

Two girls schools blown up

MIR ALI (PPI): Extremists blew up two girls' schools in tehsil Mir Ali of North Waziristan late Sunday night. The DPO, however, said that no loss of life was reported in the incident. He said that militants blew up Government Girls Middle School Khasokhel and Girls Middle School Noor Jannat Gul while the hunt was underway to arrest them. The DPO said the militants used explosives to blow up the girls schools.



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QUETTA: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif addressing during National Assembly session.

Wickets falling: Ch Wajahat 'exits PTI'

F.P. Report

LAHORE: Withdrawing his support for Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) President Parvez Elahi, Chaudhry Wajahat Hussain — younger brother of Pakistan Muslim League-Quaid (PML-Q) chief Chaudhry Shujaat Hussain — on Monday hoped that his elder brother would welcome the returnees.

Addressing a press conference after meeting with his older brother at Muslim League House, Wajahat said that he and his son — Chaudhry Hussain Elahi — have returned. "Perhaps, those who created cracks [within the family] are filling it," said the ex-PTI leader without naming anyone. It is pertinent to mention that Wajahat had thrown his weight behind then-Punjab chief minister Elahi when the latter left the PML-Q and joined the PTI last year.

Speaking on the occasion, Wajahat claimed that he had never been associated with or a member of the PTI. Wajahat said: "Entire Pakistan condemns the May 9 incidents." He maintained that he was ready to take back his words if someone's sentiments were hurt by them. "It will be better if he does not blame anyone," Wajahat added. Hinting at joining the PML-Q, he said: "I think Chaudhry Shujaat will welcome the returnees." He hoped that his family would unite again in the future. Reacting to Wajahat's decision, Moonis Elahi — son of the PTI president — said that his uncle was not in touch with them.

Rally in AJK against India G20 meet

F.P. Report

MUZAFFARABAD: Hundreds of people rallied in Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) Monday to protest India's decision to host a G20 tourism meeting in the disputed Himalayan region. Several protesters demonstrated in Muzaffarabad, the capital of Azad Kashmir, and other cities, chanting: "Go India go back and boycott, boycott G20 boycott!", said government official Raja Azhar Iqbal.

Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari visited the region and addressed AJK's legislative assembly on Monday. He termed the G20 gathering as illegal, and an attempt by India to seek legitimacy over its control of the disputed region. "India is misusing its position as G20 chair," he said and urged the world to take note of New Delhi's "gross human rights violations" since India scrapped occupied Kashmir's independent status in August 2019 and annexed the region as part of its territory.

'Every soldier puts duty first': COAS — condemned attacks on military installations and martyrs' monuments

F.P. Report

RAWALPINDI: Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Asim Munir emphasised Monday that "every soldier and officer of the armed forces put his duty and responsibilities first regardless of regional, linguistic, and political prejudices and distinctions".

A strong army is the guarantor of a country's security and unity, he underscored while addressing an award ceremony for martyrs and officials at the General Headquarters (GHQ) Rawalpindi. In a statement, the military's media affairs wing said that 51 officials were awarded the Sitara-e-Imtiaz (military), 22 were awarded the Tamgha-i-Basalat and two officials were awarded special United Nations medals.

They were awarded for their "acts of gallantry during operations and meritorious services rendered to the nation". A large number of senior army officials and families of martyrs attended the event. "Undoubtedly, we are living in a free atmosphere due to the martyrs' sense of duty and their great sacrifices," Gen Munir said. He termed the martyrs' sacrifices and officials' services a "valuable asset" and "source of pride" for the country.

"The Pakistan Army, as an institution, always remembers every individual associated with the army and his family, and our relationship as a family is a proud and exemplary one," the COAS said. He condemned the attacks on military installations

and martyrs' monuments — that were carried out by enraged Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) protesters in days-long riots following the arrest of chairman Imran Khan — and termed them "extremely sadening and intolerable".

He also announced that May 25 would be marked as "Pakistan Martyrs' Day". The army chief's comments come days after the military refuted rumours of disunity in its ranks. During the violent protests that only simmered down after Khan's release, reports circulated that army officers had resigned due to the ongoing chaos. Snubbing those reports, Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) Director General Major General Ahmed Sharif Chaudhry had told media, "despite all-out efforts of internal miscreants and external enemies, the army remains united under Chief of Army Staff General Asim Munir."

"The dreams of creating division within the army will remain dreams. Neither anyone has resigned nor disobeyed any order," the army's spokesperson added. After the supporters attacked army installations, the ISPR said that May 9, 2023 — the day when chaos gripped the nation following Khan's arrest — would go down in history as a "dark chapter". The military also announced that all those who had vandalised military installations, including the Lahore Corps Commanders House and the GHQ entrance, would be tried under the Pakistan Army Act and the Official Secret Act.

Courts being set up for Imran's trial: Kh Asif

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Defence, Khawaja Muhammad Asif on Monday categorically rejected former prime minister Imran Khan's accusations levelled against the coalition government and said no new legislation was enacted rather courts were being established under the existing laws to try for violence against the state institutions on May 9.

The minister, while tabling a resolution to condemn the May 9 violent incidents and seeking prosecutions of those involved, urged the House to allow the members to express their views on the resolution in support of the armed forces. He read out the resolution: "Whereas the shocking, brazen, heart wrenching and shameful incidents, which took place in certain parts of the country on the 9th May 2023, and which incidents have tarnished our national image, are vehemently condemned by this House;

"Whereas this House expresses its full faith in and complete solidarity and support for the armed forces of Pakistan; And whereas this House resolves as follows: 1. That 9th May to be reckoned as Black Day." He maintained in the resolution that all abettors, planners, facilitators and those directly or indirectly involved in arson, attacks on military installations as well as public and private properties should be prosecuted or tried under the existing laws of the country includ-

ing, Anti-terrorism Act 1997, Army Act 1952 and Pakistan Penal Code 1860.

It also demanded that all relevant authorities to implement social media rules and regulations in order to tackle propaganda being unleashed against the country's institutions, both from within and outside of Pakistan, under the patronage and facilitation from multiple players. Those involved in such propaganda campaigns should strictly be dealt with as per law. "We reiterate our commitment to national unity, harmony and integrity in the wake of current geostrategic situation and deprecate all anti-state elements which attempt to destabilize the country, and that resolution of all political issues must always stay within the realm of parliamentary and democratic norms and resorting to violence against state institutions, public and private properties is totally unacceptable," the minister said.

He added that the system already possessed the legislation and courts operating under those laws, particularly Anti-Terrorism Act 1997, Army Act 1952, Pakistan Penal Code 1860 were provided for holding trial of those cases that were being scheduled in the law books. "These courts", he said, "had already gave rulings and punished culprits like six hangings were done last year comprising a soldier and five civilians for committing serious crime and violation to the

law of the state.

"Imran Khan in his interview to CNN that I recently watched had blamed that new courts and legislations are being created to suppress his voice. He must have remembered that Pakistan sold its people to the US and the US bought them was that legal, but rather it was illegal," he added. He said Imran Khan was calling Americans for his help and sending messages to the US through lobbyists, whereas the people remained detained in Guantanamo Bay for 20 years was that just rather the American record of rendition was clear.

"He is seeking help from those who have this record who neglect human rights abuses in Kashmir and Palestine," the minister said. Khawaja Asif underlined that there was no day left when the armed forces personnel and policemen were martyred while fighting against terrorists. "No patriot Pakistani will defame and desecrate its armed forces," he said. He said a commission was formed by the Federal Cabinet namely the Audio Leaks Inquiry Commission comprised of the senior most judge of Supreme Court, Islamabad High Court (IHC) and Balochistan High Court (BHC) judges. "We made the Commission with the intention to clear the facts and reveal the truth behind audio leaks and expose the perpetrators."

(Continued on Back Page)

Audio leaks: Commission to make proceedings public

ISLAMABAD (INP): Judicial Commission conducting investigations into Audio leaks has announced that the proceedings will be made public and instructed the Attorney General to provide mobile phones and sims on Monday.

According to details, the first meeting of the Judicial Inquiry Commission for audio leaks investigations was chaired by Justice Qazi Faiz Isa. The commission's meeting took place in the Supreme Court's Chamber Court No. 7. Chief Justice of the Islamabad High Court (IHC) and Chief Justice Naeem Akhtar and Attorney General also participated in the meeting.

The Judicial Commission established its secretariat in the Supreme Court, while the Attorney General presented TORs and powers in the commission's first meeting. The Attorney General was also requested to provide a mobile phone and SIM card for the commission's proceedings. Justice Qazi Faiz Isa said that due to being the senior-most judge, he also has some constitutional responsibilities.

Justice Qazi Faiz Isa asked which law the commission was formed under, to which the Attorney General informed that the commission was formed under the Judicial Inquiry Commission Act 2016. The audio leak Judicial Commission has announced the proceedings will be made public and stated that if any sensitive matter arises, they will consider the request for on-camera proceedings. The commission's proceedings will take place in the Islamabad Building of the Supreme Court.

Justice Qazi Faiz Isa said that there are also two elderly women among those related to the inquiry, and if required, the commission can also go to Lahore for the proceedings. While instructing the Attorney General to provide a mobile phone and SIM card for the commission, Justice Qazi Faiz Isa also established the scope of the inquiry commission and further postponed the proceedings until May 27.

It should be noted here that last week, the federal government formed the Judicial Commission on the matter of the alleged audio leaks. Chief Justice of the Balochistan High Court Naeem Akhtar and Chief Justice of the Islamabad High Court Aamer Farooq are also part of the commission. The commission will investigate the authenticity of the audio leaks and their impact on justice and judicial freedom. The notification states that investigations will also be conducted into the alleged audio leaks related to former Chief Ministers and the current Supreme Court judge, and potential audio leaks related to the former Chief Justice.

PTI challenges commission in Supreme Court

ISLAMABAD (INP): Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf Chairman Imran Khan on Monday moved the Supreme Court of Pakistan against formation of a judicial commission by the federal government to probe the varacity of audio leaks which have surfaced in the media in recent times.

In the constitutional petition, the PTI chairman pleaded the apex court to declare the commission null and void. The PTI chief took the plea that no judge could be appointed as a member of the judicial commission without permission of the Chief Justice of Pakistan. He argued that the proper forum for any probe or taking action against any judge was the Supreme Judicial Council. Imran Khan filed the petition through his counsel Babar Awan. Earlier, the Judicial Commission said the proceedings of the probe body would be made public.

Rioters to be dealt with iron hands: Shehbaz

Country won't survive if any leniency shown to May 9 arsonists: PM told NA

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Monday said that the country would not survive if any leniency was shown to the perpetrators of the arsons on May 9 involving the desecration of the martyrs, monuments, and damaging the security installations.

"The nation will not forget this heart-rending incident. We don't have any personal vendetta. But those who desecrated the martyrs, Ghazis, and their monuments, and burnt Jinnah House ... they will have to be tried under the law. And if any leniency is shown to them, the country will not survive," he said addressing the National Assembly. He said the coalition parties had faced many ordeals but the May 9 incident was intolerable.

"This is the nation's trust and I will return it to them," he remarked. The prime minister thanked the House for adopting a resolution against May 9 riots and explained that the cases pertaining to the attack on civilian infrastructure would be tried under anti-terrorism law but those concerning the military installations would be heard by the military courts and that no special laws were being promulgated for the purpose.

Responding to his tweet, the prime minister rubbished PTI chief Imran Khan's claim that he had made replaced a senior military officer after he informed him about his wife Bushra Bibi's involvement in corruption. "Imran Niazi once again told a blatant lie before the nation... I said so because I personally know it," he told the House.

He said the arsons following the arrest of Imran Niazi in a NAB case involving Rs60 billion corruption was a heartbreaking incident the nation never went through. He said during his government, Imran Niazi pushed the whole opposition to the wall but they never resorted to damaging the public property. Referring to the Al Qadir Trust case, the prime minister said Rs60 billion was supposed to be transferred to the national kitty but the matter was approved secretly by that time federal cabinet.

He said after undermining the Pak-US ties through the allegations of the regime change conspiracy, Imran Niazi was now seeking help from America. Similarly, he also hurt the Pak-China fraternal ties by

hurling allegations of corruption in the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor. He said same China had again come up to support Pakistan on the Kashmir cause by staying away from the G-20 summit being hosted by India in IIOJK and that similar reports were also coming about Saudi Arabia and Turkiye.

Balochistan's prosperity, govt's top priority: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Monday said the development and prosperity of Balochistan province was top priority of the federal government.

Talking to the leadership of Pakistan Muslim League (N) Balochistan here during his day-long visit, he said he would not sit idle until the provision of the equal job and development opportunities to the people of the province. PM Shehbaz said, he was working tirelessly to ensure minimizing deprivations of the people of the province.

He said this was his second visit to the province in a week. He recalled that during the devastating floods last summer, the federal government ensured the restoration of the flood hit areas of Balochistan on priority. He said during the last year's floods, the PML-N's Balochistan members actively participated in the relief measures.

"The central leadership of the party including myself pay tributes to the whole provincial leadership for relieving suffering of the flood victims," the prime minister added. He also conveyed the best wishes from Mian Muhammad Nawaz Sharif, Maryam Nawaz, Hamza Shehbaz and the senior leadership of the party to the provincial party leadership.

Governor Balochistan briefs PM: Governor Balochistan Abdul Wali Kakar on Monday briefed Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif about the ongoing uplift projects and the law and order situation in the province.

During a meeting held at the Governor House, the governor lauded the prime minister for taking keen interest in the development and progress of the province, PM Office Media Wing said in a press release. Earlier, the prime minister arrived here on a day-long visit. Upon arrival, the prime minister was warmly received by Governor Balochistan and Chief Minister Abdul Qaddus Bizenjo.



RAWALPINDI: Chief of Army Staff, General Asim Munir interacting with army official during a ceremony.

IIOJK become an open-air prison: Bilawal

F.P. Report

MUZAFFARABAD: Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari strongly criticised the international community Monday for "turning a blind eye" to India's savagery in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK), saying it was "not wise to sacrifice timeless principles for short-term interests".

"Today, I ask the world if a country can be allowed to renege on its solemn commitments to the United Nations, break its own promises and blatantly violate international law just because they want to," he said in an address to the Azad Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly. "I must emphasise here that the commitments under the UN Security Council resolutions are sacrosanct. They are neither surveilled to the whims of a jingoistic political party, nor diluted by the passage of time."

He said India was "misusing" its position as the

G20 chair by hosting the event in the occupied territory, which was recognised as disputed under international law. "This is yet another display of India's arrogance on the world stage," He noted that IIOJK had become an open-air prison with thousands of Kashmiri Muslims killed, disappeared or blinded while their lands were confiscated and properties bulldozed, and their culture disintegrated.

The mayhem was continuing under India's draconian laws, he said, which allowed the occupying forces' officials impunity for their crimes. "This wretched perpetual and systemic Indian barbarism not just violates international law, it makes a mockery of the accepted norms of fundamental human rights. "One cannot wax lyrical about international law and the United Nations Security Council resolutions in Europe in the European context, and then turn a blind eye to the violation of

the same international law in the Kashmiri context," he iterated.

The foreign minister emphasised that for Pakistan, resolving the Kashmir dispute was not a matter of choice but of duty. "My presence here today is a testimony of our nation's intergenerational support and lasting commitment to the Kashmir cause," Bilawal told the assembly. He said that while Pakistan wanted good relations with all its neighbours including India, they could not be achieved through "dispute denialism". Saying that India remained hostile, he called on the neighbouring country to take steps conducive to dialogue.

"There is a clear distinction between terrorism and a people's genuine quest for freedom. Terrorism cannot be and should not be used as an excuse to deny the Kashmiri people their fundamental rights and their fundamental freedoms," he asserted.



Brace for shower spell from today

LAHORE (APP): The Met office has predicted a rainy spell (isolated heavy falls) from May 23rd (Tuesday) to May 26th (Saturday).

The wind-dust storm-rain with a few hailstorm (isolated heavy falls) is likely to cover upper and central parts of the country including the provincial capital. According to a spokesman of Pakistan Meteorological Department, a westerly wave is likely to enter in western and upper parts of the country on May 22nd and likely to persist during the week with occasional gaps. Under the influence of this weather system, wind-dust/thunderstorm-rain (with isolated hailstorm) is expected in Sargodha, Mianwali, Layyah, Khushab, Bhakkar, Faisalabad, Jhang, Toba Tek Singh, Sheikhupura, Nankana, Gujranwala, Mandi Bahauddin, Narowal, Sialkot, Kasur, Pakpattan, Okara, Sahiwal, Lahore, Rahim Yar Khan, Bahawalnagar, Multan, Dera Ghazi Khan and Rajanpur from tomorrow.

Wind-dust/thunderstorm-rain is also expected in parts of Kashmir, Gilgit-Baltistan, KPK, Balochistan, Sindh and Murree, Galliat, Rawalpindi, Attock, Chakwal, Jhelum during these days.

UVAS dairy forum seminar on Thursday

LAHORE (APP): The Department of Dairy Technology of the University of Veterinary and Animal Sciences (UVAS) Lahore is arranging the 'Dairy Forum-2' seminar with the theme "Achieving food security through climate resilient sustainable dairy value chain" on Thursday.

The event is being held under the Department of Dairy Technology project 'Capacity building of dairy farmers & industry stakeholders on milk value chain'.

Chairman Planning and Development Punjab Ali Sarfaraz Hussain will be the chief guest while Secretary Livestock and Dairy Development Department Punjab Muhammad Masoud Anwar will be the guest of honour at the function. UVAS Vice-Chancellor Prof Dr Nasim Ahmad, Vice Chancellor University of Education Prof Dr Talat Naseer Pasha and DG Punjab Food Authority Raja Jahangir Anwar will also be present.

HEC conducts workshop

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Higher Education Commission (HEC) under Higher Education Development in Pakistan (HEDP) project conducted a three-day extensive capacity-building session for public sector universities on financial autonomy.

Around 18 Registrars, Treasurers, and allied staff of Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) from Punjab, Sindh, AJ&K and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa attended the training held at the Kohsar University (KU), Murree. The thematic areas of the training included the features of the framework for financial autonomy, better financial management, improvement in the governance of public sector universities, and implementation of the framework.

HEDP has already conducted six such capacity-building sessions across the country in which more than 150 participants have been trained. In his opening remarks, Vice Chancellor Abbottabad University of Science & Technology Dr. Malik Mujaddad Ur Rehman, the chief guest of the event, emphasized the need for improvement in the financial resource generation of public sector universities in the wake of dwindling federal government grants and mounting expenditures due to inflation. Emphasizing the autonomy of universities, he added that HEIs can make their own decisions can better empathize with their employees and students addressing their regional needs. In the collective brainstorming, program members explored the practical applicability of the idea being the primary concern for HEIs.

Governor visits Jamil Memon cattle society

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Governor Mohammed Kamran Khan Tessori on Monday visited Jamil Memon Cattle Society. He praised the beauty of sacrificial animals in the society.

He said that the establishment of cattle society beside the animal market was a good news for the people of Karachi.

Kamran Tessori said that the people would have a choice while buying the animals. He also visited a cattle stall on the insistence of a child present in the cattle society. Earlier, the governor was briefed about the society and stalls within it.

Bangladesh Deputy High Commissioner calls on Tessori: Bangladesh Deputy High

Commissioner, S. M. Mahboob Alam called on Sindh Governor Mohammed Kamran Khan Tessori here on Monday. They discussed bilateral relations, measures to enhance them and other issues of mutual interests.

The governor said the enhancement of the bilateral relations between Pakistan and Bangladesh was in the favour of the people of the two countries.

He suggested the exchange of delegations to increase cooperation.

Kamran Tessori said that Cricket was the common value between the two countries. He said that the continuity in the tours of cricket teams could help introduce the new talent.

PTI's real face exposed, says Hamza

LAHORE (APP): Former chief minister Punjab and senior leader Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) Hamza Shehbaz said on Monday the real face of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf had been exposed after the attacks on state properties and military installations by its activists.

Talking to the media after visiting Yadgar-e-Shuhada at Manawan, he said the whole nation was indebted to the Pakistan Army due to sacrifices of the brave sons of the soil, and their (martyrs') memorials were a symbol of pride.

He regretted that a handful of miscreants attacked the memorials of martyrs on May 9 on the directions of their leadership

to achieve their personal agenda.

The whole nation was sad over sorrowful incidents in the guise of protest as the day would be remembered as black day in the history. State properties including Radio Pakistan building in Peshawar was set ablaze, he said adding that a dark chapter was written on May 9 which exposed their real face before the nation.

He demanded the elements involved in the attacks must face legal process and cases against them should be taken to a logical end. Hamza Shehbaz said that other political parties had also been lodging protest but no one went to such extent and put on fire the entire country.

Punjab's immunisation rate highest in country: Dr Jamal

RAWALPINDI (APP): Provincial Minister for Primary and Secondary Health Punjab Dr Jamal Nasir on Monday said that the Punjab children's immunization rate was the highest in the country due to the integrated health system and public awareness.

While addressing a media workshop on immunization at a local hotel, he said that the health department had created a system for the repair of damaged medical machinery under

which any machine in a government hospital or primary health centre would be reported on the online system and would be addressed within 24 hours.

Dr Jamal said that revolutionary measures had been taken in the health sector during the last four months under which 52,000 prisoners had been tested for hepatitis A, B, and C, TB, AIDS, and other diseases in all the jails of Punjab and vaccinated against the diseases.

