don't, are forgettable dots in the sands of time. I have been urging all that we desperately need to find a solution. I am confident that Inshallah, better sense will prevail and with the spirit of forgiveness (?? ???) we will succeed in sorting out our disputes. A lot of work is to be done, and many golden chapters are to be written. Long Live Pakistan!