

Warrant of Swati issued

ISLAMABAD (INP): Special Court Islamabad on Thursday issued a bailable arrest warrant for PTI leader Azam Swati in controversial tweets case. According to details, Special Judge Central Islamabad heard the case regarding the controversial tweet by PTI leader Azam Swati, in the presence of Azam Swati's lawyer Sohail Khan and Prosecutor Rizwan Abbasi.

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# Shehbaz, Raisi open Mand-Pishin border market

## F.P. Report

PISHIN: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Iran's President Seyed Ebrahim Raisi on Thursday jointly inaugurated the Mand-Pishin border sustenance market aimed at boosting the bilateral trade.

This is one of the six border markets which will be constructed along the Pak-Iran common border. The Mand-Pishin border sustenance marketplace will provide a thriving platform for increasing cross-border trade, fostering economic growth, and opening up new avenues of opportunity for local businesses.

The two leaders also planted a sapling in the premises of the border market as a gesture to stride forward in the bilateral relationship between the two countries. Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, Power Minister Khurram Dastagir, Information Minister Marriyum Aurangzeb and senior officials of Pakistan and Iran were present.

The prime minister and the Iranian president also inaugurated the Polan-Gabd electricity transmission line at the Mand-Pishin border crossing point. The line will play a pivotal role in meeting the energy needs of the region, including households and businesses, by bringing-in an additional 100 MW of electricity from Iran. The Foreign

## Islamabad, Tehran to finalise FTA soon

### F.P. Report

PISHIN: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Thursday said that Pakistan and Iran had decided to finalise the Free Trade Agreement soon to exploit the immense potential in trade and investment. The bilateral ties and cooperation were discussed in a meeting between Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi after the two leaders inaugurated the Mand-Pishin border market. Following the "very productive and positive" meeting, the prime minister told a gathering of local elders that the two sides had decided to move forward in the areas of trade, investment, information technology, agriculture and other sectors.

The two leaderships also decided to exploit the potential for cooperation in the power transmission. He told the gathering that on his suggestion, the Iranian president also assured to move forward for enhancing cooperation in the solar energy sector. The prime minister said that during the meeting, he also put forward the suggestions regarding the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and that the two sided would take measures for implementation of the decisions taken in the meeting. Regarding the inauguration of Mand-Pishin border market, the prime minister said the facility would enhance trade activity in the surrounding areas and would get an uplift as trade centers would be constructed there.

Prime Minister Shehbaz also invited the Iranian president to visit Pakistan which he accepted. Coming to the project of 100 megawatt Gabd-Bolan transmission line, the prime minister said the project faced immense delay in the past but the incumbent government ensured its completion in the record time. Iranian President Raisi also took keen interest in the project, he added. He said the matter related to the power tariff has also been settled amicably with Iranian government, he added. "This is a great day for Pakistan-Iran friendship and will prove a milestone for development of the two countries," the prime minister remarked.

Office in a statement said, "The joint inauguration is a manifestation of the strong commitment of Pakistan and Iran to uplift the welfare of residents of the neighboring provinces of Balochistan and Sistan-o-Balochestan, respectively."



PISHIN: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi in a delegation level meeting at Man-Pishin joint border market at Pakistan-Iran border.

## Imran demands probe into police firing

### Muhammad Asad

LAHORE (INP): Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan lashed out at the fascist government for unleashing a reign of terror to crush the biggest political party of the country and demanded that an immediate inquiry should be held on the police firing on unarmed protesters killing at least 25 and injuring hundreds.

In a statement on Thursday, PTI Chairman said that nation has been taken over by a bunch of crooks, criminals, duffers devoid of any ethics or morality. Imran Khan said: "While the country sinks into its worst economic crisis especially unprecedented inflation and unemployment, all those in power are concentrating on how to crush the biggest and the only federal party by unleashing a reign of terror."

PTI Chairman urged that it was high time all citizens across the country should raise their voices against these barbarism and reign of terror before it's too late. He demanded: "An immediate inquiry needs to be held on the police firing on unarmed protesters killing at least 25 and injuring hundreds."

Imran Khan recalled that in France despite protesters hurling petrol bombs at the police, not once were they fired upon by the police under the smokescreen of arson, which any independent investigation would show was pre-planned to justify the crackdown on PTI, as there was no mention in the media discourse of the massive violations of our fundamental right to protest peacefully. He said that there was no mention of an inquiry into the killing of at least 25 peacefully protestors and wounding of around 600.

## PAC directs audit of all govt depts

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Public Accounts Committee (PAC) on Thursday directed the authorities concerned to conduct a comprehensive audit of all the government departments to bring transparency in the country's financial system. Presiding over the PAC meeting, its Chairman Noor Alam Khan asked the Auditor General of Pakistan (AGP) to take actions against the organizations which were not cooperating in that regard.

He said the AGP should conduct the audit of the NADRA Technologies Limited (NTL), a subsidiary of the National Database and Registration Authority (NADRA), in collaboration with the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) to streamline the system. The AGP officials apprised the committee that they had been provided any record by the NTL authorities so far.

# Pak rejects US's report on religious freedom

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan on Thursday categorically rejected the US State Department's report on religious freedom in its country, terming it an ill-informed and baseless assertion made in its domestic affairs.

While Speaking at her weekly news briefing in Islamabad on Thursday, Pakistan Foreign Office Spokesperson Mumtaz Zahra Baloch termed US's allegations pointless, irresponsible, and counterproductive. According to the Spokesperson, minorities' rights and religious freedoms are duly covered and guaranteed by the constitution, while the state of Pakistan vigorously protects the basic rights of its citizens.

The spokesperson was responding to a recently published report by the US State Department titled Pakistan International Religious Report-2022 that pointed out that Pakistan's Police failed to protect the members of religious minorities and had been involved in killing and abusing weak and disadvantaged segments of minorities in the country. It also said that Pakistan politicians commonly use inflammatory religious remarks against their opponents blatantly.

The US report highlighted the need to improve interfaith harmony, tolerance, and social inclusion of minorities in the country. According to Mumtaz Zahra Baloch, Pakistan's constitution sets wide-ranging legal, policy, and administrative measures to safeguard and promote fundamental rights and religious freedoms of all its citizens without any discrimination.

To another question regarding the Pak-Iran gas pipeline project, the Spokesperson said that Pakistan committed to this highly important energy project and continuously engaged with the Iranian authorities to resolve hurdles in this regard. The Spokesperson welcomed the recent statement by the UN Special Rapporteur for Human Rights regarding the grave human rights situation in India Illegally Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK).

According to her, UN Special Rapporteur warned the world about India's plan to hold the forthcoming G-20 Tourism Working Group meeting in Srinagar, which is a globally recognized

disputed territory.

Ms. Baloch urged the G-20 nation to pay attention to the grave human rights situation in the valley and Jammu and Kashmir dispute should not be ignored and pushed under the rug by the global community. While responding to a media query regarding the ongoing violence in Occupied Gaza and the west bank, the Spokesperson urged the Israeli government to adhere to its global obligations and honor the recent ceasefire between the parties.

Mumtaz Zahra Baloch reiterated Pakistan's unflinching support for the Palestinian cause and called for the constitution of an independent Palestinian state with pre-1967 boundaries and Al-Quds Al-Sharif as its capital. To another question regarding the letter written by US lawmakers to Secretary Anthony Blinken regarding Pakistan and the statement of Zalmay Khalilzad, the Spokesperson once again reaffirmed the resolve of the Pakistani nation and said that Pakistan has full ability to deal with all domestic challenges confronting its nation in accordance its law and constitution of the country.

While commenting on Thursday's meeting between Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Iranian President Ibrahim Raisi, the Spokesperson said that both dignitaries gathered for the inauguration of the Polan-Gabd Electricity Transmission Line and Mand-Pishin border Market. Both leaders held bilateral discussions to explore new avenues of cooperation between their nations. According to her, Pakistan was actively working to boost its trade and economic ties with neighboring Iran, while both countries also jointly worked in security and terrorism domains at their joint border.

Regarding problems faced by Pakistanis workers in the Gulf region, the Spokesperson said that Pakistani missions abroad remain engaged in concerned departments of the host nations, to efficiently resolve the issues concerning Pakistani expatriates in foreign nations. However, Mumtaz Zahra Baloch advised the Pakistani diaspora abroad to respect the local laws and practices of their host nations to avoid undue legal completion and contact the respective embassy in case of need/essential help.

# PHC releases all MPO detainees in KP

## F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: Peshawar High Court on Thursday decided to issue directives to the concerned authorities to release all the persons facing detention under Maintenance of Public Order (MPO) after staging the protests following the arrest of Imran Khan on May 09 in the province.

A division bench of the PHC comprising Justice Shaukat Ahmad and Justice Waqar Ahmed, disposed of more than two dozen petitions filed against the arrests of political workers and postponed the hearing of the matter till May 18.

KP Advocate General Amir Javid objected to the admissibility of the writ petitions, saying that they could not be heard at the time because the provincial cabinet had imposed an emergency in the province. He contended that after the enactment of Article 245 of the Constitution of Pakistan, the court could not hear such writ petitions.

The petitioners contended that the provincial government had issued arrest warrants under 3 MPO against various workers of the former ruling party and there had been raids to nab them although they did not have anything to do with protests. Their counsels also argued that the persons identified by the police had already been arrested and now they were carrying out raids to arrest party leaders.

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The counsels added that 3 MPO is only relevant when there is solid evidence against them.

The counsel urged the court to release those arrested in this regard and asked for the suspension of arrest warrants under 3 MPO. The AG apprised the bench that the warrants had been issued under 3 MPO. Counsels further submitted that at present, the fundamental rights were suspended in the province under Article 245 III, so the court could not hear these cases.

The court has been informed that no retaliatory action was being taken against anyone and whatever action had indeed been taken was based on available evidence. He, therefore, asked for some time to submit a response in this regard. The court declared that orders should be given to those who had been kept devoid of them under the MPO. It further declared that the decision on the admissibility of the cases would be made on May 18.

## PTI's Malik Amin Aslam quits party

ISLAMABAD (PPI): Another Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader and former climate change minister, Malik Amin Aslam, on Thursday announced to quit the party following countrywide May 9 violent protests after party chairman Imran Khan's arrest.

Addressing a press conference, Mr Malik condemned May 9 events - which includes the attack on military and civil installations. He said that the party had set out on a "destructive" path and that's why he had decided to leave PTI. He added that there was no "pressure" on him. Amin's decision to quit the party came a day after Amir Mahmood Kiyani Kiani, a former federal minister and PTI's additional secretary general, left party over May 9 protests.

Earlier, Mahmood Baqi Moulvi, a senior PTI member and a member of the National Assembly from Karachi, left the party over a "difference of opinion" and said he would also resign from the NA seat. Two more PTI MPAs from Sindh, Sanjay Gangwani and Kareem Bux Gabol, had left the party following the 'attack on military's General Headquarters (GHQ) in Rawalpindi and Corps Commander House Lahore'.

In a statement, Sanjay Gangwani said that he was also quitting politics while condemning the 'vandalism of military installations' on May 9. Violent clashes broke out across Pakistan after former prime minister and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf chief Imran Khan was arrested from the premises of Islamabad High Court (IHC) last week.

The protests were held in remote and major cities as the party workers are agitated due to their chairman's arrest, with Balochistan, Punjab, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, and Islamabad summoning the armed forces to ensure law and order. Army installations and Corps Commander's house in Lahore came under attack during a protest of PTI workers.

Meanwhile, another Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader Dr Muhammad Amjad quit the party and politics over May 9, violence. As per details, Muhammad Amjad was the Deputy Information Secretary of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf. While announcing to quit PTI he said he cannot become part of the politics which is destroying Pakistan.

# Motorcycle bomb kills one, injures three in Peshawar

## Ishaq Khan

PESHAWAR: At least one person was killed and three others sustained injuries on Thursday after an explosion occurred in a motorcycle in a mechanic's shop located at Pishtakhara Ring Road area of Peshawar.

Police confirmed that the bomb was planted in the motorcycle and a 200-gram magnet improvised explosive device (IED) was used in the explosion. Initial reports suggest that the blast took place when the motorcycle was being repaired.

Officials said that the owner of the motorcycle is among the injured while

one of the injured is in critical condition. The IED device is often used in incidents involving family feuds, police said.

As soon as the blast was reported, the police and BDU team reached the spot and shifted the injured to the hospital and collected evidence from the crime scene. And the scope of the investigation has been widened by recording the statements of the eyewitnesses including the injured.

According to the details, Abdul Dawood son of Umar Bara gate brought his motorcycle number 125 DGK7345 to pass by Al Mataza Honda Works in

inamullah Market on Ring Road. When he started to open the door, there was a huge explosion, as a result of which the owner of the shop, Samiullah son of Zar Ali Achani died on the spot, while Mr. Ishaq son of Sadiq resident of Achani, Abdul Ahad and the person who brought the motorcycle, Abdul Wadood son of Umar resident of Bara Gate, were seriously injured.

Further investigation is being done on the injured Abdul Dawood, who was brought to the workshop. While on the other hand, it was being told that the real owner of the motorcycle is Aman, son of Ismat Dir.

# IHC orders release of Qureshi, Shehryar's wife

ISLAMABAD (PPI): The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Thursday ordered to release Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader Shah Mehmood Qureshi and the wife of another PTI leader Shehryar Afridi.

The IHC annulled the order for the arrest of Shah Mehmood Qureshi under 3MPO and ordered to release him. IHC judge Justice Miangul Hassan Aurangzeb issued the orders for his release. It is to be noted here that Shah Mehmood Qureshi and other PTI leaders had been arrested after violent protests by the PTI workers following the arrest of party chairman Imran Khan.

The IHC also heard the petition against the arrest of Shehryar Afridi's wife. The hearing was conducted by IHC judge Justice Arbab Muhammad Tahir. "What is happening in the area of

your jurisdiction IG Sahib? Are you familiar with the law or not?" the judge enquired from the Islamabad inspector general of police (IGP).

"According to our information, the woman and her husband were involved in the planning of the attack on the General Headquarters (GHQ)," the IGP replied. "What source of information do you have? Show me. Call the deputy commissioner (DC) immediately. If he does not appear in five minutes, there will be a problem," Justice Arbab Muhammad Tahir said. "There is nothing against the woman in what you are showing. Remember, if someone is arrested after being released from this court, there will be a lot of problems," he warned.

"Can 16MPO be imposed on the basis of

mere information? If our order is violated, there will be severe consequences. You should take legal action, but what you did is that you arrested a housewife. The problem is that all this continued to happen during the tenure of the previous government too," the IHC judge remarked. "This did not happen in the PTI government," lawyer Sher Afzal Marwat said. "There is evidence against the woman. She has been involved in such activities," the IGP stated.

"If there is any evidence, produce it in the court. If the woman is involved, we will withdraw this petition. But if the evidence is not produced, action should be taken against the IGP. A statement has been recorded in the court; evidence should be sought from them," Sher Afzal Marwat Advocate remarked.

# Imran, Bushra fail to appear before NAB

RAWALPINDI (INP): Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan and his wife Bushra Bibi failed to appear before the National Accountability Bureau in an inquiry into 190 million pounds. The husband-wife duo did not appear before the bureau's Rawalpindi office despite being issued summons in the case.

The former first lady was directed to appear before the NAB with the complete case record in the inquiry into 190 million pounds. Earlier, PTI

Chairman Imran Khan's wife Bushra bibi was granted protective bail in the Al-Qadir Trust case till May 23.

The former first wife had filed an application before the Lahore High Court for seeking protective bail. A division bench of the LHC headed by Justice Shehbaz Rizvi heard the petition. The court earlier expressed annoyance over the absence of Bushra bibi. The NAB had summoned the PTI chief and his spouse in the Al-Qadir Trust case in its Rawalpindi office.

Bushra bibi was summoned to the NAB Rawalpindi office along with case record and other relevant documents. She has been asked to appear before a combined investigation team of the bureau. The NAB said the record has been sought from the former first wife as a trustee of the Al-Qadir Trust. Earlier, a three-member team of the NAB had reached the Zaman Park residence of Imran Khan to serve notice on him in the Al-Qadir Trust case.



## CM inquires after injured policemen

LAHORE (APP): Caretaker Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi paid a visit to the injured policemen at Police Lines Faisalabad, who had been attacked by miscreants on May 9. During his visit, he inquired about their well-being and praised their unwavering morale, said a

handout issued here.

The CM expressed deep admiration for the patience exhibited by the policemen and acknowledged their commendable dedication to duty, successfully thwarting the nefarious intentions of the political group. Simultaneously, the CM

presided over meetings held at police lines and the commissioner's office in Faisalabad to evaluate the prevailing law and order situation and review the legal actions taken against the miscreants involved in the terrorist incidents on May 9. The CM directed to ensure the

early arrest of all the miscreants and emphasized the need for a professional and thorough legal process. He stressed the importance of conducting meticulous investigations to prevent any escape of the wrongdoers. Additionally, he asserted that both the facilitators.

## Sharjeel expressed concern over the unnecessary delay in the local gov't elections schedule in Sindh

### E.P. Report

KARACHI: Sharjeel Inam Memon, the Minister of Information, Transport, and Mass Transit Sindh, addressed a press conference here at Archives Complex Clifton in Karachi. He expressed concern over the unnecessary delay in the local government elections schedule in Sindh, stating that it has been over a year since the first phase of local government elections took place, yet the elected representatives have not been able to take their oath. Sharjeel Inam Memon criticized the Election

Commission for providing a delayed schedule.

He demanded that the Election Commission promptly revise its schedule to ensure the completion of the local body elections in Sindh as soon as possible. He emphasized the importance of elected representatives fulfilling their duties of public service. Sharjeel Inam Memon also referred to May 9 as a black day in Pakistan's history, citing incidents of violence, persecution of common people, and the destruction of public and private properties. Sharjeel Inam Memon said that PTI's MNAs and

MPAs were involve in the events of May 9, these individuals are now switching parties and altering their narratives. He further said that video evidence clearly shows the personal involvement of PTI MNAs, MPAs, and leaders in those incidents. During the press conference, he presented detailed videos of the PTI MNAs and MPAs implicated in the May 9 events.

Regarding the victims of May 9, Sharjeel Inam Memon mentioned that Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah has promised to provide motorcycles to those whose motorcycles were

burnt during the violence. He explained that these motorcycles are essential for the affected individuals' work and livelihood.

Sharjeel Inam Memon affirmed that the Sindh government is aware of the hardships faced by its hardworking citizens and is taking measures to compensate their losses. However, he noted that the funds would be recovered from the perpetrators of the violence.

Sharjeel Inam Memon clarified that he was not accusing anyone but the footage clearly implicates Imran Khan's representatives in the May 9 incidents.



## PAKISTAN ENGINEERING COUNCIL

### 21<sup>st</sup> ENGINEERING PRACTICE EXAMINATION (EPE) FOR TITLE OF PROFESSIONAL ENGINEER (Spring-2023)

Pakistan Engineering Council under the provisions of PEC Act, 1976 and PDE Byelaws-2008, (amended up to October 31, 2017) is holding **21<sup>st</sup> Engineering Practice Examination (EPE)** for Registered Engineers (REs) who are eligible to apply for the prestigious title of Professional Engineer (PE). The exam will be held simultaneously in the following proposed Cities on **16<sup>th</sup> July 2023**:

Islamabad	Rawalpindi	Lahore	Multan	Rahim Yar Khan	Karachi	Hyderabad/Jamshoro	Sukkur
Peshawar	Swat	Quetta	Khuzdar	Gilgit-Baltistan	Muzaffarabad AJK		

As per PEC Act 1976, the "PE" has privilege over "RE" in terms of technical sanction authority, design/ process certification, and preference for higher levels leading towards international practice.

All those Registered Engineers (REs) registered with PEC, who meet the following minimum eligibility criteria are eligible to apply:

- Graduated on or after 15<sup>th</sup> January 2008.
- 5 years of practical experience in relevant field of engineering since registration with PEC till closing date of submission of applications.
- 17 CPD points since 10<sup>th</sup> July 2010 (Maximum 10 CPD points from work/ job experience and 07 CPD points from other categories of CPD).

The candidates who have already appeared in 17<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup> or 20<sup>th</sup> EPE but could not qualify any one part of the exam, can also apply to re-appear in the NOT QUALIFIED part.

Application forms, examination format, EPE syllabi, study material and necessary guidelines are available on PEC website ([www.pec.org.pk](http://www.pec.org.pk)) under CPD link (<https://pec.org.pk/cpd/engineering-practice-examination/>). Duly filled online application may be submitted along with fee of Rs 5,000 + Bank Charges (Both Parts) and Rs 2,500 + Bank Charges (Single Part) by **7<sup>th</sup> June 2023**.

#### Sr. Additional Registrar - CPD

#### Pakistan Engineering Council

Ataturk Avenue (East), Sector G-5/2, Islamabad  
PABX: 051 9206974, 9219500, 9219036; Ext.: 104, 251  
Email: [epe@pec.org.pk](mailto:epe@pec.org.pk)

PID(I) 7010/22



## NATIONAL DATABASE & REGISTRATION AUTHORITY

### Walk-In Test/Interview

Pakistani Nationals (residents of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa) are invited for Walk-In Test/Interview against vacancies of UNCHR funded project; for a period of 06 months (extendable if required); to update the data of PoR (Proof of Registration) cardholders Afghan Refugees:

Post	Qualification & Experience	Location	Test Date & Time	Interview Date & Time
<b>System Engineer</b> Age: 35 Years (1x position)	Masters (2x Years) / Bachelors (4x Years) in Computer Sciences from HEC Recognized University + 2x years' experience of installation, configuration of operating systems (Win+ Linux). Application and systems software, Hands on experience of Database and network administration and troubleshooting shall be preferred	Chakdara	<b>29-May-2023 (Monday)</b> 08:30 AM – 12:00 PM	<b>30-May-2023 (Tuesday)</b>
<b>Site Supervisor</b> Age: 35 Years (1x position)	Bachelor degree from HEC Recognized University & 2x years' experience of office management, customer services and data entry shall be preferred	Aza Khel (Nowshera)	<b>29-May-2023 (Monday)</b> 10:30 AM – 12:30 PM	<b>30-May-2023 (Tuesday)</b>
<b>DEO</b> Age: 33 Years (8x positions)	Intermediate & 1x year experience in data entry, scanning. Proficiency in Urdu, Pashto, Farsi, Dari and any other Afghan language	Aza Khel (Nowshera) & Haripur	<b>29-May-2023 (Monday)</b> 08:30 AM – 12:00 PM	<b>30-May-2023 (Tuesday)</b>
<b>Interpreter</b> Age: 33 Years (4x positions)	Intermediate & 3x months Basic Computer Certificate Proficiency in Urdu, Pashto, Farsi, Dari and any other Afghan language	Peshawar, Aza Khel (Nowshera), Haripur & Chakdara	-	<b>31-May-2023 (Wednesday)</b> 08:30 AM – 12:30 PM
<b>Helper</b> Age: 33 Years (1x position)	Matric & 1x year experience in general administrative duties	Peshawar	-	<b>01-Jun-2023 (Thursday)</b> 08:30 AM – 12:30 PM
<b>Sanitary Worker</b> Age: 33 Years (2x positions)	Primary & 6x months experience in Cleaning, Mopping & Sweeping	Peshawar	-	<b>01-Jun-2023 (Thursday)</b> 08:30 AM – 12:30 PM
<b>Driver</b> Age: 45 Years (1x position)	Middle/Matric & minimum 05x years relevant work experience + Valid HTV or LTV License	Peshawar	-	<b>02-Jun-2023 (Friday)</b> 08:30 AM – 12:30 PM

**Venue:** Regional Head Office NADRA, Phase-5 Hayatabad, Peshawar

#### Terms and Conditions:

1. Candidates from respective District shall be preferred.
2. Interested candidates must bring their Original Documents i.e. Personal, Educational & Professional.
3. A candidate can appear for test or interview against one position only.
4. 05 years' age relaxation already included in maximum age.
5. Posting request to other Project/ Site will not be entertained unless the Management requires it.
6. Candidates shortlisted after the Test (for mentioned positions) shall be interviewed.
7. No TA/DA will be admissible.
8. Females / Transgenders & differently-abled people are encouraged to apply.