He said that 17,000 police personnel and officers had also been screened out for various diseases.

Dr Jamal Nasir said that recruitment for various posts was being carried out on merit while the lady health workers' posts had also been upgraded.

He informed that more than 1,000 ad-hoc recruitments had been made in four and a half months to address the shortage of human resources in the health department.

LDA, BoP agree to finalize TORs for MOU

LAHORE (APP): Commissioner Lahore and Director General Lahore Development Authority Muhammad Ali Randhawa on Monday said that better opportunities for revenue generation would be obtained with the cooperation of the banking and corporate sector. He expressed these views while meeting with a delegation of bank of Punjab, here at Commissioner Office. The delegation included Group Head Bank of Punjab Strategy and Strategic Initiative

Nofail Dawood, Nadeem Arif Butt Head Public Sector Deposit Department and others. On this occasion, it was briefed that Bank of Punjab would sign an MOU with LDA in near future and recommendations would be provided to LDA for better investment. Bank of Punjab would play a role in coordination between LDA and major investment groups. Both sides agreed to enhance cooperation and to finalize TORs for MOU at earliest.

TENDER

OFFICE OF THE ADDITIONAL DISTRICT & SESSIONS JUDGE-IV KOHAT

The Chairman procurement committed Sessions Court, Kohat invites sealed bids from reputed authorized dealers, firms/companies for the purchase of following items under Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Public procurement of goods, works and services rules 2014 amended till date.

S#	Items Description	Bid evaluation procedure	Specifications
01	Hardware	Single stage two envelopes	Details / particulars of required
02	I.T Equipment	Rule 6 (2) (b) of KPPRA	documents are available in bid /
03	Furniture & Fixtures	Rules, 2014 amended till date.	solicitation documents which can be obtained from Budget & Account Office during office timing before closing date.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS:

- The sealed bid / tender documents should reach to the office of District & Sessions Judge, Kohat through registered post or personally by the bidders on or before 08.06.2023, 09:00 AM which will be opened on the same day at 10:00AM in presence of bidders or their representative. The envelopes shall be marked in bold letters as technical proposal and financial proposal.
- Tender must be accompanied with bid security 5% in the shape of CDR only in the name of District & Sessions Judge, Kohat.
- The successful bidders must deposit 8 % performance guarantee of the total amount under the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Public Procurement of goods, works and services rules 2014 amended till date.
- Incomplete, ambiguous and conditional or below specification bid shall not be entertained.
- The firm / vendor should be registered with sale tax and income tax department and FBR, having valid NTN. Valid document of the above must be attached with bidding documents.
- The successful bidders will be strictly bound to supply the items according to specification within fifteen days after the issuance of supply order. Failure in supply within stipulated period or below specification shall entail in cancellation of bid or forfeiture of the earnest money/ call deposit return (CDR) and in case of cancellation of supply order, new supply order will be issued to next lowest bidder.
- Quantity can be increased/ decreased according to the available budget. The subject purchase will be made subject to availability of funds.
- The bidder must submit an affidavit that they are not blacklisted with any Government or Semi Government organization.
- The firm should include GST and all other applicable while submitting rates.
- The firm will be bound to replace the items damage during supply. Moreover, approved rates will be valid for thirty days from date of bidding and will not be changed.
- The competent authority reserved the right to reject all or any of the bid or may also cancel tender at all, at any stage subject to any reason being communicated to bidder upon proper under Rule 47 (1) of KPPRA Rules, 2014.
- The sample of items so supplied will be provided to the office of undersigned before pre-bid meeting or opening of tender for technical evaluation.

OFFICE OF THE ADDITIONAL DISTRICT & SESSIONS JUDGE-IV KOHAT
Phone No. 0922-9260041



LAHORE: A child on a motorcycle covered herself with a handkerchief to avoid the heat and the strong sun.

CM approves new recruitment at PKLI

LAHORE (APP): Caretaker Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi has stressed the need to address key issues of Pakistan Kidney and Liver Institute (PKLI) without any delay.

He held a meeting with Dr Saeed Akhtar, chairman of the board of governors of the PKLI, alongside other doctors. The CM gave in principle approval for new recruitment at the PKLI, emphasising the need to expedite legal process for filling the vacant posts. He also pledged additional funds for establishment of Rs 5 billion endowment fund.

Mohsin Naqvi ordered for immediate reinstatement of filter clinics within the PKLI, underscoring their significance for research and development. These filter clinics will enable patients to receive expert consultations via video-

link, he noted. Additionally, PKLI's role in advancing medical education and research was also highlighted. To enhance operational efficiency, plans were made to establish a state-of-the-art control and command centre at the PKLI. Mohsin Naqvi said that there was no higher form of worship than serving humanity in times of need.

Dr Saeed Akhtar provided a comprehensive briefing on the PKLI performance and other matters. The CM also inspected the treatment facilities. Provincial Minister Dr Javed Akram, chief secretary, health secretary and other officials were also present.

CM inspects Bibi Pakdaman shrine expansion project: Caretaker Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi

visited the shrine of Bibi Pakdaman on Monday to inspect the progress of construction work on the expansion project. He visited various parts of the project and gave necessary instructions to improve the facilities for visitors.

The caretaker CM appreciated the work of provincial secretary Communications & Works and his team, and ordered for ensuring completion of the project before Muharram.

He also ordered for widening the transportation route for pilgrims. Mohsin Naqvi said completion of the project would better facilitate the shrine visitors.

Provincial Minister C&W Bilal Afzal, Secretary Auqaf, well-known architect Nayar Ali Dada and related officials were also present.

ADB never backs Malir Expressway project: SACM told

KARACHI (APP): Special Assistant to the Chief Minister (SACM) Sindh for Investment and Public-Private Partnership Unit Syed Qasim Naveed Qamar Monday informed that the Malir Expressway project has been carried out by the Sindh government and has never been a part of the Asian Development Bank (ADB). During the meeting, the construction work of the Malir Expressway was reviewed while the consultant of the project presented a detailed briefing.

It was also informed in the meeting that the Malir Expressway is a completely safe project from the environmental point of view.

IGP visits 1787 Complaint Center, resolves issues of citizens

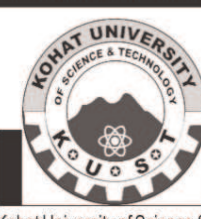
LAHORE (APP): Inspector General Police Punjab Dr. Usman Anwar has resolved the problem of a citizen of Bhakkar, who complained about the delay in payment of the bill for the construction work done in Darya Khan police station. The IGP immediately took RPO Sargodha Shariq Kamal Siddiqui on a conference call and gave telephonic instructions. Inspector General Police

Punjab Dr. Usman Anwar heard the complaints of the citizens on the occasion of a surprise visit to the 1787 Complaint Center at the Central Police Office. Dr. Usman Anwar ordered RPO Sargodha to resolve the issue of contractor under personal supervision. On the orders of Dr. Usman Anwar, RPO Sargodha took immediate action and paid the remaining amount to contractor Nayyar.

Two involved in house robberies arrested

KARACHI (APP): The Special Investigation Unit (SIU) of the Crime Investigation Agency (CIA), Karachi Police on Monday arrested two of a gang allegedly involved in house robberies from the Brigade area, recovering snatched cash, arms, and a motorcycle used in the crimes. The spokesman for SIU told that the gang consisted of three members and their ring leader was absconding. Arrested were identified as Yousuf and Waris Masih while their accomplice Umair was absconding. The arrested, on April 14th, this year committed a robbery in the house of an employee of a private news channel.

Kohat University of Science Technology, Kohat



KOHAT UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
Kohat, 26000 Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Pakistan.
Ph# 09225291501 (4633)

TENDER NOTICE

Kohat University of Science & Technology Kohat invites bids based on MRS Annual -2022 from reputed and well established Firms / Companies/ Contractors of Alternative & Renewable energies (AREV1) to provide the Net-Metering facilitation and license through PESCO / WAPDA having valid NTN / Sales Tax registration with active ATL Status in KPRA and FBR record with modern facilities for design/ build and installation of 550 KW approximately (±10%) or suitable capacity in accordance with the need of, On-Grid Tied Solar PV System required for " KUST KOHAT " . The tender will be on the basis of Single Stage-Two envelope procedure as per KPPRA rules.

Sr.#	Name of Work	Estimated Cost(M)	Earnest Money (2% of 101.366)	Required Category of PEC	Period of Completion	Last date of submission & Time	Date & Opening Time
1	DESIGN, BUILD AND INSTALLATION OF 550 KW ON - GRID TURNKEY PHOTOVOLTAIC (PV), SOLAR SYSTEM OF VARIOUS BUILDINGS (ACADEMIC BLOCK-I, ACADEMIC BLOCK-II, IBS BLOCK, SOCIAL WORKS DEPT. AND EXAM SECTION) AT KOHAT UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (PHASE-II)	101.366	02% of Engineer Estimate (Rs. 2,027,320)	Minimum C-5 with specialization in EE11, EE-04, CE-10	As per Work order	08-06-2023 (11:30 AM)	08-06-2023 (12:00 PM)

TERMS & CONDITIONS:

- The interested bidders must have completed at least three similar natures of projects in last five years with proof.
- Bidding documents can be obtained from the office of PA to Vice Chancellor, KUST on cash payment of Rs.2500/- (non-refundable) up-to June 7th, 2023. Technical design should be based on proper analysis and rates should be quoted accordingly in the bid.
- In case of bid more than 10% below, the bidders shall submit additional bid security in light of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Public Procurement Regulatory Authority Notification No. S.R.O. (14)/Vol: 1-24/2021-22 dated MAY, 10-2022 which is available in KPPRA website.
- Financial Bid must be accompanied by bid security in shape of call deposit @ 2% of the Engineer Estimate cost in the name of Treasurer KUST.
- Income tax returns for last 03 years / audited report.
- Original Affidavit on Stamp Paper that the Firm DOESNT have any Litigation History in which Decision has been given against the firm(s).
- (If Applicable) Joint Venture agreement as per PEC criteria on stamp paper, signed by authorized persons of all the firms should be provided. All JV partners must be registered with PEC.
- The defect liability period of 01 year (all allied accessories) & warranty for solar panels for 25 years shall be commenced from the date of commissioning.
- A pre-bid meeting shall be held on 31-05-2023 at 11:00 AM in the Committee room, Kohat University of Sciences and Technology (KUST) Kohat. Bidders are invited to attend the meeting.
- The bid shall be opened in the presence of works committee members & bidders and work will be awarded to the lowest bidder.
- All taxes etc. shall be deducted from the bill of the contractor/firms at prescribed rates notified by the government of Pakistan from time to time.
- Any other information can be obtained from the office of the undersigned on any working day before the submission of the bid.
- KUST reserves the right to reject any or all bids by assigning cogent reasons.
- Bid proposal through courier should reach the office of PA to Vice Chancellor, KUST by the above mentioned date.
- The bidders/firms will have to provide the following documents at the time of receiving the tender documents
 - CNIC copy.
 - Written request on bidder letter head.
 - PEC, KPRA & FBR Registration.
 - Registration of AEDB

Director Works
Kohat University of Science Technology, Kohat
Ph #, (0922) 52914790 , Website: www.kust.edu.pk

Kohat University of Science Technology, Kohat

Kohat University of Science Technology, Kohat

Governor distributes cheques amongst disabled students at KMU

PESHAWAR (APP): The Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Haji Ghulam Ali on Monday said that disabled children are an important part of our society and will not leave them alone under any circumstances.

He also urged the youth to discourage violent behavior in the country and make decency, values and traditions, respect, and ethics a part of their lives.

He expressed these views while speaking as a chief guest at the scholarships cheques distributing ceremony amongst disabled students at Khyber Medical University (KMU). On this occasion, Health Advisor to the Caretaker Chief Minister Prof. Dr. Riaz Anwar, former provincial minister Amanullah Haqqani, a former member of the provincial assembly Atif ur Rehman, Vice Chancellor KMU Prof. Dr. Zia ul Haq, faculty members, and students were also present.

Addressing the students, the governor said that this country belongs to all of us and we all have to play our role for the country's development, integrity, and security with unity.

The events of May 9 have hurt every patriotic Pakistani. Youth must work together with the national and defense institutions to protect public and state property and thwart the ambitions of anti-national elements. The Governor paid tribute to the VC KMU, faculty members, and university administration for the complete fee waiver for disabled students and said that it is a commendable initiative of KMU to focus on disabled students.

He said that as the Chancellor, he has given clear instructions to all universities to give priority to disabled children in admissions and to waive their fees. He also emphasized that disabled students

should be given special emphasis in jobs.

He said that every child has the right to health facilities and other basic needs, including modern and quality education, and like other children, disabled children are being provided with full opportunities to come forward in other fields of education, including medicine.

He said that Khyber Medical University is an important educational institution that has its own history of educational achievements and I am trying to improve the reputation of this university.

On this occasion, the Governor distributed fee wave-off certificates to 80 disabled students of medical and allied health sciences affiliated with the university and scholarship cheques to 19 female students who received scholarships from USAID.

Earlier, immediately after reaching the university,

the governor planted a sapling on the lawn and inaugurated the newly constructed administration block of the university.

Besides, the Governor was briefed about fund issues by VC Prof. Dr. Zia ul Haq on the proposed project of Stroke and Rehabilitation Center on 120 kanal area in Swat, the hospital built with the financial support of the federal government in KMU, the treatment of thalassemia disease and the public health reference laboratory.

The Governor assured to solve the problems by calling a meeting of the relevant departments next week for the delivery of the funds and inclusion of these projects in the next ADP. On this occasion, in the presence of the Governor, a Memorandum of Understanding was also signed between KMU and PEDO regarding the welfare of disabled persons.



PESHAWAR: Caretaker Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Muhammad Azam Khan chairing a meeting regarding budget estimates 2023-24.

KPBC observes strike in solidarity with Kashmiris F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Bar Council (KPBC) observed strike in solidarity with Kashmiris against India for holding G-20 meeting in the Illegal Indian Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJ&K) on directive of Pakistan Bar Council (PBC), on Monday.

During lawyer's strike applicants returned to home without any court's proceedings while court's staff granted next dates for hearing to petitioners/respondents.

KPBC argued that India has arranged G-20 meeting illegally in IIOJ&K which is globally recognized disputed territory and condemned India for arranging the meeting at Kashmir.

KPBC argued that India act is against United Nation (UN) Security Council resolutions and UN charter while demanded Islamic World to stand together to India expose globally.

PHC orders to grant 'Shuhada Package' levies personnel wife

Humayun Khan

PESHAWAR: A divisional bench comprising of Chief Justice Peshawar High Court (PHC) Justice Musart Hilali and Justice Waqar Ahmad ordered to grant 'Shuhada package' to family Hawldar embraced martyrdom 10 years earlier.

The counsel Daras Khan Advocate informed that petitioner's husband namely Sarateen was Hawldar in Levies and embrace martyrdom in 2012-13 while deprived from 'Shuhada package'.

However, respondents pleaded in comments that concerned Act silent regarding provision of 'Shuhada package' to contract employees because the petitioner's husband was recruited on contract after retirement.

In the meantime, the counsel questioned that Is contract employees are not martyrs despite granting sacrifices against terrorism with their lives? In 2014 a notification was issued in this regard in which martyr is eligible for obtaining Prime Minister AP Package

of Rs3 million.

The counsel argued that respondents time-bar objection cannot maintainable because it is happened due to department's wrong act because government should appoint an officer to collect information regarding the martyr but the procedure was ignored.

The divisional bench comprising of Chief Justice PHC Justice Musart Hilali and Justice Waqar Ahmad accepted the writ petition while ordered to provide 'Shuhada package' to martyr's wife.

IKD's Urology Team releases performance report 2022 F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: The Team C of the Department of Urology, Institute of Kidney Diseases (IKD), Hayatabad Medical Complex (HMC) has released its annual performance report of 2022 by leading the other teams of the department.

According to the report available on IKD's website, the members of Team C attended 23707 OPD patients, 9201 emergency patients, did 1261 admissions, 1466 elective surgeries and 710 emergency surgeries during the last year.

Regarding academic achievements, they arranged 8 educational workshops, 6 symposia, 30 TBL (Team Based Learning), 5 Mock Exams and their 6 residents passed FCPS exam in 2022.

The team presented 14 research papers in national conferences. It did 9 presentations in plenary sessions and presented 2 research papers in international conferences.

It is to mention here that Prof Dr Liaquat Ali is the incharge of Team C, while Dr Muhammad Shahzad, Associate Prof & Chairman, Department of Urology & Transplant, Dr Faiza Hayat, Dr Sikander Hayat, Dr Qudratullah and Dr Ihsanullah as well as postgraduate residents are its core members.



PESHAWAR: Central president All Pakistan Truck Owners Association Malik Khwaja Muhammad Khan and president Peshawar Goods Carrier Association Haji Atta Muhammad Khan addressing a joint press conference in support of Pak Armed Forces. — F.P. photo by Ghulam Murtaza

Bilawal's visit to to boost morale of Kashmiris

PESHAWAR (APP): Pakistan Peoples' Party (PPP) Provincial Information Secretary Amjad Khan Afridi on Monday termed the visit of Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto to Azad Kashmir a historic move and said that it would boost the morale of Kashmiris.

In a statement issued here, he said that Chairman PPP and Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari paid a visit at a time when Indian government was

going to hold G-20 conference in Illegally Indian Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) in sheer violation of the international laws and UN charters.

He said that India had turned the illegally occupied valley into a biggest prison of the world after August 5 illegal constitutional amendment, adding that the foreign minister of Pakistan raised his voice against the illegal act of India at all international forums and would continue

his imperative role in this regard.

He said that PPP had always raised its voice for Kashmiris and Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari's visit to Kashmir was also a link to this effect.

Afridi said that PPP had a very clear stance regarding Kashmir and party leadership would continue to play its important role till the independence of occupied Kashmir from illegal control of India.

Study Aboard Scholarship Guidance held

Kashif Ullah Khalil

PESHAWAR: An awareness session for students to obtain scholarships aboard at Department of Plant Breeding and Genetics at University of Peshawar, on Monday.

The session was supervised by Prof. Dr. Rozina Gul under the guidance of Chairman Prof. Dr. Iftiqhar Hassain Khalil under the title of 'Study Abroad Admission Guidance scholarship opportunities' about the process of the admission in the best universities of the world. Provided necessary information.

Director Global Education Foundation UK Sunil and Assistant Professor, Department of English

Applied Linguistics, University of Peshawar Arif Khan addressed the participants while discussed the institution, the eligibility criteria, courses etc. They talked about financing loans, scholarship, grants for studying abroad. They answered several questions.

Moreover, they imparted awareness about the admission procedure for UK Universities and the importance of advance planning Prof. Dr. Rosina Gill described the session as very helpful in studying abroad and also clarified the ideal study abroad. Students will be able to clear their doubts and understand the process applying to international institution.

Child who used offensive language against forces released

PESHAWAR (APP): Daudzai police here on Monday released a child who used objectionable language against the police and law enforcing institutions during the violent protests of PTI workers on 9th May.

Daudzai police said that the child used offensive language against police and law enforcing institutions that went viral on social media. The police in its subsequent action arrested the child aged 14 years and shifted him to the police station.

However, upon the unconditional apology of the child and his parents, the police set the child free with a warning to refrain from such behavior in future.

Police said the child was released due to his underage offense and surety provided by his parents.

Velodrome for cycling to be constructed

PESHAWAR (APP): The Adviser to the Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on Sports and Youth Affairs Dr Riaz Anwar Monday said that Velodromes for the Game of Cycling will be constructed in every division of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, including Peshawar.

He said this while talking to President Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Cycling Association Nasir Mohmand, who called on him here at his office in Post Graduate Medical Institute Peshawar. Dr Riaz Anwar congratulated Nasir Mohmand on winning the bronze medal in the 34th National Games.

He assured me that the step has been taken for the promotion of cycling in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. On other issues, the advisor for sports, Dr. Riyaz Anwar further said that all kinds of facilities will be provided to the players and assuring the full support of the Chief Minister to provide financial assistance for the good performance of the players.

He said that all kinds of facilities will be provided to the players. He said such facility will be built in every division of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, including Peshawar, and make the name of the country and the nation bright. He said hopefully after the construction of Cycling Velodrome will be constructed in every division of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, including Peshawar.



PESHAWAR: Vendor selling and displaying watermelon to attract customers at Bacha Khan Chowk.

5-day polio vaccination starts in KP

PESHAWAR (APP): The five-day polio vaccination drive started in 12 districts of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on Monday wherein as many as 3.535 million children under the age of five would be given polio drop.

According to provincial health department the campaign is simultaneously being conducted in Peshawar, Nowshera, Swat, Bajaur, Hangu, Karak, Khyber, Kohat, Kurram, Mohmand, Orakzai and Charsadda districts.

More than 13,000 teams have been constituted for administering polio drops to the vulnerable population of the children while 21,000 police personnel would perform security duty along with the polio teams.

DC Peshawar Shah Fahad on Monday formally kicked off the polio vaccination drive here in the provincial capital by administering polio drops to children under the age of five at his office.

He said that the five-day campaign would cover the central city while during the next two days catch-up will be done.