**Note: Positions are for a specific Project; therefore, selected staff shall be laid-off upon completion of Project. This Contract shall not confer any entitlement of regular / contractual employment in NTL or NADRA.**

**Human Resource Section – Peshawar**  
**Regional Head Office NADRA, Phase-5 Hayatabad, Peshawar**  
**091-9217735**

PID(I) 7015/22

## GOVERNMENT OF PAKISTAN

### PAKISTAN PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

## INVITATION OF BIDS

#### (SINGLE STAGE SINGLE ENVELOPES)

Sealed tender/bids on the basis of "Single Stage Single Envelops Procedure" are hereby invited for execution of the following works from eligible contractors/firms duly enlisted/register with Pakistan Engineering council (PEC) in relevant specialization technical category & financial limit Category C-5 & above is required on percentage rates basis on Pak. PWD Schedule of Rates 2022, who possess valid renewal with PEC, having renewal upto 30/06/2023.

Sr.	Name of work	A.A Amount	Earnest money	Tender cost	Time of completion
1	Construction of Protection wall Koz Thoti Tehsil Kandya District Upper Kohistan	30.00	2% of bid amount	5,000	As per work order
2	Construction of Protection wall Osheel, Nabeel abad Thoti Tehsil Kandya District Upper Kohistan	38.50	2% of bid amount	5,000	As per work order
3	Construction of jeepable Road / Protection /Retaining wall and Water Supply Schemes in Various Villages Tehsil Kandia District Upper Kohistan (Package-I)	26.00	2% of bid amount	5,000	As per work order
4	Construction of jeepable Road / Protection /Retaining wall and Water Supply Schemes in Various Villages Tehsil Palas District Kole Palas Kohistan.	18.00	2% of bid amount	5,000	As per work order
5	Construction of jeepable Road / Protection /Retaining wall and Water Supply Schemes in Various Villages Tehsil Kandia District Upper Kohistan (Package-II)	22.00	2% of bid amount	5,000	As per work order
6	Construction of Protection wall Malik Saeed Ahmad abad Village Dobair, District Lower Kohistan	40.00	2% of bid amount	5,000	As per work order
7	Construction of jeepable Road / Protection /Retaining wall and Water Supply Schemes in Various Villages at Tehsil Bankhad Ranolia District Lower Kohistan (Package-I)	20.00	2% of bid amount	5,000	As per work order
8	Construction of Protection wall and water supply Schemes in Various Villages at Tehsil Bankhad Ranolia District Lower Kohistan (Package-II)	9.00	2% of bid amount	5,000	As per work order
9	Construction of jeepable Road Duraj Khan at Tehsil Pattan District Lower Kohistan	6.50	2% of bid amount	5,000	As per work order
10	Construction of jeepable Road / Protection /Retaining wall and Water Supply Schemes in Various Villages at Tehsil Seu District Upper Kohistan	13.30	2% of bid amount	5,000	As per work order
11	Construction of Protection wall / Water Channel and water supply Schemes in Various Villages at Tehsil Dassu District Upper Kohistan	12.50	2% of bid amount	5,000	As per work order
12	Construction of Protection wall and water supply Schemes in Various Villages at Tehsil Kandia District Upper Kohistan (Package-III)	24.00	2% of bid amount	5,000	As per work order
13	Construction of Water Supply Scheme Hussain Ali Sazeen, and Harif Ullah Sazeen tehsil shital, District Upper Kohistan	2.20	2% of bid amount	5,000	As per work order
14	Construction of jeepable Road Samar Nala at Tehsil Harban Bhasha District Upper Kohistan	3.00	2% of bid amount	5,000	As per work order
15	Construction of Protection wall Malik Shair Ali abad and clearing of Birti Nala Tehsil Kandia District Upper Kohistan	12.00	2% of bid amount	5,000	As per work order
16	Construction of Protection wall and water channel in Various Villages at Ghabryal Tehsil Kandia District Upper Kohistan (Package-IV)	6.00	2% of bid amount	5,000	As per work order
17	Water Supply Scheme Moulana Kareem Dad Abad, Tehsil Pattan, District Lower Kohistan	3.00	2% of bid amount	5,000	As per work order
18	Cosntruction of Protection wall Gul zada Meer Jan Khel, Tehsil Pattan, District Lower Kohistan	6.00	2% of bid amount	5,000	As per work order
19	Constructio of jeepable Road Habib Ullah abad, Pattan, District Lower Kohistan	5.00	2% of bid amount	5,000	As per work order
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>297.00</b>			

#### TERMS & CONDITION FOR ISSUANCE OF TENDER DOCUMENTS:

- > Attested copy of CNIC of Owner/Authorized Representative and Valid/Renewed PEC Registration Certificate in relevant category having specialized codes CE-01, CE-09 and CE-10.
- > Firms/Contractors must be an active tax payers list (ATL) of FBR.
- > Valid registration with Tax Authorities i.e. NTN,
- > Tax Return for the last three years
- > No litigation certificate on Attested Judicial Paper.
- > The applicant firm should have completed at-least 03-Nos works of similar nature in last 03-years equal to/or more than NIT amount & 03-Nos on-going projects not less than NIT amount and documentary proof duly verified by the issuing office must be attached with the application.
- > The bidders shall submit copy of annual account/audit reports (satisfactory QCR from will Rating firm) for the last 03 years duly certified by the Chartered Accountant.
- > Bank Statement for the last financial year/one year.
- > List of relevant equipment/machinery & list of personnel including PEC registered Civil Engineer having experience 05 years, DAE Engineers, Supervisory staff etc. on judicial stamp paper
- > All Other terms and conditions are contained in the bidding documents.
- > Submitted documents will be scrutinized by the technical/financial committee and result will be conveyed through letters.
- > The eligible/interested firms will be called for issuance of bid and non eligible firm will also be informed through letter.
- > The applicant must submit documents as per term & condition with application upto 31/05/2023.
- > The tender documents will be issued to eligible firms on 05/06/2023 & will be opened on 06/06/2023 at 2.00 PM.

#### IMPORTANT:

If the tender tenders are not opened as per schedule mention above 2<sup>nd</sup> schedule will be on 07/06/2023 & will be opened on 08/06/2023 at 2.00 PM.

PID(P) 159/23

**Shahid Sattar**  
**Executive Engineer**  
**Project Civil Division,**  
**Pakistan Public Works Department, Batkhela.**



# Senate body for payment of KP outstanding dues



## F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: Senate Functional Committee on Devolution of Powers here on Thursday called for payment of outstanding dues of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa under various heads to provide facilities to masses and strengthen the provincial economy.

The committee meeting chaired by Chairman Senator Mushtaq Ahmad Khan and attended by Senators Haji Hidayatullah Khan and Nuzhat Sadiq said that the committee would take up the reservations and concerns of the province with the federal government to get those resolved on a priority basis and in vital interest of the people.

The chairman said that the objective of the meeting was to ensure effective and efficient utilization of resources transferred to the provinces under the

devolved setup. He said that during the two-day meeting briefing would be taken about the progress of the 19 departments handed over to Khyber Pakhtunkhwa after the historic 18th amendment.

Chief Secretary KP Nadim Aslam Chaudhry, Additional Chief Secretary Zubair Qureshi and other relevant administrative secretaries and officials attended the meeting. During the first day of meeting, the committee discussed various issues and challenges faced in the wake of 18th amendment. Detailed briefing was given to committee members by the Chief Secretary regarding the departments, employees, assets, and their utilization under the devolved setup.

The CS also shed light on the powers devolved to the province and their implementation at the grassroots level.

Recommendations were also deliberated upon to make the Joint Interests Council more effective. Livestock, archeology, tourism, sports, agriculture and irrigation, other departments were reviewed in detail. The share of KP in the National Finance Commission (NFC), especially after the merger of FATA, and its increase and Net Hydrel Profit dues of the Federation as well as gas and petroleum arrears were discussed in the meeting.

The share of 100 billion rupees that were promised for merged districts, issue of closure of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa flour from Punjab, use of excess water of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa by other provinces and non-payment to KP, Chashma Lift Bank Canal, construction of dams in the province, census and other issues were reviewed in detail.

## RTS adopts technology to ensure speedy redressal of complaints

### F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: Right to Public Services Commission (RTPSC/RTS) has launched online system for registration complaints before the commission and also providing to applicants to appear on video link from their residences, on Thursday.

This was stated in press release issued by RTS while the commission has also heard three complaints and issued directions to competent authorities.

Chief Commissioner RTS Muhammad Salim Khan and Commissioner Muhammad Asim Imam ordered Deputy Commissioner Nowshera to provide land-record (fards) Mian Noor Zeb Shah within 30 days. The applicant has filed complaint against local Patwari for didn't providing land record of his ancestral land which is registered on his father's name.

A tribesman namely Bakhtiar Jan resident of Khyber filed complaint for registration First Information Report while stated that he had purchased vehicle in 2002 but later it is found that the document is fake, however, RTS directed applicant to approach civil court for redressal of the grievance.

A resident of Peshawar namely Shah Riaz Haider approached RTS for limitation of public pathway but it is found that the it's ownership belongs to Pak Railways and District Council while one cannot filed complaint without ownership. However, RTS directed the complainant to approach court for implementation of it's order because civil court has already granted judgement in this regard.

## KPIC hails Agri Varsity initiative

### F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Information Commission (KPIC) hails Agricultural University Peshawar initiative to aware its officials regarding KP RTI Law. This was stated by Assistant Director Communication KPIC Syed Saadat Jahan while addressing to a session on RTI Law at a training program titled 'Management Training Course' arranged by the said university for its administrative officers on Thursday here at Peshawar.

The Commission being the implementation organization of the RTI Law has left no stone unturned to disseminate /publicise the requirements of this law in its true sense in the province. The participants of the training requested to take up the case with high ups of the education department regarding inclusion of a chapter on RTI in curriculum of Intermediate level.

## QWP condemns PTI tirade

### F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: Provincial Vice Chairperson, Qaumi Watan Party (QWP) Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Dr. Faiza Rasheed has strongly condemned the negative propaganda of PTI against the Pakistan Army including attacks on military installations and inflicting losses to public, private properties.

In a statement issued here on Thursday, she termed the sabotaging incidents of May 9, a well-planned conspiracy hatched by Imran Niazi & Co against the country and urged the nation to unite against the enemies

## Excise hands over stolen car to owner

### F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: The Excise Department besides its frequent actions against the narcotics mafia has also geared up its efforts against the car lifters and recovered a couple of stolen cars on intelligence based operations, informed spokesman Excise on Thursday. The Excise Squad EIB-5 of Intelligence Bureau including Sub Inspector Nasir Ameer and ASI Niaz Ali during a successful operation recovered a stolen car with registration number AAS 718 under FIR number 2685/2022. After completion of all legal formalities the car was handed over its owner who was quite happy to get his stolen car recovered and appreciated the cooperation and services of the Excise officers and officials.



PESHAWAR: KP Caretaker Chief Minister Muhammad Azam Khan talking to high ups of SNGPL and PESCO.

# Governor assure coop to Kumrat people

## F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: A representative delegation of Kumrat people led by Moulana Gul Noor Shah called on Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor, Haji Ghulam Ali and informed him about condition of roads and problems of visitors due to dilapidated infrastructure in their areas.

According to a press release issued here Thursday, delegation apprised governor about problems of locals and visitors due to bad condition of roads. They said that Kumrat valley of Upper Dir is famous for its scenic beauty and attractive locations but problems of visitors and locals have been

increased due to indifferent attitude of previous government to develop the area.

They said promises were made by previous government to develop the area and its infrastructure but unfortunately all those promises and pledges were not fulfilled.

They demanded that National Highways Authority and Communication and Works Department should be directed to initiate infrastructure development for facilitation of tourists.

Speaking on the occasion, KP Governor appreciated efforts of elders and people to highlight genuine problems of Kumrat their efforts would help devising a strategy to address prob-

lems being confronted by locals and tourists. He urged locals to play their role to promote tourism and said that private construction should carried out in way that roads remain opened for traffic and facilitation of people visiting the area.

He said that promotion of tourism would also create opportunities for locals and provide them new vistas of development. He also assured the delegation cooperation and assistance to resolve their problems. Later, a delegation of Malakand Chamber of Commerce also called on KP Governor and informs him about concerns and problems of business community.

## Admns asked to enhance community preparedness for heat wave

### F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: Secretary Relief, Rehabilitation and Settlement Department, Abdul Basit on Thursday directed all the district administrations and line departments to organize regular mock exercises in collaboration with local communities on heat wave to enhance community preparedness.

Presiding over a meeting on Summer Emergencies Coordination-2023 here, he said that all the provincial and district authorities should launch an awareness campaign aimed at sensitizing the public about the importance of the action plans for both heat waves and the monsoon season 2023.

He directed the concerned district administrations to finalize the schedule for conducting mock exercises and awareness sessions for the upcoming monsoon season. These proactive measures by the Relief Department and district administrations would ensure better preparedness and response capabilities to mitigate the impact of potential heat waves and monsoon-related emergencies, he added.

The Secretary said that the aim of by engaging the local communities in the process is to foster a comprehensive and collaborative approach to disaster management. The officials of Director Civil Defence, DG Academy, Rescue-1122, Program Manager GCC PDMA and other representatives of line departments attended the meeting.

## Hamza Foundation hold blood donation camp

### F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: Hamza Foundation Welfare Thalassemia Hospital and Blood Transfusion Services Peshawar has collected 123 Blood Bags at Khyber College of Dentistry (KCD) Peshawar, on Thursday.

The blood donation was held with the help and support of the Dean of KCD-Peshawar Prof. Dr. Sayed Nasir Shah sahib and Fatima Nasir (Director Social Welfare Society KCD), Sajid Mir DD- SWS, Hassan Khan , Advisor Social Welfare Society - KCD Peshawar.

On this occasion, Dr. Shafaq Sahar Woman Medical Officer HF, Resource Mobilization Officer, RMO Ateeq ur Rehman and RMO Ibrar Ullah Jan delivered motivational lectures about blood donation and awareness regarding Thalassemia disease and its prevention to the students of the said college. After medical check-up, 123 healthy and volunteer donors donated blood for saving precious lives of 1457 registered Thalassemia and Hemophilia patients of Hamza Foundation Welfare hospital.

RMO Ateeq ur Rehman has presented shield to Prof. Dr. Sayed Nasir Shah, Dean of the college. Chairman Hamza Foundation Ijaz Ali Khan has thanked Dean, Teaching staff , Students and worthy Members of Social Welfare Society of KCD for their help and support for saving the precious lives of ailing humanity of KPK, and for their valued cooperation and help for organizing such a successful blood donation camp. The management of KCD Peshawar also promised that they will also continue their support for the noble cause of HF in future.

# PHC suspends notice issued to Tourism cops

## Humayun Khan

PESHAWAR: A divisional bench of Peshawar High Court (PHC) comprising of Justice Abdul Shakoor and Justice Syed Arshad Ali has suspended notice issued to 75 Tourism police personnel for does not extending their services while ordered respondents to submit reply, on Thursday.

The counsel Asif Yousafzai Advocate informed that Mustafa Khan along 74 other petitioners were recruited as constables in Tourism police on 5th May 2022 while they had completed their training but PHC has

directed to stop extension to candidates who lacks driving license in writ petition of two 3rd Division holders.

The petitioners had filed petition under Section 12(2) of Civil Procedure Code (CPC) while pleaded who can a decision be intact without hearing the beneficiary/ effect parties, however, PHC has declared it didn't passed orders against the petitioners, so how can they file 12(2) CPC petition, the counsel argued.

However, in May 2023 a notice has been issued to petitioner that their services

shouldn't be extended as per High Court's decision and added that advertisement didn't made holding of driving license as mandatory while inscribed that license-holders will be prioritized, the counsel stated.

The counsel argued that PHC has declared that court didn't passed any orders against petitioners but their extension has been stopped on the ground of High Court's judgement which is illegal while court has suspended notice issued to tourism police personnel and ordered to submit reply.

# KMU hosts seminar on Thalassemia prevention

## F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: A remarkable stride in the battle against thalassemia in Pakistan was taken today at the Seminar and Consultative Meeting on Thalassemia Prevention in Pakistan. Under the enchanting theme of "Be Aware, Share Care; Strengthening Education to Bridge the Thalassemia Care Gap," this momentous event unfolded at the captivating Khyber Medical University in Hayatabad, Peshawar. The joint efforts of Khyber Medical University (KMU), Dosti Welfare Organization, National Commission for Human Development (NCHD), and KP Health Thalassemia Control Program orchestrated this extraordinary gathering.

Director General Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Health Department was the chief guest of the event. Distinguished participants, graced by the presence of the esteemed vice chancellor of Khyber Medical University, Prof. Dr. Zia Ul Haq Anwar Iqbal, the Director of Operations at NCHD, Dr. Asghar Khan, the Project Director of KP Thalassemia Control Program, and Irfan Khan, the Health Coordinator of Dosti Welfare Organization, came together to deliberate on strategic measures for thalassemia prevention in Pakistan.

Dr. Inayat Shah, Director of the Institute

of Basic Medical Sciences welcomed all distinguished guests and participants. The eminent hematologist, Prof. Dr. Shah Taj Khan, captivated the audience as the keynote speaker, delivering an insightful presentation on thalassemia prevention in Pakistan. Her emphasis was on Mass Education and Awareness, Public Screening, Genetic Counseling, and Prenatal Diagnosis left a lasting impact. Dr. Gulab Fatima Rani, Assistant Professor at the Institute of Pathology and Diagnostic Medicine, moderated the open panel discussion. The attendees also had the privilege of engaging with esteemed panelists Dr. Asghar Khan from KP Health, Dr. Khalid Khan from the HMC Pathology Department, and Dr. Yasar Yousafzai, the Director of PHRL, who shared their invaluable perspectives on thalassemia prevention and addressed inquiries from the audience.

In acknowledgment of the collaborative endeavors and unwavering dedication to thalassemia prevention, Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Zia Ul Haq bestowed shields and certificates upon the panelists and organizers. In his closing remarks, he expressed his unwavering commitment to contribute further to the cause and emphasized the significance of collective action in making Pakistan thalassemia-free.



PESHAWAR: Jamat-e-Islami KP Ameer Professor Ibrahim addressing a press conference. — F.P. photo

# D&SJ convicts murderer for death penalty

## F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: District and Session Judge (D&SJ) Hidayatullah Khan convicted murderer for death penalty along with imposition of Rs1 million fine while declared two others absconders in the offense.

The prosecution presented 9 witnesses in the case which has established that convicted culprit Ajmal with his two friends attacked with knives on Amir Jan returning to home for 'Ifatri' on 26th April 2020 in the premises of Bara police station while the reserved judge-

ment was announced in open court.

Police has registered First Information Report (FIR) on complaint of deceased's brother who is also eye witness of the offense against convicted murder Ajmal along with two other culprits.

However, police arrested Ajmal after registration of FIR against him while two culprits are still absconders in the offense from court's proceedings. District and Session Judge Hidayatullah Khan authored the judgment stated; it is established by prosecution from producing

nine witness in the case that Ajmal along with his two friends brutally murdered Amir Jan while knife used in the offense has also recovered from convicted culprit.

The judgement added that complainant didn't contradict while filing FIR and during trial of the case before court, therefore, accused didn't able for any mercy. D&SJ convicted Ajmal for death penalty while imposed Rs1 million fine which should be paid to deceased's heirs and declared two other culprits as absconders and issued their arrest's warrants.



PESHAWAR: Central Ameer of JUI-S Hamid Ul Haq addressing a press conference. — F.P. photo

# Youth empowerment stressed to achieve SDGs

## F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: The speakers of a one-day awareness session on Sustainable Development Goals 2030 here on Thursday called for empowering youth to achieve the SDGs. The event was organized by Directorate of Youth Affairs Khyber Pakhtunkhwa in collaboration with Shaheed Benazir Bhutto Women University (SBBWU), Peshawar and SDGs Unit Planning and Development Department.

The event took place was exclusively arranged for the brilliant students of SBBWU. The speakers said that by nurturing students' awareness, knowledge and skills, a generation would be shaped to pave the way for a brighter and greener future of the country.



The SBBWU representatives thanked the Sustainable Development Goals Unit P&D Department KP for their valuable collaboration and said that together they could turn aspirations into actions and work towards creating a sustainable world that benefits all. They also thanked Prof Dr Safia Ahmad (TA) Vice Chancellor SBBWU for her extended cooperation in the execution of program and also students of for their active participation and dedication.

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## In brief

### Youth kills sister, brother in law F.P. Report

DIR LOWER: A youth in Maidan tehsil of Dir Lower on Thursday shot dead his sister and brother-in-law allegedly in the name of honor. Police informed that a youth named Nasirullah, son of Ghlam Rabbani shot dead his sister Husna Bibi and her husband, Amanullah near the NADRA Office here. Police said the accused Nasirullah has been arrested who has confessed to his crime and said he killed the both in the name of honor. A case of double murder was registered against the accused at the police station and further investigation was underway, police said.

### Six dacoits arrested

FAISALABAD (INP): The police arrested six criminals of two dacoit gangs and recovered stolen motorcycles, six pistols, cash and cell phones from their possession during the last 24 hours. Police said here on Thursday that Batala colony team conducted a raid near Gandah Khoo and arrested three accused who were later identified as Ans, Farasat and Akbar. Police recovered two stolen motorbikes, three pistols, Rs 20,000 cash, four cell phones from them and sent them behind the bars. Meanwhile, ASI Zafarullah raided Chak no 210-RB and arrested three robbers- Mazhar Ali, Tayyab and Ramazan alias Chirri and recovered a motorcycle, three pistols, etc from them. All the accused confessed to have committed crimes in the limits of various police stations.

### Domestic violence claims life

MEHRBAPUR (PPI): A husband killed his wife in Mehrbap district of Sindh province due to domestic issues, police said Thursday. According to the sources, the husband was infuriated due to domestic issues and killed his wife during the heat of moment. The incident was observed in Nonari Mohalla area of Mehrbap district. According to the police, the suspect Zulfiqar a.k.a as Wakeel Nonari later appeared in the police station himself along with the instrument of murder. The police claimed that the suspects will be treated according to the law and justice will be surely served.

### 4 bodies found in Bahawalpur

BAHAWALPUR (INP): Four bodies with slit throats were found in a house in Punjab's Bahawalpur, rescue sources said on Thursday. According to rescue sources, four mutilated bodies including three women were recovered from the house in Yazman's Chuck No. 102, Bahawalpur. Eyewitnesses said the deceased include a couple, their daughter and a sister-in-law, who were killed with a sharp tool. After getting information about the incident, heavy contingents of police arrived at the scene and transferred the bodies to the hospital for legal formalities. Police have also kicked off an investigation into the matter to ascertain the reason behind four 'killings'.

### 15 injured

JACOBABAD (INP): An armed clash between two groups resulted 15 people including women injured in Jacobabad district of Sindh. According to police on Thursday, the incident occurred in a village Murad Baksh Thindrani of Thal tehsil, where two groups locked horns and a violent clash broke out.

# Tribesmen to boycott from anti-polio drive



### F.P. Report

LANDI KOTAL: Residents of Landi Kotal threatened that if an agreement signed with Tribal Electric supply Company (TESCO) last month for supply of six hours electricity daily was not materialized then they will be compelled to boycott from upcoming polio campaign.

It is worth mentioning here that residents of Jamurd have already announced their boycott of polio drive against excessive power off. An extraordinary meeting of the committee tackling local problems beside representatives of various political parties was held under the chair of Tehsil Chairman, Landi Kotal Haji Shah Khalid in his office on Thursday where the participants expressed denounce of unscheduled and prolonged power off.

Addressing on the occasion Haji Shah Khalid,

Kaleemullah, Saeed Shinwari and others said that the TESCO besides the local administrative officials had assured them six hours smooth flow of electricity round the clock to the rural areas however the official could keep their words and the local were subjected to the worst load shedding.

"We are not against the polio drive but ironically we have no other option to attract the attention of the concerned authorities," they opined. The participants warned that until acceptance of their demand for provision of six hours power supply, they would not let the health officials carry out polio campaign in their respective areas.

When the District Health Officer(DHO)Dr Zafar was contacted on the matter he said that boycotting the polio campaign was a sensitive issue that should not be connected to other problems because it was a ques-

tion of child health. He maintained that all the stakeholders including administration officials and elders would be taken on board to convince the temporary refusals to extend assistance to the health department to conduct the polio drive.