He said that 2400 polio teams have been formed in Peshawar to administer polio drops to nine lac children under the age of five, adding that around 3500 security personnel have been deployed for security duty during the campaign.

The DC said that the health department and polio teams have been strictly directed to ensure vaccination of each and every child under the age of five to make the provincial capital polio free.

Traffic police issue 7110 tickets

PESHAWAR (APP): The city traffic police issued 7110 challan tickets to motorists in one month over violation of parking in the city. CTO Qamar Hayat Khan urged the owners of motorcars and bikes here on Monday to park their vehicles in parking zones and stands for smooth flow of traffic.

He said that 290 motorcycle owners were also fined for violations of no parking during the period, adding that the traffic police have time and again requested the people to cooperate with them and strictly follow the rules to avoid traffic disruption and mess in the city. He said that the traffic police have been asked to create awareness among masses about traffic rules and show no leniency to violators.

Efforts underway to raise awareness about dengue

F. P. Report

PESHAWAR: On the directions of Secretary Relief, Rehabilitation and Settlement Department Abdul Basit, a collaborative effort has been initiated by Rescue 1122, PDMA, district administration and civil defence to raise awareness about dengue prevention and control measures.

Various activities, including door-to-door campaigns, community-based initiatives, awareness walks, and social media campaigns, are currently underway.

The campaign to prevent the spread of the dengue virus is actively taking place in multiple districts, including Kohat, Lower

Dir, Chitral, Bajaur, Mansehra, Swat and others.

On the occasion, Abdul Basit, Secretary Relief, Rehabilitation and Settlement Department has provided comprehensive guidelines and standard operating procedures (SOPs) to all relevant authorities and district administrations to effectively control the potential outbreak of dengue. Clear responsibilities have been assigned to each stakeholder involved. He further highlighted that the Additional Deputy Commissioner Relief is leading the campaign in the respective districts.

Mr. Basit further emphasized that the dengue campaign is a comprehensive

and coordinated effort aimed at raising awareness about dengue. The campaign includes public awareness and education, community engagement through organizing meetings and workshops to disseminate information about dengue and engage the community in prevention activities.

Moreover, educational materials such as brochures, pamphlets, and other informative materials are being distributed in public places to raise awareness and promote preventive actions.

He urged citizens to take necessary precautions to ensure the success of the dengue control campaign.



Imran's govt did nothing except hatching conspiracies

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: Adviser to Prime Minister for Political and Public Affairs, National Heritage and Culture Engr Amir Muqam on Monday said that Imran Khan's government did nothing except hatching conspiracies against the country.

Addressing the inaugural ceremony of newly established NADRA centers in Shangla, Adviser to Prime Minister Engr Amir Muqam said that May 9 was the darkest day in the history of the country when Imran Niazi led miscreants attacked country institutions.

They caused huge loss to the public exchequer and the dignity of the country that the worst enemies of Pakistan could not do during the past 75 years, he added.

He said that now it is crystal clear that Imran Niazi was working on enemy's agenda and Imran and his followers were working against the sanctity of Pakistan.

Imran Niazi wanted to create rift in the nation's ranks using negative propaganda in his narrative, he added.

Engr. Amir Muqam said that Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz is the only political party that can steer the country out of current challenges.

He also expressed solidarity with the state institutions and asked the people to reject foreign agent like Imran Khan and choose people who are 'made in Pakistan'.

Engr Amir Muqam said that the incumbent government is fully committed to resolving the problems of the masses, especially the womenfolk. He added that Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif has put the country on the right track and in the near future people will avail its fruits.

Earlier, Adviser to Prime Minister for Political and Public Affairs, National Heritage and Culture Engr Amir Muqam has inaugurated separate NADRA centers for women in Alpurai and Bisham and

Gratis centers in Karora and Olander Bilkani. The Adviser to Prime Minister Engr Amir Muqam warmly received on arrival at the venues of inauguration by the local people.

The local people also chanted slogans in favour of Engr Amir Muqam and former Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif, Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif and Pakistan Muslim League N Chief Organizer Maryam Nawaz.

In this regard, ceremonies were held in Alpurai, Bisham, Karora and Olander Bilkani which were also attended by NADRA senior officials and administration.

The Adviser to Prime Minister unveiled the plaque to formally open the women NADRA Centers. He said that keeping in view sufferings, special centers for women with female staff members have been established in the NADRA centers, Alpurai and Bisham to facilitate them.

With special efforts of Adviser to Prime Minister Engr Amir Muqam, the NADRA Gratis Centers established at Karora and Olander Bilkani were inaugurated.

Under this NADRA issues CNIC for free as a privilege to persons belonging to some special categories, like disabled, BISP beneficiaries and employees of some government organizations.

Earlier, he also inaugurated XEN PESCO Divisional Office at Shangla, which would facilitate the people at their doorstep.



PESHAWAR: Caretaker Minister Haji Ghufuran Khan taking oath from newly elected members of Gems Stone Traders Association. — F.P. photo



In brief

140 arrested in Mardan F.P. Report

MARDAN: The police officials claimed to have arrested more than 140 leaders and activists of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) since the eruption of riots and damages to government buildings and offices on May 9. The relevant police officials told on Sunday that they had accelerated raids and efforts to arrest all those involved in May 9 riots and damages to government assets. However, the police officials had re-arrested 60 PTI workers from jail gate who were booked under 3-MPO and were granted bail by the relevant court. The officials told that innocent arrested persons would be released soon after thorough investigations while the responsible persons would be dealt with iron hands. It was observed that the local leadership of PTI went underground meant to save themselves from police arrest. The district information secretary of PTI Jehanzib Khan Hoti accused that such party workers were taken into custody and nominated in the FIR who were not present on the occasion.

Unknown armed men kills youth F.P. Report

LARKANA: Unknown culprits shot killed one at Kamber Mohalla Beru road, while the deceased identified as Rizwan Ali Gopang, an 18-year-old youth. The deceased's father Sain Dino Gopang said that my son was supporting the expenses of his family by working as a laborer and they have no enmity with anyone. He said that may God please be do justice to me. Meanwhile, in Last day, the police of Kamber Shahdadkot district arrested two suspects by carrying out operations in different areas. The accused Fida Hussain Mugheri was arrested and 400 grams of heroin and 5300 grams of gutka were recovered at area of mugheri Sim shakh, in second police action a person Arz mohammad Seelro has been arrest & recovered one new motorcycle and 1700 grams bhang. The stolen motorcycle was recovered and handed over to them, while cases have been registered against the arrested accused under the Crime Act at the police station.

Rally held in Chitral F.P. Report

CHITRAL: Like other parts of the country, a peace rally was held in Chitral showing solidarity with the Pakistan Army on Monday. The rally started from Ataliq Bazar and reached Cantonment Bridge near Chitral Scouts headquarters on Bypass Road from where it marched towards Chitral Bazar. Representatives of different political parties, traders, social workers, representatives of civil society and shopkeepers participated in the rally that was led by Farmanullah. On this occasion, the social workers of the area were holding banners on which various slogans were written to convey a message regarding solidarity with Pak Army. The rally participants were also carrying banners and placards and chanted slogans in favor of the Pakistan Army. Some of the participants were also waving the national flag on their motorcycles. Later, the rally was also joined by car riders. Talking to the media on this occasion, some participants said they participated in this rally to express solidarity with the Pakistan Army. They said due to our army we sleep peacefully in our houses adding the situation of Syria, Iraq, Afghanistan, Palestine was in front of everyone.



BARA: KP Governor Haji Ghulam Ali addressing public gathering during his visit to Khyber.

Residents demand facilities at govt hospitals

Fazal Haq

MARDAN: Due to non-availability of basic facilities in the major medical center of the city, District Headquarters Hospital, patients are facing severe problems.

While the parents of sick children are forced to run hand fans on their empty. That the post of District Health Officer in Mardan is vacant for the last six months and DHQ MS Dr. Javed Iqbal is holding the charge of Acting DHO. Due to the lack of permanent posting of DHOs, the administrative affairs of Tehsil-level hospitals and BHUs across the district are facing difficulties. Citizens have demanded from the Secretary and DG that DHO should be posted in the second big city of the province as soon as possible.

Excise arrests four alleged culprits: Excise Police Station Mardan Region has intensified operations against drug smugglers, four accused have been arrested. According to the Excise spokesperson, SHO Mohammad Riaz Khan, ASHO Azlan Aslam and Sub Inspector along with their team While operating in Swabi and Charsadda, the wanted accused Zubair Son of Uzair was arrested on the spot in a large quantity of drug smuggling case.

The accused was arrested during a raid from Lahore Tehsil of Swabi, who was absconding for a year. While in the same way, in another operation, the fugitive accused Fayyaz son of Taj Muhammad was arrested in Charsadda Tehsil Tangi during a raid in the international smuggling case, the accused had fled abroad and was arrested on the information

regarding his return. In the third operation, 8 rifles, 6 pistols, 20 magazines and 3500 cartridges were recovered and a case of arms was registered in City Police Station Mardan.

Traffic management indicator for civility: Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP) Farooq Zaman and Traffic DSP Saadat Khan have said that a nation can be recognized by the traffic system. Because management exemplifies human behavior. And it introduces itself as a nation. We have to work on people's attitudes along with developing the traffic system on modern lines.

For which traffic department, civil society, business organizations and media representatives will play a full role. He expressed these views while speaking during a press briefing at Kstlang Press Club registered. On this occasion, Sirajul Islam, President of Tajran Tehsil katlang, General Secretary Haji Farman Ghani, Zwar Hussain of Transport, Niaz Ali Khan and other social workers participated on this occasion. He said that the staff is being equipped with all kinds of skills to keep the traffic system moving.

Special training is being given. And attention is being paid to the basic needs. The proposal to increase the traffic squad in Mardan district is being implemented. And the results will come out very soon. He appealed to the parents to closely monitor their children in the matter of motorcycles. And motorcycle should not be given to young children. Because according to hospital records, 80% of accidents are caused by motorcycles.

Traders, minorities and civil societies hold rally F.P. Report

BUNER: A rally with emblem of Estiskham-e-Pakistan arranged by trader federation, minorities and civil societies in Swari Bazaar, on Monday.

The trader's federation Fazal Rabi the minorities wing Dr Sardar Tilak Chand Singh the ulema leadwrs Maulana Mansoor Mansori Maulana Jamil the civil societies leader Hashtamand Khan and hundred others participated. The participants were carried Pak flags banners with slogans in support of Pak Army and were also waving portraits of Army martyrs.

The participants were taken out procession in the Swari Bazaar and showed solidarity with Pak Army. The rally addressed by Fazal Rabi Said Whid Khan Maulana Jamil Maulana Nasar Naseri Hashtamand Khan and Rafi-ud-din. The speakers assured all out support to Pak Army and KP Police and appreciated their joint venture for protection of the mother land its institutions and assets and citizens as well.

They condemned those were involved in 9 May ransacking public and private properties damages to national heroes statues and attacks on GHQ CCHs and army cantonments. They demanded of the government and judiciary to arrest and award exemplary punishment those were involved and behind this enmity against the motherland.

Restoration of water in Lakki Canal demanded F.P. Report

LAKKI MARWAT: Former Minister Anwar Saifullah said that Marwat stands by the side of Pakistan Army and demanded restoration of water in Lakki Marwat Canal. The leaders of the Marwat Qaumi Jirga announced their full support to the Pakistan Army for the wider interest of the region.

The was argued by a jirga under the chairmanship of former Federal Minister Anwar Saifullah Khan in which Marwat Qaumi Jirga Ameer Alhaj Aslam Khan Isak Khel Barrister Sher Afzal Khan Akhtar Munir Khan Menakhil Former MNA Naseer Muhammad Khan Malik Najibullah Tehsil Chairman Shafqatullah Khan Haji Azizullah Khan Zeeshan Muhammad Khan Nasir Kamal Khan Meenakhil Idris Khan Former Tehsil Nazim Lakki Haji Hidayatullah Isak Khel and other members participated.

The Jirga members expressed their determination that they will stand by the side of the Pakistan Army to end the unrest from Marwat area He said that for the development of any society there must be peace. Without naming anyone, he said that he will not allow anyone to disturb the peace of Marwat area We do not need outsiders to establish peace and order in the area. He appealed to the government that restoration of water in Marwat Canal is very necessary to end unrest and unemployment. The government should immediately ensure restoration of water in Marwat Canal The meeting of Marwat Qaumi Jirga.

Govt to remove sense of deprivation among tribesmen

F.P. Report

BARA: The incumbent Federal government is well aware of the miseries of the tribal people therefore Prime Minister Shabaz Sharif okayed 20 billion rupees for the uplift schemes in the merged tribal districts.

For the last two decades tribesmen have passed through a worst kind of militancy therefore time has come to recognize their sacrifices, ease their sadness and facilitate them with all basic rights being enjoyed by other citizens of the country. The views were expressed by the Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Haji Ghulam Ali while address-

ing a public gathering during his visit to Bara on Monday.

He said that first ever, the Governor KP along with ten Provincial Ministers paid a visit to Bara that derived from the fact that they valued the tribal and were serious about addressing their problems. The Federal Government approved a huge income of 20 billion rupees fund for the ex-tribal regions that would be spent on priority based on the development of health, education, potable water and power schemes, he remarked.

He maintained that peace was inevitable for progress and sustainable peace was restored due to unmatched

sacrifices of forces. Officials of line departments, tribal elders, traders and people from different walks of life participated in the moot.

Prior to it, the Governor and the Provincial Ministers were received warmly on their arrival to Bara and were apprised of the problems being faced by them. Meanwhile the Governor Ghulam Ali inaugurated Bara-Peshthakhra road and donated an ambulance for district Khyber. He also took part in a public rally organized at Dogra, Bara to discourage use of narcotics and say no to narcotics in addition planting a sibling to open the plantation drive in the district.

KKKU hold seminar on solidarity with Pak Army

F.P. Report

KARAK: The Faculty, Administration, and students of Khushal Khan Khattak University (KKKU), Karak came together in a show of respect for the Pakistan Army by organizing a seminar and a solidarity walk. Titled "Pakistan Army: A Metaphor of National Unity," the event aimed to honor the valiant efforts and sacrifices of the Pakistan Army in safeguarding the nation's sovereignty.

The seminar, held in the video conference room of the University, featured distinguished speakers, including Controller of Examinations Dr. Muhammad Zubair Khattak and Head Department of Computer Science and Bioinformatics Dr. Muhammad Inamul Haq. The Deputy Director Administration Abdul Baseer and Deputy Provost Zulfiqar Ali Anjum also participated in the Seminar besides faculty and students.



The seminar delved into the historical significance of the Pakistan Army as a symbol of unity, discipline, and resilience. Emphasizing the critical role of the armed forces in ensuring national security and territorial integrity, the speakers highlighted the Pakistan Army's unwavering all time commitment to the nation. The discussions also covered the modernization efforts, and humanitarian initiatives undertaken by the Pakistan Army.

Following the seminar, a solidarity walk was organized, in which students, faculty members, and the administration walked together, demonstrating their unwavering support for the Pakistan Army. The participants carried banners, posters, and placards,

exuding a vibrant display of national pride and unity.

Prof. Dr. Sardar Khan, Vice-Chancellor of Khushal Khan Khattak University, Karak, expressed his gratitude to the Pakistan Army for its exemplary services. He stated, "This seminar and solidarity walk serve as a powerful testament to our deep appreciation towards the Pakistan Army. We acknowledge the sacrifices made by our brave soldiers and recognize their role in safeguarding our nation's interests."

The event concluded with a heartfelt prayer for the well-being and success of the Pakistan Army, and the participants expressed their determination to continue supporting and honoring the armed forces.

STEAM Pakistan delegation visits TEF

Saqib Mushtaq

LODHAN: A delegation from STEAM Pakistan, a non-profit organization working to promote science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics education in the country, visited Tareen Education Foundation (TEF) in Lodhran, on Monday.

The delegation comprised of Mr. Bilal Rao, Head of Delivery Reforms and Implementation, Malala Fund, Ms. Huma Zia, Head of Policy, Ghamae Jamal, Senior Research Associate, and Areej Mahmood, Punjab Lead. The delegation was warmly received by Akbar Khan, the Chief Executive Officer of TEF, and his team. Khan briefed the guests about the history, vision and achievements of TEF, which has been providing quality education to the underprivileged children of Lodhran district for the last thirteen years. The delegation visited four schools facilitated by TEF: Amina Girls School and College 21 MPR, Lodhran



Public School Lodhran, Government Girls High School Lodhran and TEF School Khanwan Ghalwan. They were impressed by the state-of-the-art facilities and infrastructure provided by TEF in these schools, such as libraries, computer labs, digital literacy programs and sports facilities. They also interacted with the students and teachers and appreciated their enthusiasm and performance.

Later, they had a productive meeting with government school heads and teachers and, took their feedback on the educational reforms by TEF. They discussed the challenges and opportunities of education in Lodhran with TEF's team and explored the possibi-

ties of future collaboration between STEAM Pakistan and TEF.

The delegation expressed their gratitude and admiration for the efforts of TEF and its founder Mr. Jahangir Khan Tareen in transforming the education landscape of Lodhran district. They said that they were inspired by TEF's reformative work in Amina Girls High School and hoped to transform other government high schools through policy level reform. The visit was part of STEAM Pakistan's initiative to observe and support the educational innovations and interventions in different regions of Pakistan.

CEO education inspected different schools

Hafiz Aziz-ur-Rehman

HAFIZABAD: Chief Executive Officer Education Hafizabad Sohail Azhar Khan visited different schools and offices of education department of district Hafizabad and found many teachers, clerks and other employees absent from duty and involve in students labour in schools. Five teachers and clerks were suspended from service and enquiry has been started against employees.

According to details, CEO Education visited Office of the Deputy DEO (W) Pindi Bhattian and found three clerks Asghar Ali, Rehmat Ullah and Muhammad Irfan from duty and suspend them from service while during the visit of government high school Wachoki Kalan, he suspended Aqeel Afzal SST to taking notice of mismanagement and poor cleanliness of computer lab. CEO Soahil Azhar Khan also suspended Muhammad Qasim Naib Qasid government primary

school No. 1, Pindi Bhattian on committing misconduct and taking child labour.

He also call explanation from Muhammad Ahsan Headmaster government Primary school No. 1, Pindi Bhattian on the charges of maladministration, student labour and misconduct. During the inspection of Government Safia Ramzan Special Education School Pindi Bhattian, Principal Nabila Akhtar and other six teachers were not present in the school. CEO ordered to launch enquiry against absentee staff and suspended Abdul Hamid Naib Qasid of the school on committing negligence in performing his duty.

Police festival concluded: People and employees friendly steps taken by the District Police Officer Hafizabad Dr. Fahad Ahmad are yielding positive and fruitful results while not only sense of security is prevailed among people but confidence of common people on police restored in the great extant.

These views were expressed in the meeting of 'Anjuman Islah-e-Muaashra' Hafizabad held here. President 'Anjuman Islah-e-Muaashra' Hafizabad Ch. Imtiaz Ahmad Taj has presided over the meeting. Speakers said in the meeting that establishment of 'Tahaffuz Markaz' for providing relief to transgender and women at Hafizabad, police festival, inquire after ailing children of Cops, meetings with families of police martyred and 'Ghazi', steps for promotion of Cops are laudable measures of the DPO.

He said that foolproof security arrangements during distribution of flour and provision of security to Census staff, issuance of learner driving permits at 'Khidmat Markaz' arrest of criminal gangs, recovery of booty worth millions of rupees from accused and return of recovered articles and amount to their owners are also appreciable steps of the DPO Dr. Fahad Ahmad.

Police to crackdown against outlawed phase-wise: RPO

F.P. Report

BANNU: Regional Police Officer (RPO) Qasim Ali Khan said that lists of professional criminals, usurers, mafia, and drug dealers are being compiled in all three districts of Bannu Division. A phased operation will be initiated at the district level to ensure public safety.

The police are committed to providing justice and will play their role as servants of the people. There will be no tolerance for any injustice or unfair treatment in any part of the three districts. Drug dealers and their guarantors will not be exempted under any circumstances.

RPO Qasim Ali Khan expressed these views while speaking to media representatives during his meeting

with press club members including Mohammad Alam Khan, Omar Diaz Khan, Abdul Salam Batiab, Kareem Ullah Khan, and others. RPO Qasim Ali Khan mentioned that he has already served in Bannu as a District Police Officer and is fully aware of every corner of the region.

He stated that special instructions have been issued to the staff of the Regional Police, which includes preparing lists of lucky draws in Bannu, drug dealers in North Waziristan, their guarantors, illegal occupants of properties, usurers, and those involved in theft and dacoities.

After this, a grand operation will be initiated in all three districts, where no pressure will be accepted. He said that the soft image of this

area will be projected positively, and the police force of this area has sacrificed their lives in the war against terrorism, establishing peace on this land. To maintain it, the police will remain vigilant. He further stated that a helpline system has been established to promptly address the ongoing issues related to the police of the three districts.

Any citizen can contact the designated numbers of the Regional Police Office. In this regard, the police personnel will respond immediately to public complaints. He added that after the appointments, a series of meetings has been initiated, and the public, politicians, journalists, and lawyers will be together with the police to protect this land.