Assistant Commissioner, Landi Kotal Irshad Mohmand said that he started convincing the refusal not to link the polio campaign with other miseries and their response was positive. He added that strict action would be taken against those who would create hurdles in the way of polio drive.

Besides overloading of feeders in the local grid, the administration would strive hard to settle the issue of excessive power off in the area, he remarked. It is to be mentioned here that the polio campaign is scheduled to be started from May 22, 2023 in district Khyber beside other parts of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

## DSJ administer oath from new cabinet DBA Shangla

### F.P. Report

SHANGLA: District and Session Judge (D&SJ) Farzina Shaid administered oath from newly elected of District Bar Association (DBA) Shangla while stated that Bench and Bar are two wheels of same vehicles, on Thursday.

D&SJ said that during her posting in Shangla bench and bar cooperation is exemplary while litigants are also obtaining justice good manner. D&SJ assured that she

will play her due role to address issues of legal fraternity in the premises.

DBA Shangla president Jawad Ali Noor, general secretary Shahid Ullah and senior vice president Bahr-e-Karam addressed the ceremony while committed for welfare of legal community and ensure provision of justice in society.

The newly elected cabinet comprising of president Jawad Ali, general secretary Shahid Ullah, senior vice president Bahr-e-Karam,

joint secretary Sajid Salarzai, finance secretary Sana Ullah and library secretary Safer Khan while executive committee members Iqbal Hussain advocates took oath of their responsibility.

Additional Session Judge Ubaid Ullah, Senior Civil Judge (admin) Sardar Naveed, Senior Civil Judge (judicial) Naeem Ullah Jadoon, Civil Judges of Pooran and Chakisar respectively participated in the oath taking ceremony.



JAMSHORO: A student targeting balloon from his gun during Rang-e-Saqafat event.

## Excise Mardan recovers 3kg hashish, 1.02kg ice

### Syed Waliullah Shah

NOWSHERA: 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

Thursday, a team headed by Director (Narcotics Control), Aftab uddin, Excise and Taxation Officer Zahid Iqbal Khan, Circle Officer, Sayed Naveed Jamal of Mardan Region, SHO Excise Mardan Muhammad Farooq Khan along with their team intercepted an on the run car at GT road near Rashakai and recovered 3 kg hashish and 1.02 kg ice drug from its secret cavities

The accused Murad, son of Nadir, resident of Zem Tangi, Charsadda who was at large in another drug smuggling case since last October, was arrested and shifted to Excise police station for interrogation and further legal action. Secretary Excise, Ehsan Ullah has highly appreciated the efforts and services of the Excise Department Mardan for the recovery of narcotics.

## Rally held against violent protest damaging national assets

### Sahibzada Afridi

KOHAT: Traders along with several organizations including Sunni Tehreek and WAPDA labor union hold solidarity rallies with armed forces of Pakistan while condemning violence in the name of protest and damages national assets, on Thursday.

Pakistan Sunni Ulema Council Deputy General Secretary Mansoor Paracha condemned violent protest of PTI workers after Imran Khan which had damage national assets and emblems while addressing press conference at Kohat press club.

The rally was addressed by Shakeel Bangash,

Younas Shah, Mansoor Paracha and Haider while wear flower wreath to Pak Army personnel coming in way during procession held in favor of Pakistan armed forces. The protesters chanted slogans in solidarity with armed forces of Pakistan and demanded stern actions against culprits involved in the violence.



HYDERABAD: Student holding a rally to show solidarity with Pakistan Army.

## Residents protest against Karachi police F.P. Report

LARKANA: The residents of taulka Qamber area of Shahdaddot district, protested against the Karachi Police in front of the press club. The protestors belonging to Langah community including Aslam, Abdul Razzaq, Abdul Wahab and others said that a month ago, our youth, 17-year-old Akhtar Hussain Langah, was working as a laborer in the limits of New Karachi Site area, that some of our relatives killed him after torture.

Despite being registered, the Karachi Police refuses to arrest the accused. They have demanded from the Inspector General Sindh to arrest the accused involved in the murder of the deceased youth and bring them to justice on humanitarian grounds.

## Illegal supply of books seized

DALBANDIN (PPI): An illegal supply of 19 sacks of text books of Balochistan Text Book Board, Quetta were recovered from a Quetta bound Mazda truck coming from Dalbandin, authorities said Thursday.

According to Assistant Commissioner, Dalbandin, Abdul Basit Buzdar, staff of Customs, levies and police recovered 19 sacks filled with text books of Balochistan Text Book Board, Quetta from class one to class ten for the academic year 2023 were recovered from a Quetta-bound Mazda truck coming from Dalbandin in an operation conducted at customs check post, Dalbandin. Driver of the Mazda truck was also arrested during the operation. Further investigation was underway.

## 20 PTI activist held

BUREWALA (INP): As many as 20 workers of PTI detained from district Vehari over violent protest following the arrest of party chairman Imran were shifted to Central Jail Sahiwal.

The detainees were booked over charges of vandalism and attacking public installations on May 09 during protests against arrest of party chief. The nabbed PTI activists who have been shifted to Sahiwal Central Jail included Jehanzeb, Ahmed Nawaz, Muhammad Muhavia, Muhammad Shakeel, Sher Bacha, Malik Ahsan Habi, Taimoor Sikandar Dogar, Abdul Waheed, Muhammad Mushtaq, Muhammad Sohail, Tariq Khan, Haji Noor Ahmed, Abu Baqar Iqbal, Naseer Ahmed, Awais Ahmed, Shakeel Ahmed, Muhammad Asif, Muhammad Shehbaz, Abdul Qayyum and Muhammad Usman.

This knowledge exchange initiative provides a robust mechanism and roadmap to empower the students at the University of Haripur and UET Taxila so they can continue working on sustainable water use solutions for their community. The students have actively taken part in implementation phase of the project with experts from WWF - Pakistan. It has also brought the community at large together as beneficiaries since it will supply access to clean and safe water to community members.

## Man burnt to death

FAISALABAD (INP): A 55-year old man was burnt to death during fire lit to prepare meal at 7 Chak Nankana Road near Mandi Bachiana Faisalabad on Thursday.

Fire roused in the yard of house for preparing meal engulfed a room of the house. Bashir Ahmed 55, sleeping in the room was burnt to death before the blaze could be doused.

## Minister, IG prisons visit Mardan's jail

### Fazal Haq

MARDAN: Provincial Minister Prisons Hidayatullah Afridi along with Inspector General (IGP) Jails Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Muhammad Usman Mehsod made a detailed visit to Central Jail Mardan. The jail administration gave a warm welcome to the distinguished guests.

Superintendent Jail gave a briefing regarding Jail. He visited all the barracks, jail hospital, cook house, food quality of prisoners, store and sick prisoners in prison hospital, besides meeting the prisoners and prison staff and inquired about their problems and resolved all the problems quickly.

Later, the two dignitaries appreciated the inmates' hard work and excellent craftsmanship, including women's and men's sewing and embroidery, and other hand-made products, including handiwork by women inmates, at the prison's training center. He appreciated the efforts of the jail administration and expressed satisfaction over the facilities provided to the inmates.

Meanwhile, DPO Najib Rehman, SP Operation Rukhanzeb and SP Security Mohammad Fayaz have been appointed in the police line on the basis of merit and ability for police stations across the district. A written test and an interview

were conducted for the selection.

After the written test and interview, the candidates who get significant marks will be appointed as Assistant Police Stations and Outposts. On this occasion, SP Operation said in his short address to the participants of the test that the direct contact of the public in the police stations and outposts.

The police department consists of the staff, for which the appointment of well-behaved, capable and people-friendly police staff is the most important requirement of the present time, for which the police department is taking all measures into consideration.

## Govt uplifting communication network

### F.P. Report

ATTOCK: Punjab Care-taker Minister for Communication & Works Bilal Afzal has said that the provincial government is utilizing all resources to provide maximum relief to its people by uplifting the communication network.

This was stated by him on Thursday during his surprise inspection of under construction roads of district Attock. He was also accompanied by Executive Engineer Highways Punjab

Attock Mr. Ashfaq Sulehry, Deputy Director Public Relations Punjab Attock Mr. Shahzad Niaz and other heads of the relevant departments.

Bilal Afzal also visited the ongoing construction work of roads include Kharpa interchange link Mahluwali measuring 29.30 kms with the cost of Rs.900 million, CPEC Kharpa interchange to Akhlas covering the length of 09 km incurring cost of Rs.400 million and Mithial chowk to Pingdheh City having

length of 30 kilometers with cost of Rs.1500 kms.

He was also given comprehensive briefing by the officers of the Highways Department. The visiting provincial minister also directed the officers of public functionaries to ensure the completion of these road networks within the stipulated period making benefitted for the people besides maintaining the quality of work as par with the approved qualitative SOPs of government of the Punjab.

## Groundwater recharge wells inaugurated

### F.P. Report

HARIPUR: An inclusive Water Replenishment Project for community access to clean water in Hattar, area of District Haripur, inaugurated. Under this multi-stakeholder project, water supply system has constructed four groundwater recharge wells with University of Haripur and University of Engineering and Technology (UET) Taxila. The project's total recharging capacity is 8,400 m3 and it galvanizes PepsiCo Pakistan's goal to empower communities with replenishment and sustainable use of water resources. The project comes under the sustainability agenda of PepsiCo Pakistan, which includes water conservation and doing good for people and the planet.

This knowledge exchange initiative provides a robust mechanism and roadmap to empower the students at the University of Haripur and UET Taxila so they can continue working on sustainable water use solutions for their community. The students have actively taken part in implementation phase of the project with experts from WWF - Pakistan. It has also brought the community at large together as beneficiaries since it will supply access to clean and safe water to community members.

To mark this achievement Yaser Ghani, VP Ops PepsiCo Global Concentrate Solutions (PGCS), Professor Dr. Muhammad Inayatullah Khan Babar, Vice Chancellor of UET Taxila,

and Head of the Environmental Engineering Department of UET Taxila came together with the faculty members, PGCS Hattar management, WWF team and the students to celebrate this achievement for reviving the local aquifer for the entire community. Speaking at the occasion, Yaser Ghani said, "This project represents a significant milestone towards PepsiCo's Net Water Positive Vision, which aims to replenish more water than we consume by 2030. But this project is more than just a milestone. It is a testament to our commitment to sustainability and we could not have accomplished it without the support of our partners and stakeholders who are united for tangible change and community uplift. And we hope that this project will inspire others to take action towards a more sustainable world."

Yaser Ghani also engaged with university students, inspiring and igniting their passion for water conservation. He encouraged them to embark on innovative projects aimed at saving water and achieving sustainability goals. The concentrate for PepsiCo's products is made at the Hattar operations site, and the company is committed to doing good for the communities settled around the operations. PepsiCo is committed to continuing efforts to reduce the company's water footprint, conserve resources, and drive positive impact in the communities that PepsiCo works with and in. Prof. Dr. Muhammad Inayatullah Khan Babar

added, "By replenishing groundwater, we are helping to ensure a sustainable supply of water for years to come. This project is not just about saving water; it's about creating a better future for all of us. We are excited about the possibilities of this project and the impact it will have on the community."

## Operation to be launched against drugs dealers

MIRPURKHAS (INP): A meeting chaired by Deputy Inspector General Police Mirpurkhas Range Zulfiqar Ali Mahar was held at SP Office Umarkot regarding law and order and prevention of drugs and gutka in Umarkot district.

All SDPOs and SHOs of the district including SSP Umerkot Ejaz Shaikh, In-charge CIA, In-charge DIB, Reader and concerned officers attended the meeting. In the meeting, a briefing was given regarding the measures taken regarding the prevention of drugs and gutka throughout the district and the overall law and order situation.

DIG on the occasion directed concerned police officials to ensure crackdown against criminals more effectively and intelligence based. He ordered to implement directives of IG Sindh at any cost and no laxity would be tolerated in this regard.



## Turkey's opposition plots fightback against Erdogan

ISTANBUL (AFP): Turkey's opposition tried to recover from a crushingly disappointing election performance and launch a new attack aimed at beating President Recep Tayyip Erdogan in a May 28 runoff. Secular leader Kemal Kilicdaroglu huddled with the other five heads of his alliance to plot a harder-edged strategy for ending Erdogan's two-decade domination of Turkey.

Media reports said he had fired his PR team and planned to tap Istanbul mayor Ekrem Imamoglu -- a feisty figure with a history of bad blood with Erdogan -- to spearhead his campaign. The reported promotion of Imamoglu and the mayor's lauded strategist Canan Kaftancıoglu marks a reversal for Turkey's grandfatherly opposition leader. The 74-year-old former civil servant tried to run an inclusive campaign that addressed voters in chatty clips recorded from his kitchen and ignored Erdogan's personal barbs. That approach worked -- up to a point.

The opposition deprived Erdogan of a first-round victory for the first time and collected more votes than in any point of his rule. But Kilicdaroglu's 44.9 percent still trailed Erdogan's 49.5 percent of the votes. Pre-election polls showed Kilicdaroglu leading and possibly even winning outright. Kilicdaroglu's fightback began with a video in which he stared straight into the camera and slapped his desk a few times after banging his heart with his fist.

"I am here! I am here!" he shouted. "I am here!" He

doubled down by calling Erdogan a "fake world leader" who "is now guided by Russia" -- a reference to Erdogan's increasingly close relationship with Vladimir Putin in the run-up to the campaign. It did not take Turkey's 69-year-old leader long to strike back. "All they do is bang on the table," he said in a nationally televised appearance. Erdogan then thanked "my precious friend, Russian President Putin" for agreeing a two-month extension of a deal under which Ukraine can send grain to world markets along the Black Sea. The UN-backed agreement represented one of Erdogan's crowning diplomatic achievements when he helped seal it in Istanbul last July. He mentioned it often in the campaign to show off his ability to raise Turkey's stature and influence on global events.

"Putin gives Erdogan another diplomatic win ahead of the 28 May presidential election run-off," Eurasia Group director Emre Peker said on Twitter. Erdogan is entering the runoff as the overwhelming favourite. The advantage of incumbency gives him ample television airtime as well as support from local officials and government-aligned businesses. Remaining votes went to a little-known ultra-nationalist who has much more in common with the right-wing Erdogan than the leftist Kilicdaroglu. Erdogan said he would visit south-eastern regions this weekend that were hit by a catastrophic February quake in which more than 50,000 lost their lives.

The president retained strong support in the area

despite initial anger at the government's delayed search and rescue work. Erdogan added that his team will be meeting with younger voters in Istanbul and Ankara to try and win in Turkey's two most important cities. Imamoglu and Ankara mayor Mansur Yavas beat out Erdogan's allies in 2019 municipal polls. The campaign's second stage is being accompanied by Turkish market turmoil that has seen the lira near historic lows against the dollar. Investors are starting to price in an Erdogan victory and the long-term continuation of his unconventional economic policies. The cost of insuring exposure to Turkey's debt is rising out of fears that the country's once-vibrant banking sector could soon experience serious difficulties.

Erdogan's decision to force Turkey's central bank to fight historically high inflation with lower interest rates has put unprecedented pressure on the lira. Analysts believe Erdogan tried to prop up the lira ahead of elections through indirect market interventions that drained Turkey's hard currency reserves. His government also introduced rules that required banks to purchase more and more liras with their foreign currencies. Some analysts warn Turkey might have to impose capital controls if Erdogan -- who has pledged to keep interest rates low as long as he remains in office -- does not reverse course. "Our focus after the election will be whether the policy mix becomes more credible and consistent," the ratings agency Fitch said.

### Elizabeth Holmes to head to prison in two weeks

CALIFORNIA (Agencies): Theranos founder Elizabeth Holmes will begin serving her prison sentence on May 30 for defrauding investors in the failed blood-testing startup once valued at \$9bn. United States District Court judge for Northern California, Edward Davila, set the date for Holmes, 39, to begin serving 11 years and three months in prison. Holmes rose to fame after claiming Theranos's small machines could run an array of diagnostic tests with just a few drops of blood. She was convicted of fraud at trial in San Jose, California, last year.

She had asked the US Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals to pause her sentence on April 25, two days before she was originally to report to prison. The court denied that request. Davila, who oversaw Holmes's trial and sentencing, previously rejected her argument that the appeal is likely to result in a new trial, the threshold for her to remain free on bail. Prosecutors said during the trial that Holmes misrepresented Theranos's technology and finances. Holmes testified in her own defence, saying she believed her statements were accurate at the time.

On appeal, Holmes is challenging several of the judge's rulings, including his allowance of evidence about Theranos's test accuracy that postdated her statements to investors. Holmes's co-defendant, former Theranos President Ramesh "Sunny" Balwani, was convicted of defrauding Theranos investors and patients at a separate trial and sentenced to 12 years and 11 months in prison. Balwani began serving his sentence on April 20, after Davila and the Ninth Circuit Court rejected his requests to remain free on bail during his appeal. Forbes dubbed Holmes the world's youngest female self-made billionaire in 2014, when she was 30 and her stake in Theranos was worth \$4.5bn. Theranos collapsed after a series of Wall Street Journal articles in 2015 questioned its technology. Holmes had two children with her partner during the legal process.

### Jordanian lawmaker charged

AMMAN (AP): A Jordanian lawmaker has been indicted on charges that he illegally smuggled scores of rifles and handguns into the occupied West Bank through an Israeli-controlled crossing, his lawyer said. The alleged gun-running scandal that gripped headlines last month has threatened to further strain ties between Israel and its Arab neighbor to the east despite their nearly three-decade-old peace treaty.

The apparent effort by a Jordanian parliament member to sneak guns into a restive West Bank - where young Palestinians are increasingly getting their hands on rifles and opening fire at Israeli security forces - has raised fears of Jordanian support for Palestinian militancy that undercuts the country's moderate, pro-Western monarchy. The Jordanian lawmaker, Imad al-Adwan, was charged in a state security court in Amman last week, his lawyer Ali Mubaideen told The Associated Press. After being interrogated, al-Adwan, 35, was charged with four counts of illegally exporting weapons and "carrying out actions that breach security and threaten community peace," Mubaideen added.

Israel's Shin Bet security service has said al-Adwan successfully managed to smuggle arms, gold and other items like electronic cigarettes into the West Bank at least a dozen times since early 2022 in exchange for unspecified sums of money. He was caught on April 22 at an Israeli-controlled crossing with at least 200 weapons. Israel handed him over to Jordanian authorities last month. Al-Adwan, a member of one of Jordan's biggest tribes, has served for the past three years as a legislator in a newly formed political party called Irada, which aims to modernize the country's political system.

## Myanmar residents hunt for water as UN asks junta for access

YANGON (AFP): Residents of Myanmar's cyclone-ravaged Rakhine state capital queued for rice and drinking water as the United Nations negotiated with the internationally isolated junta for access to hard-hit areas. Cyclone Mocha tore through Myanmar and Bangladesh, bringing lashing rain and winds of 195 kilometres per hour (120 mph) that collapsed buildings and turned streets into rivers.

The storm killed at least 81 people across Myanmar, according to statements given by local leaders and officials to AFP journalists and state media tallies. Residents in the Rakhine capital Sittwe queued for small tanks of drinking water after the cyclone stopped production at purification plants that supply potable water in the city of some 150,000 inhabitants. "We stored some water but after two days there is none left in our home," said Ko Htun, who was queuing under the noon sun for water being handed out by a civil society organisation. "Rich people can afford to buy water but poor people can't," he told AFP.

Aye Hla, another Sittwe resident, queued for rice being given out by the World Food Programme at a monastery in the city. "I haven't eaten for four days," the 47-year-old said. "I don't have bowls, plates or a home and I don't even have clothes to change. I'm here to ask for rice as my family is starving." Hundreds of bags of rice had been airlifted to Sittwe and a naval vessel carrying rice, communication equipment and other aid was expected to arrive, according to the Global New Light of Myanmar. A "humanitarian catastrophe" was unfolding in Myanmar,



the United Nations resident and humanitarian coordinator for the country said. Negotiations with Myanmar's military junta for access to cyclone-affected areas were "ongoing", the UN's humanitarian affairs office has said. An OCHA spokesperson did not respond to questions on the discussions or whether access had been granted for UN teams to visit cyclone-affected areas, including camps housing displaced Rohingya.

"Offers from the international community for providing aid have been accepted," state media said. "But, relief and rehabilitation tasks must be done through existing united strength," said the Global New Light of Myanmar. After cyclone Nargis killed at least 138,000 people in Myanmar in 2008, the then-junta was accused of blocking emergency aid

and initially refusing to grant access to humanitarian workers and supplies. Rakhine state is home to around 600,000 Rohingya, who are regarded by many there as interlopers from Bangladesh and are denied citizenship and freedom of movement. Camps housing displaced Rohingya around Sittwe were ravaged by the storm, with residents swept away and homes destroyed.

The leader of one camp outside Sittwe said they were still waiting for help from outside. "No organisation nor the government aid arrived to us yet because the bridges on the way to our camp are broken," he told AFP. The camp leader said authorities told them they were trying to reach the area and that they should boil any water they can get and drink that. "We might be able to hold on for two days more," he said.

## Man who killed eight in New York bike path attack sentenced

NEW YORK (Agencies): The man responsible for killing eight people with a truck on a Manhattan bike path in 2017 has been handed eight consecutive life sentences, two concurrent life sentences and another 260 years in prison for the attack that also left 18 others severely injured. "The conduct in this case is among the worst, if not the worst, I've ever seen," United States District Judge Vernon S Broderick said.

The judge cited the unrepentant nature of defendant Sayfullo Saipov who, when given a chance to speak, said the tears of victims and family members in the courtroom were small compared to the blood and tears that those in the Islamic faith have suffered. Saipov's sentence came after a jury in March rejected the death penalty for the Uzbekistan citizen and one-time New Jersey resident, leaving him with a mandatory life prison sentence for the slaughter of tourists and New Yorkers on October 31, 2017. Relatives

of eight people killed in the attack spoke through tears during the sentencing, describing their lingering pain and sometimes directly addressing the man convicted in the deaths. Frank Decadt, father of victim Ann-Laure Decadt, told Saipov he hoped that "one day you will understand the extent of horror you have inflicted on so many people".

Marion Van Reeth, who lost her legs in the attack, sat before Saipov in her wheelchair, telling him: "I will never be able to walk like you can." As Saipov kept his head drooped and eyes lowered, listening to a translation of the proceedings through earphones, Van Reeth said: "I have a question for you. After all this time in prison, are you still convinced that your criminal acts against innocent people was the right thing?" Like others, she expressed hope that someday Saipov would see that his act was wrong. Monica Missio, whose son Nicholas

Cleves was killed, told Saipov his death "has completely destroyed my life". Prosecutors urged Broderick to impose a sentence of eight consecutive life sentences - one for each death - and an additional 260 years in prison, according to a pre-sentence submission. "Saipov is an unabashed terrorist - a proud murderer who deserves no leniency and should be punished to the fullest extent of the law," prosecutors wrote. The judge followed the prosecution's recommendation, imposing eight consecutive life sentences and two to run concurrently, though the practical effect of a single life sentence is the same since there is no parole. Saipov, 35, left a path of destruction behind him with his attack. Five tourists from Argentina, two Americans and a Belgian woman were killed, and 18 others were seriously injured.

Saipov was shot by a police officer and immedi-

ately taken into custody after emerging from his truck shouting "God is great" in Arabic and waving paintball and pellet guns in the air. Prosecutors said he smiled as he asked agents from the Federal Bureau of Investigation who questioned him in a hospital room if they could hang an ISIL (ISIS) group flag on the walls. At his trial, his family members urged a life sentence, saying they hoped he would realise what he had done and express remorse. They said they wanted him to return to the passive person they remembered him as before he grew obsessed with online propaganda posted by ISIL (ISIS). A former long-haul truck driver, Saipov moved legally to the US from Uzbekistan in 2010 and lived in Ohio and Florida before joining his family in Paterson, New Jersey.

His lawyer, David Patton, told jurors that his actions were "senseless, horrific, and there's no justification for them".

## UN envoy optimistic Yemen's parties will resume UN-led talks

UNITED NATIONS (AP): The UN envoy for Yemen expressed "cautious optimism" that the country's warring parties will return to UN-led negotiations to end their deadly eight-year conflict. Hans Grundberg told the UN Security Council he is confident last month's prisoner releases agreed to by the government and rival Houthi rebels will "build further confidence between the parties" and support an environment conducive for dialogue.