Army fights to keep Wadi Saeedna airbase

KHARTOUM (BBC): Sudan's army is resisting an attempt by paramilitaries to advance towards its main air-base near the capital Khartoum, residents have said. The airfield is used by the military to carry out air strikes on the Rapid Support Forces (RSF), and was also used by foreign governments to evacuate their nationals early in the conflict.

The fighting comes despite the announcement of a new seven-day truce. Previous ceasefires have collapsed within minutes of being called. A US-Saudi statement said the latest truce would come into effect on Monday evening, and would be different as it provides for a "ceasefire monitoring mechanism".

The US and Saudi Arabia have been brokering talks between the army and the RSF in the Saudi city of Jeddah for the past two weeks in an attempt to end the conflict that broke out on 15 April. Most people I spoke to in Khartoum said a ceasefire would hold only if international monitors - backed by United Nations (UN) peacekeepers - are deployed. In a sign of their lack of confidence in the latest ceasefire deal, bus loads of residents are continuing to flee Khartoum and its sister cities across the River Nile, Bahri and Omdurman, as there has been no let-up in the fighting.

RSF fighters in about 20 trucks are positioned east of the Nile, and are trying to cross a bridge to reach the Wadi Saeedna airfield. The Sudanese military has retaliated by firing heavy



artillery. The battle has been going on for several days, but it has escalated. "It feels like doomsday. I think they will torture us until this ceasefire comes into effect," said a resident in Bahri's Khojalab suburb. The military cannot afford to lose control of the airfield, as it is key to its strategy of pounding the RSF from the air as it fights to regain control of Khartoum and the other two cities. An air strike also took place in Omdurman, and explosions could be heard in its southern areas.

Earlier, the US State Department acknowledged previous failed attempts at brokering peace in Sudan, but said there was a key difference this time. "Unlike previous ceasefires, the agreement reached in Jeddah was signed by the parties and will be supported by a US-Saudi and international-

supported ceasefire monitoring mechanism," it said, without giving more details.

Sudan's military said it was committed to the agreement. The RSF has not commented. The deal also allows for the delivery of humanitarian aid. Stocks of food, money and essentials have fast declined and aid groups repeatedly complained of being unable to provide sufficient assistance in Khartoum. Both the regular army and the RSF have been urged to allow the distribution of humanitarian aid, restore essential services and withdraw forces from hospitals. US Secretary of State Antony Blinken said on Twitter: "It is past time to silence the guns and allow unhindered humanitarian access. 'I implore both sides to uphold this agreement - the eyes of the world are watching.' The

war broke out following a power struggle between Sudan's regular army chief Abdel Fattah al-Burhan and his former deputy Mohamed Hamdan Daglo, who leads the RSF. Hundreds of people have been killed in the fighting and the UN has warned of a worsening situation in Africa's third-largest country, where a huge number of people already relied on aid before the conflict.

On 11 May, both sides signed a commitment intended to lay the groundwork for humanitarian assistance in Sudan. But earlier this week, UN aid chief Martin Griffiths told the AFP news agency there had been "important and egregious" violations of that agreement, which he added fell short of a ceasefire. Meanwhile, a temporary ceasefire in Sudan has been agreed as fighting between two warring factions entered its sixth week.

Previous truce attempts between Sudan's regular army and the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF) have tended to collapse within minutes of beginning. But the new deal will be enforced by a "ceasefire monitoring mechanism," according to a US-Saudi statement. As part of the seven-day humanitarian ceasefire, Sudanese officials have agreed to restore essential services. Fighting between the two sides has plunged the country into chaos since it began last month, with more than a million people thought to have been displaced. Qatar said that its embassy in the capital Khartoum had been ransacked by

"irregular armed forces", and it called for the perpetrators to be held accountable for the "heinous act".

Other embassies, including Jordan's, have also been previously ransacked, along with aid warehouses of the UN. Stocks of food, money and essentials have fast declined and aid groups repeatedly complained of being unable to provide sufficient assistance in Khartoum, where much of the violence has taken place. Both the regular army and the RSF have been urged to allow the distribution of humanitarian aid, restore essential services and withdraw forces from hospitals. The United States and Saudi Arabia, who sponsored the peace talks in Jeddah, said the ceasefire would come into effect on Monday evening. In a statement, the US State Department acknowledged previous failed attempts at brokering peace in Sudan, but said there was a key difference this time.

"Unlike previous ceasefires, the agreement reached in Jeddah was signed by the parties and will be supported by a US-Saudi and international-supported ceasefire monitoring mechanism," it said, without giving more detail. Taking to Twitter, US Secretary of State Antony Blinken added: "It is past time to silence the guns and allow unhindered humanitarian access. 'I implore both sides to uphold this agreement - the eyes of the world are watching.' The war broke out in Khartoum on 15 April following days of tension as members

of the RSF were redeployed around the country in a move that the army saw as a threat.

There was also a power struggle between Sudan's regular army chief Abdel Fattah al-Burhan and his former deputy Mohamed Hamdan Daglo, who leads the RSF. Hundreds of people have been killed in the fighting and the UN has warned of a worsening situation in Africa's third-largest country, where a huge number of people already relied on aid before the conflict. It has been two weeks since representatives of the warring factions first gathered in the Saudi capital for peace talks.

On 11 May, both sides signed a commitment intended to lay the groundwork for humanitarian assistance in Sudan. But earlier this week, UN aid chief Martin Griffiths told the AFP news agency there had been "important and egregious" violations of that agreement, which he added fell short of a ceasefire. Reports of violence across the country remain rife, with strikes reported by eyewitnesses in southern Omdurman and northern Bahri, the two cities that lie across the Nile from Khartoum. An Omdurman resident recalled her house "shaking" as a result of "heavy artillery fire". "It was terrifying, everyone was lying under their beds," Sanaa Hassan, a 33-year-old living in the al-Salha neighbourhood, told Reuters by phone. "What's happening is a nightmare."

Civil rights groups warn tourists about Florida in wake of 'hostile' laws

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP): The NAACP over the weekend issued a travel advisory for Florida, joining two other civil rights groups in warning potential tourists that recent laws and policies championed by Gov. Ron DeSantis and Florida lawmakers are "openly hostile toward African Americans, people of color and LGBTQ+ individuals." The NAACP, long an advocate for Black Americans, joined the League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC), a Latino civil rights organization, and Equality Florida, a gay rights advocacy group, in issuing travel advisories for the Sunshine State, where tourism is one of the state's largest job sectors.

The warning approved by the NAACP's board of directors tells tourists that, before traveling to Florida, they should understand the state of Florida "devalues and marginalizes the contributions of, and the challenges faced by African Americans and other com-

munities of color." An email was sent to DeSantis' office seeking comment. The Republican governor is expected to announce a run for the GOP presidential nomination this week. Florida is one of the most popular states in the US for tourists, and tourism is one of its biggest industries. More than 137.5 million tourists visited Florida last year, marking a return to pre-pandemic levels, according to Visit Florida, the state's tourism promotion agency. Tourism supports 1.6 million full-time and part-time jobs, and visitors spent \$98.8 billion in Florida in 2019, the last year figures are available.

Several of Florida's Democratic mayors were quick to say that their cities welcomed diversity and inclusion. "EVERYONE is always welcome and will be treated with dignity and respect," tweeted Mayor Ken Welch of St. Petersburg in a message echoed by the mayor across the bay in Tampa. "That will never

change, regardless of what happens in Tallahassee," tweeted Mayor Jane Castor of Tampa.

The NAACP's decision comes after the DeSantis' administration in January rejected the College Board's Advanced Placement African American Studies course. DeSantis and Republican lawmakers also have pressed forward with measures that ban state colleges from having programs on diversity, equity and inclusion, as well as critical race theory, and also passed the Stop WOKE Act that restricts certain race-based conversations and analysis in schools and businesses. In its warning for Hispanic travelers considering a visit to Florida, LULAC cited a new law that prohibits local governments from providing money to organizations that issue identification cards to people illegally in the country and invalidates out-of-state driver's licenses held by undocumented immigrants, among other things. The law also requires

hospitals that accept Medicaid to include a citizenship question on intake forms, which critics have said is intended to dissuade immigrants living in the US illegally from seeking medical care. "The actions taken by Governor DeSantis have created a shadow of fear within communities across the state," said Lydia Medrano, a LULAC vice president for the Southeast region. Recent efforts to limit discussion on LGBTQ topics in schools, the removal of books with gay characters from school libraries, a recent ban on gender-affirming care for minors, new restrictions on abortion access and a law allowing Floridians to carry concealed guns without a permit contributed to Equality Florida's warning. "Taken in their totality, Florida's slate of laws and policies targeting basic freedoms and rights pose a serious risk to the health and safety of those traveling to the state," Equality Florida's advisory said.

3 Palestinians killed by Israeli forces

GAZA CITY (Agencies): Three Palestinians have been killed in a raid by Israeli forces on the Balata refugee camp in the occupied West Bank, the Palestinian health ministry said in a statement. The incident took place at about 1am local time on Monday after Israeli forces blockaded the camp's entrances with bulldozers, preventing ambulances and journalists from getting inside, residents told Al Jazeera.

The raid was one of the largest operations in years, they said. The Palestinian health ministry identified the three men killed as Muhammad Abu Zaytoun, 32, Fathi Abu Rizk, 30, and Abdullah Abu Hamdan, 24. There was no immediate confirmation of the fatalities by the Israeli military. Israel has conducted a series of incursions in the occupied West Bank since the start of the year, and earlier this month raided Balata where it killed two Palestinians.

On that occasion, the Fatah movement of Palestinian President Mahmud Abbas said the two men killed were members of its armed wing, the Al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigades. Monday's raid took place after a car ramming attack near Nablus in which an Israeli soldier was injured.

Russia says F-16 transfer to raise question

MOSCOW (Agencies): The transfer of F-16 fighter jets to Ukraine would raise the question of NATO's involvement in the conflict, Russia's Ambassador to the United States Anatoly Antonov has said. "There is no infrastructure for the operation of the F-16 in Ukraine and the needed number of pilots and maintenance personnel is not there either," Antonov said in remarks published on the embassy's Telegram messaging channel on Monday.

"What will happen if the American fighters take off from NATO airfields, controlled by foreign 'volunteers'?" Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelenskyy has for months been calling on the country's Western allies to supply advanced fighter jets amid concerns such a move would be met with an escalation by Russian President Vladimir Putin. But amid a flurry of diplomacy by Zelenskyy ahead of the just-concluded G7 summit in Hiroshima, Japan, United Kingdom Prime Minister Rishi Sunak and Dutch Prime Minister Mark Rutte announced last week they had agreed to build an "international coalition" to provide fighter jet support for Ukraine. Then, US President Joe Biden endorsed training programmes for Ukrainian pilots on F-16 fighter jets, with Zelenskyy assuring Biden that the aircraft would not be used to go into Russian territory. Over the weekend, Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Alexander Grushko warned Western countries would be running "colossal risks" if they went ahead with the supply of the F-16s.

Uvalde shooting, probe of police response continues

AUSTIN, Texas (AP): A criminal investigation in Texas over the hesitant police response to the Robb Elementary School shooting is still ongoing marks one year since a gunman killed 19 children and two teachers inside a fourth-grade classroom in Uvalde. The continuing probe underlines the lasting fallout over Texas' deadliest school shooting and how the days after the attack were marred by authorities giving inaccurate and conflicting accounts about efforts made to stop a teenage gunman armed with an AR-style rifle.

The investigation has run parallel to a new wave of public anger in the US over gun violence, renewed calls for stricter firearm regulations and legal challenges over authorities in Uvalde continuing to withhold public records related to the shooting and the police response. Here's a look at what has happened in the year since one of America's deadliest mass shootings: A damning report by Texas lawmakers put nearly 400 officers on the scene from an array of federal, state and local agencies. The findings laid out how heavily armed officers waited more than hour to confront and kill the 18-year-old gunman. It also accused police of failing "to prioritize saving inno-

cent lives over their own safety."

All of the students killed were between the ages of 9 and 11 years old. At least five officers who were put under investigation after the shooting were either fired or resigned, although a full accounting is unclear. The head of the Texas Department of Public Safety, Col. Steve McCraw, put much of the blame after the attack on Uvalde's school police chief, who was later fired by trustees. McCraw had more than 90 of his own officers at the school - more than any other agency - and has rebuffed calls by some Uvalde families and lawmakers to also resign.

Uvalde County District Attorney Christina Mitchell said last week that Texas Rangers are still investigating the police response and that her office will ultimately present the findings to a grand jury. She said she did not have a timeline for when the investigation would be finished. President Joe Biden signed the nation's most sweeping gun violence bill in decades a month after the shooting. It included tougher background checks for the youngest gun buyers and added more funding for mental health programs and aid to schools. It did not go as far as restrictions sought by some Uvalde families

who have called on lawmakers to raise the purchase age for AR-style rifles. In the GOP-controlled Texas Capitol, Republicans this year rejected virtually all proposals to tighten gun laws over the protests of the families and Democrats.

Republican Gov. Greg Abbott has also waved off calls for tougher gun laws, just as he did after mass shootings at a Sutherland Springs church in 2017 and an El Paso Walmart in 2018. The issue has not turned Texas voters away from Abbott, who easily won a third term months after the Uvalde shooting. The Uvalde school district permanently closed the Robb Elementary campus and plans for a new school are in the works. Schools in Uvalde will be closed. About a dozen students in the classroom where the shooting unfolded survived the attack. Some returned to class in person last fall. Others attended school virtually, including a girl who spent more than two months in the hospital after being shot multiple times.

Veronica Mata, a kindergarten teacher in Uvalde, also returned to class this year after her 10-daughter Tess was among those killed in the attack. Some Uvalde families have filed lawsuits against the gun maker and law enforcement.

Tourism dreams and violence woes after Djerba attack

TUNIS (Agencies): Tunisian academic Habib Kazdaghi was on a bus outside the Ghriba Synagogue when the attack happened earlier this month. Neither he nor any of his students on the coach knew what was happening. "We thought it was a fight between the policemen at first," he told a translator later. "We didn't know how many people were involved. We just lay on the floor of the bus in silence, for over an hour and waited."

A Muslim by birth, Kazdaghi has been travelling to the Ghriba Synagogue on the island of Djerba every year to join with the Jewish community in celebrating the festival of Lag Ba'omer. "We just waited there, wondering if the gunman would come on the bus. I was hoping that none of the students would contact their parents or friends from the bus, because the gunman might hear. We just waited. We didn't know anything," He paused, reflecting for a moment. "So much of this is about memory. All of us experience and repress memories. Something like this, especially for Tunisian Jews, just brings it all back," he said. Tunisia's Jews have been present within the country for more than 2,000 years, mixing with Indigenous Berbers, Carthaginians, Romans and Arabs. From exile within Tunisia to persecution during the country's Nazi occupation, few of these

years have been free from incident.

Nevertheless, as the story of this latest attack spread through Tunisian media, the government's determination to frame it as a criminal assault upon the tourism industry, rather than an anti-Semitic attack on one of the region's most vulnerable communities, became increasingly apparent. The facts as we know them are: Shortly after 8pm, National Guardsman Wissam Khazri, after having slain another officer and stolen his weapon and ammunition, arrived at the Synagogue, after having travelled more than half an hour overland by quad bike to reach it. Once there, the interior ministry said, he opened fire apparently indiscriminately, killing two pilgrims, cousins Avial and Ben Haddad, and two police officers, as well as wounding several more. Two minutes later, he was shot dead by officers. However, over the next 24 hours, the government pursued a course of minimising the anti-Semitic nature of the attack, while emphasising the minimal disruption caused to the country's tourism industry, of which the island of Djerba contributes a significant amount. The problem, Kazdaghi said, was not that the government was unused to responding to crises, it was rather that they didn't know how to respond to this crisis. "That the attack targeted Jewish people and that it took place at El

Ghriba" left them paralysed, he said. "They don't know how to explain it. They don't know how to make it make sense to people," he told a translator.

Addressing the country a day later, President Kais Saied characterised the attack as "criminal", rather than "terrorist", in nature, a term he deploys with relative ease against his opponents and critics. There was no mention of the gunman's anti-Semitism or his specific targeting of the Jewish community. In a brief news conference a couple of days later, the interior minister informed journalists of the attacker's name and that the ministry regarded the attack as premeditated. Little more was added. The truth, according to observers such as Hamza Meddeb of the Carnegie Middle East Centre, is that, despite reports of four arrests since the shooting, the reality, including the race of those targeted, is simply too messy. "I can understand why they don't want to call this a terrorist incident," he said. "It raises too many questions. Let's not forget the attacker was a police officer, we know nothing of this guy's background. Had he been radicalised? If so, by who? How extensive was his network? If they say he's an anti-Semite, how extensive are those sentiments within the police? More significantly, how extensive are those sentiments across society? That's an uncomfortable question."

Tens of thousands rally in Moldova

CHINISINAU (Agencies): Tens of thousands of Moldovans rallied in the capital Chisinau to support their pro-Western government's drive towards Europe amid what officials have said are Russian efforts to destabilise their country. More than 75,000 people participated in the demonstration in the centre of the capital, according to initial police estimates.

They waved European Union flags and chanted pro-European slogans. "We came to say loudly, confidently and proudly that Moldovans are Europeans!" President Maia Sandu, who had called for the rally, told the crowd. She said her country wanted to join the 27-nation EU by 2030. "This is the chance for our people to live in peace and prosperity," she said.

Moldova has been badly hit by the impact of Moscow's invasion of neighbouring Ukraine, which Chisinau has repeatedly condemned, and applied to join the EU. Sandu has accused Russia of seeking to sabotage its European integration by fuelling anti-government protests and propaganda. Moscow denies meddling in Moldova's affairs. "Moldova does not want to be blackmailed by the Kremlin," Sandu said at the rally that packed a central square. Police said more than 75,000 demonstrators were present. "We don't want to be on the outskirts of Europe anymore," she said. On a visit to Chisinau, European Parliament President Roberta Metsola also addressed the rally, saying Europe would welcome Moldova "with

open arms and open hearts".

"This is about the both of us: You will bring a piece of Moldova to Europe, and you will make Europe stronger," she said. Demonstrators called on Moldova's political leaders to amend the constitution to specifically mention the country's European orientation. The leader of the pro-Russian opposition Shor Party, exiled businessman Ilan Shor, told his supporters at rival protests in several cities via video link that he would seek a referendum on Moldova's foreign policy. Shor, sanctioned by the United States as an agent of Russian influence in Moldova, was handed a 15-year jail sentence in absentia last month for his role in the 2014 theft of \$1bn from Moldovan banks.

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JALIL AFRIDI
Managing Editor

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Moraka's Printers, 27 Abdara Road, University Town,
Peshawar.
Peshawar Office: 091-5700095, 0300- 9009001
Peshawar Fax: 091-5703687, Post Box No. 573
E-mail: fppeshawar@thefrontierpost.com
Lahore Office: 0335-4026284
Email: fplahore@thefrontierpost.com
Islamabad Office: 0321-5066253
Email: mahmoodafridi@thefrontierpost.com
Karachi Office: 021-32213411, 0300-8340907
Email: fpkarachi@thefrontierpost.com
“USA and Canada Toll Free Number 1-800-5905747

G20 meeting and Modi’s nefarious plan

THE G20 Tourism Working Group Summit has picked up its agenda in Srinagar, the capital of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK), an internationally recognized disputed territory under the UN resolutions. The conference is being held under three-grid high security and thousands of additional troops had been deployed in Srinagar to ensure the security of the G20 conference. Several key G20 members including China, Turkiye, and Saudi Arabia boycotted the event while the Special invitee Egypt also preferred not to participate in the controversial huddle. According to reports, the Indian government has made every effort to present a grand spectacle for the delegates visiting the occupied territory, and various projects from the Srinagar Smart City had been showcased ahead of the event in a bid to portray normalcy in the prevailing tense situation that badly failed due to the extensive security arrangements and a curfew-like situation in the occupied territory.

India has long been forcibly occupying Jammu and Kashmir over the past seven and a half decades and Kashmir remained one of the long-standing unresolved disputes on the agenda of the UN Security Council (UNSC) during this time. The Indian rulers themselves took the Kashmir issue to the United Nations and categorically acknowledged the need for a peaceful settlement of the issue by holding a plebiscite in the disputed territory under the UN’s mandate but treacherously delayed that process on one or other excuse in the past. Meanwhile, the Indian government conferred special status to Indian Occupied Jammu and Kashmir under Article 370 and Section 35 of the Indian constitution in 1954, while the purchase of property and registration of votes of non-Kashmiri Indians were not allowed under this act over the past decades. Later, the Modi-led BJP Hindutva regime unashamedly revoked Article 370 and Section 35 in August 2019 in a bid to change the demographics of the disputed territory through administrative and regulatory measures.

After having done all domestic legal, administrative, electoral, and Security measures, the Modi government has set the stage to hold a global G20 meeting in the disputed territory to give apparent validity to its unlawful actions of August 5, 2019, and thereafter. However, the government of Pakistan along with Kashmiri freedom activists and human rights groups raised their voices against Modi’s nefarious agenda at the global level. Meanwhile, UN Special Rapporteur on Minority Issues has recently criticized the event being held in Srinagar as an effort to deceive the world about the worst human rights violations in the valley. According to the UN official, human rights violations had risen dramatically in IIOJK since 2019 after the Indian government revoked the special status of the territory.

In fact, the Modi regime is currently pursuing a long-term policy to gradually change the status of the Jammu and Kashmir dispute through necessary changes in the Indian constitution, legal and administrative policies, and procedures to completely change the demography of the occupied region. Indian diplomacy is aggressively preaching and defending the so-called narrative about Kashmir as India’s integral part and internal issues, while at the same time, New Delhi has launched a propaganda campaign against Pakistan and the Kashmir freedom movement to defame and discredit them at the global level. Over the years, India’s hegemonism has exceeded its limit despite the fact that Modi’s regime has lost a huge chunk of its land during the recent stand-off with China. Multiple ethnic and religious groups in India had launched their freedom movements to get rid of the Hindu narcissist rule, while Kashmir and Punjab had become bleeding wounds of Indian democracy.

India has waged a brutal war against the Kashmiris to suppress their just struggle for their right to self-determination, but unarmed Kashmiris stood fast against unpredictable human rights violations, inhumane torture, and arbitrary detention by the Indian security forces. Kashmir youth had rendered unmatched sacrifices during their freedom movement over the past seven and a half decades. Now India seeks to normalize its military occupation by instrumentalizing a G20 meeting and portraying an international seal of approval over its illegal and unilateral measures in the valley. However, the world has witnessed the true face of Modi’s Hindutva regime and its complicity with RSS extremist ideology. Therefore, the world’s civilized nations preferred not to be partners with Modi’s unlawful campaign to rescind the UN-recognized Kashmir dispute and sabotage Kashmiris’ just right to self-determination in love for Modi’s Hindutva regime. Although India might succeed in convening a failed G20 summit in a disputed region, however, New Delhi would never be able to implement its nefarious designs over 14 million Kashmiris, who are currently serving lifelong imprisonment in India’s Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK). The government and the people of Pakistan had never paused their support for their Kashmiri brethren in the past and Pakistanis would continue their diplomatic, political, and moral support to Kashmir cause until the people of Kashmir get freedom from Indian draconian rule.

Russia’s absence makes G7 Summit a missed opportunity

Dalia Al-Aqidi

THE G7 Summit held in Japan over the weekend sparked considerable controversy because Ukraine was invited but Russia was excluded. This raises questions about the underlying motives and potential consequences of banning such a significant global player at such a critical time. The exclusion of Russia from the G7 Summit can be traced back to its annexation of Crimea in 2014 and its involvement in the conflict in Eastern Ukraine. These actions violated international law, leading to Russia’s suspension from the then-G8 and subsequent exclusion from the G7 meetings. The rationale behind this decision was to isolate Russia to express disapproval and discourage further aggression.

This decision stems from a desire to hold Vladimir Putin accountable for his actions. By isolating him, G7 countries sought to express their strong disapproval and discourage any further aggressive behavior. However, while accountability is essential, it should not come at the expense of productive dialogue and global cooperation. After nearly a decade of strained relations, it is crucial to reassess the efficacy of such an approach. Exclusionary tactics may only serve to further deepen divisions, hinder diplo-

matic progress and perpetuate a climate of hostility.

Excluding Russia from the G7 diminishes the potential for constructive dialogue and collaboration on pressing global issues. Russia’s participation could have facilitated discussions on various critical matters, including the war in Ukraine, cybersecurity and global economic stability. Ignoring Russia’s geopolitical influence and dismissing its perspectives has only exacerbated tensions, prolonged conflicts and impeded the pursuit of common goals and peace.

Ukraine’s invitation to the summit may have been motivated by a desire to show support and solidarity amid the ongoing tensions with Russia. And while it is crucial to address Ukraine’s concerns, excluding Moscow inhibits the potential for diplomatic breakthroughs. By bringing all relevant parties together, including Russia, the G7 could have served as a platform to encourage negotiation, de-escalation and the pursuit of peaceful resolutions. One of the primary objectives of the G7 Summit is to strengthen global economic cooperation. Russia’s exclusion undermines this goal due to its significant economic influence and strategic partnerships across various regions.

Moscow’s absence from the G7 Summit perpetuates a narrative of division

between East and West, which is neither productive nor conducive to global stability. As a major global power, Russia possesses significant geopolitical influence that cannot be ignored. Fostering inclusion and encouraging dialogue is vital to creating an environment conducive to finding common ground and managing shared concerns effectively, including the war in Europe. To address the concerns of those who question Moscow’s participation, the G7 could have leveraged this opportunity to constructively engage and hold Russia accountable for its actions.

Discussions on restoring territorial integrity, adherence to international norms and respect for human rights would have been more effective within a framework of open dialogue, rather than one of exclusion. Instead of finding ways to ease the European tension, US President Joe Biden conveyed to fellow leaders during the summit in Japan that his country would support a collaborative endeavor with allies and partners to train Ukrainian pilots on fourth-generation aircraft, including F-16s. The training is anticipated to occur entirely in Europe and is not expected to happen in the US. However, American personnel will participate alongside

European allies and partners in conducting the training. The training program is projected to span several months and will commence in the near future.

UK Prime Minister Rishi Sunak urged countries possessing F-16s in their inventory to send them to Ukraine, enhancing the country’s defensive capabilities against Russia’s ongoing aerial assaults. It has become clear to the international community that America and its allies and partners have prioritized equipping Ukraine with the necessary systems, weapons and training to carry out offensive operations during the spring and summer months. That has only one meaning: They are not interested in achieving peace in 2023.

After the Russian invasion of Ukraine in February 2022, the G7 swiftly implemented an extensive sanctions and export control regime, establishing the most substantial measures ever imposed on a major economy. The impact of these measures has been particularly pronounced in critical sectors, leading to a notable slowdown in the trade of essential goods. As a result, exports from G7 nations to Russia experienced a significant downturn. While these measures undeniably imposed eco-

nomnic hardships on Moscow, they have also impacted the G7 nations that export critical goods. Balancing the objectives of maintaining a unified stance against Russia’s actions while mitigating the potential negative consequences for G7 economies remains a complex challenge.

Every year, Washington allocates substantial financial assistance - surpassing the contributions of any other nation - to recipients globally to advance its security, economic and humanitarian priorities. Throughout the course of the Ukraine conflict, the Biden administration and US Congress have channeled an impressive sum exceeding \$75 billion in aid toward Ukraine. This comprehensive assistance package encompasses multifaceted aspects, ranging from humanitarian aid to financial assistance and military support. A plurality of Americans, accounting for 46 percent of the population, have expressed their preference for the US to sustain its support for Ukraine for a limited period of one to two years. In contrast, 38 percent believe that the US should maintain its commitment for as long as necessary, the Brookings Institution reported last month.

This poll showcased a noteworthy partisan divide, with 62 percent of Republicans favoring the one-to-two-year time-

frame, while 51 percent of Democrats advocated for an open-ended commitment until objectives are achieved. The study showed that the weakening of Americans’ support must concern US policymakers. The upcoming presidential campaign in 2024 is poised to exert influence over public sentiments concerning Ukraine, considering the inherent partisan divisions surrounding Ukraine policy and the narratives espoused by specific candidates. Nonetheless, a pivotal aspect that will persist is the public’s perception of the ongoing conflict within Ukraine itself. Whether individuals perceive the current trajectory as favoring a Ukrainian triumph, Russian dominance or a state of impasse will significantly shape their viewpoints.

Ukraine could be Biden’s fatal shot. The G7 should reevaluate its approach and embrace inclusive dialogue as the foundation for addressing complex global challenges. By inviting Russia to future summits, the G7 can foster understanding, bridge divides and work toward comprehensive solutions that benefit all parties. Meaningful engagement and collaboration are essential for building a more peaceful and prosperous world that respects the diversity of perspectives and that leverages the collective efforts of all nations.

Don’t celebrate the prospect of the Tories in opposition - that’s the real danger zone

Nesrine Malik

OBIVION. Possibly even extinction. That’s where the Conservative party is headed, it would be safe to assume, after the local elections wipeout, persistently poor polling and the failure of any mythical "Sunak bounce" to materialise. Based on last week’s National Conservatism conference, it looks as though the extreme Brexit-added wing of the party is all but guaranteeing the Conservatives’ obsolescence by swimming against the cultural tide, too. Tory MPs joined rightwing authors, journalists and cultural influencers for three days of broadly bonkers, anachronistic views on family values, white population decline and the merits of nationalism, much of which had seemingly racist and homophobic overtones. Marriage between a man and a woman was "the only possible basis for a safe and successful society", said Tory MP Danny Kruger. Douglas Murray declared that nationalism shouldn’t be underrated simply because the Germans "mucked up twice in a century".

Weird? Yes. Out of touch? Definitely. But not entirely irrelevant. The fact that these conference attendees may soon not be in government or close to government doesn’t

mean that their views hold little power, or that they are the preserve of some dangerous but quarantined "online right". Theories about white replacement, the threat of multiculturalism, the death of Europe and of whiteness under siege have all been represented for some time in our politics and mainstream press, and among government advisers.

The story here isn’t how the Conservative party will be reduced by its public choice of bedfellows if it decides they are its future, but how large, mainstream, well funded and coherent (I use this word in the technical, rather than logical sense) this larger rightwing movement is, and how little push-back there is to it in our politics and media. The values ecosystem, populated by a majority rightwing media, glibble and compromised institutions such as the BBC and the vocal representatives of well funded, opaque thinktanks such as Policy Exchange and the Legatum Institute (both represented at the conference) has successfully blocked any change in attitudes from materialising in the form of policy or a progressive political programme. There are consistent hopeful signs, based on trends and demographics, that headline views on immigration and minorities are not embraced by the majority of the British public in any

enthusiastic way, but it kind of doesn’t matter. Any alternatives that promote humane immigration policies, minority rights or organised objection to everything from structural racism to extractive private interests in our transport and energy infrastructure are portrayed as radical and undermining of native Britons’ interests. The legacy of that is a bedding-in of certain notions about what is forbidden in our politics - guardrails against change that will endure because the cost of challenging them is to incur the wrath, mockery and mobilisation of this "anti-woke" community. A vivid manifestation of those limitations is the rolling back of civil protest rights in the form of draconian public order laws, a cruel inhumane illegal migration bill, a dismissal of structural racism blessed by a government report and a Labour party that dare not suggest that these will be repealed or reopened once in government.

The ways in which policy, both within and outside Westminster, is determined by former governmental actors was recently laid out in a peer-reviewed paper titled *An anatomy of the British war on woke*. Last week I spoke to its authors, Dr Huw C Davies, a sociologist at the University of

Edinburgh, and Dr Sheena E MacRae, a researcher in digital sociology working with the University of Cambridge and the University of Hull. They found that in addition to being granted "extensive access" to public service broadcasters such as the BBC and Channel 4, "anti-woke" campaigners advocating against climate change policies and immigration, and for the "abnormalisation of social justice" have the regular use of 20 media outlets that amplify their message, including the Daily Telegraph, the Times, the Daily Mail, the Sun, the Daily Express, the Spectator, TalkRadio and GB News. They also isolated five think-tanks and several "charities" that they say publish and support anti-"woke" campaigners’ views, and motivated financial backers who continue to fund loss-making media ventures. "In no way should we trivialise this," Davies told me. "Because it’s being translated into policy. The discourses lay the territory and make moral justifications" for policy. "It’s problematic regardless of who is in power," MacRae added. "The number of actors, the number of channels, the space that they’re given, has allowed the vernacular to change. So much of the rhetoric is about projecting the left’s opinions. It’s about try-

ing to do the thinking for the public. Political changes, particularly within the last six months - changes to rights to protest, threats to the Equality Act, changes to modes of voting - all add up to serious issues for an ongoing politic, let alone what happens within a particular term."

The success of this network, the paper demonstrates, is in projecting leftwing hegemony in the form of threats to a helpless white working class: its livelihood, cultural touchstones and sexual mores. Leftwing parties are held hostage to this projection and feel they must distance themselves from it. In doing so, they dilute their own political projects and fail to reflect voters’ needs and ambitions, and those promising progressive views that are consistently at odds with government policy. In short, there are electoral outcomes, and then there are political ones, and they are not always aligned. Just because the right will be out of government doesn’t mean that it will not, through a vast rightwing network, continue to impose its agenda, or at the very least limit the agenda of its opponents. If anything, the right in opposition, away from government and its limitations and accountabilities, could be the real danger zone - an incubation period for the Tory party and its network to escalate and

finesse extremist rhetoric on racial and sexual minorities, the climate crisis and economic redistribution, and to grow and make connections with an increasingly international movement. In its wake will lie even more social discord, intense debate about people’s humanity and civil rights, and a hysterical, relentless condemnation of the "nightmare come true" of leftwing hegemony. The scale of the assault and the ubiquity of its organs may well render any Labour government - the party is already making noises about how little it can achieve in one term in terms of alleviating economic pain - impotent, or even short-lived.

In this, the anti-woke circle will be aided first and foremost by complacency. Our public discourse is so spectacularly skewed to the right that we don’t even see it any more, like David Foster Wallace’s proverbial fish that asks "what the hell is water?". Even as the rightwing machine revs up, Labour believes that if it focuses on the economy, doesn’t spook the horses by engaging on inflammatory issues on protest rights and identity and generally "rises above" the fetid rightwing swamp, that it guards its victory. At best this is a shortsighted political miscalculation; at worst it’s a moral abdication.

A boast that could sink Trump

Richard Galant

“I’m the one that got rid of Roe v. Wade,” former President Donald Trump boasted Tuesday on Newsmax. He cited his appointment of three Supreme Court justices who last June joined three other conservatives in overturning the 50-year decision guaranteeing abortion rights. The problem: two-thirds of Americans disapprove of the court’s rejection of a right to abortion, and many independent and even some Republican voters have shown repeatedly that they will side with Democrats on the issue.

In a general election, a strong anti-abortion stance can be a real negative. Trump - who has dodged questions about whether he would support a national ban on abortion - admitted as much by saying that his strongest GOP rival, Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis, who signed a bill banning most abortions after six weeks, is "losing women voters like crazy." Yet within the Republican base, strong opposition to abortion is a plus. DeSantis has challenged the former president, citing his state’s ban: "I signed the bill. I was proud to do it. He won’t answer whether he would sign it or not."

Trump’s refusal to say if he would support a national ban has drawn criticism from conservatives. Alice Stewart

wrote, "Trump’s past performance on protecting the sanctity of life is strong, but his future commitments are about to be put to test in the 2024 GOP primary. Other Republican primary candidates have committed to signing a federal abortion ban, with exceptions for rape, incest and life of the mother. This policy distinction will not go unnoticed. ... Trump may need to come up with a better answer to keep the pro-life community in his good graces." While ambiguity on abortion could help Trump politically, he’s also vulnerable to blowback against other unpopular decisions from the Supreme Court he helped mold. It has weakened states’ ability to limit gun ownership, another unpopular stance in a nation plagued by mass shootings. And before the court’s term ends in late June, it could block Biden’s plan to forgive some college debt for millions of people. Democrats in Congress have stepped up their criticism of the court. They not only object to its increasingly conservative bent but also argue that continuing to shield the nine justices from the same ethics code that applies to other federal judges makes no sense.

Congress has the power to rein in the court, wrote CNN legal analyst and law professor Steve Vladeck, whose new book "The Shadow

Docket" focuses on the Supreme Court. "Congress, in the first century under the Constitution, repeatedly used an array of unquestioned constitutional powers to check the court. In 1802, Democratic-Republicans effectively eliminated the Supreme Court’s entire annual sitting for that year by changing the court’s regular meeting date - a not-so-subtle threat to the Federalist justices to behave..." "Even the most pro-judiciary readings of the Constitution still leave to Congress broad control over the court’s docket, its budget and just about everything else short of the justices’ tenure and salaries," Vladeck argued. "The issue isn’t that the Constitution prevents Congress from pulling these levers to exert influence over the court; it’s that Congress has chosen to stop pulling them." DeSantis, who is expected to announce his candidacy for the GOP 2024 nomination within days, has a boast of his own.

According to the New York Times, he told donors Thursday, "You have basically three people at this point that are credible in this whole thing." They are "Biden, Trump and me. And I think of those three, two have a chance to get elected president - Biden and me, based on all the data in the swing

states, which is not great for the former president and probably insurmountable because people aren’t going to change their view of him." How will the Florida governor’s war against Disney, his state’s largest employer, play in those swing states? Last week, a fifth-grade teacher in Florida revealed that she’s under investigation by the state’s Department of Education for showing students the Disney animated film, "Strange World." "She says she selected the film because it reinforced lessons on earth science and ecosystems," wrote Jodi Eichler-Levine, a religion professor. "But then she said a parent (who is a local school board member), upset by the film’s depiction of a gay teenager flirting with his crush, reported her to the state."

"Why would DeSantis, as a Republican who claims to be pro-business," Eichler-Levine asked, "antagonize the largest single-site employer in his state, a company that attracts tens of millions of tourists a year? And why, as a social conservative, would he take aim at the nation’s leading purveyor of wholesome family-friendly American films?" "Because the Cinderella Castle holds an entire century’s worth of cultural capital. Disney remains an enduring symbol

of youth - and childhood is the symbolic crucible in which we forge our notions of the future and the values it will contain. Disney is a potent cultural force that now promotes a vision of diversity and inclusion that regressive groups are right to fear." When Disney announced Thursday that it’s scrapping plans for a \$1 billion office campus in Florida, citing "changing business conditions," Trump’s campaign said the real cause was "DeSantis’ failed war on Disney." The governor’s office blamed it on Disney’s business challenges.

On the Democratic side, there’s worry about a potential threat to Biden’s re-election chances. The centrist group No Labels is weighing the possibility of running a third-party presidential ticket and Sen. Joe Manchin, the moderate Democrat from West Virginia, has been mentioned as a possible contender to lead it. A Manchin run could strip vitally needed votes away from Biden and help elect Trump, if the former president gets the GOP nomination, wrote historian Julian Zelizer. "Since we live in an era of narrow elections, where landslides like 1936, 1972 or 1984 are extremely rare, all that Manchin would need to do is to take enough votes from a handful of voters within a handful of states to have a dramatic impact."

Meanwhile, Trump was claiming vindication over the release of special counsel John Durham’s report on the FBI’s Russia investigation. The report found that the FBI shouldn’t have launched a full investigation into ties between Russia and the Trump campaign during the 2016 election.

According to the report, "There was significant reliance on investigative leads provided or funded (directly or indirectly) by Trump’s political opponents. The Department did not adequately examine or question these materials and the motivations of those providing them, even when at about the same time the Director of the FBI and others learned of significant and potentially contrary intelligence." But the Washington Post Editorial Board noted, "Despite some commentators’ efforts to portray the actual result of the four-year investigation as damning, the reality is that the Justice Department special counsel uncovered next to nothing." An earlier investigation of the Russia probe by the Justice Department’s inspector general Michael E. Horowitz found "flaws in the FBI’s handling of the matter ... but they flowed from confirmation bias rather than politically motivated misconduct," the Post said.

CNN

Jeddah summit offers hope for a reinvigorated Arab nation

THE Arab League Summit in Jeddah was a breath of fresh air compared with what we have come to expect of such occasions. Serious journalists haven't habitually had much positive to say about Arab summits, which tend to be long on rhetoric but short on action and relevance, with a heavy odor of underachievement and missed opportunities.

Journalists and diplomats commented positively on how smoothly this latest event was conducted, with disciplined and focused speeches and a pragmatic agenda. The conspicuous inclusion of younger voices offered a nod to the increasingly forward-looking, young and dynamic regional leadership. The summit represented a gesture of intent by Arab states, Saudi Arabia in particular, to once again play a more assertive and unified role on the global stage. However, as ever, the true test will be the delivery of tangible results.

Volodymyr Zelensky's invitation was a bold choice, and evidence of mature readiness to listen to difficult messages and publicly delivered criticism. Ukraine's president declared: "Anyone who defends his native land from invaders, and anyone who defends children of his nation from enslavement - every such warrior is on the path of justice, and I am proud to represent such warriors." Can any patriotic Arabs listen to such a statement and not think of the Palestinian struggle? Let's salute Zelensky and Ukraine's bold response to unprovoked aggression. For states such as Egypt and Lebanon, Ukraine has historically been a principal grain supplier, so Ukraine's wellbeing and agricultural stability are a matter of existential survival for hundreds of millions

Baria Alamuddin

of Arabs.

Bashar Assad was the second eyebrow-raising guest. Many of us hoped the Syrian leader would show greater contrition, acknowledging the blood on his hands and pledging reconciliation - but the speech was vintage Assad, weaving a patchwork of conspiracy theories and petty grievances. "It is important to leave internal affairs to the country's people, as they are best able to manage them," he declared, conveniently forgetting Iran and Russia's intervention on his behalf. Media outlets associated with Hezbollah, Tehran and Damascus are hailing Assad's inclusion as a victory over other Arab states, portraying him as rolling into Jeddah as a "conquering hero." Hezbollah's Hashem Safieddine hyperbolically declared that Assad's attendance offered "irrefutable evidence that the assertions of many politicians constituted fantasies, mirages, illusions, and expired promises." This is all nonsense. In the 12 years that Assad spent destroying his country and gassing and torturing his own citizens, other Arab states have prospered and flourished, with state-of-the-art education systems, cultural florescence, economic diversification, and profound social reforms.