The conflict has claimed thousands of lives and further impoverished the Arab world's poorest nation. Grundberg said he was encouraged by positive and detailed discussions he had recently with officials from the government and the rebels, as well as with senior regional and Yemeni officials in Saudi Arabia's capital Riyadh and the United Arab Emirates capital Abu Dhabi, and with senior US officials in Washington. The parties "demonstrated an understanding of the immensity of what is at stake and displayed willingness to constructively engage on the way forward," he said.

"There is a clear determination on all sides to make progress towards a deal on humanitarian and economic measures, a permanent cease-fire, and the resumption of a Yemeni-led political process under UN auspices," Grundberg said. Yemen's devastating conflict began in 2014, when the Iranian-backed Houthis seized the capital of Sanaa and much of northern Yemen and forced the government into exile. A Saudi-led coalition including the United Arab Emirates intervened in 2015 to try to restore the internationally recognized government to power. A UN-backed truce initially took effect in April 2022 and raised hopes for a longer pause in fighting, but it ended on Oct. 2 after just six months. Grundberg told the council that seven months after its expiration "the truce continues to deliver," pointing to continuing commercial flights in and out of Sanaa and ships carrying fuel and other commercial goods arriving and leaving Yemen's main port at Hodeida. "While sporadic military incidents continue to occur, levels of hostilities are significantly lower than before the truce," he said. "But the fragility of the military situation, the dire state of the economy and the daily challenges facing the Yemeni people provide us with constant reminders of

why a more comprehensive agreement between the parties is so vital." Grundberg pointed to continuing reports of violence across frontlines in the provinces of Al Jawf, Taiz, Marib and Saada. He also mentioned restrictions on freedom of movement, especially in Houthi areas, and the government's inability to export oil, which generated more than half its revenue last year, as examples of the fragility of the current situation. He said the situation underscores the need for a formal cease-fire. "The cornerstone of an agreement on the way forward must be the resumption of a Yemeni-led political process under UN auspices to bring an end to the conflict," Grundberg said, stressing that partial or temporary solutions can't tackle Yemen's myriad problems.

Chinese diplomat to visit Ukraine since Moscow invaded in February 2022 and his arrival in Kyiv comes three weeks after Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy spoke by telephone with Chinese leader Xi Jinping. Zelenskyy also appointed a new Ukrainian ambassador to China on the same day, the Kyiv Independent media organisation reported. Officials in Kyiv had warned ahead of the Chinese visit that Ukraine did not need "mediation for the sake of mediation".

## Four children reported found in Amazon

CAQUETA: Three children and a baby were reported to have been found alive more than two weeks after a plane crashed with them on board in the Colombian Amazon jungle. Colombian authorities had deployed more than 100 soldiers with sniffer dogs to search for the children who were travelling in an aeroplane that crashed in the Amazon 17 days ago, killing three adults.

Colombia's President Gustavo Petro said in a tweet that the children were discovered after "arduous search efforts" by the military. "A joy for the country," he said. Earlier, the Colombian armed forces said that search efforts intensified after rescuers came across a "shelter built in an improvised way with sticks and branches", leading them to believe there were survivors.

However, there were no reports from the

Colombian military confirming the discovery of the children. Colombia's El Espectador news outlet reported later that the military had not confirmed finding the children, though information was reportedly received by a government agency that contacted had been made. In photographs released by the armed forces, scissors and a hair tie could be seen among branches on the jungle floor. Previously, a baby's drinking bottle and a half-eaten piece of fruit had been found.

Rescuers believe the four children - aged 13, nine, four and an 11-month-old baby - wandered through the jungle in the southern Caqueta Department since the crash on May 1. Soldiers found the bodies of the pilot and two adults who had been flying from a jungle location to San Jose del Guaviare, one of the main cities in Colombia's

Amazon rainforest. The region has few roads and is also difficult to access by river, so transport by small aeroplane is common. One of the dead passengers, Ranoque Mucutuy, was the mother of the four children, who are of the Huitoto ethnicity. Three helicopters have been used to help in the search operation, one of which blasted out a recorded message from the children's grandmother in the Huitoto language telling them to stop moving through the jungle.

Giant trees that can grow up to 40 metres (131 feet) tall, wild animals and heavy rainfall made the "Operation Hope" search difficult. Authorities have not indicated what caused the plane crash. The pilot had reported problems with the engine just minutes before the aeroplane disappeared from radars, the Colombian disaster response body said.

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## Digital portal and Pakistan diplomatic challenges

**F**OREIGN Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari has recently launched the ‘Share Pakistan Portal’, a digital repository for improved communication between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and its over 100 diplomatic missions abroad. As said, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) in collaboration with the National Information Technology Board (NTB) has established a standardized online information system that would collect and communicate the impact of public diplomacy initiatives in pursuance of Pakistani foreign policy objectives. The portal has been designed to simplify communication and sharing of information both horizontally and vertically in the public diplomacy domain between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and its diplomatic posts abroad. According to the Foreign Minister, the paperless digital tool will integrate digital technologies into public diplomacy strategic outreach efforts and institutions along with bringing efficiency and transparency to various public diplomacy domains.

Pakistan, a poor nation of over 230 million people maintains over 100 diplomatic missions abroad including embassies, and consulate generals in distant locations in various countries in the Middle East, Europe, Africa, and other continents across the globe. About one-fourth of the MoFA employees of all cadres along with representatives and staff from multiple ministries including the Information Ministry, Trade, Education, Passport/NADRA, attaches from tri-services Army, Navy, and Air Force along with the Reps of Security and Intelligence agencies represent their respective departments in multiple destinations around the world while their core function had been the sub-service of their departmental high-ups, protocol duty, and wellbeing of oneself and family. Annually, billions of rupees are burnt on account of office and residential rents, payment and allowances, personnel and vehicle insurance, and ceremonial events that a few repeated visitors of diaspora members, media workers, or worthless individuals from the host nations mostly attend. Realistically, posting/deputation in Pakistan missions abroad is a means for the economic welfare of blue-eyed subordinates or officers from a particular group within a department/institution that mostly rests on the discretion of the top brass. Practically, Ambassadors and embassies act as mere post offices between the two governments, trip facilitation, and visa issuance centers, and information outposts in the host country, while that function can easily be performed through relatively small teams instead of hundreds of permanent employees and ad-hoc local workers as a majority of the counselor services had been digitalized so far. The recent leak of official communication from the Foreign Office illustrates poor working ethics, no discipline, and nonprofessionalism of Pakistani diplomats that caused great embarrassment for the country at the global level. The Foreign Office already has secured communication channels, encryption facilities, and trained staff, but all those dedicated equipment and personnel failed to perform their core function. Now, Pakistani Baboos come up with a new recipe namely, the Share Pakistan Portal which is nothing else except a misuse of resources and fake publicity.

The prevailing hybrid geostrategic environment and ongoing global rivalry between the major powers had significantly reduced the role of envoys and diplomats in global diplomacy as the relations between the states evolves on the decisions and policies of the concerned capitals. The strategically aligned nations fundamentally cooperate with each other and diplomacy work at its best in such cases. At the same time, diplomats face insulation and idleness if the host country has conflicting political and trade interests with their nation. At the same time, trade and tourism, economic and commercial activities further boost the bilateral relations between the states, whereas Pakistan's case is totally different whose export had been badly shrunk because of the high cost of production, energy crisis, and poor quality control by the producers as well as the regulators. Thus, Pakistan's foreign policy initiatives such as Look Africa, Engage Africa, Vision East Asia, and EU's GSP Plus status could not create a favorable impact that is dearly needed by the South Asian nation amid recurrent geopolitical and foreign policy challenges in the contemporary world.

Apparently, offensive diplomacy and robust economic outreach are the needs of an economically strong and politically viable state, which pursues its economic and political interests through capable and genius diplomats, massive budget allocation, and grants/aid to other nations. Pakistan surely does not fall into that category and Islamabad needs to align its foreign policy objectives vis-a-vis its economic and security needs. Meanwhile, the over-optimism of bureaucrats and ill-motive public diplomacy had always proved to be unviable and counterproductive in the past. There is a dire need that the core team of the Pakistan Foreign Office to concentrate on its primary objectives, reconsider its operation methodology, introduce simplicity, and interact with foreign diplomats instead of service to oneself, family, and friends, so the nation benefits from their vision, tact, and diplomacy otherwise sophisticated verbosity accomplishes nothing in the past.

# The EU’s secret weapon against refugees - time

**W**HEN boats with refugees are at risk of capsizing in the Mediterranean Sea, the speed of rescue operations is essential. Any delay in the emergency response can lead to serious bodily harm or the loss of life. Still, offering a speedy response in such situations is not one of Europe's priorities. In a study recently published in the journal Security Dialogue, I argue that time has become increasingly "weaponised" in Mediterranean migration governance.

Over the last decade, and in order to prevent arrivals, European Union authorities have sought out ways to slow down rescue engagement while accelerating interceptions to Libya. The end of Italy's humanitarian-military operation Mare Nostrum in 2014 marked a turning point. As a response to a devastating shipwreck on October 3, 2013 near Lampedusa, this operation sped up rescue activities off the Libyan coast, leading to the rescue of about 150,000 people. However, it was denounced by critics as a "pull-factor" that would incentivise the arrival of refugees. Mare Nostrum ended and gave way to successive European operations that experimented with delays

in emergency responses. EU naval operations Triton and Sophia, which followed Mare Nostrum in 2015 and 2016, built delays into their operational designs, intentionally patrolling areas of the Mediterranean Sea where few boats were expected. The consequence - that arriving late at scenes of distress, or not at all, would lead to a rise in deaths - was clearly acceptable.

In the period since 2017, which my article calls the phase of strategic neglect, EU member states have found even more draconian ways to weaponise time. By further withdrawing their rescue assets, European actors have produced a rescue vacuum in the central Mediterranean. This vacuum has expanded over time: A report published in March 2023 by the Civil Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre, a network of non-governmental actors engaging in Search and Rescue activities in the Mediterranean, concluded that "at sea, Maltese authorities regularly abandon those in need of rescue". The report said that in 2022, Maltese authorities ignored more than 20,000 people in distress; 413 boats with people needing help were not assisted and only three boats were rescued by Malta's armed forces. "Non-assistance is now a routine part of a

suite of deadly measures aimed at reducing arrivals in Malta," the report said. So far in 2023, only 92 people have been rescued to Malta. Italy has also reduced its operational scope, mostly to the areas close to Lampedusa and Sicily. That currently many boats are reaching Italy, with the government declaring a state of emergency in April, does not deny the fact that Italy and Malta continue to leave vast stretches of the sea unattended. Especially in the search and rescue (SAR) zones of Malta and Libya, rescue often comes too late, as recent days have tragically demonstrated once more.

Meanwhile, EU member states have shifted to the skies. Intensified aerial activities, including via drones, search for boats with refugees in the central Mediterranean. Frontex, the European Border and Coast Guard Agency, often justifies these activities as aimed at saving lives. But its use of "aerial assets under its current strategy has not had a meaningful impact on the death rate". Human Rights Watch and Border Forensics recently noted. The measurable impact of these aerial surveillance operations has been elsewhere. Since 2017, Libyan forces have

forcibly returned more than 100,000 people to torturous conditions, often using speed boats donated by Italy. Routinely guided by European aerial assets, these Libyan forces chase after boats still intact enough to reach Europe while often neglecting stationary boats with people needing immediate help. This shows where their priorities lie. Attacks on refugee boats and their interception off the coast of Tunisia, where racist sentiments have escalated over recent weeks, have also soared. A 2021 report by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights suggested that "the damage and death along the central Mediterranean route ... is the result of a failed system of migration governance", emblematic of which are the "significant delays and failures to render assistance to migrant boats". Rather than simply a "failed system", however, these delays in rescue need to be understood as strategic - and deliberate - elements built into the current system of European migration governance. The effects of Europe's weaponisation of time have also been felt among civil rescuers. From 2017 in particular, volunteers and humanitarians

working on rescuing refugees in distress have faced increasing hostility and have often been portrayed as taxi services facilitating the arrival of people to Europe. Their rescue efforts have been obstructed and slowed down at every turn.

For example, maritime authorities often withhold information about boats, even if NGOs are closest to the scene of distress. Earlier, NGOs would routinely transfer rescued people to EU military assets and remain operational at sea. Now, they are forced to disembark at EU harbours where they have to undergo cumbersome inspections, often facing lengthy detention and at times criminalisation. Spending more time shutting back and forth, or stuck at harbours, NGOs have been forced to cut down on their time at sea. This stealing of operational time was amplified by the "closed harbour policies" of Italy and Malta in 2018, where NGO ships were forced to wait in front of European harbours, sometimes for weeks. The politically-motivated targeting of NGO rescuers continues. In early 2023, Italy passed a decree which obliges the rescuers to sail to a European harbour immediately after undertaking one rescue operation, thus prohibiting them

from staying at sea in search of more boats in distress. Moreover, following recent rescues carried out by NGOs, the Italian authorities assigned harbours in central and northern Italy. This considerably prolongs the disembarkation process. The civil fleet's absence from the central Mediterranean will, according to the NGOs, "inevitably result in more people tragically drowning at sea". Three of them decided in April to take "legal action against the Italian authorities' systematic policy of assigning distant ports".

When in February this year an overcrowded boat capsized off the coast of Crotone in Italy and more than 90 individuals lost their lives, questions were raised about Italy's delayed reaction to their distress. When, only a few weeks later, European and Libyan authorities were alerted to a boat at severe risk of capsizing, they waited instead of intervening without delay. Thirty hours after authorities had been alerted, the boat capsized and dozens of people drowned. Rather than unfortunate or exceptional cases, these disasters highlight something much more systematic. Namely, a deliberate European strategy that weaponises time in order to deter refugee arrivals, no matter the cost.

*Alfazeera*

## What is the political agenda of artificial intelligence?

**‘The hand mill gives you society with the feudal lord; the steam mill society with the industrial capitalist.’ Karl Marx once said. And he was right. We have seen over and over again throughout history how technological inventions determine the dominant mode of production and with it the type of political authority present in a society. So what will artificial intelligence give us? Who will capitalise on this new technology, which is not only becoming a dominant productive force in our societies (just like the hand mill and the steam mill once were) but, as we keep reading in the news, also appears to be "fast escaping our control"?**

Could AI take on a life of its own, like so many seem to believe it will, and single-handedly decide the course of our history? Or will it end up as yet another technological invention that serves a particular agenda and benefits a certain subset of humans? Recently, examples of hyperrealistic, AI-generated content, such as an "interview" with former Formula One world champion Michael Schumacher, who has not been able to talk to the press since a devastating ski accident in 2013; "photographs" showing former President Donald Trump being arrested in New York; and seemingly authentic student essays "written" by

OpenAI's famous chatbot ChatGPT have raised serious concerns among intellectuals, politicians and academics about the dangers this new technology may pose to our societies. In March, such concerns led Apple co-founder Steve Wozniak, AI heavy-weight Yoshua Bengio and Tesla/Twitter CEO Elon Musk among many others to sign an open letter accusing AI labs of being "locked in an out-of-control race to develop and deploy ever more powerful digital minds that no one - not even their creators - can understand, predict, or reliably control" and calling on AI developers to pause their work. More recently, Geoffrey Hinton - known as one of the three "godfathers of AI" quit Google "to speak freely about the dangers of AI" and said he, at least in part, regrets his contributions to the field.

We accept that AI - like all era-defining technology - comes with considerable downsides and dangers, but contrary to Wozniak, Bengio, Hinton and others, we do not believe that it could determine the course of history on its own, without any input or guidance from humanity. We do not share such concerns because we know that, just like it is the case with all our other technological devices and systems, our political, social and cultural agendas are also built into AI technologies. As philosopher Donna Haraway

**Santiago Zabala & Claudio Gallo**

explained, "Technology is not neutral. We're inside of what we make, and it's inside of us." Before we further explain why we are not scared of a so-called AI takeover, we must define and explain what AI - as what we are dealing with now - actually is. This is a challenging task, not only because of the complexity of the product at hand but also because of the media's mythologisation of AI.

What is being insistently communicated to the public today is that the conscious machine is (almost) here, that our everyday world will soon resemble the ones depicted in movies like 2001: A Space Odyssey, Blade Runner and The Matrix. This is a false narrative. While we are undoubtedly building ever more capable computers and calculators, there is no indication that we have created - or are anywhere close to creating - a digital mind that can actually "think".

Noam Chomsky recently argued (alongside Ian Roberts and Jeffrey Watmull) in a New York Times article that "we know from the science of linguistics and the philosophy of knowledge that [machine learning programmes like ChatGPT] differ profoundly from how humans reason and use language". Despite its amazingly convincing answers to a variety of questions from humans,

ChatGPT is "a lumbering statistical engine for pattern matching, gorging on hundreds of terabytes of data and extrapolating the most likely conversational response or most probable answer to a scientific question". Mimicking German philosopher Martin Heidegger (and risking reigniting the age-old battle between continental and analytical philosophers), we might say, "AI doesn't think. It simply calculates."

Federico Faggin, the inventor of the first commercial microprocessor, the mythical Intel 4004, explained this clearly in his 2022 book Irriducibile (Irreducible): "There is a clear distinction between symbolic machine 'knowledge' ... and human semantic knowledge. The former is objective information that can be copied and shared; the latter is a subjective and private experience that occurs in the intimacy of the conscious being." Interpreting the latest theories of Quantum Physics, Faggin appears to have produced a philosophical conclusion that fits curiously well within ancient Neoplatonism - a feat that may ensure that he is forever considered a heretic in scientific circles despite his incredible achievements as an inventor. But what does all this mean for our future? If our super-intelligent Centaur Chiron cannot actually "think"

(and therefore emerge as an independent force that can determine the course of human history), exactly who will it benefit and give political authority to? In other words, what values will its decisions rely on?

Chomsky and his colleagues asked a similar question to ChatGPT, "As an AI, I do not have moral beliefs or the ability to make moral judgments, so I cannot be considered immoral or moral," the chatbot told them. "My lack of moral beliefs is simply a result of my nature as a machine learning model." Where have we heard of this position before? Is it not eerily similar to the ethically neutral vision of hardcore liberalism? Liberalism aspires to confine in the private individual sphere all religious, civil and political values that proved so dangerous and destructive in the 16th and 17th centuries. It wants all aspects of society to be regulated by a particular - and in a way mysterious - form of rationality: the market. AI appears to be promoting the very same brand of mysterious rationality.

The truth is, it is emerging as the next global "big business" innovation that will steal jobs from humans - making labourers, doctors, barristers, journalists and many others redundant. The new bots' moral values are identical to the market's. It is difficult to imagine all the possible developments

now, but a scary scenario is emerging.

David Krueger, assistant professor in machine learning at the University of Cambridge, commented recently in New Scientist: "Essentially every AI researcher (myself included) has received funding from big tech. At some point, society may stop believing reassurances from people with such strong conflicts of interest and conclude, as I have, that their dismissal [of warnings about AI] betrays wishful thinking rather than good counter-arguments." If society stands up to AI and its promoters, it could prove Marx wrong and prevent the leading technological development of the current era from determining who holds political authority. But for now, AI appears to be here to stay. And its political agenda is fully synchronised with that of free market capitalism, the principal (undeclared) goal and purpose of which is to tear apart any form of social solidarity and community.

The danger of AI is not that it is an impossible-to-control digital intelligence that could destroy our sense of self and truth through the "fake" images, essays, news and histories it generates. The danger is that this undeniably monumental invention appears to be basing all its decisions and actions on the same destructive and dangerous values that drive predatory capitalism.

## Want to beat Trump in 2024? Learn from Carroll

**F**FLASH: E Jean Carroll shows skitish Democrats the way to beat Donald Trump. Unlike Carroll, who is the definition of dignity and resolve, Trump is the human equivalent of a slug who leaves behind a trail of slime every time he opens his big, foul mouth. Carroll's dignity and resolve were on display before, during and after a New York jury found that the writer had been sexually assaulted and defamed by the aforementioned slug.

If my use of the short, sharp word "slug" to describe the 45th US president offends, or your fragile sensibilities prompt you to dismiss it as a crude, ad hominem attack, then you have not been paying attention to a lifetime demonstrating he is precisely that: a slimy slug. So, it seems to me that you now have two options: opt for gentler columnists who prefer polite euphemisms or continue reading. Up to you.

Remarkably, it took a jury under three hours to side with Carroll and confirm that she had, all along,

been telling the truth about the horror of what happened to her in an upscale Manhattan department store changing room in 1996 at the grimy hands of a sexual predator and serial liar. "I'm overwhelmed, overwhelmed with joy and happiness and delight," Carroll said. Carroll has earned that joy, happiness and delight. Rather than recoil from the battle, she faced it head-on. Rather than wilt in the face of a tornado of lies and blaspheemies, she stood firm and showed, by her extraordinary example, that courage will always prevail over cowardice. Rather than keep mum, she spoke up, all the while pointing an accusatory finger squarely at the shameless sod who violated her body and good name.

"Here is the astonishing thing about this win," a beaming Carroll said on NBC, as she pounded her palm with a fist. "One 79-year-old advice columnist beat Donald Trump in court." Indeed, you did, madam. Indeed, you did. Carroll's persuasive victory was not only hard and patiently won, but it was a resounding clarion call: to

defeat a bully, you must confront the bully. It is a lesson that restive Democrats and others should heed as the 2024 presidential election approaches and the congenital liar Carroll trounced dominates the race to become the Republican nominee for a third time. Beyond a refreshing dose of clarity and honesty when, on the first anniversary of the January 6 insurrection, President Joe Biden excoriated Trump as a dangerous extremist who "holds a dagger at the throat of democracy", he and too many fellow Democrats have reverted to predictable, timid form.

Asked to comment on the jury's unanimous verdict in Carroll's favour, Biden played dumb. Apparently, he was too preoccupied with the debt-limit pantomime held at the White House on that historic day to notice that a former president had been judged liable for sexually abusing and defaming a brave, determined woman. "I heard that as I've been walking from room to

room," Biden muttered. "But I can't comment." Of course, he could. That Biden chose not to applaud or congratulate Carroll for doing what a missing-in-action attorney general and the Justice Department have, to date, failed to do - hold Trump to a tangible and costly measure of account - was not only a squandered opportunity, but proof that Democrats continue to tip-toe around calling a slug a slug for fear of alienating independent voters. When the moment demanded plain, blunt talk, Biden and his surrogates demurred. Rather than lauding Carroll, Biden and company tutted.

They should have denounced Trump as an unrepentant sex offender who compounded that outrage by lying in signature vulgar terms about the character of the steadfast woman he attacked. Biden should have unleashed a double-barrelled broadside against a sick excuse of a presidential candidate whom Carroll and the 11 witnesses who testified on her behalf had exposed as being unfit for any public

office, let alone the presidency. Biden's failure to use the bully pulpit with a presidential seal to condemn a contemptible bully was unforgivable. Sure enough, a day later, news that another career fabulist,

Republican Congressman George Santos, had been charged with a litany of felonies, consigned Carroll's triumph to the rear view - such is the squirrel-like attention span of much of the US establishment media. Then, Trump was invited on CNN. The floundering network's prostrate bosses and a blundering host helped stage a MAGA pep rally, where sexual assault was considered a joke and Carroll had to endure being defamed again by a choking slug and the hand-picked cultists who made up the rabid, partisan audience. Carroll, to her credit, was having none of it. Her lawyer suggested that she was prepared to sue and beat Trump a second, perhaps even more satisfying, time. Bring it on, I say. If only Democrats and a host of fretting columnists had a smidgen of Carroll's formi-

dable spine and indefatigable spirit. Instead, their default position is doubt and pessimism which translates into column after column about the gloomy prospects of defeating Trump next November.

Exhibit A: Trump was indicted and anxious Democrats and a bunch of wimps on TV and in various "elite" opinion pages turned what should have been a celebration into a wake. Oh, my goodness, they wailed, he is going to leverage the indictments into martyrdom and emerge as an even more potent political force. All is lost. Exhibit B: a Washington Post/ABC News poll showing Trump six points ahead of Biden in a head-to-head matchup prompted an apron-over-head-like fit of hysteria. All is lost, part two. Buck up, perpetual worry warts. Put the tissues and tantrums away. Don't curl up into a ball of angst in a dark room listening to Samuel Barber's Adagio for Strings. And, please, stop the incessant hand-wringing and wallowing in the mire of discontent. Do this: fight like E Jean Carroll.