There is nothing victorious about Assad in 2023. Only through the heavy backing of Iran and Russia does he control modest portions of Syrian territory. Syria is a fragmented and depopulated nation, with over half its citizens displaced, five million of whom are refugees in Lebanon, Jordan and Turkey. The economy is irredeemably shattered, with around 15.3 million Syrians requiring emergency aid. Syrian Foreign Minister Faisal Mekdad

said refugees could not return until Syria had been rebuilt. But who does he expect to rush in and rebuild Syria? As long as this puppet regime is configured to facilitate reconstruction funds being looted by Tehran and the Assad clan, they shouldn't expect a penny from wealthy Gulf states or any other source - particularly with the regime keeping itself financially afloat by smuggling narcotics into regional states.

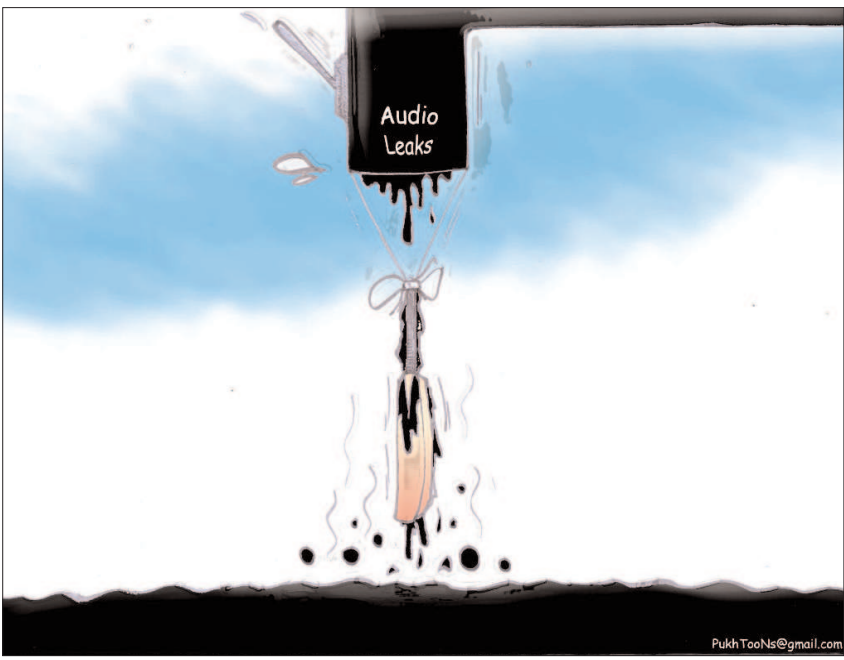
Assad's airy comment that every Syrian was welcome to return failed to offer guarantees that his torturers and executioners wouldn't persecute anyone who ventured within Syria's borders. Stories are rife of returning Syrians being sequestered into the army or disappearing into Assad's torture chambers. This regime must wake up and get a grip of reality if it is to benefit from the peace dividend of Arab League reintegration beyond cheap one-off handshake photo opportunities. The world will be carefully watching Assad's Arab League rehabilitation. If he exploits it for maximum gain while offering zero compromises, there will be no appetite for Syria returning to the international fold. Decades after achieving their own nominal peace deals, most Egyptians and Jordanians still regard Israel as the enemy because of its continuing hostile and expansionist policies toward Arabs and Palestinians. Whether Arabs re-embrace trade, tourism and investment with Syria, or whether Damascus's de facto isolation continues, will be determined by whether Assad continues acting like an enemy of humanity and his own citizens.

The Jeddah summit punctuates a dizzying period of rapid regional realignments. With Chinese broker-

age, Saudi Arabia restored diplomatic ties with Iran, paving the way for an end to the Yemen conflict and with potentially profound implications for states such as Iraq, Lebanon and Syria. Saudi Arabia last year brokered a Ukraine-Russia prisoner exchange deal and has hinted at a more far-reaching mediation role. The Jeddah talks between Sudan's warring parties likewise appear to be starting to bear fruit, with this conflict a central discussion theme during the Arab summit. Bahrain's restoration of diplomatic ties with Lebanon, and GCC labors to rehabilitate Iraq, are among a multitude of comprehensive efforts toward Arab realignment. The Arab summit final communique delineated ambitious objectives for addressing the drivers of regional conflict and instability, including outlawing support for "unauthorized and illegitimate" militias, rejecting meddling by hostile states such as Iran, and calling on "all Lebanese factions" to unite around a consensus choice of president and extract the country from its crisis.

These laudable goals must be combined with nationwide campaigns for economic, cultural and educational renaissance - particularly in support of nations such as Lebanon, Yemen, Jordan and Sudan, where the suffering of ordinary people is chronic and profound. The post-2011 decade was a horrific period for the Arab world, defined by civil conflicts, proxy wars, political instability, bitter divisions, and unrestrained Iranian interference. The Jeddah summit represented a major opportunity to put this painful chapter behind us - offering the prospect of the Arab world once again being a strong and united global force.

Arab News



Sudan cannot afford to reject foreign help

ON May 11, representatives of the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) militia reached an agreement in Jeddah, brokered by the United States and Saudi Arabia. The Jeddah Declaration of Commitment to Protect the Civilians of Sudan committed both parties to respect international humanitarian law and vacate residential areas. The declaration was welcomed internationally as a good step forward, but many in Sudan were sceptical. A sarcastic Sudanese commentator remarked: "We thought the two belligerents would agree to leave Khartoum; it turned out that they have agreed to let us leave."

On the same day, the Sudanese foreign ministry, supported by Arab members in the United Nations Human Rights Council, objected to a British motion calling for closer monitoring of the human rights situation in Sudan and urging an unconditional cessation of hostilities. The resolution was passed by 18 (mostly European) votes to 15, with 14 abstentions. When I expressed surprise on my Facebook page at the position of Sudan, given that the Jeddah Declaration had just been signed, committing the warring sides to humanitarian principles, almost all the responses echoed narratives about the duplicity of the West on international law.

Indeed, there are problems with the international humanitarian regime, and it is in need of serious scrutiny and radical rethinking. However, humanitarian emergencies are not the time for indulgence in the populist rhetoric of mistrust and scepticism. Doing so now would only raise the already high human cost of this conflict. At the same time, a standard humanitarian response in Sudan's situation would not be adequate. When addressing the crisis, the international community needs to take into account the specifics of this conflict and its own past humanitarian failures.

The ongoing conflict, which lacks clear territorial boundaries of control, necessitates a different humanitarian response than usual. The country faces multi-level insecurities due to constant fighting everywhere, the inability of any side to enforce its rule anywhere, and persistent uncertainty about what direction the conflict will take. The current humanitarian crisis in Sudan is the direct outcome of this uncontrollable level of insecurity, compounded by the desperate quest for havens by the randomly dispersed RSF fighters. The latter have barricaded themselves in hospitals, ministries, private homes and anywhere else they can find, using these as hideouts and sniper positions. The SAF has used the standard military tactic of attacking RSF camps and positions all over Khartoum. However, rather than resulting in territory acquisition, the dispersal of the enemy and its tactics created a new reality, with the militia adopting a strategy of maximising insecurity and making normal life impossible for everybody. By spreading terror on the streets and inside homes, the RSF has forced people to flee; its ubiquitous presence has impeded the functioning of public services, including healthcare, food distribution and transportation.

The aim of all this is to put pressure on the SAF, neighbouring countries and the international community to accept RSF demands. Traditional humanitarian strategies for delivering aid in this situation of heightened insecurity would not work. Without restoring some level of security, aid cannot be delivered. Thus, the call by the Human Rights Council for an unconditional ceasefire is anti-humanitarian, especially in light of the commitment in the Jeddah Declaration by both parties to vacate hospitals and stop impeding the functioning of essential civilian facilities. A ceasefire that leaves RSF in occupied hospitals, usurped homes and other civilian buildings, would do nothing to help restore normality.

That is why any session of hostilities must start by releasing abducted civilians, and evacuating hospitals, private homes and essential civilian installations. A firm message needs to be sent to the militias to implement these requirements and desist from looting, rape, forcible recruitment and other violations, as a condition for a ceasefire. Credible threats of sanctions or even limited intervention should also be deployed to endure compliance. When security is restored, international aid agencies need to carefully consider the type of aid the Sudanese people would need. In the current situation, half the population of Khartoum needs food aid. Due to the looting of banks, shops, homes and private property (mainly by the RSF, but also unruly mobs), few people can lay their hands on cash. But if insecurity is reduced, life could return to normal. If fighters withdraw from civilian areas, public transport would be able to resume and necessary facilities and public services would be able to operate again. In this case, food may not be the biggest necessity for people; there is no shortage of food around Khartoum.

So the importing by aid agencies of food and aid workers does not make sense, when the job can be done at just a fraction of the cost by employing local resources and labour. At the same time, public sectors have been hit hard. Take healthcare, for example. Due to the security situation, many medical professionals have left Khartoum, and even the country. The RSF has also been abducting doctors and other health workers to enlist them as part of their informal "medical corps". They have also occupied and destroyed many hospitals in the capital. So priority should be given to restoring security in the shortest possible time, in addition to providing emergency field hospitals and emergency housing for health workers to enable them to return to their duties.

In charting the response to the crisis in Sudan, humanitarian agencies should also consider their own past failures. The ill-fated UNAMID peacekeeping mission in Darfur (2007-2020) is a textbook case of how the structures of UN operations can subvert the very humanitarian purpose of the organisation. It failed to protect civilians despite the deployment of some 26,000 troops. What unamid has shown is that the mere deployment of peacekeeping troops in a complex war zone is no substitute for addressing the causes and consequences of the conflict itself. A fraction of the cost of the mission would have helped resolve the crisis if it had been spent on reconciliation and the resettlement of displaced people.

An interesting side-effect of the crisis in Sudan has been the revival of some of the familiar populist rhetoric

of "Western double standards" and ulterior motives with regard to humanitarianism and peace-making. This began with anger at the way foreign countries made such a fuss about evacuating their citizens and international workers, while completely neglecting the affected Sudanese citizens; it continued with the Jeddah declaration and the UNHRC's resolution. This is a reflection of Sudan's own chequered history of responses to humanitarian crises. Over the past five decades, the country has experienced a series of major disasters, mainly famines exacerbated by war and at times droughts and floods. During the famines of 1973-74 and 1984-85, President Jaafar Nimeiry refused to declare an emergency or even admit hunger was happening. When he was challenged by a journalist on the issue, he claimed that it was "shameful" in Sudanese culture to beg for food. Nimeiry's regime fell in 1985, partly due to his failure to address the famine.

Another major emergency happened in 1988, when two years of drought were followed by massive floods. The democratically elected government of the time accepted foreign aid, but it was too little, too late, and the delivery was chaotic. The rebel Sudan People's Liberation Army refused to allow aid into the south. As a result, over a quarter of a million people died, causing an international outcry, and forcing the parties to accept in 1989 a pioneering UN initiative, called Operation Lifeline Sudan. The operation delivered aid directly to the south, without government scrutiny. The military regime of Omar al-Bashir repeatedly complained about the abuse of the operation, especially the use of relief planes by rebel commanders, but allowed it to run until the end of the war in 2005. However, the regime refused to acknowledge a famine in 1990-91 in another part of the country and kept obstructing relief operations in certain areas.

Then when the crisis in Darfur erupted in 2003, al-Bashir put restrictions on aid and increased controls on aid workers, who had trouble obtaining visas or even permits to leave Khartoum. NGOs were regularly expelled. The regime used the same populist narratives about aid being part of foreign machinations of control, accusing aid workers of being spies; it also criticised aid as a dependency-creating strategy. There is a danger of a return to that rhetoric of condemning aid in the name of anti-colonialism and national sovereignty. This could be detrimental to the victims of the current conflict.

The arguments about the duplicity of major international powers regarding humanitarianism and human rights should be taken seriously. The economic structure of rewards for international workers indeed remains a corrupting influence on the profession. However, humanitarian organisations still provide much-needed help for the disadvantaged and continue to attract dedicated idealists. Whatever the misgivings about international humanitarianism, the focus should be on delivering aid to those whose life depends on it. There is a saying by Prophet Muhammad that a woman was sent to hell because she allowed a cat to starve to death. She neither fed it nor set it free to find its own food. If starving a cat can earn eternal damnation, how about starving scores of human beings?

Turkiye's ambivalent relationship with Daesh

Yasar Yakis

TURKISH President Recep Tayyip Erdogan last month announced that Abu Hussein Al-Quraishi, the leader of the terrorist organization Daesh, was "neutralized" by Türkiye's National Intelligence Organization, MIT. This news did not make headlines in Türkiye because of the country's heavy election agenda.

He was the fourth Daesh leader killed in the last four years. The first was Abu Bakr Al-Baghdadi. He blew himself up in the north of Syria in October 2019, when he was cornered by US forces in the village of Barisha in Idlib, very close to the Turkish border. He was the one who had proclaimed the Daesh "caliphate." A second Daesh leader, Abu Ibrahim Al-Hashimi Al-Quraishi, was killed on Feb. 3, 2022, again in the north of Syria in a place 1 km from the Turkish border and just a few hundred meters from a Turkish-controlled checkpoint. He came from a Turkmen family, though the US classified him as Arab in a 2008 census. His father was a muezzin in Tal Afar in the north of Iraq. One of his brothers, Amer, had served as the head of the Turkmen Students Union. Official Daesh sources classified him as belonging to the "Turkified" branch of the Quraish tribe, whatever that means. He completed his master's degree in Mosul and was appointed in 2007 as Al-Qaeda's general religious judge and later the deputy emir for Mosul.

There was a third Daesh leader,

Abu Al-Hassan Al-Hashimi Al-Quraishi, who was killed on Oct. 15, 2022, in Deraa by US forces. He is the exception among these Daesh leaders as he was killed in the south of Syria, not at the Turkish border. The fourth Daesh leader was Abu Hussein Al-Quraishi. Erdogan announced that he was killed on April 29. When Erdogan announced his death, he expected gratitude from the international community as, when terrorists are caught or killed by the US, they announce it with great fanfare. But the international press gave only lip service to the news about Türkiye's performance on this subject. The US said it was not able to confirm the killing, thus casting doubt on Erdogan's statement.

Abu Hussein Al-Quraishi was killed in Jindires, near Afrin in northwest Syria, in a place controlled by Türkiye and its Syrian auxiliaries that was only 6 km from the Turkish border. He detonated his suicide vest to avoid being captured. The locations where many of these Daesh leaders were killed offer telling evidence of another aspect of the story. With the exception of one, they were all killed in Syria in a place extremely close to the Turkish border. Most of these areas are controlled by the Turkish army or its auxiliaries. This is an indication that Daesh does not want to give up its interest in remaining close to Türkiye. It considers that Türkiye's conservative government offers it a suit-

able atmosphere for its activities. Though it nestles in areas close to Türkiye, it avoids committing terror acts there because it considers this an environment where it may stay in security and consolidate its structure. On the other hand, Türkiye is a member of the Global Coalition Against Daesh that was formed in 2014. However, it has been accused of financially and militarily supporting Daesh, according to a report by a former UN adviser. This is a claim that Ankara persistently denies.

Kasim Guler, codenamed Abu Usama Al-Turki, was listed as one of the most wanted members of Daesh in Türkiye. He was arrested in Syria on June 15, 2021, by the Turkish security services and judged in Ankara. He was punished with a 30-year prison sentence because he was planning to move Daesh activities to Türkiye by buying farmhouses and storing weapons and ammunition, burying them in the gardens. In other words, Ankara was keeping Daesh at arm's length. There has been further evidence of ambivalent relations between Türkiye and Daesh. It started with Ankara opening its borders with Syria and making Türkiye a highway for Daesh terrorists. Daesh benefited a lot from Türkiye's tolerance. The group has transferred weapons, money and terrorists from Türkiye to Syria. It also organized blasts in various Turkish cities, in which hundreds of Turkish citizens perished. Türkiye facilitated the illicit

transfer of oil from Northern Iraq to Mediterranean harbors in cooperation with Daesh, despite the strong opposition of the Iraqi central authorities.

After Daesh lost its domination of vast swaths of land in Syria and Iraq, it focused its attention on Türkiye. A new scandal broke out last month, when a retired Turkish colonel, Umit Ozturk, released a video online. During a visit to Germany, he was interrogated at the airport for about 45 minutes by the German and American authorities. The reason for this was that he was holding a Turkish service passport, which are documents issued to a select group of public officials, allowing them to visit many countries without a visa. When Ozturk asked the reason for his interrogation, the German authorities told him that several service passports had been found with Turkmen and Uzbek fighters trained by Türkiye in Syria.

The background of this investigation is also revealing. A Yazidi woman identified in a restaurant in Germany a man who had kidnapped and sexually abused her when they were in Syria. This man turned out to be the holder of a Turkish service passport. When the German authorities dug further into the affair, it turned out that there were other Turkish service passport holders in Germany. Ozturk investigated and found out that these were not fake, but were passports issued by the Turkish authorities. This incident shows where all these unorthodox practices lead. Briefly, Ankara uses Daesh fighters to the extent that they serve its purpose.

this. Sometimes I say I'd prefer to die from a rocket strike rather than failing to help a patient who dies due to lack of access to medicines."

In addition, the international community ought to concentrate on creating a ceasefire monitoring mechanism that primarily focuses on protecting civilians. One of the critical initiatives launched in response to the humanitarian disaster in Sudan is the Jeddah Declaration of Commitment to Protect the Civilians of Sudan. Saudi Arabia has been playing a key role as mediator. Foreign Minister Prince Faisal bin Farhan said that protecting civilians was a first step and "other steps will follow ... The most important thing is to adhere to what was agreed upon, and the Kingdom will work until security and stability return to Sudan and its brotherly people." The importance of the Jeddah Declaration is that it is anchored in international human rights law, which focuses on making a distinction between civilians and combatants, ensuring the safe passage of civilians, protecting medical personnel, allowing humanitarian relief to reach the population, and preventing the recruitment of children as soldiers in the war. In a nutshell, it is necessary for the international community to prioritize the humanitarian situation in Sudan by setting up a ceasefire monitoring mechanism that will primarily ensure the safety of civilians. A permanent solution to Sudan's multifaceted conflict can follow later.

Protection of Sudanese civilians must be international community's priority

Dr. Majid Rafizadeh

TACKLING the humanitarian situation in Sudan ought to be a priority for the international community. The setting up of a ceasefire monitoring mechanism and distinguishing between combatants and civilians are critical to the protection of ordinary people.

The humanitarian aspect of the conflict continues to be alarming. So far, as a result of the battle for power between the country's military, the Sudanese Armed Forces, and the Rapid Support Forces, an independent armed militia, thousands of people have been injured and more than a thousand people have been killed. One of the consequences of the conflict is the deprivation and hunger it has brought upon people of all ages. A group of independent UN-appointed human rights experts this month released a statement deploring the human rights abuses that are being committed, which include "sexual assault and gender-based violence, and shortages of food, water and healthcare." They also "expressed alarm at the shelling of a shelter for girls with disability in Khartoum, as well as other attacks on healthcare, on humanitarian workers and on human rights defenders."

The second issue is the massive displacement that such a conflict can cause. So far, more than 1 million people have fled their homes to seek safety, mostly elsewhere within Sudan, but a significant number have also left the country as refugees. In other words, the escalation of the conflict in Sudan

could have severe repercussions not only for the Sudanese people, but also for the stability and security of several other nations in the region. It is important to point out that such a large number of refugees is going to have a massive impact on many countries in the region and beyond. The first impact is usually felt by the countries that share borders with the conflict-ridden state; in this case, Libya, Egypt, Chad, the Central African Republic, South Sudan, Ethiopia and Eritrea.

Unfortunately, the countries receiving the Sudanese refugees are generally not fully prepared for such an influx and are already struggling with their own socioeconomic challenges. It is worth noting that refugees can have a significant impact on the social, economic, political and even environmental landscapes of host countries. The hosts tend to face more political and economic strain if not prepared for the situation. As Patrick Youssef, the regional director for Africa at the International Committee for the Red Cross, pointed out this month: "The humanitarian situation in this region is complicated. It can be difficult for communities from Sudan's neighbors to welcome people seeking refuge if those communities themselves are already in a vulnerable situation. That means it's even more vital that humanitarian assistance reaches those now fleeing Sudan."

This means that any crisis in the

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100-index of PSX loses 404.12 points

ISLAMABAD (APP): The 100-index of the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) declined by 404.12 points on Monday, showing a neg-

\$13b textile products exported

ISLAMABAD (APP): Textile exports reached \$13,709.287 million during the first ten months of the current fiscal year (2022-23), the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) reported.

Textile exports showed a decline of 14.22 percent from \$15,981.736 million during the same period of last year (July-April 2021-22). The export of raw cotton witnessed positive growth during July-April (2022-23) of 103.09 percent from \$6.577 million (last fiscal year) to \$13.357 million, and that of tents, canvas and tarpaulin went up by 28.09 percent from \$91.308 million to \$116.959 million.

Similarly, the export of cotton yarn showed negative growth by 36.71 percent from \$1,006.142 million to \$636.831 million.

Likewise, the export of cotton cloth decreased by 16 percent from \$2,005.578 million to \$1,684.723 million; cotton (carded or combed) by 38.97 percent from \$1.631 million to \$0.996 million, yarn (other than cotton yarn) by 32.79 percent from \$54.016 million to \$36.303 million, knit-wear by 11.99 percent from \$4,217.753 million to \$3,712.095 million, bed wear by 17.51 percent from \$2,727.465 million to \$2,249.778 million and towels by 11.10 percent, from \$927.859 million to \$824.880 million.

ative change of 0.97 percent, closing at 41,195.07 points against 41,599.19 points the previous day.