# Political Reckoning: UK Conservatives lose spark

Mick O'Reilly

**I**N cities and town across the United Kingdom, football on Saturdays is a religion of sorts. At schoolboy level - and schoolgirl too, for the game is almost equally popular now with females - almost every village or community has games. And where there are semi- or fully professional teams, fans are out by the hundreds and more. Millions attend weekend games, many more watch the televised games around the world.

Southampton still have two more games to go but they are guaranteed to finish bottom of the Premier League, and were relegated by virtue of their loss to Fulham. For any fan, relegation to a lower league is a painful lesson. On Saturday, after 12 years in the top flight, the ride was over for Southampton. And in the executive box, trying as he might to cheer on his beloved 'Saints', UK Prime Minister Rishi Sunak, like the tens of thousands of other fans, knew the game was up. When a team's time is up, it doesn't who the manager is, the drop inevitably comes. And so it is with Sunak's Conservatives. They have been in power for the past 13 years, and it matters little who is in charge of the team: They are tired, out of ideas and are facing the inevitable drop back to the opposition benches by the end of next year when a general election has to be called - sooner if Sunak then decides to call time on a game that they can't win.

Sure, Premier League club owners have a distressing habit of firing their managers when a string of results don't go their way - Southampton have had three so far this year. The Conservatives? A similar number, between Boris Johnson, Liz Truss and Rishi. The latter's record isn't

exactly sterling, which is partly why the Tories will be relegated. Earlier this month, voters in England mostly went to the polls to elect local government councils, city and town councils, and other positions that were up for renewal. The elections for the grass root positions are a very clear indication of a party's strength. Or weakness. With some 8,000 seats to be filled, Conservative officials had prepped for the worse with a warning that they could lose about a thousand seats. They did - along with another couple of hundred too, making it far worse than expected.

That's a very bitter pill for party officials to swallow. Councillors are often the work horses of any party organisation, and it is they and their immediate friends and supporters who do much of the heavy lifting at a local level, knocking on doors, delivering leaflets, talking to neighbours, putting the word out. Now, as a result of the decimation suffered by the Conservatives, that's far fewer workers who will be willing to support a losing team - and I'm not talking about Southampton here. Nationally, the Conservative support sits at about 29 per cent, still some 14 points or so behind Labour. For Labour Leader Sir Keir Starmer, the results were good, just not quite good enough to secure enough seats come a general election to secure an overall majority.

And for the Liberal-Democrats, a party who is unabashedly in support of rejoining the European Union and reversing the harm caused by Brexit, the local election results were far better than they could have expected, making significant inroads into areas where Conservative seats were a

given. With some 8,000 seats to be filled, Conservative officials had prepped for the worse with a warning that they could lose about a thousand seats. They did - along with another couple of hundred too, making it far worse than expected. That's a very bitter pill for party officials to swallow. Councillors are often the work horses of any party organisation, and it is they and their immediate friends and supporters who do much of the heavy lifting at a local level, knocking on doors, delivering leaflets, talking to neighbours, putting the word out. Now, as a result of the decimation suffered by the Conservatives, that's far fewer workers who will be willing to support a losing team - and I'm not talking about Southampton here.

Nationally, the Conservative support sits at about 29 per cent, still some 14 points or so behind Labour. For Labour Leader Sir Keir Starmer, the results were good, just not quite good enough to secure enough seats come a general election to secure an overall majority. And for the Liberal-Democrats, a party who is unabashedly in support of rejoining the European Union and reversing the harm caused by Brexit, the local election results were far better than they could have expected, making significant inroads into areas where Conservative seats were a

still a 'No'. The Lib-Dems? Well, let's say he was more coy, more along the links of never say 'never'. To continue with this football and political analogy for a while longer, Southampton's closest Premier League rival is Bournemouth, a club just 50 kilometres away along the south coast. It struggled during most of the season but is assured top flight football next year.

In Bournemouth on Saturday, hundreds of Conservative grass root supporters gathered for the inaugural Conservative Democratic Organisation (CDO) conference. It's supposed to be a grass roots effort to rebuild the party. What it actually is a Boris Johnson love fest - a meeting of like-minded right-wing populist Tories who believe that the only way forward is to ditch Sunak and return to the gospel of hard-line Brexit and Boris. Priti Patel, the former Home Secretary who dreamt up the immoral and subsequently illegal plan to put refugees arriving in Britain onto planes to warehouse them in Rwanda, preached to the converted in Bournemouth that Sunak's leadership was to blame for the Tories' poor showing. And the only person who can fix things is Boris, who was stabbed in the back by Sunak and other Conservative MPs. That's their reality. The real reality, of course, is that voters are sick and tired of Brexit and its effects; want things to move on; want to be able to heat their homes and eat their meals; afford to pay mortgages; want to be able to put petrol in their cars without having to take out a mortgage; want their wages to keep pace with inflation, want hospitals that work; trains that run. The list is long.

Gulf News



## Sudan: To break the cycle of violence, end the kleptocracy

**T**HE violence in Sudan is often portrayed as simply a disagreement between two men with money and guns. It is not. Mohamed Hamdan "Hemedti" Dagalo, leader of the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF), and Abdel Fattah al-Burhan, head of the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) are the two public faces of extensive elite networks whose members had, until recently, a shared understanding of how to distribute Sudan's wealth among themselves and their client supporters.

To stop the fighting in the short term then, mediators need to facilitate not only a political deal between the warring parties but also to broker a financial settlement among their allies. In the longer term, to break the cycle of violence, action is needed to make the prize of state capture less attractive to the country's ruling class. This means sanctioning Sudanese individuals and their corporate entities and also targeting those who help move and convert their corrupted capital abroad: the bankers, lawyers and accountants in places like Dubai, London and New York. Impunity for kleptocracy must end if a transition to a stable, rules-based government is to succeed in Sudan. But this must be done carefully. Sudan - just like Myanmar - should serve as a cautionary tale for democrats seeking change. In both countries, the military regimes have demonstrated they are happier to relinquish political power than they are to give up their economic interests.

Sudan's previous longstanding political settlement under President Omar al-Bashir was dramatically rewritten by a popular revolution, which led to his ouster in April 2019. Soon after, a transitional government took over after civilian forces and the military struck a power-sharing deal. But the civilian faction in the government moved too quickly to dismantle the lucrative network of businesses built under al-Bashir's rule and controlled by the military. This resulted in a military coup carried out by al-Burhan in October 2021. The political settlement, which followed and which seemed to be just another military junta, in fact represented an unstable balance of power between Sudan's principal security actors and their networks of domestic and international allies. Hemedti, the face of one network, built his power base among armed groups - known as the Janjaweed - co-opted by al-Bashir to suppress a rebellion in Darfur in 2003. A decade later, Hemedti was promoted to head of the newly formed RSF, which was put directly under presidential control. Eventually, Hemedti gained control of lucrative gold mines in Darfur and used their riches to recruit and massively expand the RSF's forces.

He also lent out RSF troops to fight in Yemen and Libya, expanding his political network to include the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia and the Libyan warlord Khalifa Haftar. His business network also grew to comprise not only private military

contracting but also gold trading, mining, construction and high-end real estate. Al-Burhan, the face of the other rival network, commands the SAF, which also has an extensive business empire. Senior officers control companies in sectors as diverse as construction and meat processing. Al-Burhan enjoys the support of Egyptian President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi, who is keen to avoid the example of a military regime in the region being replaced by a civilian government. What finally broke the fragile pact between these rival networks was the plan to incorporate the RSF into the SAF. Hemedti wanted to slow-roll integration. He knew that once the RSF was no longer under his exclusive command, he would lose his military veto on actions that threatened his interests. Sudan's violence then should be understood as a function of rival networks and competing material interests and should be addressed accordingly. One strategy would be to incentivise groups within a network not to fight. The United

States, a message needs to be sent to Sudan's kleptocratic class that using violence to secure vested financial interests does not pay. US President Joe Biden's executive order authorising sanctions against individuals deemed to be "destabilising" Sudan is a step in the right direction. Much has been learned about how to make sanctions bite after the West's punishing response to Russia's invasion of Ukraine. It means not only freezing the overseas assets of Sudanese individuals and the companies they control but also criminalising assistance given to them by bankers, lawyers, accountants and other service providers located in major financial centres to transfer, hide, launder and grow illicitly acquired wealth abroad.

We could also be bolder by making the kleptocrats, not foreign donors, pay for the destruction wrought. This could be done by helping Sudan recover stolen assets. According to the anti-corruption NGO Global Witness, Hemedti's wealth is concentrated in the family-controlled com-

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States and Iraqi governments did this in Iraq in 2007 when they paid Sunni tribesmen to stop fighting against them and to instead fight with them.

When brokering a financial settlement to stop the violence in the short term, mediators should extend feelers to groups within the RSF whose allegiances could be turned. Loyalties may be more negotiable among Chadian and other foreign fighters as well as those recruited from Sudan's Kordofan region. Mediators should also reach out to Sudan's other major armed groups who have not yet taken a side. Minni Minnawi of the Sudan Liberation Movement, Gibril Ibrahim of the Justice and Equality Movement and Malik Agar of the Sudan People's Liberation Movement-North are key players whose involvement could turn the violence into a pro-

pany Al Junaid, and the RSF reportedly has an account in its name with the First Abu Dhabi Bank. For al-Burhan, the military's business empire is held by the umbrella company Defence Industries System. These assets could be confiscated and deployed to rebuild the country and compensate victims of the violence. The costs of inaction are well-known. Sudan is home to nearly 47 million people and Khartoum to more than 6 million. If the fighting continues, the humanitarian and refugee crises will be massive. A disorderly exodus of civilians risks destabilising neighbours and further straining a fatigued international refugee regime. It may also entrench a war economy wherein the parties learn fighting is more profitable than peace. The effort required to stop the killing then will be much costlier than it is now.

## The banned Russian landmine with a deceptively poetic name

Sasha Dovzhyk

**‘Sauna! Lunch! Delivery!’ tempts an advertisement by the side of the road. “Mines” reads a fresher sign just underneath. These red warnings bloom all over the scorched earth of eastern Ukraine. From our minibus, we see village after village erased by the Russian onslaught - houses burnt with phosphorus, forests mangled with missiles, fields littered with the carcasses of tanks. We are a team of writers, journalists and scholars united by the literary and human rights organization PEN Ukraine.**

We bring aid to the recently liberated towns and villages close to the frontline - but we also bring ourselves to bear witness to Russia's crimes against our people and our land. The town which tries to lure us with the promise of saunas and landmines is Sviatohirsk. Once a resort in the Donetsk region, complete with a pine forest and an Orthodox monastery hanging over the river on chalk cliffs, it was under Russian occupation for three months over summer last year. Today it still smells of pines, but also of burnt metal. Scorched military equipment rots in the locals' backyards from which the occupiers shelled Ukrainian positions.

The Russians tried to shell the townspeople into submission too: A school gapes at us with two black holes from a Russian tank's direct hit. Apartment blocks are dissected by air bombs - the remnants of the residents' possessions are mixed with bricks and concrete on the road. When Ukrainian troops liberated the town in September, most of those who survived the Russian occupation lost between 15 and 20 kilograms of

weight, the head of the town told us. The Russians had left no way for the locals to get food. The impact of the sites of human suffering is visceral. The first glimpse of a building cut in two by a missile might fold you down the middle. The realisation of the harm done to nature is slower, but it creeps up on you as well. Your peripheral vision registers trees scarred by shrapnel, woods sealed off by "danger" signs, shells sticking out of gardens.

While trying not to step on the remains of someone's daily life thrown under your feet by a shockwave (a notebook, a pack of paracetamol, bed linen), you quickly learn to also scan the ground for mines. You only walk on asphalt; high grass is out of bounds. The wounded nature is eerie and every step in its direction needs to be cautiously negotiated. A great deal of eeriness is due to the highly explosive Russian "petals." "Petal" - or, "lepestok," in Russian - is the poetic name of an internationally banned Russian-made anti-personnel landmine. Scattered from aircraft or delivered by mortars, the "petals" spin through the air, bite into the earth and explode upon contact with as little as 5 kilograms of weight. The Russians have sown these seeds throughout the liberated and frontline territories of Ukraine.

For me, the weapon's name evokes the children's fairy tale "Rainbow flower" by the Soviet Russian writer Valentin Kataev. In the story, a little girl receives a flower with seven rainbow-coloured petals, and each petal can make a wish come true. The ordinary plot conceals a true

minelet in the form of a chant which has bitten into the memory of generations of Russian-speaking kids. Heard once, the words with which the heroine sends her magic petals travelling around the globe can't be unlearned: Fly, petal, oh-East to West you go. Then North to South And turn about. Touch the ground, do. Make my wish come true. Decades later, other Russian petals - these ones of a military nature - have also touched the ground to make the wish of the sender come true.

The Russian wish for Ukraine appears to be death: to render Ukrainian land uninhabitable, to maim and kill those who live on it. But as one learns from Kataev's tale, the Russian petals travel far and know no borders. We pass by the heavily mined fields of rich black soil which will bear no fruit this year other than that planted by the enemy. Hectare by hectare, Russia's invasion turns barren the country which contains almost a quarter of the world's chernozem, a highly fertile soil. In November, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky reported that 200,000 hectares (almost 50,000 acres) of Ukrainian land were contaminated with unexploded mines and shells. Even after the contaminants are removed, the toxins they release will affect the fields' fertility for years. We pass by the pine forests laden with mines. They will for decades preserve a serene and untouchable beauty one can only mourn from afar, standing on a safe patch of asphalt. We pass through the land under the darkest of spells. A similar spell was cast upon Ukraine by the previous iteration of

the same empire almost four decades ago. Our trip to the Kharkiv and Donetsk regions coincides with the 37th anniversary of the Chernobyl nuclear catastrophe which has led to the creation of the 30-kilometer exclusion zone in the north of the country. From Moscow's decision to build the nuclear power plant some 90 kilometers from the capital city of Kyiv, to the Kremlin's coverup of the accident, the disaster epitomised Russia's colonial practices and disregard for life in Ukraine. In the poem, "On the banks of the Prypiat a devil is sleeping," Ukrainian poet Lina Kostenko reflects on the Chernobyl disaster: This his empire. And he is the emperor.

The reactor, all black-his hell and his throne. In the sands he sleeps, curled up in flame. In his circle of ravens he dreams all alone of Ukraine, of the whole of Ukraine. Russia keeps dreaming of the whole of Ukraine, and the burnt-out eastern landscape is the stamp of the sleep-walking necrophile. This time, the succession of nightmares enabled by Russia's previous impunity must be stopped. The persecution of Russia on the grounds of ecocide - environmental destruction - is one of the 10 points in Ukraine's peace formula. Although wars unfold in landscapes, and although control over landscapes is among the wars' declared aims, one chiefly relies on human testimonies to document, expose and interpret the wars' effects. The destruction of a natural landscape is as much of a war crime as the destruction of human life. Like a human body, the body of a land can hurt. And for its agony, justice must be served.

CNN

## A deal with Russia on Syria could shorten the war in Ukraine

Dr. Dania Koeilat Khatib

**I**T was reported last week that Russian troops had retreated in Bakhmut due to a "severe shortage of credible combat units." Moscow rushed to deny the news. While Westerners are rejoicing in every Russian setback, they should be careful what they wish for. The last thing the West needs is for Russia to become desperate and to take desperate measures.

The Russians will not accept defeat. This is beyond Vladimir Putin or the Kremlin, it is about Russian national pride. They will take every measure to prevent defeat. Hence, a negotiated settlement is needed to end the war with the fewest casualties and least damage possible. Syria could be a gateway to such a settlement, as the West and Russia have the common goal of stabilizing the country. But there is of course one point of contention: Bashar Assad.

So far, the West's policy toward Russia has been to isolate it. However, isolating Russia is unlikely to end the war. Moscow is finding creative ways to survive. It is looking to US competitors for alliances. It is now closer to China and is definitely closer to Iran. US allies like Saudi Arabia and Turkiye have remained neutral on Russia. They have not deemed it worthwhile to sever their ties with Russia to please an unreliable and whimsical partner. Despite the confiscation of Russian funds in Western capitals, Russia seems to be able to survive. Germany plans to stop almost all Russian oil imports this

year, with the broader plan to wean itself off the country's gas by mid-2024. The EU has a similar plan. It wants to quit Russian fossil fuels by 2027. These are all efforts to isolate Russia instead of engaging with it. Nevertheless, Russia will find alternative buyers for its gas and will make friends in the East. The economic hardship will not push Russia to surrender. So far, a settlement does not appear to be a possibility, as the trend is to isolate Russia rather than to engage. A settlement needs engagement and, for engagement to work, it needs confidence to be built. Today, there is a high amount of mistrust between the West and Russia. The issue is also complicated. The Ukraine dossier involves Crimea, the Donbas, Georgia, the status of NATO in Europe and many other complications.

An easier path to take would be to start engaging with Russia on Syria, for the simple reason that the long-term goal of both the international community and Russia is to stabilize Syria. Arab states are today engaging with Assad on a step-by-step basis in order to contain the influence of Iran and Turkiye in Syria. Despite its narrative, the US would tolerate this process if it led to Russian influence being diminished. However, Assad is unwilling and incapable of making any changes. He does not even have the muscle to capture a drug dealer in the southwest of the country. Instead, the Jordanian air force had to do the job for him. Assad also has a

track record of reneging on his promises. There is no reason for him to change his behavior now, hence the need to engage with the regional powers. And Russia is a main player that needs to be on board to stabilize Syria.

Though Assad is Russia's ally, Moscow knows he cannot stabilize Syria. Russia has clashed with Assad on several files. For example, during the battle for Aleppo, Moscow sent in the Chechen military police. It sent Sunni units to make sure the local population did not feel offended or aggressed. The units were tasked with stabilizing the city and ensuring that no homes were confiscated. However, Assad and the Iranian militias kept on conducting operations against the Russians. Ultimately, the Russians retreated because they did not want to confront Assad or the Iranians. And in a 2018 initiative to encourage the return of refugees, Russia pressured Assad to issue an amnesty for those who had failed to report for conscription.

Assad, in order to prevent the return of refugees, had issued a law, under which all males who turned 18 and did not report for conscription were subject to a jail term and a fine. This pushed those refugee families with boys that had reached that age while they were outside the country to stay outside. Despite the amnesty, Assad found creative ways to prevent people from coming back. Returnees were arrested on arbitrary and false charges. Hence,

people were deterred from returning.

Another instance where Assad played the role of the spoiler was in Deraa, where he reneged on all his commitments as Russia's effort to reconcile the regime and the rebels fell short of stabilizing the area. Nevertheless, Russia has no one but Assad to protect its interests in Syria. If he goes, Moscow will lose all the investments it has made to protect its interests, namely its bases in Tartus and Hmeimim. So, if the West clinches a deal with Russia and treats it as an equal, this can be the first confidence-building step. Though the Western frame of mind is against giving Russia any concessions and is driven by a zero-sum mentality, flexibility is needed, otherwise Ukraine is set for a long conflict with Russia - and, even worse, a more devastating war, in which Russia uses extreme measures. So, it is important to engage and Syria could be a relatively easy entry point. Also, a deal on Syria could save face for Putin. A deal that protects Russia's strategic interests can encourage Putin to go for another deal, while telling his audience that he has finally come to terms with the West and that the West understands Russia cannot be humiliated.

The West should quickly engage with Russia and stabilize Syria, as this is a good entry point for the streamlining of other issues. However, the first step would be for the West to get rid of its zero-sum attitude when dealing with Russia.

Arab News

### Important Notice

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



## SBP enhances control measures requirements to protect customers from digital banking frauds

KARACHI (PPI): In a major policy directive for combating the menace of social engineering and other digital banking frauds, State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) in a statement on Thursday directed commercial banks and Microfinance Banks to improve their digital fraud protection controls and processes in order to prevent the, failing to which they shall be held responsible for loss of any customer funds due to delay on their part in by taking timely remedial and control preventive measures.

These new measures are part of wider SBP objective to enhance digital financial inclusion and promote digital financial services by creating and enhancing customer trust in the safety, security & soundness of the digital banking ecosystem.

With the increasing adoption and usage of digital banking in Pakistan by a large number of financial services users, fraudsters

have been taking advantage of lack of awareness among customers. SBP has been in constant consultation with the banking industry and other stakeholders to devise controls against sophisticated fraud techniques such as spoofing of banks' official helpline numbers, SIM swap attacks, identity theft, false registrations, etc. as well as focusing on consumer awareness program by SBP and banks.

It is worth noting that on April 14, 2023, SBP rolled out a new and detailed set of guidelines on enhancing security of digital banking products and services. These guidelines set out a comprehensive control regime for banks to implement by December 31, 2023. The new guidelines restrict Financial Institutions (FIs) to Formulate Digital Fraud Prevention Policy to protect their account holders and ensure effective communication of such policy. Accordingly, they will design, review and continu-

ously improve end-to-end processes of digital fraud risk management and customer complaint management in consultation with relevant stakeholders.

According to these guidelines, FIs will design the process and application in such a way that the chances of disclosure of customer information - in whole or partially-are eliminated or minimized. Importantly, FIs will realign their processes for fraud risk management and complaint management to ensure that the dispute against the fraudulent transactions are immediately raised in Fraudulent Transaction Dispute Handling (FTDH) system.

These guidelines cover areas including governance & oversight of digital frauds, implementation of international standards and, fraud risk management solutions. This comprehensive control regime will also cover transactional controls such as reasonable

and configurable limits, to prevent, trace and stop fraudulent transactions; device registration, monitoring of fraudulent devices, accounts, transactions and incident-related controls such as post-incident follow-ups, handling of disputed transactions, protection of customer data and information such as encryption, etc.

In one of the major interventions to restrict fraudulently transferred funds from leaving the banking system, SBP has directed banks offering branchless banking wallets to restrict cash-out, mobile top-up and other online purchases from incoming fund transfers for two (2) hours. A new liability shift framework is also part of these instructions, where banks are required to compensate the customers due to delay on their part in taking timely remedial and control measures such as delay in blocking digital channels, delay in raising dispute requests, etc.



MULTAN: A shopkeeper busy in binding the crates of eggs to deliver in the market at his shop.

## ICCI calls for Pak-Turkiye FTA to boost bilateral trade

ISLAMABAD (NNI): S.M. Tanveer, Minister for Industries and Commerce of Punjab said that Pakistan and Turkiye enjoy exemplary friendship and it is the right time that the business community of both countries should strive for developing strong trade ties that would be more beneficial for both nations.

He said this while talking to Enes Malik Cetin, Commercial Counsellor of Turkiye during his visit to Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (ICCI).

Speaking on the occasion, Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (ICCI) said that there are immense business opportunities between Pakistan and Turkiye and both countries should sign a free trade agreement to boost bilateral

trade up to their actual potential. He said that Pakistan and Turkiye had signed a preferential trade agreement in August 2022, which came into effect from 1st May 2023 and hoped that it would contribute to improve bilateral trade between the two countries. He said that the PTA has provided preferential access to the many products of both countries in each other's market and emphasized that the private sectors of both countries should take maximum benefit of it to increase bilateral trade volume. He said that the embassy should share a list of its top

imports with ICCI so that the business community can explore the possibility of exporting more products to Turkiye.

Enes Malik Cetin, Commercial Counsellor of Turkiye said that his country considers Pakistan a very close friend and wants to strengthen trade ties with it. He said that keeping in view the success of PTA, Turkiye would consider FTA with Pakistan. He stressed for close collaboration of ICCI with trade associations of Turkiye including MUSIAD in order to explore all untapped areas of mutual cooperation between the

two countries. He said that direct business linkages between the private sectors would help enhance trade and economic ties between Pakistan and Turkiye and assured that his embassy would cooperate with ICCI in this regard. Faad Waheed, Senior Vice President ICCI said that Pakistan can export many products to Turkiye including textiles, pharmaceuticals, cement, marble at competitive prices and stressed that Turkiye should consider importing these products from Pakistan.

Engr. Azhar ul Islam Zafar, Vice President ICCI stressed for regular interaction between ICCI.

## IIL goes green with installation of 1 MW solar power system



### F.P. Report

KARACHI: International Industries Limited (IIL), Pakistan's largest manufacturer & exporter of steel and polymer pipes, proudly announces the successful commissioning of a state-of-the-art 1 MW solar power system at IIL Factory 1 in Karachi.

This initiative marks a significant step towards IIL's larger commitment to sustainability and reducing its environmental footprint by installing a total of 4MW of renewable

energy across all its factory locations.

"We are thrilled to unveil our new solar power system, which represents our strong commitment to sustainability and environmental stewardship," said Mr. Sohail R. Bhojani, CEO of International Industries Limited. "By harnessing renewable energy, we are not only reducing our carbon footprint but also demonstrating our dedication to responsible business practices and to contributing towards a greener

future for Pakistan and the world at large", he further added.

Aside from the significant contribution to carbon footprint reduction, the solar power system is expected to generate substantial cost savings for International Industries Limited over its operational lifespan. By relying on solar energy, the company will significantly reduce its dependence on conventional power, thereby mitigating the impact of rising energy costs and enhancing its long-term financial sustainability.

## China establishes national financial regulatory administration

BEIJING (Xinhua/APP): The National Administration of Financial Regulation (NAFR) was officially set up on Thursday as China's new financial regulator, marking an important step in the country's institutional reform on financial supervision. The NAFR, directly under the State Council, is formed on the basis of the China Banking and Insurance Regulatory Commission.

The new administration is in charge of regulating the financial industry, with the exception of the securities sector. It will take over certain functions of the People's Bank of China and the China Securities Regulatory Commission.

The establishment of the new regulator is expected to strengthen and improve the country's financial regulation, and tackle some of the long-standing and prominent problems in the financial sector.

The plan to set up the administration was adopted by the national legislature in March.

## US stocks rally as Biden, McCarthy offer reassurances on talks

NEW YORK (AFP/APP): Wall Street stocks finished solidly higher Wednesday, shrugging off a mixed session in overseas markets on hopes for an agreement to avert a US debt default.

Although there is still no compromise to lift the nation's debt ceiling, President Joe Biden said he was "confident" the country would not default, while Republican House Speaker Kevin McCarthy said he was "optimistic about our ability to work together."

Markets continue to watch the talks. "We've seen that many times before, it always gets resolved," said LBBW's Karl Haeling. "But the unknown factor is the politics of the hard-core Republican representatives."

Biden was scheduled to attend a G7 summit in Japan, but has scrapped subsequent stops planned in Papua New Guinea and Australia, and will instead return to Washington on Sunday as time to reach a deal runs low.

## Lucky Cement Limited announces expansion of clinker production Capacity in Iraq

### F.P. Report

KARACHI: Pakistan's leading cement manufacturer Lucky Cement Limited is pleased to announce its strategic move to enhance clinker production capacity in Iraq. In line with the increasing demand for cement in Iraq, driven by the resurgence of economic activity and a surge

in construction projects, Lucky Cement's joint venture company with Al-Shumookh group, Najmat-Al-Samawah (NAS), has resolved to add a new clinker production line in Samawah, Iraq.

This expansion will boost the clinker production capacity by an additional 1.82 million tons per annum (MTPA), reinforcing

ing Lucky Cement's commitment to meet Iraq's growing cement requirements and ensure a sustainable supply of clinker for the Joint Venture cement grinding facility in Basra, Iraq. NAS has recently entered into an Engineering & Procurement Contract for the expansion project. The construction activity is slated to commence within the

first quarter of FY24 and is expected to be completed within 18 months, showcasing the efficiency and promptness of Lucky Cement's execution capabilities. With the inclusion of this new clinker line, Lucky Cement's overall domestic and international capacities will be significantly enhanced. The updated capacities are as follows:

**PAKISTAN CIVIL AVIATION AUTHORITY (PCAA)**

**TENDER NOTICE**

**EXTENSION IN BID SUBMISSION / OPENING DATE**  
I/T No. HQCAA/1992/201/XXLN

It is notified for the information of all concerned that the bid submission date, along with following details for the subject IT been extended as mentioned below:-

Sr. No.	Description and I/T No.	Bid Submission Date/Time/Place	Bid Opening Date/Time/Place	Bid Opening Date/Time/Place	Bids Price/Fee
1	1712/HQCAA/1992/201/XXLN Procurement of High Power (HP) 10T Transformers System (up to 2500 KVA) and 1000V Switchgear (up to 1000A) (WB, Testing, Installation & Commissioning on Turnkey Basis)	15-06-2023 10:00 hrs	15-06-2023 11:30 hours (Up to 1000A) (e.g. AWS, etc.)	16-06-2023	0.05

All other clauses would remain the same. This corrigendum is also available on PCRA website.  
www.pcaa.org.pk and CAA website www.caa.gov.pk

**ADDITIONAL DIRECTOR LOGISTICS (ANS)**  
**HQ CIVIL AVIATION AUTHORITY**  
Phone: 021-9907-2265 Fax: 021-9924-2675  
CAA IAP, Islamabad

**PID(K) 3297/22**  
www.caa.gov.pk

**IN THE COURT OF SPECIAL JUDGE (CUSTOMS & TAXATION), KARACHI**

**Special Case No.145/2019**  
**FIR# ASO-187/2019-HQ**  
**P.S. CUSTOMS, Karachi.**

**The State.....Versus.....Ahsan Ullah Khan**

**PROCLAMATION REQUIRED THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON UNDER SECTION 87 Cr.PC.**

1. Whereas, complaint has been made before me that namely Ahsan Ullah Khan S/o. Khalil Ullah Khan, R/o. Mohallah Kass Ghaly Ghai Tehsil & Distt Sawat, CNIC No.15602-4880079-9 has committed an offence of smuggling and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said accused person cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the above mentioned accused person absconded to avoid the service of the said warrant.

2. Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused is required to appear on 19.05.2023 at 09:00 am before this Hon'ble Court to answer the said complaint.

Given under my hand and seal of the Court this 28.03.2023

**--sd--**  
**Special Judge**  
**Special Court (Customs & Taxation) Karachi**

**PID(K) 3274/22**

**COURT NOTICES**

In the court of Mr. Kaleem Ullah-II/Elaga Qazi Malakad at Bathkela. Case No 6/1 of 2023, Next date: 20/05/2023, Mr. Bakht Zamin Versus Mr. Zubair ul Haq Proclamation Against Legal heirs:(1) Zubair ul Haq (2) Ubaid Ullah s/o Bakht Zamin resident of Ghoro Tangy P.O Alladand District Malakand. In the above title case the service of you above named defendants is not possible with ordinary means, hence you are hereby informed through this notice on proclamation to attend this court on 20/05/2023 at 08:30am in person or through appointed agent/attorney or through counsel, otherwise you shall be place and proceed against ex-parte.

**IN THE COURT OF MUHAMMAD UMAIR QASMI CIVIL JUDGE -V, BANNU Suit No.69/1 institution 22.09.2020 & 02.01.023 Next date of is 03.06.2023. Title: Noor Ayub Khan etc vs Taj Muhammad Khan etc TO-4, Shamtar Ali Khan alias Yasir Son of Sher Muntali Khan alias Sher Muntall Khan 20,Mst: PariZada Daughter of Yaqoob Khan 46.Samran Son of Maral R/O Khojari Khass Bannu presently abroad. The defendants are informed through this notice to appear in this court on 03.06.2023. After this no excuse would be accepted and ex-parte proceedings shall be initiated against you. Given under my hand and seal of this court.**

**IN THE COURT OF SAIMA EHSAN CIVIL JUDGE II/Allaqa Qazi Buner at Daggar. Case No.3/12/2. Institution 4/7/2023. Date of hearing. 25/5/2023. Sarzamin Khan VS Sadar Khan. Notice to no. 7.Mst. Sahib Zara d/o Ajon Khan. 7A/2.Ali Said. 7A/3.Mian Said. 7A/7. Suleman son. 7A/8.Imran Said sons of Gul Zara resident of Jowar tehseil Gadezai district Bannu. Whereas in the above mentioned case the mentioned defendants can not be served in the ordinary way, it is, therefore, proclaimed that if the said defendants will/shall not appear personally or through dually authorized agent or pleader in the court at 8.30 am dated 25/5/2023 the proceeding will be taken ex- parte. Given under my hand and seal of this Court.**

**IN THE COURT OF SAIMA EHSAN Civil Judge II/Allaqa Qazi Buner at Daggar. Case No.242/1. Institution 14/2/2022. Date of hearing. 29/5/2023. Fazalullah etc VS Khan Bahadur etc. Notice to no. 3.Nadar Khan s/o Sher Bahadur resident of Kankoy Chamlah tehseil Mandar district Bannu. Whereas in the above mentioned case the mentioned defendant can not be served in the ordinary way, it is, therefore, proclaimed that if the said defendant will/shall not appear personally or through dually authorized agent or pleader in the court at 8.30 am dated 29/5/2023 the proceeding will be taken ex- parte. Given under my hand and seal of this Court.**

**MISSING DOCUMENTS**

I have lost my International Islamic University Degree Serial No. 2241 Roll No. 189 and necessary documents. If anyone has any information about it, please send it to the below address. Prominent: Ambarin D/o Gul Ahmed Resident of Dheri Julgram Tehsil Bathkila District Malakand.

I have lost original documents of plot during travel from Kohat to Rawalpindi plot registration # 00-A-006, Form # 1197914 of New Metro City Gojar Khan Rawalpindi Plot owner as on documents is Muhammad Nawaz s/o Muhammad Noshad R/o Jungle Khal Kohat. If anyone finds please return it to Muhammad Yousaf S/o Fazal Mahmood Qureshi R/o Gulshan Abad Kohat CNIC # 14301-3918239-9.

**PAKISTAN SINGLE WINDOW (PSW)**

**CAREER OPPORTUNITIES**

The Pakistan Single Window (PSW) is a public sector company incorporated under Section 42 of the Companies Act, 2017 with the primary object of acting as the operating entity of Pakistan Customs, Federal Board of Revenue, for the development and operation of the Pakistan Single Window (PSW) system to facilitate imports, exports, and transit trade. The Company is headquartered at Islamabad with its regional office at Karachi. PSW is looking for energetic & motivated professionals for the following vacant positions.

Position Title	Location
Associate Software Architect	KHI
Principal Software Engineer, Principal Software Engineer II, Lead Software Engineer	KHI
Sr. Software Engineer/Sr. Software Engineer - II, Sr. Software Engineer - III	KHI
Analyst Software Engineer/ Software Engineer/ Software Engineer II	KHI
Senior Software Engineer - DevOps	KHI
Analyst Software Engineer - DevOps/ Software Engineer - DevOps	KHI
Senior SQA Analyst I/ Senior SQA Analyst II/ Senior SQA Analyst III	KHI
Principal Data Analyst/Engineer/ Principal Data Analyst II/Engineer/ Lead Data Analyst/ Engineer	KHI
Senior Data Analyst I/Engineer / Senior Data Analyst II/Engineer / Senior Data Analyst III/Engineer	KHI
Senior Data Scientist	KHI
Senior Product Owner	KHI
Product Owner	KHI
Principal Database Administrator	KHI
Release Manager	KHI
Senior IT Business/System Analyst	KHI
Business Analyst	KHI
Associate IT Business/System Analyst	KHI
Senior Business Analyst	KHI
Assistant Manager Change Management	KHI
Head of Digital Transformation Officer	KHI
Deputy Manager IT Ops & Support	KHI
Assistant Manager HR	ISB
Associate Systems Engineer - Servers & Storage	KHI
Assistant Manager Planning & Reconciliation	KHI
Procurement Executive	ISB
Lead Information System Auditor	ISB
Software Engineer II - UI/UX	KHI

Note: > Interested candidates can apply online and view a detailed job description along with the qualifications and experience required for the positions mentioned above by visiting the official website of PSW; [www.psw.gov.pk](http://www.psw.gov.pk) or by sending their updated resume at [careers@psw.gov.pk](mailto:careers@psw.gov.pk) by mentioning the position title in the subject line of the email.

> Application Deadline: 15 Days after the date of advertisement

> We are an equal-opportunity employer, Females are encouraged to apply.

> Job Type: Permanent.

**HR DEPARTMENT**

**PAKISTAN SINGLE WINDOW, 051-9245587**

**PID(I) 6993-22**



In brief

Zalmi to hold talent hunt prog from 23 F.P. Report

P E S H A W A R : Peshawar Zalmi will be holding talent hunt program from May 23 to 27 at Hayatabad sports Complex, Peshawar. Young cricketers from all over Khyber Pakhtunkhwa would be able to participate in open trials, said a press release. Peshawar Zalmi President Inzamam-ul-Haq, director of cricket Muhammad Akram, Kamran Akmal have been included in the selection panel for Open Trials. Chairman of Peshawar Zalmi Javed Afridi said best talent has emerged from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa in the last eight to ten years. Peshawar Zalmi Director of Cricket Muhammad Akram said young cricketers from all over Khyber Pakhtunkhwa would get an opportunity to show their skills in open trials.

Nida Dar’s mother passes away

L A H O R E (Monitoring Desk): Mother of Pakistan Women’s Team captain and all-rounder Nida Dar passed away on Wednesday. Family sources say that Nida Dar’s mother was seriously ill for the past few days. They also informed that her funeral prayers would be offered today (Thursday) after Asr prayers. Nida Dar was appointed Pakistan Women’s Team captain in April 2023. Dar is the most successful women’s T20I bowler. She is the first Pakistani cricketer to take 100 wickets in T20Is. She has played domestic cricket for Pakistan Universities, Zarai Taraqiati Bank Limited, Sialkot and Sydney Thunder.

Nooh Butt sidelined

K A R A C H I (Monitoring Desk): Renowned national weightlifter Muhammad Nooh Dastgir Butt has been sidelined from this year’s Asian Games and Paris Olympics 2024 for allegedly being part of a parallel weightlifting interim committee. However, the Commonwealth Games gold medalist has refuted the accusations made against him and categorically denied his affiliation with any interim weightlifting committee. Taking to his Instagram account, Nooh Dastgir Butt shared an official letter, that he received from the Pakistan Weightlifting Federation (PWF), which expressed reservations over his inclusion in the weightlifting event of the ongoing National Games. “I, unfortunately, won’t be able to participate in future weightlifting competitions — be it National Games (2023) or international competitions like Asian Games (2023) or Olympic Games (2024) — as I have been alleged to be a member of a parallel weightlifting interim committee by the Pakistan Weightlifting Federation (PWF). As a result, I won’t be given an opportunity or platform to participate in future competitions,” Nooh Dastgir Butt said on his official Instagram account. “I will come out and state openly that I am not a part of any parallel weightlifting interim committee in both word and deed. “I am only here for the weightlifting game, and I appeal to the Pakistani authorities and the public for their support, so that I can bring more medals and glory to Pakistan. Period.”



MEDINA DE POMAR: Lorena Wiebes of The Netherlands and Team SD Worx celebrates at finish line as stage winner ahead of Elisa Balsamo of Italy and Team Trek-Segafredo during the 8th Vuelta a Burgos Femenas 2023, Stage 1 a 115.6km stage from Quintanaortuño to Medina de Pomar.

## Narowal all set to host national T-10 match on May 28

ISLAMABAD (APP): A national-level friendly T-10 match will be played at the newly-built Narowal Cricket Ground on May 28 for which the district administration in collaboration with a PCB team has made elaborate arrangements. Chairing a review-meeting, Minister for Planning Development and Special Initiatives Professor Ahsan Iqbal on Thursday directed the quarters concerned to complete all the arrangements by May 22 as Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif was likely to be the chief guest on the occasion for the soft launch of Narowal Sports City.

Among others, the meeting was attended by

the Secretary Ministry of Inter-Provincial Coordination (IPC), the Director General of Pakistan Sports Board (PSB), the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) chairman (via Zoom), District Police Officer (DPO) and Deputy Commissioner (DC) of Narowal, Director PTV Sports and other relevant stakeholders.

The Narowal Sports City has 14 stadiums and sports courts such as cricket, football, hockey, volleyball, squash, table tennis, lawn tennis and badminton, besides other games including swimming pools.

Besides other dignitaries, members of the parliament and retired crick-

eters would be invited to witness the cricket match of leading national-level players, to be broadcast live by PTV Sports.

“The key objective of this activity is to provide the best platform to the youth of the country,” the minister said, who believed the youth had immense potential to transform the country.

Earlier, PCB Chairman Najam Sethi informed the participants that all arrangements had been finalized regarding the T-10 match pitch and the ground.

He said a special team of PCB had been deployed at the spot which had completed the technical matters of the match.

The meeting also decid-

ed that the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting would start the advertisement one week before the match, and all steps would be taken to facilitate the spectators and players.

It noted that last time over 10,000 spectators were present at the ground, and on May 28 the number was expected to exceed the previous figure.

Since the incumbent government came into power in April 2022, several initiatives have been taken for the youth and the construction of a 250-mini sports complexes across the country at the district level as part of the PM Youth Initiatives to provide basic facilities to the youth.

## Nadal pulls out of French Open, set to end career in 2024

MANACOR (Agencies): Rafael Nadal on Thursday withdrew from the French Open because his hip injury has not healed and said he expects 2024 to be his final year in professional tennis.

“It’s not a decision I’m taking, it’s a decision my body is taking,” said the 36-year-old Spanish player, who has played at the claycourt major every year since 2005 and won it 14 times.

Nadal said he was taking a few months off, meaning he will also definitely miss Wimbledon and most likely the US Open, before starting to play again. And he said next year would bring down the curtain on a career that has so far produced 22 Grand Slam singles titles.

“It’s probably going to be my last year on the professional tour, I can’t say this 100 percent because you never know what’s going to happen,” he told a news conference.

“The injury I suffered in Australia has not healed as we hoped.

“Roland Garros became impossible. I will not be there after many years, with everything that (tournament) means to me.”

Nadal said he will not set a date for his return, but said the Davis Cup in November could be a potential target. The former world number one has not played since the Australian Open in January where he picked up a hip injury in a shock second round loss to Mackenzie McDonald of the



United States.

He was expected to recover inside six weeks, comfortably in time for the claycourt season and to launch an assault on a record-extending 15th title at Roland Garros.

However, with his 37th birthday little over two weeks away and having skipped Masters events in Indian Wells, Miami, Monte Carlo, Madrid and Rome, Nadal appears to be facing a final battle he cannot win.

After a career plagued by knee, wrist and foot injuries in particular, the alarm bells have been ringing ever louder over the last year.

Nadal’s undefeated start to 2022, which saw him pick up a second Australian Open title, ended with a chest injury at Indian Wells.

“It feels like a needle all the time inside,” he admitted.

He swept to a 14th French Open in June but only after revealing he had required daily pain-killing injections in his foot, a consequence of suffer-

ing from Mueller-Weiss Syndrome, a rare degenerative condition.

“I played with no feeling in the foot, with a pain-killing injection in the nerve. The foot was asleep, and that’s why I was able to play,” he said at the time in Paris.

He added that he would undergo a treatment which would involve burning the nerves in his foot to permanently dull the pain. Weeks later, his dream of a third Wimbledon title ended in a semi-final withdrawal due to an abdominal strain.

- Dropping -

Nadal’s lengthy absence this year has also seen him drop out of the world’s top 10 for the first time in 18 years. His record at the French Open is unlikely ever to be broken.

Since his 2005 championship winning debut, he has racked up 112 wins and only been defeated three times. Two of those losses came against great rival Novak Djokovic in 2015 and 2021. The other was to Robin Soderling in 2009.

Djokovic, who shares the men’s record of 22 Slams with Nadal, will start as French Open favourite this year alongside world number one Carlos Alcaraz who is desperate not to see his Spanish compatriot throw in the towel.

“Let’s hope he continues to play for a long time and that we can enjoy his tennis,” said Alcaraz, the 20-year-old heir apparent to Nadal’s throne.

## Easah Suliman to represent Pakistan in upcoming int’l events

ISLAMABAD (APP): Easah Suliman, who represented England at various youth levels, would now be representing Pakistan football in upcoming international events.

Following FIFA’s approval, the Pakistan Football Federation (PFF) has been given the green light for Suliman to change his national eligibility and represent Pakistan in international football.

The 25-year-old centre-back, who was currently playing for UD

Vilafranquense in the second tier of the Portuguese football league system on loan from Vitoria Guimaraes SC, is now eli-

gible to wear the Pakistan national team jersey, said a press release on Thursday.

Suliman’s impressive background includes representing England at various youth levels, where he made history as the first player of Asian heritage to captain an England football side. Notably, he played a vital role in England’s triumph in the UEFA European Under-19 Championship in July 2017, featuring as a center back throughout the tournament.

Easah Suliman, previously a player for England’s U20 team, would now be representing Pakistan in upcoming events. This was an exciting development for

both Suliman and Pakistani football, as his experience and skills will be valuable assets to the team.

Head Coach Pakistan Football Team Shahzad Anwar said, “Making 142 appearances in club football is a remarkable achievement that showcases Easah Suliman’s dedication and professionalism as a footballer.

It demonstrates his ability to consistently contribute to his team’s success and perform at a high level over an extended period. This level of experience is invaluable, as it allows players to develop their skills, gain tactical knowledge and adapt to different match situations”, he said.

## Nahida thrilled to guide next generation of players

ISLAMABAD (APP): Nahida Khan, who would be the assistant coach of Blasters in the Pakistan Cup Women’s Cricket Tournament was thrilled to have the opportunity to guide and mentor the next generation of players.

“I have always been willing to take up new challenges since my childhood and that helped me grow. I have had a passion for coaching and as a player I was always curious about this art,” Nahida told PCB Digital.

Though Nahida was widely known as an opener, she also holds the record for most catches in an innings in ODIs. She grabbed four catches in the second match against Sri Lanka in Dambulla in 2018 as Pakistan defeated the hosts by a staggering 94 runs on their way to first-ever series clean sweep in the island.

“I am thrilled to have the opportunity to guide and mentor the next generation of players. This is certainly the right time to do so as we have some very exciting talent coming through. It is incredibly fulfilling to coach those with whom I have shared the field as teammates.” With her in-depth understanding of the game and years of experience, Nahida’s decision to become a coach was met with widespread support and excitement as she received certifications from the PCB and ACC.

She deputised Taufeeq Umar, the head coach of Amazons, in the Women’s League exhibition matches earlier in the year. Amazons won that three-match series ? part of the Pakistan Cricket Board’s efforts to pave way for the launch of women’s T20 league.

Reflecting on her stint during the Women’s League exhibition matches, she said, “Coaching the Amazons team in the Women’s League exhibition

matches was a fantastic experience. It was a privilege to work with talented players from different countries, exchanging ideas and strategies to enhance the game.” She wants to be an inspiration for the millions of girls who want to take up cricket as a profession. “I want these girls to see me as their examples. If they cannot become cricketers, they can take up other roles in the sport.”Nahida was optimistic about Blasters winning the Pakistan Cup Women’s Cricket Tournament, which begins in Karachi on Friday. “I believe the Blasters team has immense potential. We have strong combinations and there are expectations from this bunch. Muneeba Ali is leading the team and I am excited to see how she performs as a captain. I am excited to contribute to their growth and see the team achieve great success,” she said.

## World Cup 2026 teams to be based in ‘clusters’: Infantino

LOS ANGELES (Agencies): Teams at the expanded 2026 World Cup in the United States, Canada and Mexico will be based in regional clusters during the early rounds to ease travel, FIFA president Gianni Infantino said on Wednesday.

Speaking in Los Angeles to unveil the official logo and branding for the tournament, Infantino said the move was prompted by the scale of the 2026 finals. For the first time the next World Cup will include 48 teams – up from 32 – and will be co-hosted by three countries, another first.

“The challenges will be the whole logistics around it,” Infantino said. “It’s a continent – three countries and not three small countries either – three big countries. “The distances, the time zones, the climatic differences too – altitude in Mexico, sea level in other parts. “So for us it’s important to create the right envi-

ronment for the teams and the fans to be put in the best possible conditions.

“Meaning not having to travel too much, especially at the beginning. So we will create some clusters where teams will be based depending on the draw and then they will play their games in that particular cluster.” Infantino said travel, and the move towards basing teams in regions, had been discussed at a meeting in Doha last week of the 32 coaches involved in last year’s World Cup.