A total of 97,765,956 shares were traded during the day as compared to 120,373,905 shares the previous day, whereas the price of shares stood at Rs2.879 billion against Rs3.277 billion on the last trading day. As many as 308 companies transacted their shares in the stock market; 73 of them recorded gains and 210 sustained losses, whereas the share price of 25 companies remained unchanged.

The three top-trading companies were WorldCall Telecom with 11,452,654 shares at Rs1.12 per share, K-Electric Ltd with 9,585,761 shares at Rs1.82 per share, and Air Link Commun with 5,197,500 shares at Rs22.30 per share.

Nestle Pakistan witnessed a maximum increase of Rs170.42 per share price, closing at Rs6586.67, whereas the runner-up was Zil Ltd with a Rs22.00 rise in its per share price to

Rs338.00.

Pak Tobacco witnessed a maximum decrease of Rs51.49 per share closing at Rs658.51, followed by Pak Service with a Rs29.90 decline to close at Rs860.10.

Rupee sheds 73 paises against Dollar: Pakistani rupee witnessed 73 paises devaluation against US Dollar in the interbank trading on Monday and closed at Rs286.55 against the previous day's closing of Rs285.82.

According to the Forex Association of Pakistan (FAP), the buying and selling rates of dollars in the open market were recorded at Rs302 and Rs305, respectively.

The price of the Euro increased by Rs1.64 to close at Rs309.75 against the last day's closing of Rs308.11, according to the State Bank of Pakistan.

The Japanese Yen went up by 01 paisa and closed at Rs2.07, whereas an increase of Rs1.57 was witnessed in the exchange rate of the British Pound, which

traded at Rs356.33 as compared to its last day's closing of Rs354.76.

The exchange rate of the Emirates Dirham and the Saudi Riyal went up by 20 paises each to close at Rs78.03 and Rs76.41, respectively.

Gold prices increase by Rs2000 to Rs237,300 per tola: The per tola price of 24 karat gold increased by Rs2000 and was sold at Rs237,300 on Monday against its sale at Rs235,300 the previous day, All Sindh Sarafa Jewellers Association reported.

The price of 10 grams of 24 karat gold also increased by Rs1,714 to Rs203,446 from Rs201,732, whereas the price of 10 grams 22 karat gold went up to Rs186,493 from Rs184,920.

The price of per tola silver increased by Rs50 to close at Rs2900 and that of ten-gram silver also rose by Rs42.87 to Rs2486.28.

The price of gold in the international market decreased by US\$ 05 to \$1972 against its sale at \$1977, the association reported.

Shipping activity at Port Qasim

KARACHI (APP): Four ships namely, Maersk Phuket, Afra Rossi, Stena Important and Ogino Park schedule to load/offload Containers, Furnace oil, Soya-bean oil and Chemical, berthed at Qasim International Container Terminal, FOTCO oil Terminal, Liquid Cargo Terminal and Engro Vopak Terminal respectively on Sunday.

Meanwhile five more ships, MSC Cape Town-III, Olympia, Zeze Start, Southern Wolf and Al-Thakhira with Containers, Gas oil, Chemicals and LNG are also arrived at outer anchorage of the port during last 24 hours.

A total of 07 ships were engaged at POA berths during the last 24 hours, out of them a containers ship, Maersk Phuket left the Port on Monday morning and three more ships, CMB Chikako, Magnum Force and N-Orhan are expected to sail on (today).

Cargo Throughput of 135,177 tones, comprising 94,577 tones imports Cargo and 40,600 tones export cargo, including containerized cargo carried in 2,886 Containers (988 TEUs Imports and 1,898 TEUs export) was handled at the port during last 24 hours.

There are 10 ships at Outer Anchorage of Port Qasim, out of them three ships, Al-Thakhira, MSC Cape Town-III and Olympia & two more ships, MSC Roma and Maersk Boston carrying LNG and Containers are expected to take berths at Elengy Terminal and Container Terminal respectively on Monday & two more Container ships, Santa Rosa and MSC United-VIII are due to arrive at Port Qasim on Tuesday.

Askari Bank attains PCI DSS certificate F.P. Report

KARACHI: Askari Bank (AKBL), a leading commercial bank of Pakistan, attained the "Payment Card Industry Data Security Standard (PCI DSS v3.2.1)" compliance and certification, which is a leading payment card data security standard by Payment Card Industry Security Council (PCI SSC) via PCI QSA Firm Risk Associates, a premier global information technology company.

This prestigious certification is another milestone for AKBL and signifies its unwavering dedication to safeguarding sensitive customer information and upholding the highest standards of data security within the financial industry. With this certification, the Bank remains fully adherent to data security and control requirements that ensure customer security, sensitive card data protection and fraud risk prevention.

As a result of this certification, AKBL has implemented robust security measures throughout its operations, ensuring the protection of sensitive cardholder data. This accomplishment further enhances the bank's reputation as a trusted financial institution, dedicated to safeguarding customer information and maintaining the utmost integrity in all its practices.

The ceremony was held at Askari Bank's Head Office in Islamabad. Dr. Aftab Rizvi, CEO Risk Associates presented the certificate to Rana Fasih Ul Hassan, Chief Risk Officer (CRO) AKBL and Mr. Jawad Khalid Mirza, Chief Information Security Officer (CISO) AKBL. Other executives and team members from both organizations were also present at the event.

Court Notice

In the Honourable court of zeba Chaudhary Additional & Session judge / Consumer court Islamabad (West). Suit for recovery of amount 1,23,084/- Title: Sui Northern Gas pipeline LTD (SNGPL) vs Muhammad Yaqoob S/O Muhammad Aslam R/O Dhoke Ramzan P/O Tarnol Islamabad. It is proclaimed if the said defendant does not appear personally or through duly authorized agent or pleader in this court on 27-05-2023 at 08:30 A.M. ex-parte proceedings will be taken against him.



KARACHI: CEO UBL Funds Yasir Qadri and CEO Al-Hilal Invest Faraz Bandukda exchanging documents at signing ceremony.

MCCI wants 2 more industrial estates and special economic zone

MULTAN (APP): Multan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MCCI) on Monday urged the government to set up two more industrial estates including one for small and medium industries and a special economic zone to jumpstart industrial activity at the agro-industrial hub of south Punjab.

MCCI also announced to start studying the possibility of developing a private special economic zone in consultation with the members at its meeting of MCCI's sub-committee on industry, environment and energy held here with MCCI president and sub-committee convener Mian Rashid Iqbal in the chair.

The meeting demanded

a one-window facilitation centre for industrialists and traders, particularly for ease of procedure for new start-ups. Mian Rashid Iqbal said that officials from different departments like industries, commerce, investment and skills development department and others be made available at the one-window centre to resolve all issues of the business community under one roof like NOCs, certifications, documentation, fee submission and legal facilities.

He said that at least fifteen days be allowed for NOCs, certificates or objections. He said Punjab Trade and Investment Board (PITB) can also be helpful in promoting business and

industrial activities.

He said that Multan was a big city contributing a lot to the national economy through agriculture and industrial operations and there existed room for more industrial estates.

He said MCCI would soon hold a meeting with its members and potential investors to develop a private special economic zone in Multan.

MCCI senior vice president Nadeem Ahmad Sheikh, committee members Suhail Tufail, Muhammad Ali Amjad, Muneeb Arshad Sheikh, Aurangzeb Alamgir, secretary general Muhammad Shafiq and committee secretary Sajid Ansari were present.

SLIC sign MOU with Dante Genomics

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: State Life Insurance Corporation of Pakistan (SLIC), the largest life and health insurer in the country, signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Dante Genomics, a global leader in genomics and precision medicine, to provide data-driven and genomics-based solutions to enhance the overall health of Pakistanis. The occasion was graced by the Honorable Minister for Commerce, Syed Naveed Qamar and the MOU was signed by SLIC's senior representative, Muhammad Izzar Khan (Executive Director), and Co-founder/CEO of Dante Genomics, Andrea Ripoati. The event was graced by Foreign Delegates from Italy including Generoso Iannicello of Dante Genomics and Managing Director of Dante Genomics, Yasir Bajwa, along with representatives from SLIC.

Quote by SLIC - "SLIC's vision to enhance digitalization to improve policyholder services continues through this collaboration and will allow life science organizations and pharma companies to drive innovation and research in genomics-based health care in Pakistan.

This will also create new job opportunities in the genomics industry and make a significant economic impact by improving the population's overall health and reducing healthcare costs in Pakistan."

Quote by Dante Genomics - "In partnering with SLIC, we continue in our effort to make the most advanced genomic technologies available for clinical use around the world.



By offering these whole genome sequencing solutions, we are providing personalized medicine to the citizens of Pakistan and further supporting the country's efforts to become an international leader in genomics.

These sequencing methodologies provide extremely beneficial medical insights into a person's general health, fitness, nutrigenomics, pharmacogenomics, wellness and lifestyle, helping doctors to make better treatment decisions for their patients according to their genetic makeup. It can help people to make changes in their lifestyle to live a longer and healthier life."

SLIC BOILER PLATE: SLIC is the largest and the only AAA rated Insurance Corporation in the country. As the leading insurer in the country, SLIC ensures the wellbeing and financial security of its policyholders and partners. SLIC delivered the strongest business numbers in its history and grew its premium revenue to Rs279 billion, an increase of 64% from last year.

Court Notice

In the Court of Haq Nawaz Khan district Judge /Zila Qazi Buner at Daggar. Case No.14/FCA Institution 1/3/2023. Date of hearing. 8/6/2023. Mst. Yasmeen Begum VS Said Wahab. Notice Said Wahab son of Kachkol resident of Chinglai tehsel Khadukhel district Buner. Whereas in the above mentioned case the mentioned defendant can not be served in the ordinary way, it is, therefore, proclaimed that if the said defendant will/shall not appear personally or through duly authorized agent or pleader in the court at 8.30 am dated 8/6/2023 the proceeding will be taken ex- parte. Given under my hand and seal of this Court.

Court Notice

In the Court of Sana Afzal Civil Judge V Kohat, Suit no.128/1 Date of hearing.25-05-2023, Titled:- Asghar Khan Vs Samiullah, Notice against:-(4) Riaz Mehmood(5)Niaz Mehmood (6)Ayaz Mehmood Sons of Mehmood Khan (7)Mst Asmat Wife of Mustafa kamal (8)Amin Khan Son of Muhammad Ibrahim (9/1)Arshad Humayun (9/2)Haroon Sons Abdul Qayyum (9/3)Mst. Rohi Qayyum Dugther of Abdul Qayyum Late R/o Jahandar Abad Near PAF Gate Bannu Road District Kohat (10) Muhammad Yousaf Khan Son of Jahandar Khan Late R/o Bahdar Kot District Kohat (Defendants) Whereas the above plaintiff has instituted a civil suit against you Defendants in which date of hearing 25-05-2023 is fixed for your appearance Since your intimation/service is not possible through ordinary means/mode therefore you Defendants is intimated through this publication to appear before this court by person or by pleader on date fixed 25-05-2023 otherwise court shall be proceeded in accordance with law order Issued on.20-05-2023 (Court of C.J V Kohat).

Shaukat Khanum Hospital celebrates vital role of nurses in healthcare

F.P. Report

LAHORE: The Nursing Division of Shaukat Khanum Memorial Cancer Hospital and Research Centre (SKMCH&RC) in Lahore and Peshawar organised an event to celebrate the vital role of nurses in healthcare. More than one hundred nurses from different areas of SKMCH&RC and other institutions including PKLI and National Hospital attended the event. Nursing Director of SKMCH&RC Ms. Rehana Elahi, Medical

Director of SKMCH&RC Dr Asif Loya, and Chief Medical Officer of SKMCH&RC Dr Aasim Yusuf were also present.

Ms. Rehana Elahi said that the coronavirus pandemic challenged healthcare systems around the world and nurses rose to this challenge and were at the frontline in this battle.

She said that this event was organised as part of a series of activities organised in the month of May, which is the birth month of Florence Nightingale, the founder of modern nursing,

to celebrate nurses and their commitment and dedication to patients and families.

Dr Aasim Yusuf said, "We are grateful for all the hard work that nurses do, round the clock, to take care of patients. Hospitals cannot run without nurses." He elaborated on this year's International Nurses Day theme "Our Nurses. Our Future" in the context of SKMCH&RC and explained the steps taken by the Shaukat Khanum facilities to invest, protect, value and respect nurses. In his message for nurses, he

said, "You are the patients' advocates and your role is paramount in ensuring patient safety."

Nurses from different areas gave presentations on community engagement, recognition of nurses, and self-care. Certificates were presented to the top three winners of the poster presentations. A tableau was also performed by the students of Post RN BS Oncology Nursing Degree Programme from SKMCH&RC to highlight the importance of nursing SOPs in ensuring patient safety.

this is a word processor; most people do not know what is happening mechan- ically in the backend whilst an article is being written, yet they benefit from using the word processor. Not all people need to understand exactly what's underneath, they just need to understand what they can do with it.

Since blockchain is software, it is simply a programming code that translates into a usable interface when it is downloaded onto a computer. Different companies can build apps in virtual layers on top of this code to make the information more accessible and useful to the people who access it. In essence, it is an online ledger. A ledger is a system to record and store information - as such, books, and documents have been traditionally referred to as ledgers.

Many types of data can be stored on the ledgers, such as identification data, various statuses such as employment, Memberships and subscriptions, criminal records, Economic data, Ownership evidences, Cash balance owned by someone, assets and liabilities, Profit and loss statements.

Although we have defined blockchain as a software that essentially provides ledger services, blockchain is not cryptocurrency. Rather, it is the digital ledger that underlies the operations of cryptocurrencies and allows for their existence by recording and storing their data. The information of who owns, transfers, and sells a digital

asset is all stored on a blockchain.

Considering the above, blockchain is really a new type of technology which features a sequence of blocks or records chained together and distributed among its users.

It facilitates an immutable record of transactions that do not need an external governing authority to validate the authenticity and integrity of the data. Although financial transactions are the most common type of data stored and transferred on blockchains at present, any type of information and data can be recorded on the blockchain. Blockchain can be summarised as "an incorruptible digital ledger of economic transactions that can be programmed to record not just financial transactions but virtually everything of value." Technology is neutral, from a Sharia perspective, as it is only an enabler. Adopting new software or technology is lawful and permissible; the default state is of permissibility in such matters.

Software can be designed in various ways to deliver various services. Hence, the objective and function of a blockchain must be considered when reviewing a particular type of blockchain. Blockchain can be likened to a knife; it can be used in permissible and impermissible ways.

A knife can be used for a virtuous action such as cutting fruits to serve one's guests, or it can be used for heinous crimes like murder.

The knife is, of course, not to blame, but the user and the way they use this tool. Similarly, blockchain is technology. It can be deployed in rewarding and permissible avenues, or it can be used to record data of impermissible activities. When considering Blockchain from a Sharia perspective, a Ju'alah structure is the most reasonable.

Ju'alah is a contract in which one of the parties (the Ja'il) offers specified compensation (the Ju'I) to anyone (the 'Amil) who will achieve a determined result in a known or unknown period.

Ju'alah's permissibility is based on a known output, whilst the input is uncertain. It is not affected by the uncertainty that prevails with respect to the subject matter of the contract - that is, the work to be done.

It is for this reason that Ju'alah is suitable for activities for which Ijarah (leasing) is not. The person responsible to deliver the work and the time of delivery of the work should all be quantified in Ijarah.

Furthermore, a Ju'alah does not need to be contracted with any specific individual. A Ju'alah contract can be concluded by an offer directed towards a specified worker or towards the general public. As such, in a blockchain network, the offer is addressed to all the nodes in the network. The subject matter of the contract is the work that is agreed upon through Ju'alah, as well as the compensation for the work.



Mufti Asad Gul

The word blockchain is composed of two words: block and chain. Blockchain is called blockchain because data is stored in blocks and connected in a chain. Blockchain is a list of records called blocks that are linked using cryptographic means. At a very high level, blockchain is software; software is merely a set of instructions, data, or programs used to operate computers and execute specific tasks. All the intangible elements on a computer are generally regarded as software.

Common examples include applications, scripts, and programs. Hardware, on the other hand, refers to the tangible elements of computers. Since blockchain is software, it only exists as intangible records and strings of code. It is very unlikely that an average person will see the underlying infrastructure of a blockchain or the mechanical operations.

At most, they will experience a blockchain-based service rather than see a blockchain. An analogy for



In brief

ICR wins title of cricket League

ISLAMABAD (INP): Islamabad Club Reds (ICR) has clinched the title of Islamabad Club Cricket League by defeating Islamabad Club Blues by ten wickets here at Oval cricket ground Islamabad. Majid Khan, the former captain of Pakistan cricket team was the chief guest of the final while former PCB chief operating officer Shafaqat Naghmi, Islamabad Club Cricket Committee senior member Zubair Nasir, Test cricketer Yasir Hameed and others dignities were also attended the concluding ceremony. In the final, Islamabad Club Blues scored 175 runs for 6 wickets in the allotted 20 overs thanks to Ashas Gill's 89 and Raza Akram's 25 runs, while Ahmed Taj dismissed 3 players by scoring 36 runs. In response, Islamabad Reds achieved the required target in 13th over with unbeatable opening partnership between Umer Kiyani and Salman Chaudhry of 176 runs. Thanks to Umer Kayani's who scored unbeatable century with 10 massive sixes and 6 fours in just 40 balls while Salman Chaudhry played innings of 72 runs. Umar Kayani was declared the player of the tournament along with the match of the final. Meanwhile speaking on the occasion Majid Khan has expressed concern over the decline in Test cricket matches and said that ICC's first priority is Test cricket, but here the work is going backwards as T20 cricket is being played here as first priority and then ODI cricket. He said that the ICC had made a policy of playing three Test matches, but now the Test Championship matches are being reduced and there is going to be a series of one Test match series from next year.

Anthony confirms retirement

LOS ANGELES (Agencies): Ten-time NBA All-Star Carmelo Anthony confirmed his retirement from basketball on Monday, formally bringing the curtain down on his two-decade professional career. Anthony, 38, whose last game in the NBA was for the Los Angeles Lakers in April 2022, announced his decision in a video montage of his career posted to his Instagram account. "I remember the days when I had nothing, just a ball on the court and a dream with something more," Anthony said in the video. "But basketball was my outlet. My purpose was strong. My communities, the cities I represented with pride and the fans that supported me along the way. "I am forever grateful for those people and places because they made me, Carmelo Anthony. "But now the time has come for me to say goodbye: to the court where I made my name, to the game that gave me purpose and pride," Anthony, chosen with the third overall pick in the 2003 draft, departs the sport as one of the most prolific scorers in basketball history. Over the course of 20 seasons in the NBA, he amassed 28,289 points at an average of 22.5 points per game, with 7,808 rebounds and 3,422 assists. He launched his career with the Denver Nuggets before moving to the New York Knicks in 2010, where he spent seven years before stints with the Houston Rockets, Portland Trail Blazers and Lakers. At international level he won three straight gold medals as a member of the US Olympic team in 2008, 2012 and 2016 and also a bronze at the 2004 Athens Games.

34th National Games Punjab, Navy register wins in tennis event

ISLAMABAD (APP) : Punjab and Navy registered wins in their opening matches of the tennis event of the 34th National Games at Pakistan Tennis Federation Complex Islamabad on Monday. Punjab beat Sindh in the first tie, comfortably winning both the singles to advance to the 2nd round. Punjab's Faizan Fayyaz overcame Sindh's Zubair Raja 6-1 6-3, while Asad Zaman defeated Sheeraz Bhand 7-6 (4), 6-1.

In the second tie, Navy overpowered Balochistan 2-1. In singles, Rizwan Shah of Balochistan beat

Taimor Malik of Navy 7-5 6-4 in a well-fought contest. In the other singles, Navy's Aqeel Shabbir outclassed Zafar Ahmed of Balochistan 6-2 6-0 In doubles, the pair of Aqeel Shabbir and Taimur Malik beat Zafar Ahmad and Rizwan Shah 6-2, 6-2. Earlier, the Captain's Meeting of all the participating teams was held at the Referee's Office. Arif Qureshi chaired the meeting, whereas Col. (ret'd) Gul Rehman, secretary PTF and Chairman Organizing Committee, and Mumtaz Yousaf, senior vice president Balochistan

Tennis Association and Member of Organizing Committee of the 34th National Games ? Tennis also attended the meeting. After explaining the rules and regulations of the Games to all the Captains and officials of the teams, a draw ceremony for the team event of men and women was held. The top four teams of the men's team Event are Pakistan WAPDA, Pakistan Army, Pakistan Air Force and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. The top two teams of the women's team event are Pakistan WAPDA and Pakistan Army.



The three captains unveil trophy for the one-day phase of Pakistan Cup Women's Tournament.