“This was one of the advantages of the World Cup in Qatar, where a player, one hour after the game, was in his bed,” he said.

“(In 2026) there will be some travel involved but we will coordinate that and make sure that it will be the best possible conditions for the teams.” Infantino meanwhile hopes the tournament can build on the success of

the 1994 finals in the United States, which helped establish Major League Soccer in North America.

Asked what he wanted the legacy of 2026 to be, Infantino told AFP: “That soccer will be the number one sport in North America.” Infantino’s remarks came as FIFA rolled out a “green carpet” for celebrities and former players at the Griffith Observatory overlooking Los Angeles.

The gala event was held to unveil the official branding for the 2026 tournament. Among the guests was former US international Alexi Lalas, one of the stars of 1994. Lalas backed Infantino’s pledge to base teams in regions. “At the risk of ‘grumpy old-manning’ it, it’s not like these guys are sitting in the middle seat in economy on a budget airline or anything,” Lalas told AFP. “They’re on charter aircraft all over the place.

## Man City thrash Real to reach Champions League final

LONDON (Agencies): Manchester City delivered a relentless performance laced with outstanding quality to overpower holders Real Madrid and reach the Champions League final against Inter Milan in Istanbul.

City have lost two previous semi-finals to Real but they made no mistake here at a joyous Etihad Stadium to now stand one step away from claiming the trophy that has always stayed tantalisingly out of reach for Pep Guardiola’s team.

And their display in a magical first half, in particular, will live long in the memory as the masters of this tournament were left bewildered by City’s brilliance. It maintained a seemingly unstoppable march towards a treble of Champions League, Premier League - which can be won with victory at home to Chelsea on Sunday - and the FA Cup, where they play Manchester United in the final at Wembley.

Real keeper Thibaut Courtois performed heroics to save two Erling Haaland headers early in the first half but he was powerless to stop Bernardo Silva’s close-range finish after 23 minutes, the Portugal midfielder scoring a looping header for the second eight minutes before half-time.

City faced the occasional threats from Real after the break, Ederson saving well from David Alaba and Karim Benzema, but they were no match and when Manuel Akanji’s header deflected in off Eder Militao 14 minutes from time the celebrations started.

Substitute Inter Alvarez then wrapped up the dominant win with a late strike after latching onto a brilliant Phil Foden pass. City will play Inter on 10 June as they look to win the Champions League for the first time.

Who can stop Manchester City?

City have put themselves in a magnificent position to



become only the second English club to win the Treble first claimed by Manchester United in 1999.

City look to have finally broken Arsenal in the Premier League title race and will be overwhelming favourites to beat Inter Milan, although the desire to keep this feat for them-

selves will provide fuel and inspiration for United in the FA Cup final at Wembley.

Guardiola’s side have somehow found ways to miss out on the Champions League in the past but the addition of Haaland’s sheer menace as well as more defensive steel makes it difficult to see how they will

not find a way past surprise finalists Inter.

City made a Real side full of experience and quality look several classes beneath them in a first half that will be among the finest this stadium has seen, the dazzling interplay, fierce intensity and pace giving them a two-goal

advantage that would have been far more but for the excellence of Courtois.

This night had a special atmosphere even before kick-off and victory will taste even sweeter after the pain of last season’s loss at the same stage, when City were almost in the final only to concede two stoppage-time goals and eventually go out.

The Champions League has inflicted various levels of anguish on City despite their domestic dominance but if they perform anything like this in Istanbul it is hard to see an efficient but unspectacular Inter side having enough to trouble them.

End of an era for Real?

Real should never be written off with their history of success but there was an end-of-an-era feel about the manner of this defeat.

The side who put Liverpool and Chelsea out of the Champions League with the minimum of fuss looked its age here as City

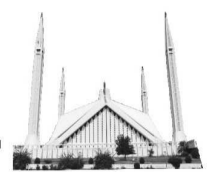
ran the holders ragged.

Luka Modric was taken off and replaced by Antonio Rudiger just after the hour, the 37-year-old’s future at the Bernabeu uncertain, while even Karim Benzema, 35, was unable to pose his usual threat.

Real will refuse to stand still and the way they were outclassed here may only speed up the rate of change, with England’s teenage sensation Jude Bellingham looking set to arrive to supplement the next generation midfielders alongside Federico Valverde, Eduardo Camavinga and Aurelien Tchouameni.

Whether the great Carlo Ancelotti remains in charge will also be a point of debate with change often in the air if Real go a season without winning either La Liga or the Champions League.

Whatever the outcome, the Italian manager keeps his place in history as the only coach to win this tournament four times.



## In brief

### IRSA releases 149,000 cusecs water

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Indus River System Authority (IRSA) on Thursday released 149,000 cusecs of water from various rim stations with an inflow of 129,200 cusecs. According to the data released by IRSA, the water level in River Indus at Tarbela Dam was 1427.08 feet and 29.08 feet higher than its dead level of 1,398 feet. Water inflow and outflow in the dam were recorded as 37,300 cusecs and 50,000 cusecs respectively. The water level in River Jhelum at Mangla Dam was 1116.20 feet, 66.20 feet higher than its dead level of 1,050 feet. The inflow and outflow of water were recorded as 40,900 cusecs and 48,000 cusecs respectively. The release of water at Kalabagh, Taunsa, Guddu and Sukkur was recorded as 58,500, 60,500, 40,600 and 13,400 cusecs respectively. Similarly, from River Kabul, a total of 30,600 cusecs of water was released at Nowshera and 11,200 cusecs were released from River Chenab at Marala.

### Gang busted; 3 thieves arrested

RAWALPINDI (APP): In an operation against criminal elements, Rawalpindi Police have busted a gang and arrested three thieves including ringleader besides recovering cash Rs 153,000, three stolen motorcycles, two mobile phones and other items from their possession. According to a Police spokesman, Wah Cantt Police arrested three accused namely Irfan alias Fani, Subhan and Hamad, who were wanted in different cases. He informed that the Police team constituted under the supervision of SHO Wah Cantt Police Station on the directives of SP Potohar Muhammad Waqas Khan conducted a raid and managed to net the gang members including the ringleader.

### Met Office predict hot & dry weather

ISLAMABAD (APP): Hot and dry weather is expected in most parts of the country on Friday. Met Office predicted that rain-thunderstorm is expected in Gilgit Baltistan, Kashmir and surrounding areas. According to the Synoptic Situation, a westerly wave is affecting upper parts of the country. However, rain-thunderstorm is expected at a few places in Upper Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Gilgit-Baltistan, Kashmir and surrounding areas on Thursday, while, hot and dry weather is expected elsewhere in the country. During past 24 hour the weather remained hot and dry in most parts of the country. However, rain-wind/thunderstorm occurred at few places in Punjab, Balochistan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Kashmir, Barkhan and Astore. The Rainfall (mm) recorded during 24 hours including Punjab Nor Pur Thal 42, Murree 17, Bahawalpur City, Jhang 12, Joharabad 11, Khanewal 10, Kasur 09, Multan (City 09 & Airport 02), Islamabad (Saidpur 09, Zero point 08, Bokra 03, Golra & Airport 01) Rawalpindi (Chaklala 08 & Shamsabad 04), Sargodha 08, Lahore (Airport 07 & City 02), D G Khan 07, Sahiwal 05, Bhakkar, Kot Addu 04, Bahawalpur Airport 03 Gujranwala, Chakwal, Bahawalnagar, Karor (Iayyah), Okara 02, Faisalabad, T T Singh 01, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Mir Khani 35, Kalam 15, Kakul 13, Dir (Upper 11 & Lower Dir 07), Malam Jabba 11, Drosch 10, Chitral 09, Saidu Sharif 05, D I Khan City 03, Balakot 01, Kashmir: Kotli 11, Garhi Dupatta 08, Muzaffarabad (Airport 05 & City 03), Rawalakot 02, Balochistan.



ISLAMABAD: Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Haji Ghulam Ali talking to a delegation from Kumrat, Dir, under the leadership of Mulana Noor Gul Shah.

## NA body directs to ensure presence of doctors during duty hours

ISLAMABAD (APP): National Assembly Standing Committee on National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination on Thursday asked the ministry concerned to ensure the provision of healthcare facilities in public sector hospitals and the presence of doctors and specialists during duty hours.

The committee meeting which was held with Dr. Muhammad Afzal Khan Dhandla, MNA in the chair, expressed displeasure on the attitude of officers for not taking the parliamentary business seriously.

The committee unanimously decided to proceed against those officers and heads of organizations who absent themselves from committee meetings in the future without any cogent reason. The committee also expressed its displeasure on the non-implementation of recommendations of the Standing Committee made in its previous meeting regarding action against the Registrar and repatriation of Assistant Registrar Pakistan Nursing Council (PNC) for their defiance towards the President of the Council and illegalities in carrying out official business of the Council.

The Committee recommended immediate compliance with its recommendation. The Committee also directed the Secretary of the Ministry to brief the Committee about the reconstitution of the PNC after the passage of the recently enacted PNC law.

The Secretary apprised that the Federal Ombudsman for harassment at the workplace had restrained the Ministry from taking any action against Assistant Registrar.

He apprised that a search Committee had been constituted for employing officers in the PNC and on its recommendations the process of recruitment was in process.

The Committee also expressed its displeasure with the absence of the President and Secretary of the Pakistan Pharmacy Council from the meeting. The Committee directed that departments should be represented by senior officers as required under the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the National Assembly 2007.

The Committee directed to conveying written displeasure to all those officers who were absent from the meeting.

The Committee after discussion unanimously approved the Pakistan Red Crescent Society Bill 2023 moved by Ms. Asiya Azeem, MNA. The Committee was apprised that the Bill in question seeks to bring the working of the Organization in line with the present-day requirements besides suggested observing neutrality, impartiality, and independence of the Organization besides adherence to the statutes of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Geneva Conventions.

The Committee appointed a Sub-Committee under the convenship of Mr. Nisar Ahmad Cheema, MNA and assigned all the pending business to it for its quick disposal.

The Committee has been assigned to discuss the Unani, Ayurvedic and Homeopathic Practitioners Amendment Bill, the Infectious Diseases and

Control Central Bill, calling attention notices and Questions referred by the House regarding Officers working in the Ministry on deputation, lack of services in Federal Government Poly Clinic, issues of vacant positions of doctors in PIMS etc. the Committee has been asked to complete the task in 30 days.

The Committee later directed the ministry to ensure payment of COVID risk alliance to the non-clinical staff of the hospitals in Islamabad as announced by the government. The Secretary Ministry of National Health Services apprised that the Ministry will ensure the payment and a summary in that regard has already been submitted to the Finance Division for allocation of funds. The Committee disposed of a matter referred by the Speaker to the Committee regarding discrimination against a private pharmacy institute. The Committee was apprised that the Pharmacy Council had rectified the issue by withdrawing its earlier communications.

The meeting was attended by Minister of State for National Health Services Dr. Mahesh Kumar Malani, MNAs Nisar Ahmad Cheema, Dr. Samina Matloob, Ms. Zahra Wadood Fatehmi, Dr. Darshan, Dr. Zulfiqar Ali Bhatti, Ms. Shamsun Nisa, Dr. Shazia Sobia Aslam Soomro, James Iqbal and movers Maulana Abdul Akbar Chitrali, Ms. Aliya Kamran, Ms. Asiya Azeem, and Secretary Ministry of National Health Services and Senior officers of concerned departments.

### ANF recovers over 54 kg drugs; arrests three

RAWALPINDI (APP): Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) in three operations managed to recover over 54 kg drugs, 93 intoxicated tablets, 45 heroin-filled capsules and arrested three accused, said an ANF Headquarters spokesman here on Thursday.

He said acting on a tip-off, ANF conducted a raid at Karkhano Market, Peshawar and recovered 45 heroin-filled capsules from the possession of two accused residents of Hangu. In another operation near Jamalabad Road, 54 kg charras was recovered. In the third operation conducted in Lahore Johar Town, 93 intoxicated tablets were recovered and ANF arrested an accused resident of Lahore.

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

### Poet, critic Wazir Agha remembered

ISLAMABAD (APP): Renowned Urdu language writer, poet, critic and essayist Dr Wazir Agha was remembered on the occasion of his birth anniversary on Thursday. He had written many poetry and prose books. He was also editor and publisher of the literary magazine "Auraz" for many decades. He introduced many theories in Urdu literature. His most famous work is on Urdu humour. His books focus on modern Urdu poets, notably those who have written more poems instead of ghazals. Agha's poems have mostly an element of story. Wazir Agha was born on May 18, 1922 in the village Wazir Kot in the Sargodha district.

During his school years, he developed a strong fondness for Urdu ghazals and started composing poetry on his own. He graduated from Government College, Jhang and later received his master's degree in economics from Government College, Lahore. He did his PhD from the University of Punjab in 1956 for his research on humor and satire in Urdu Literature. Books written by Wazir Agha included Adab Mein Tanz-o-Mazah (1958), Takhleequi Amal (1970), Urdu Shairi Ka Mizaaj (1965), Tasawurat-e-Ishq-o-Khird - Iqbal Ki Nazar Mein (1977), Majeed Amjad Ki Dastaan-e-Muhabbat (1991) and Ghalib Ka Zauq-e-Tamasha (1997).

## 'Dialogues & differences parts of politics but no attacks on institutions'

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister of State for Poverty Alleviation and Social Protection Faisal Karim Kundi on Thursday said the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) believed that dialogues and differences were parts of politics, but it had never resorted to attacks on state institutions. Addressing a press conference here, Faisal Kundi said May 9 was the darkest day in the country's history and the PPP strongly condemned the incidents in which government properties and military installations were burnt on that day. All the violence, rioting and arson occurred due to instigation of workers by the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf leadership, he added.

He said had the PTI leadership taken the negotiations with the government seriously, the May 9 tragic incidents would not have happened.

Kundi said politicians belonging to different parties had differences with another but a situation like May 9 had never arisen in the past. PTI Chairman Imran Khan had given a call to his workers for violence which the latter did. He himself did not condemn the burning of army installations, martyrs memorials and government buildings, while his party leaders were doing so, he added.

He said Imran Khan did not appear in the NAB court even yesterday, pretending that he was about to be arrested.

Kundi urged the federal and provincial

governments to avoid arresting the PTI's women leaders and families.

Faisal Karim Kundi said that Imran Khan always used women and children as a shield. During his government, many PPP women leaders were arrested and thrown in jails, and but now the PTI leaders were hiding for fear of arrest.

He said many PTI leaders had contacted them for joining the PPP, however, the PPP would not take such violent persons into its fold. He said the PPP respected the courts. Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto used to appear in courts in fake cases. One day she was to appear in a court in one city and the next day in another city hundred of miles away, but she never disrespected the institution, he recalled.

Kundi said a meeting of the PPP's Central Executive Committee had been called, where Chairman Bilawal Bhutto would take the party into confidence regarding the National Security meeting. He said Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, who is also Foreign Minister, would visit Azad Jammu & Kashmir from May 21 to 23 to highlight Indian atrocities in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK). The G-20 conference was going to be held in IIOJK and Pakistan had lodged protest at world fora, he added.

He said during his three days stay in AJK, Bilawal Bhutto would address the AJK Assembly and talk to the media

## Meeting held to review progress on out of school children in ICT

ISLAMABAD (APP): In continuation of the Zero Out of School Children (OOSC) Campaign in ICT, a meeting was chaired by the Secretary Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training Islamabad (MOFEPT) on Thursday.

Additional Secretary (MOFEPT) and HODs of FDE, BECS, NCHD, NEF, PIE and partner organizations from the private sector attended the meeting, said a press release. Secretary Education Ministry emphasized that the high number of Out of School chil-

dren in the ICT and all over Pakistan is very alarming and needs extra attention and effort.

He discussed the action plan with all stakeholders and issued directions to complete the assigned task before the deadline. He also reviewed the statistics of OOSC uploaded on the Dashboard of PIE.

The Directorate General of Basic Education Community Schools has collected the real-time data of 2500 OOSC during the last week and has enrolled 2241 children in newly established schools.

## PTI Senators avoid visiting Parliament, attending Senate Bodies' meetings

ISLAMABAD (INP): Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Senator terrified of arrest after key party leaders were detained in the backdrop of May 09, vandalism are avoiding to visit Parliament and to attend the meetings of Senate Standing Committees.

Meetings of the Senate Bodies with chairmen hailing from PTI are being cancelled while due to non attendance of party Senators in others was cre-

ating hurdles in agendas of the meetings.

Meeting of the Senate Body on Climate Change to be held on May 18, was cancelled by its chairperson Senator Seemi Ezdi, belonging to PTI.

PTI's Senator Hamayun Mohmand cancelled the meeting of Senate Standing Committee on National Health which was to be held on May 17.

Senator Walid Iqbal of PTI had cancelled the meeting of Senate Body on

Human Right to scheduled on May 15. Meeting of said committee to be held on May 10 was also cancelled.

Earlier, on May 09, Senator Zeeshan Khanzada cancelled the meeting of Senate Standing Committee on Commerce.

No PTI Senator attending the meeting of Senate Standing Committee on Education and Privatization held on May 18 and meeting of Senate Standing Committee on Finance held on May 17

## Police to construct 50 new quarters for female cops

ISLAMABAD (APP): Police have got administrative approval for the construction of 50 new houses for lady cops and two new barracks for police personnel. According to the police spokesman on Thursday, the police obtained administrative approval about 50 new quarters for lady police personnel and two barracks for 480 male personnel.

He said that all possible efforts were being made for the welfare of the personnel and Chief Inspector

General of Police (IGP) Dr Akbar Nasir Khan had taken several steps in that regard. He said, "Such gestures will boost the morale of the force and it is the top priority to ensure the best facilities for the personnel of all wings."

The spokesman said, "A state-of-the-art first National Police Hospital of 100 beds has been already approved and construction work will be started soon."

He said the much-awaited plan of the hospital got

the go-ahead with the special interest of Federal Minister for Development and Planning Ahsan Iqbal and Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah Khan who highlighted the issue of the lack of a hospital for the police service in the country.

The IGP approved the project for the Islamabad Police with a capacity of 100 beds. "The construction of residential flats for doctors and paramedics is also part of the project," he mentioned.

## PTA takes action against illegal internet service providers

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) in coordination with the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) has successfully conducted multiple raids against illegal internet service providers.

The action was taken to eliminate rampant proliferation of illegal internet service providers across the country, said a news release. During the two raids conducted at Muslim Town and Multan Road in Lahore, the equipment of illegal internet service providers was confiscated.

Moreover, an enforcement action was initiated in Rawalpindi, resulting in the identification and blocking of services

provided by an internet service provider that was still operating after the termination of the license.

The successful efforts against illegal internet service providers can be attributed to PTA's unwavering commitment, continuous monitoring, and persistent efforts to curb illegal internet services. These actions are crucial in preventing tax evasion and revenue misreporting, thus curtailing loss to the national exchequer. The PTA urged the public to only avail telecom services from PTA licensed operators to avoid sudden discontinuation of service. The list of licensed operators is available at: <https://pta.gov.pk/en/industry-support/home/list-of-operators>.

## PAC urges abolishing fixed gas meter rent of Rs500 per month

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Parliamentary Public Accounts Committee (PAC) has decided to write a letter to Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif to remove the ban on domestic gas connections and start installing a new gas meter. It also recommended scrapping the recently introduced fixed gas meter rent of Rs. 500 per month collected from natural gas consumers.

Chairing the meeting, Public Accounts Committee Chairman Noor Alam Khan said that the fixed charges of Rs. 500 per month are also being collected from cus-

tomers whose total bill doesn't exceed Rs. 1,500 per month.

He said that the poor simply cannot afford to pay such charges every month and called the charges 'illegal'.

Secretary Petroleum apprised the committee that the gas tariff was increased with retrospective effect beginning January 1, 2023. He further highlighted that those households, which consume less than 1 cubic hectometers (as per Ogra the threshold is 0.9 cubic hectometers), were not burdened by the increase. Noor Alam Khan

ordered that PAC's recommendations would be sent to the Prime Minister's Office for lifting of the ban on gas connections. Khan also directed the gas utilities not to collect the increased meter rent from the gas consumers. The PAC chairman said that he is not concerned about the industry but the general consumers should get gas on a priority basis.

The committee was also informed that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs would discuss the Iran-Pakistan gas pipeline issue with the US ambassador upon his return from Washington.



ISLAMABAD: Minister of State for Poverty Alleviation and Social Protection Faisal Karim Kundi addressing a press conference at PID Media Center.

#### Aid group concerned

KABUL (Agencies): The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) in a new report expressed concerns over the humanitarian crisis in Afghanistan. According to the report, successive droughts and increasing humanitarian needs in different sectors have increased the current crisis in Afghanistan and two-thirds of the country already has humanitarian needs in 2023.

## The Frontier Post

# AFGHANISTAN

Shawaal 28, 1444 — Friday, May 19, 2023

#### Maulvi Kabir takes charge

KABUL (Pajhwok): Deputy prime minister for political affairs Maulvi Abdul Kabir has been temporarily appointed as acting prime minister due to Mullah Mohammad Hassan's illness. After the regime change, Mullah Mohammad Hassan Akhund was appointed as the acting prime minister and Maulvi Abdul Kabir as his deputy for political affairs. Some sources told Pajhwok Afghan News that Mullah Hassan fell ill recently and has been in Kandahar province for some time.

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

## Qatar PM: Afghan people need intl help to avoid 'internal crises'

KABUL (TOLONews): The Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim Al-Thani said that in his meeting with the German Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock, there was emphasized "the necessity" for the "international community to cooperate to strengthen the capabilities of the people and enable them to avoid any internal crises."

The German Foreign Minister arrived in Qatar and met the country's officials, including Al Thani.

According to a statement of Qatar's Foreign Ministry, "both sides stressed the importance of having the international community continue cooperating to enhance the capabilities of the people and empower them against any internal crises, and the importance of moving forward in building peace, respecting human rights, especially women's rights, providing education for girls and achieving devel-



opment for all segments of Afghan society."

Al Thani earlier visited Kandahar province where he held talks with the Islamic Emirate's Prime Minister, Mullah Mohammad Hassan Akhund, who has currently not active in this position due to illness.

"The current government of Afghanistan can also reach itself to the

level of the world within a structure which is described by Islam," said Maisum Kazemi, political analyst.

The Islamic Emirate welcomed Qatar's stance toward cooperation with Afghanistan, saying that the interim government is trying to resolve the concerns of human rights in Afghanistan.

"The Islamic Emirate is

committed to making efforts to address concerns that exist regarding human rights as well, and we are trying to find a solution for the issues which have yet to be solved," said Zabiullah Mujahid.

Earlier, Qatar's Foreign Ministry said that Qatar has been trying to create a political path between Afghanistan and the international community.

## Kabul delegation departs for Islamic conference in Russia

KABUL (Agencies): The acting minister of Industry and Commerce with a delegation has traveled to Tatarstan in Russia having been officially invited to participate in the 14th international economic gathering titled "Russia and the Islamic World".

A spokesman for this ministry said that, in addition to participating in the meeting, Nooruddin Azizi will discuss with the authorities of Russia and other countries facilitating trade and investment growth and attracting investment in Afghanistan.

"While participating in the mentioned gathering, Mr. Azizi will meet with Russian officials and officials of other countries and big companies in relation to facilitating trade and investment growth between the two countries and attracting investment in Afghanistan," said Abdul Salam Jawad. Meanwhile, the Ministry of Higher Education said that in the three-day meeting, the deputy minister of



Academic Affairs of the Ministry of Higher Education will also talk about education and educational opportunities.

Several lecturers emphasized that in addition to providing these opportunities, the Islamic Emirate should also focus on reopening universities for female students.

"The nation asked the government to reopen schools and universities for girls as soon as possible," said Nasir Shafiq, a lecturer.

"The schools should not remain closed to women and girls and cause them challenges," said Safiullah Arabzada, a lecturer.

According to the Information of the Ministry of Higher Education, the deputy minister of Academic Affairs, the acting minister of Industry and Commerce, the economic deputy consultant of the prime minister, and the economic head of the Economic Ministry were included in the delegation.

## Qatar seeking to make political path between Afghanistan, World

KABUL (Agencies): Qatar's Foreign Ministry said that it has been trying to create a political path between Afghanistan and the international community. Speaking to reporters, a spokesman for Qatar's Foreign Ministry, Majed bin Mohammad Al Ansari, said that Doha played an important role as mediator, particularly at the end of the US involvement in Afghanistan.

Referring to the recent visit of Qatar's Prime Minister and Foreign Minister, Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al Thani, Al Ansari said that important economic issues were discussed during the visit.

On May 12, Al Thani arrived in Kandahar and met with officials of the Islamic Emirate including Prime Minister, Mullah Mohammad Hassan Akhund. "In these meetings, delivery of aid and the reduction of challenges of the country, particularly in economic and humanitarian affairs were focused. Qatar has played an important role in helping the brother-



ly people of Afghanistan.

Qatar is currently trying in regards of humanitarian aid and as a mediator and contact path between Afghanistan and international community," Al Ansari. Political analysts said that Qatar could play an important role in improving the Islamic Emirate's relations with the

international community.

"No one can improve the relations from inside Afghanistan until the Islamic Emirate bring changes in its policies--its restrictions imposed on women--particularly in human rights areas," said Wali Frozan, an international relations' analyst.

"Qatar is one of the

important countries involved in (Afghanistan) affairs. The current government of Afghanistan needs to take advantage of relations with Qatar and make contacts with the world and rescue Afghanistan from its current isolation," said Najibullah Jami, political analyst.

## Chairman says US House committee 'will do all it can for Afghan women'



KABUL (TOLONews): The chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, US Representative Michael McCaul, speaking at a discussion on Afghanistan, said the committee will do all in its power to assist Afghan women and girls.

Speaking at the "Roundtable on Crisis Facing Afghan Women and Girls," McCaul said that Since the Islamic Emirate came to power in

Afghanistan, the current Afghan government has issued more than 30 edicts aimed at severely limiting women's freedoms.

"This committee will do everything in its power to help Afghan women and girls. And to hold the Taliban accountable for its human rights abuses," McCaul noted.

However, the Islamic Emirate said that the issue of women's rights is the

country's internal issue, and that the current government is trying to find a solution to it in accordance with Islamic principles.

"The issues they raised are related to the people of Afghanistan and are the internal issue of the Afghan people and the country of Afghanistan. This has nothing to do with them and is an interference in other's affairs," said Zabiullah Mujahid, the Islamic

Emirate's spokesman.

According to some political analysts, the continued restriction on women's rights will exacerbate tensions between Kabul and the international community. "They should bring meaningful reforms regarding women's work and education so that the issue of Afghanistan's recognition will be resolved, and will lead to the stability and unity of the nation," said Najibullah Jami, a political analyst.

"The concerns of regional and beyond-region countries regarding women's rights to work and education are political. The position of women's education and their right to work is clear in Sharia law," said Mohammad Zalmay Afghanyar, a political analyst. At the moment, women are not allowed to enroll in universities, nor are they allowed to work for non-governmental organizations (NGOs). Girls above sixth grade are also prohibited from attending school.

## Khost volunteers imparting education to poor children

KHOST CITY (Pajhwok): A group of young volunteers has paved the way for a number of out of school and working children to continue their education in southeastern Khost province. The children aged between six and 14 years have stopped going to school due to financial hardships.

Rafiq, 12, originally from Paktia province who currently lives in Habashkhel area of Khost City, is one of the children benefiting from the free education. Rafiq told Pajhwok Afghan News that he carried people's luggage in his hand-cart from one

place to another in the city to eke out a living for his family. He would feel hopeless seeing boys of his age going to school, but his dreams came true after the volunteers enrolled him in their education facility.

"I'm very happy here, I learned a lot here. Now I can solve math questions, sentences and alphabets. Education is very pleasant," he added.

Bilal, 14, is another student enrolled in this free education centre. He told Pajhwok that despite tiredness after taking people's stuff from one place to another, he still he attended

his class in the education centre in the evening.

Bilal, who dropped out of school after his father became jobless, started working in order to support his family.

"My father went to Saudi Arabia for Umrah, then he was arrested there for overstaying his visa, we ran into debt.

My father told me to continue my education, but I said I should also work, right now I'm happy that I can study and work," he added.

Najibullah Zaland, one of the founders of the free education centre for poor

children, told Pajhwok that they taught Islamic subjects, reading, calligraphy and English language to the children. He said their initiative was new and on the first day they had two students, but currently their number was 20 and increasing day by day.

Zaland added: "A child works with his handcart all the day and earns 100 or 150 afghanis, we convince these children participate in lessons with us."

He said expenses for stationary and other educational materials were provided by businessmen of the province.

## Motorists call to expedite Kabul-Kandahar Highway repairs



K A N D A H A R (TOLONews): Drivers on Kabul-Kandahar highway expressed concern about the delay in the restoration of this highway.

They noted that the reconstruction of this road has been repeatedly started and postponed over the course of the past year.

According to motorists, the lack of side roads on this route, as well as the halt in construction have caused difficulties for both vehicles and passengers.

"It has been three years since the restoration of this

highway started; sometimes it starts and is delayed once more. A lot of time has passed, but it has not been finished," said Besmillah, a traveler from the province of Maidan Wardak. "This is a big route and there is no side road either. People are facing many problems," said Junidullah Omerzai, another passenger.

Drivers and passengers on this route urged the Islamic Emirate to speed up repairs on the highway.

"Our cars sustain severe damage from Kabul to

Kandahar due to the route breakdown. The reconstructing of this road should be handed over to a company that does this work regularly," said Ahmadullah, a driver. The construction of the Kabul-Kandahar highway was delayed owing to the cold, according to Maidan Wardak provincial officials, who stated they are attempting to finish this year's work on the route up to Ghazni province.

"Due to the weather, the work was put on hold. When the weather improved, we and the com-

pany continued our job," said Shafiullah Ahmad, head of the department of public works of Maidan Wardak. "The head of public works has assured us that we will soon respond to the people's wishes," said Bakhtyar Maaz, the governor of Maidan Wardak. The restoration of the Kandahar-Kabul Maidan Wardak-Ghazni highway was begun by the Ministry of Public Works on Sunbola 25 (solar calendar) of last year, but it still has not been finished after nine months.



# Pak-Iran border markets to uplift border regions: PM

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has said that Pakistan-Iran border markets would not only ameliorate the socioeconomic conditions of the border regions but also foster new opportunities for local businesses.

The prime minister, in an interview with Iran's official news agency IRNA published on Thursday, stressed the importance of enhanced cooperation with Iran saying that the energy projects and border markets were emblematic of the vitality of Pakistan-Iran friendship.

The prime minister's interview came as he, along with Iran's President Seyed Ebrahim Raisi jointly inaugurated the Mand-Pishin border sustenance market on Thursday aimed at boosting the bilateral trade. This is one of the six border markets which will be constructed along the Pak-Iran common border. The prime minister said Pakistan and Iran were brotherly countries bound by deep-rooted religious, cultural, and linguistic ties.

"Both our governments are collaborating closely for the betterment and socio-economic uplift of our peoples," he said. He said the Mand-Pishin border marketplace and the Polan-Gabd electricity project were tangible manifestations of this resolve. They would also serve as a stepping stone for greater cooperation between our two countries, especially in the economic domain, he added.

In order to enhance the bilateral trade, the prime minister called for intensifying the efforts and applying collective energies and resources, as there existed tremendous scope and mutual desire for the actualization of the trade potential. He said both Pakistan and Iran were deeply committed to achieving an annual trade volume of \$5 billion. In this regard, the operationalization of the barter trade mechanism is a significant step, he remarked.

Prime Minister Shehbaz viewed that border markets would enhance trade and contribute to the development of the two nations. Last year, the two sides made substantive progress during the 21st session of the Joint Economic Commission held in Islamabad in August, and called for keeping the momentum. Coming to the regional situation, the prime minister congratulated the governments of Iran and Saudi Arabia on the resumption of diplomatic ties.

"This milestone achievement is a testament to the vision and foresight of the astute leadership of Iran and Saudi Arabia and the valuable role played by China...We are confident that this important development would serve as a harbinger for regional peace and prosperity," he said. The prime minister believed that the Polan-Gwadar electricity project was emblematic of the vitality of Pakistan-Iran friendship and a testimony of the strength of mutual cooperation. He said completion of the project in record time manifested the potential of bilateral cooperation.

He noted that several initiatives for improvement of maritime and port cooperation were being discussed between Pakistan and Iran, including collaboration of activities between the sister ports of Gwadar and Chabahar. "We will continue to work for deepening connectivity between our two countries in all fields, particularly given our highest commitment to complement each other in promoting regional trade, transit and connectivity," the prime minister resolved.

To a question, he said quoted great poet and philosopher Allama Muhammad Iqbal who characterized Afghanistan as the beating 'Heart of Asia'. "Just as a healthy heart sustains a vibrant body, a peaceful and stable Afghanistan is instrumental to regional peace and prosperity. Pakistan remains committed to the goal of promoting shared prosperity

for Afghanistan and the region."

He said Afghanistan currently faced multiple and complex challenges in the security, economic and humanitarian domains. Over 28 million people or two-third of the entire population in Afghanistan, required urgent humanitarian assistance to survive. Prime Minister Shehbaz urged the international community to stand by the people of Afghanistan at this critical juncture as constructive engagement with the Interim Afghan Government (IAG) was imperative. "What is needed is a 'balanced' approach based on hierarchy of priorities for the international community including 'counter terrorism', 'drug trafficking', and promoting inclusive governance etc. at the same time, the international community must play its part in promoting sustainable economic pathways for the ordinary Afghan people," he believed. He said as friends and neighbors of Afghanistan, the neighboring countries including Pakistan and Iran had a critical role to that end.

The prime minister said Pakistan-Iran relations were rooted in a history of close and unremitting cooperation through cultural and people to people contacts. These longstanding exchanges between our two nations have fraternized into a bond between Pakistan and Iran today, he added. "I am glad to note that IRNA and Pakistan news agency, Associated Press of Pakistan (APP) have recently signed an agreement to promote media collaboration," the prime minister added.

He said several such agreements were under discussion in various fields to enhance cooperation in the fields of television, films, cinema, literary and linguistic enterprises. These would help depict our rich culture and traditions in their true light and further strengthen the ties of friendship and solidarity between our two nations, he remarked.



PESHAWAR: Police officials gathered around the spot of blast at Ring Road.

## PM, Raisi to open Gawadar transmission line today

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb on Thursday said that Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and President of Iran Ebrahim Raisi will jointly inaugurate the first ever 100 MW transmission line from Iran to Gawadar to fulfill the energy needs of Gawadar.

In a tweet, she said the project pending since 2009 was completed in a record time of four months under the leadership of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif.

Meanwhile, the Minister for Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb also said that arrangements were being made to ensure that no one in the future could indulge in anti-state activities in the guise of politics.

Giving her reaction to Imran Khan's statement, she said that arrangements were being made to settle one of all Imran's "fascism, anti-nationalism and invasion on the state". The minister said arrangements were being made to ensure that no one could attack the state or desecrate memorials of martyrs and Ghazis in the future. She said that Imran's goons attacked the houses of opponents' daughters, and during his rule, his opponents' daughters were arrested in front of their parents, and their sisters were dragged but no one invaded the state like Imran Khan.

Marriyum Aurangzeb said, "Imran punished the country and the masses by wearing the cloak of politics". He did not even spare the country's economy and deprived the people of employment and two-time meal. "Arrangements are being made so that in the future of Pakistan, no one dares to make such an attempt," she said.

## Eight caught trying to flee Zaman Park

LAHORE (PPI): The Punjab police on Thursday claimed to have arrested eight persons, allegedly involved in the vandalism on May 9, trying to flee PTI Chairman Imran Khan's Zaman Park residence.

Senior Superintendent of Police Hasan Javid said the suspects were trying to flee the ex-premier's residence through a nearby bridge nearby. "We have information that 30 to 40 people who were involved in these incidents are holed up inside," he told media persons. "That is why we had placed checkpoints. Right now we took eight persons in custody."

SSP Javid alleged that many others were trying to get out of Zaman Park but retreated as soon as they saw the police. "We arrested them right now and even presented them before you all. Now we are taking them," he said. "There will be a detailed interrogation. We will share details with you." When asked about the next plan of action, SSP Javid said the police would act according to what their leadership decided.

## No compromise on tribal's rights: Azam

### E.P. Report

PESHAWAR: Caretaker Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Muhammad Azam Khan has said that the constitutional and legal rights of the people of the merged districts must be guaranteed in any circumstance, adding the caretaker government will not make any compromise in this regard.

He was talking to a big jirga from the merged districts here in the Chief Minister's House on Thursday. Besides, administrative secretaries of the provincial departments, other higher authorities were also present on the occasion. Members of the jirga told the chief minister about problems faced by the people of their respective areas. Most of the problems were related to electricity, education, health, communication and other social sector problems.

The caretaker chief min-

ister directed the concerned authorities for resolution of their problems on priority basis and furnishing immediate progress report to him in this regard. He said that the people of the merged districts have rendered numerous sacrifices during last four decades. He said that for getting information about the public problems, he has reserved one-day of every week for the people of the merged districts and for this purpose they can come to Chief Minister's House on every Thursday.

The caretaker chief minister said that since the very first day, the caretaker government has started efforts for the constitutional rights of the people of the merged districts and for this purpose had held two meetings with the Prime Minister. He said that the pledge of the allocation of 3% share in National Finance Commission (NFC) Award for the merged districts still remains unfulfilled. He said

that for obtaining the shares of the merged districts in NFC Award, he had even yesterday sent a dispatch to Federal Finance Minister.

The caretaker chief minister ruled out any compromise on the constitutional and legal rights of the merged districts and vowed to raise voice for their rights on every forum. The members of the jirga expressed gratitude to Chief Minister for inviting them to Chief Minister's House and taking special interest in the resolution of their problems.

They also appreciated the reservation of one day in every week for the people of the merged districts as highly commendable steps, saying the step is speaks of the seriousness and interest of the chief minister towards the resolution of their problems. The tribal elders expressed the hope that the step will go a long way in bringing maximum decrease in the problems of the tribesmen.

## PDM, PTI responsible for prevailing situation: Siraj

### E.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: Ameer Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) Sirajul Haq has held the self-serving policies and politics of the ruling alliance and PTI responsible for the prevailing situation where the country is stuck in the plethora of crises.

Talking to media persons outside Supreme Court (SC) on Thursday, he said, "They have turned the country into a laughing stock worldwide. Pakistan is being declared as an insecure destination." Sirajul Haq welcomed the top court order to grant bail to Gwadar Rights Movement head Maulana Hidayatur Rahman, congratulating the people the Balochistan.

He also demanded the implementation of the agreement signed between the movement and the government of Balochistan, saying since Gwadar got international attention due

to its economic and geographical importance, it is, therefore, need of the hour that locals would be provided all the basic facilities which they have been demanding through peaceful sit-ins under the leadership of Baloch. He said the JI had started a legal fight to release Baloch from illegal detention under a false and fabricated case and at last succeeded in it. He said the JI believed in the rule of law and democratic process, saying the people of Pakistan should be given the opportunity to decide the country's future course.

The party chief stated that the JI has also challenged in the Islamabad High Court the decision of the government, on the orders of the IMF, to increase the monthly rent of gas meters from 40 rupees to 516 rupees. He said the JI would also strive to have this unjust increase reversed and deliver good

news to the people. He further mentioned that Jamaat-e-Islami has been awaiting action for the past four years on the appeal filed in the Supreme Court against the 436 individuals implicated in the Panama Papers.

"No questions were asked from those individuals whose names appeared in the Pandora Papers about where they earned their wealth and how they sent it abroad," Sirajul Haq said the names of all three ruling party members are included in the Panama Papers and Pandora Papers, adding the rulers looted the treasury, including Toshakhana, mercilessly. He said the country's resources have been plundered mercilessly for 75 years. "The courts, NAB, and other institutions have failed to hold powerful individuals accountable. Now it is up to the people, through their voting power, to hold corrupt rulers accountable."

## President suspends PIDE's compulsorily retirement order

### E.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi Thursday suspended the Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE) compulsorily retirement order from service for lodging a workplace harassment complaint against the Vice-Chancellor (VC) and Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Pro-VC) of the institute.

He was of the view that PIDE had violated the spirit of the Protection against Harassment of Women at the Workplace Act, 2010 by compulsorily retiring the woman complainant while the proceedings of the inquiry into the alleged harassment against VC and Pro-VC were still sub-judice, a major penalty of compulsory retirement from service was imposed upon the complainant by PIDE through a notification dated 20.03.2023. FOSPAP suspended the order of PIDE till the disposal of the case and restored the complainant to her position. The accused, then, filed a rep-

resentation against FOSPAP's decision with the President. The President rejected the stance of the accused that the complainant was retired due to disciplinary issues and that the imposition of a major penalty did not pertain to workplace harassment. He observed that FOSPAP Act 2010 provided that no adverse action should be taken against a complainant or witnesses during the inquiry proceedings but PIDE had retired the complainant in violation of the spirit of the Act, which was a special law having overriding effect.

He added that FOSPAP had rightly suspended the notification of PIDE and held it in abeyance till the finalization of the matter. The President held that PIDE's representation was devoid of merit and without substance, therefore, the representation of the accused was rejected.

## SC sets free ‘Gwadar Haq Do Tehreek’ chief

ISLAMABAD (INP): Supreme Court of Pakistan (SCP) on Thursday released Haq Do Tehreek leader Maulana Hidayat ur Rehman Baloch against surety bonds of Rs300,000. Supreme Court of Pakistan Justice Sardar Tariq Masood heard the case and announced the verdict in favour of Maualna Hidayat ur Rehman.

On January 13 this year, Gwadar police Friday arrested Haq Do Tehreek leader Maulana Hidayat Ur Rehman outside a court in Balochistan's port city over the killing of a policeman. A heavy police contingent was present outside the local court, which arrested three others along with Rehman — days after the HDT leader said he would reach Gwadar to surrender before the law enforcers.

Earlier, Jamaat-e-Islami chief Siraj ul Haq wrote a letter to Chief Justice of Pakistan and urged the superior judiciary to provide justice to all citizens including Maulana Hidayat Ur Rehman. He said courts are free and there should be no double standard for the elite and the common man. Siraj ul Haq termed the Hidayat Rehman Baloch political struggle as 'peaceful'.

Siraj ul Haq reacting to the SC decision said that the Supreme Court declared Maulana Hidayat's arrest as illegal. "We thank Allah Almighty for this success and congratulate the people of Gwadar," he added. He said Pakistan is facing difficulties and is stuck in a political and economic crisis.

Balochistan is a province rich in minerals but deprived of basic facilities and only source of livelihood of the fishermen who catch fish has also been 'eliminated'. The JI chief vowed to continue to fight for the rights of the people.

## Crucial PPP meeting today

ISLAMABAD (INP): Pakistan People's Party Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari has called a meeting of the Central Executive Committee (CEC) of the party in Karachi today on May 19.

The meeting will discuss the political situation as it held at the Bilawal House Karachi. Bilawal Bhutto in consultation with party members to decide the party's future line of action. The huddle will also consult over the outcome of the meeting of the National Security Committee, which was held in Islamabad on Tuesday. It is pertinent to note that Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif chaired the NSC meeting, attended by senior cabinet ministers, all three services chiefs, ISI director general and others.

## Soldier martyred, terrorist killed in Bajaur gunfight

### E.P. Report

RAWALPINDI: A Pakistan Army soldier was martyred and a terrorist was killed during an exchange of fire in Bajaur district of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) province, says Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) press release.

It said an exchange of took place between the security forces and terrorists in the general area of Loesam in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Bajaur District. The Pakistan Army troops fought bravely and effectively engaged the terrorists' location, killing one militant during the shootout, it added.

"However, during an intense exchange of fire, Sepoy Shafiq Ur Rehman (age 23 years, resident of DI Khan) having fought gallantly, embraced martyrdom,"

said the ISPR. It further said that sanitisation of the area is being carried out to eliminate any terrorists found in the area. The security forces of Pakistan are determined to eliminate the menace of terrorism and these sacrifices of our brave soldiers further strengthen our resolve, read the statement.

Meanwhile, three under custody accused were killed when terrorists fired at the vehicle of Counter Terrorism Team near Eidek Pull in North Waziristan late night the other day.

Police informed on Thursday that an anti-terrorism team and security forces were shifting three hardcore accused involved in various anti-state crimes from Miran Shah to Bannu when terrorists hiding near the Eidek Pull, started firing at the vehicle, killing

the accused.

In retaliatory firing by the security forces, one of the terrorists identified as Naheed Alias Batoor, son of Sher Gul, resident of Harms, Mir Ali was killed while other terrorists managed to escape the area. The forces recovered one Kalashnikov, three magazines and 60 cartridges from the scene. The under custody accused who were killed by the terrorists' firing included Ghazirullah alias Khurasan, resident of Afghanistan, Nighat Ullah, resident of Kaza Madakhel and Jannat Wali alias Zulfiqar alias Torr, resident of Hakeem Khel, Mir Ali. The killed terrorist was wanted by security forces in various cases of attacks on forces, target killing and other serious nature crimes.

## Pakistan's debt reached 100b dollars: Miftah

ISLAMABAD (PPI): Former Finance Minister Miftah Ismail has said that Pakistan's debt has reached 100 billion dollars, as the country has the worst governance in the world, and we cannot achieve anything in this governance.

He said IMF was reached 23 times, and without IMF, other banks, including World Bank, will not give loans, according to a statement on

Thursday. Miftah said that China had bailed out 4 to 5 times in history, and China had not cooperated so much with anyone. Muftah said: "While Imran Khan left four years back, I told that 80% loan was taken but Shaukat Tareen said he took 76% of the loan. The former finance minister said Ishaq Dar's policies were harming Pakistan.

People's Party worked hard, when PML-N came, the circular debt became

Rs500 billion, adding when PTI came, it became Rs1100 billion. The former finance minister says he himself has been a policy maker and also holds himself responsible. He said that the circular debt is the loss of the power sector, he adds. He stated: "The problem of increasing circular debt is the result of system failure. If IMF does not go into the program, the rest of the world will not lend."

## Erdogan's rival hardens tone, courting Turkish nationalists

ISTANBUL (Agencies): Turkey's opposition leader vowed Thursday to send back millions of migrants in a strident message aimed at winning the backing of an ultranationalist who helped push last weekend's presidential vote to a runoff.

Secular opposition leader Kemal Kilicdaroglu delivered his first public address since a landmark election Sunday in which he came in almost five points behind President Recep Tayyip Erdogan. Kilicdaroglu's performance was the opposition's best of the Turkish leader's two-decade rule.

But it fell short of expectations set by pre-election polling and left the opposition visibly depressed. The 74-year-old has since revamped his campaign team and toughened his message to win over Turkey's right-wing voters in the May 28 runoff. He also plans to meet Sinan Ogan — a far-right figure who picked

up 5.2 per cent of the vote and is still weighing his endorsement.

Kilicdaroglu tried on Thursday to toughen his message considerably from the more inclusive tone he set in the first stage of the campaign. "Erdogan, you did not protect the borders and honour of the country," the former civil servant said. "You have deliberately brought more than 10 million refugees to this country... As soon as I come to power, I will send all the refugees home." Ogan has said he will only back a candidate who cracks down on migrants and fights "terrorism" — a code word in Turkey for Kurdish militants.

Erdogan and his Islamic-rooted party were lionised across swathes of the Muslim world for their more embracing stance towards those fleeing conflicts in countries such as Syria. Turkey's five-million-strong refugee and migrant population became the

world's largest in the past decade. A separate 2016 deal between Ankara and the European Union helped stem the continent's migrant crisis by allowing those trying to reach Western Europe to settle in Turkey.

Turkey won billions of euros in funding from Brussels for the programme. But an economic crisis that gathered pace as the election neared sent anti-migrant sentiment soaring. Erdogan's government has tried to find a middle ground. Interior Minister Suleyman Soylu said on Thursday that Turkey had already sent more than half a million Syrians back.

"We are not going to make Turkey into a refugee warehouse, and we have not done so to date. But the Syrians are our brothers," Soylu said. "We cannot send them to their deaths. And we have not. Tayyip Erdogan doesn't want to be remembered as a leader who sent Syrians to their deaths."