Arthur showers praise on pacer Zaman Khan

DERBY (Monitoring Desk): Pakistan pacer Zaman Khan Monday was showered with praises from Pakistan cricket team Director Mickey Arthur for his bowling talent in the opening game of the ongoing T20 Vitality Blast in the United Kingdom. Arthur, who is also the head of cricket at the Derbyshire cricket club, spoke about the bowler when speaking with the media following the Derbyshire Falcons defeat against Lancashire Lightning in their first match. The Pakistani pacer was brought in by Arthur to strengthen the bowling squad of Falcons in the Blast for Derbyshire. The bowler joined Derbyshire squad on Thursday and had just one practice session at Incora County Ground, home of Derbyshire cricket before he was put into action in the T20 Blast opener on Saturday against Lancashire at Edgbaston. Although Zaman did not have a great start to the

tournament and leaked runs in his first two overs, but made a strong comeback late in the match. Lancashire's Luke Wells welcomed the Pakistani pacer with a six over mid-wicket on his first ball. He ended up conceding 18 runs in his first over including two boundaries and a wide. The bowler's second over went for 13 runs, but he did manage to get his first wicket on English soil when George Bell was out after being caught by Derbyshire skipper Leus du Plooy at mid-on. But Arthur hoped that the right arm pacer, who's got a slinging bowling action and has proven his ability to consistently fire in yorkers at a 90 mph, will get better and better as the tournament progresses. "He will just get better and better. He possesses the skills we need. He balls an incredibly-good fast yorker; he delivers a good bouncer and a very good slower ball, and those are the skills we need," Arthur said. After giving away 31 runs in his first two

overs, Zaman made a strong comeback later in the innings. In his last two overs, he was at his usual best bowling a mixture of fast paced Yorkers, bouncers and slower deliveries. The bowler did manage to get his second wicket of the match when he cleaned up Kiwi international Colin de Grandhomme with a lovely slower one. "The key is he fits into what we needed. We needed somebody who can bowl two overs in the power play and then two at depth. Something when we had looked at our squad, we thought we had left, and he can do that and does that incredibly well. We battle a little bit with his English, but actually we are very fortunate to get him," Arthur added. Zaman, who belongs to Azad Jammu Kashmir and comes from a very humble background, has consistently shown his talent in the last couple of years. He bagged 15 wickets in 13 matches in this year's PSL champions Lahore Qalandars.



Velodrome for cycling to be constructed in every division of KP: Dr. Riaz

PESHAWAR (APP): Adviser to the Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on Sports and Youth Affairs Dr Riaz Anwar Monday said that Velodromes for the Game of Cycling will be constructed in every division of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, including Peshawar. He said this while talking to President Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Cycling Association Nasir Mohmand, who called on him here at his office in Post Graduate Medical Institute Peshawar. Dr Riaz Anwar congratulated Nasir Mohmand on winning the bronze medal in the 34th National Games. He assured me that the step has been taken for the promotion of cycling in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. On other issues, the advisor for sports, Dr Riaz Anwar further said that all kinds of facilities will be provided to the players and assuring the full support of the Chief Minister to provide financial assistance for the good performance of the players. He said that all kinds of facilities will be provided to the players. He said such facility will be built in every division of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, including Peshawar, and make the name of the country and the nation bright. He said hopefully after the construction of Cycling Velodrome will be constructed in every division of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, including Peshawar.

Pakistan beat Sri Lanka in Women Baseball Asia Cup

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan continued their winning streak in the 3rd Asian Women's Baseball Championship (Women Baseball Asia Cup), thumping Sri Lanka 21-3 in their second outing on Monday, according to information available here from Pakistan Federation Baseball (PFB). In their opening match on Sunday, Pakistan edged passed hosts Hong Kong 16-1 in a one-sided affair. Pakistan will face Indonesia in their third match on Tuesday.



Cycling star Cavendish to retire at end of season

PARIS (AFP): Mark Cavendish said on Monday he will retire at the end of the season, bringing the curtain down on the career of one of cycling's all-time great sprinters. The British rider, whose 34 Tour de France stage wins are joint most with Belgian legend Eddy Merckx, will have one final chance to claim the record outright in July when he takes part in the race one last time.

Over a storied career Cavendish's deep racing knowledge, a fearless, aggressive approach and the ability to marshal teammates and outspeed rivals has earned him a staggering 161 wins with 53 of those coming at Grand Tours. "This race (the Giro) has an important place in my heart as a cyclist and a person," he said. "The Giro d'Italia gave me my first Grand Tour wins in 2008. Italy was my home for

AFP ahead of the 2018 Tour that Cavendish had "nothing to prove". "Many people will mention Mario Cipollini but for me Mark Cavendish is the Tour de France's all-time great sprinter," the race director said. Cavendish, however, had other ideas about what he had left to prove. He went five years without a win and also ended up without a team in early 2021. On a rookie's salary, however, Cavendish was taken 'home' to Belgian outfit Deceuninck Quick-Step by maverick team boss Patrick Lefevere, a larger-than-life character Cavendish trusted and believed. On stage 13 of the Tour de France that summer Cavendish equalled Merckx's 46-year-old record of Tour de France stage wins by taking a fourth win on that edition. Cavendish also won the rainbow jersey at the world road race championships in Copenhagen in 2011 and the Monument one-day race Milan-San Remo in 2009. He has ridden for T-Mobile, Team Sky, Bahrain, Quick-Step and is currently with Astana. Cavendish, a silver medallist on the track in the omnium at the 2016 Olympics, also received an MBE for services to British cycling. "He is the greatest sprinter of all time, really, when you see his record," said Geraint Thomas, the 2018 Tour de France champion. "It's kind of strange to see him retire, actually, because it means I'm going to be soon as well," he added. "But he hasn't finished yet. He's still got to get that record at the Tour and win a stage here."



The 38-year-old, known as the "Manx Missile", made the announcement alongside his wife and children at a press conference in Coccaglio during Monday's rest day at the Giro d'Italia. "I've absolutely loved racing every kilometre of this race so far, so I feel it's the perfect time to say it's my final Giro d'Italia and 2023 will be my final season as a professional cyclist," Cavendish said. "Cycling's been my life for over 25 years. I've lived an absolute dream. "The bike has given me the opportunity to see the world and meet incredible people, a lot of whom I'm proud to now call friends. "I love the sport more than you can even imagine and I can't see myself going too far from it, that's for sure."

many years during my career. And the people here welcomed me, as one of their own." Traumatic experience One of cycling's most popular riders, Cavendish also endured private trauma away from the sport. In a horrific incident last year, he and his wife were held at knife-point by robbers in a late-night attack. Born in Douglas, on the Isle of Man, the former junior bank clerk joined a nascent British Cycling Academy in 2003. By 2008 he won a first Tour de France stage with German team T-Mobile, racking up 30 in a period of dominance until 2016, when he was stuck down by the draining condition of Epstein-Barr virus. Tour de France director Christian Prudhomme told

Koepka wins US PGA C'ship to claim fifth major

NEW YORK (Agencies): A resurgent Brooks Koepka held off Scottie Scheffler and Viktor Hovland to claim his third US PGA Championship title at Oak Hill in New York state. Koepka, 33, carded a three-under 67 to win his fifth major on nine under, two shots clear of Scheffler and Hovland. Scheffler, who returns to world number one, hit a 65 to get to seven under, while Hovland - who had a double bogey on the 16th - shot a two-under 68.



Rahm. It is the third time in five years that Koepka has played a major championship in the state of New York and come out on top. "This is incredible," Koepka said. "I look back at where we were two years ago. I am just so happy right now, this is just the coolest thing. "I don't know how many guys have won five times, but to be with those groups of names is absolutely incredible and I'll be honest I'm not even sure I dreamed of it as a kid." He joins greats of the game Seve Ballesteros, Peter Thomson, Byron Nelson, John Henry Taylor and James Braid as a quintuple major winner. It is all the more remarkable given it comes just two years after Koepka underwent extensive knee surgery and following his switch to the Saudi Arabian-backed LIV Golf set-up. Koepka collects the Wanamaker Trophy and a hefty cheque of \$3.15m (£2.53m). He also becomes only the sixth player to win the Championship on three or more occasions - joining Walter Hagen and Jack Nicklaus (five), Tiger Woods (four), Gene Sarazen and Sam Snead (three). Koepka back at his brilliant best Koepka was

roundly booed by fans on the first tee on Saturday because of his involvement with LIV Golf. However, his sustained brilliance over the third round and again on Sunday ensured he received the adulation of the galleries as he tapped in his winning putt. On the the face of it his success may well provide a significant boost for those marketing the Saudi-funded circuit but for an emotional Koepka, a player whose career was potentially in jeopardy not so long ago, it appeared to strike a more personal chord. Koepka has spent recent weeks reflecting on "choking" at the Masters, pledging to not simply try to hang on to a lead ever again after faltering badly in defensive mode at Augusta National. True to his word as he went on a birdie blitz across the second, third and fourth holes to open a four-shot lead before his Norwegian playing partner, Hovland, responded. It was an imperious opening. The last 54-hole leader at a major to go three under or better in the first four holes of a final round was Ian Baker-Finch on his way to victory at the 1991 Open Championship at Royal Birkdale.

Spain prosecutors open probe into racist abuse of Vinicius

MADRID (Agencies): Spanish prosecutors opened a probe Monday into racist chants hurled at Real Madrid's star forward Vinicius Junior during a match as the football federation president admitted the country had a "problem" with racism. The 22-year-old Brazilian international forward was targeted by a home supporter during a 1-0 defeat at Valencia on Sunday and was later sent off. The prosecutor's office in Valencia is investigating the incident as a possible "hate crime", a judicial source told AFP. The move comes after Real Madrid said it had filed a complaint with the office "in order for the facts to be investigated and for those responsible to be held accountable." The club said the chants, in its view, "constitute a hate crime". Top figures from the world of football and beyond rallied around the player, who has frequently been singled out for racial abuse in La Liga. The head of Spain's football federation, Luis Rubiales, said the country had a "problem" with racism. "As long as there is just one fan, a single undesirable, or group of undesirables who hurl insults over someone's sexual orientation, or skin colour, we have a serious problem," he added. Vinicius stood in front of fans behind the goal and pointed to the apparent culprit and play was delayed for



several minutes in the second half. Referee Ricardo de Burgos Bengoetxea spoke to stadium officials, who made an announcement calling for racist insults to stop before play resumed 10 minutes later. The referee wrote in his post-match report that a fan shouted "monkey, monkey" at the player. Vinicius was sent off in added time at the end of the game for hitting Valencia player Hugo Duro during a brawl. He issued a statement afterwards saying that La Liga "belongs to racists" and several Brazilian players past and present offered their support. Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva condemned the abuse, telling a news conference at the close of the G7 summit in Hiroshima: "He was attacked. He was called a 'monkey'." Spain's Labour Minister Yolanda Diaz, a deputy prime minister, also weighed in, saying "racist chants in football stadiums do not represent our country". "We will continue to work to end racism," she

tweeted. - 'Unacceptable' - Real Madrid coach Carlo Ancelotti said Spanish football needed to be prepared to halt matches. "The Spanish league has a problem, and Vinicius is not the problem. Vinicius is the victim," Ancelotti said. "What has happened today has happened before, but not like that, it's unacceptable," he told reporters. FIFA reiterated on Monday that stopping matches is permitted as well as players walking off the pitch in their three-step approach when racist abuse takes place. "Full solidarity to Vinicius," FIFA president Gianni Infantino said in a statement. Vinicius has been racially abused at several stadiums this season in Spain and an effigy of him was hung from a bridge by Atletico Madrid fans. La Liga have filed legal complaints to Spanish authorities on multiple occasions this season, with the league pledging on Sunday to do so again after investi-

gating. However, Ancelotti said it was not helping. "What has happened? Reports, and nothing at all has come from it. The solution is to stop the game," said the veteran Italian coach. Writing on Instagram, Vinicius said Spain was viewed as "a country of racists" in his homeland. He said Spain was "a great country, which welcomed me and that I love, but which has accepted to export to the world the image of a racist country. I am sorry for the Spanish people who do not agree, but today, in Brazil, Spain is known as a country of racists." "The league that once belonged to Ronaldinho, Ronaldo, Cristiano (Ronaldo) and Messi now belongs to racists," Vinicius added. - 'It's unjust' - La Liga argued it had been "proactive" in previous cases of racism against Vinicius, filing nine complaints with relevant authorities and prosecutors. La Liga's combative president Javier Tebas hit back on Twitter, claiming Vinicius on two occasions did not turn up for a meeting with the governing body to discuss what it "can do in cases of racism". "Before you criticise and slander La Liga you need to inform yourself properly," Tebas tweeted. Vinicius has, though, received widespread support.



In brief

IRSA releases 154,000 cusecs water

ISLAMABAD (APP): Indus River System Authority (IRSA) on Monday released 154,000 cusecs water from various rim stations with an inflow of 152,600 cusecs. According to the data released by IRSA, water level in River Indus at Tarbela Dam was 1425.41 feet and was 27.41 feet higher than its dead level of 1,398 feet. Water inflow and outflow in the dam was recorded as 48,600 cusecs and 50,000 cusecs respectively. The water level in River Jhelum at Mangla Dam was 1115.40 feet, which was 65.40 feet higher than its dead level of 1,050 feet. The inflow and outflow of water was recorded 44,600 cusecs and 46,500 cusecs respectively. The release of water at Kalabagh, Taunsa, Guddu and Sukkur was recorded as 67,000, 62,000, 43,300 and 13,300 cusecs respectively. Similarly, from River Kabul, a total of 32,900 cusecs of water released at Nowshera and 16,200 cusecs released from River Chenab at Marala.

AIOU announces schedule

ISLAMABAD (APP): Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU) has announced the assignment schedule for Matric and F.A. programs offered in the spring semester 2023. According to the AIOU, May 31 is the submission deadline for the first complete course assignment, June 23 for the second assignment whereas July 17 and August 18 is the last submission date for the third and fourth assignments respectively. The submission deadline for 1st and 2nd half course assignments of matric and F.A. programs is June 23, 2023, and August 18, 2023, respectively. Students can get names, addresses, and other information of their respective tutors on CMS portal at <http://enrollment.aiou.edu.pk> or from any nearest regional campus. Students will be responsible for late assignment submission, and assignments reaching after the due dates will not be accepted. Moreover, the university has also uploaded the assignments and instructions for writing and submitting assignments for the Associate Degree, BS, B.Ed., MA, MSc, M.Ed, and ATTC programs on the website www.aiou.edu.pk. The schedule for submission of assignments for these programs will be announced soon. Students enrolled in these programs will submit their assignments online while students enrolled in Matriculation, FA and BA (associate degree) programs will submit (dispatch) their assignments to the respective tutors manually. University has also uploaded instructions on its official website for the convenience of students.

5 stolen motorcycles recovered

RAWALPINDI (APP): Police have arrested two members gang and recovered five stolen motorcycles from their possession during an operation here on Monday. According to the police spokesman, Bani police held two members gang involved in motorcycle theft identified as Muhammad Hassan and Muhammad Nauman. Police have registered separate cases against both of them and started investigation. SP Rawal Faisal Saleem appreciated the performance of the police team and said that operations against organized and active gangs will be accelerated. Meanwhile, Wah Cantt police have arrested a proclaimed offender who was involved in the killing of Syed Badshah over old enemy.



ISLAMABAD: Special Representative of Prime Minister for Inter-Religious Harmony, Middle East and Chairman Pakistan Ulema Council Hafiz Tahir Mahmood Ashrafi holds a Press Conference at 1-8/3.

Ashrafi admire China, Saudi Arabia, Turkiye, and Egypt for boycotting G20 moot

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan Ulema Council Chairman and Prime Minister's Special Representative on Interfaith Harmony and Middle East Hafiz Muhammad Tahir Mahmood Ashrafi Monday expressed his appreciation to China, Saudi Arabia, Turkiye, and Egypt for their decision to refrain from attending the G20 meeting in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK).

Addressing a press conference, he said IIOJK was an internationally recognized disputed territory between Pakistan and India and it was on the agenda of the United Nations Security Council for over seven decades.

Ashrafi said India was responsible for widespread atrocities and egregious human rights violations in the IIOJK adding that contemplating the holding of any G20-related meeting or

event there, in utter disregard of the globally acknowledged disputed status of the territory, was a travesty that the international community could not accept under any circumstances. He said today, a complete strike took place in occupied Kashmir and Azad Kashmir to condemn this illegal move of the fascist Modi regime giving a clear-cut expression of that India had nothing to do with the people and the territory of occupied Kashmir.

He urged other G20 countries to boycott such an event if held in the future in any internationally disputed territory. He said India was trying to organize another event of G20 in the wake of interfaith harmony to portray its soft image in the comity of nations but Muslims and the people of other faiths had completely denied to participate in any event in the Indian-held Kashmir.

He said India must end its gross and systematic

violations of human rights in IIOJK, revoke its illegal and unilateral actions of 5 August 2019, and free all political prisoners including the true Kashmiri leaders for a peaceful and meaningful dialogue between the two countries. On the tragedy of May 9 called Black Day, Ashrafi on behalf of all Ulema and Mashaykh urged the superior judiciary to expedite the trials of those people involved in heinous crimes of setting ablaze the Core Commander House, Lahore, and Radio Pakistan, Peshawar, and attack on General Headquarters in the anti-terrorist courts.

He further said those who destroyed the national security forces installations, should be tried in the military courts under Army Act as it was in accordance with the law and the Constitution adding that nobody should create any kind of hurdle into the matter.

Power suspension programme

ISLAMABAD (APP): Islamabad Electric Supply Company (IESCO) on Monday issued a power suspension programme for Tuesday for various areas of its region due to necessary maintenance and routine development work.

According to IESCO Spokesman, the power supply of different feeders and grid stations would remain suspended for the period from 09:00 AM to 02:00 PM, New Khanga, Hasnot, H-8, H-8/2, Shifa International, Allama Iqbal Open University, Kahuta City 2, Hanif Shaheed, RCCI-1,2,3,4&5, Chowk Pandori, Sihala, Sarpak, Islamia Chowk, Kalyal, Bhawan, KSM-2, Chakra, Sarkal, Dhoke Hasu, Major Masood, Gulshanabad, Industrial, Dhok Mangtal, Basharat, Farooq Azam Road Feeders, From 08:00 AM to 01:00 PM, Ghor Ghishti, Barazai, Maskinabad, Shahdir, Radio Pak 1&2, Lampur, Qaziabad, GBHP Colony, Khanabad, Lalazar, Lalahruck, Small Industrial, Purmiana, Ghari Afghana, Taxila 1&2, Feeders and surrounding areas.

Sufis' role in promotion of Islam in subcontinent remarkable: Saqib Imam

RAWALPINDI (INP): Renowned poet and writer Saqib Imam Rizvi has said that Sufi saints including Hazrat Data Ali Hajveri, Hazrat Khawaja Moinuddin Chishti Ajmeri, Sheikh Muhammad Ismail Bukhari, Khawaja Bakhtiar Kaki, Baba Farid, Hazrat Nizamuddin Auliya, Hazrat Bahauddin Zakaria Multani and Hazrat Shamsuddin Al-Tamishi had played an unforgettable role in the reformation of religion, society, promotion and spread of Islam in the subcontinent.

This was stated by him while presiding over the Sufi conference organized by Punjab Arts Council under the title 'Role of Sufis in the Promotion of Islam in the Subcontinent' in collaboration with Pothahari Writers Club Pakistan. Noman Razak performed the duties of host.

While addressing the conference, Saqib Imam Rizvi said that this role of Sufi saints is so bright and great that any history of reforming the Ummah and preaching remains incomplete without mentioning them.

Sheikh berates govt for thwarting Imran's election struggle

RAWALPINDI (NNI): Awami Muslim League chief and former interior minister Sheikh Rashid Ahmed has questioned the ruling alliance (Pakistan Democratic Movement) with whom it would contest elections by disqualifying or removing [minus] Imran Khan.

In a series of tweets on Monday, he wrote that the system of oppression could not continue. The PML-N, which always violates sanctity of chaddar aur chaar deewari, would be buried. "Divine order will prevail sooner or later."

Sheikh Rashid urged people not to support the "corrupt" government.

He said the nation rued what happened on May 9. Innocent people were being arrested and their mothers cursing, he said. "Hatred and anxiety is growing but it must end." He called the "wrong" impression that the gap

between the masses and institution had widened a ploy.

He said Nawaz Sharif could not step out of his house, that's why overseas Pakistanis were being intimidated.

The AML leader said police were raiding places to arrest him and his nephew Sheikh Rashid Shafiq. "My staff has been whisked away. Until police arrest me, I will keep in touch with the nation through Twitter," he added.

He noted government failures on economic front; standoff with the IMF, budget crisis, ruined economic and widening distance with friendly countries.

The former minister said the poor were dying. The rupee-dollar disparity was increasing and now the government had increased the price of medicines by 20 per cent. The poor man was forced to eat soiled flour, he deplored.

NA speaker seeks report from IGP into killing of minor girl

ISLAMABAD (APP): Speaker National Assembly Raja Pervaiz Ashraf on Monday sought detailed report from Inspector General of Police (IGP) Islamabad into killing of seven year old girl in the areas of Nai Abadi of Bhara Kahu within seven days.

The speaker directed the IGP to submit the detailed report after thoroughly

investigation into the tragic incident to the House within seven days.

Earlier, speaking on a point of order, Convener Parliamentary Caucus on Child Rights Mehaz Akbar Aziz said that although the government had set up Child Rights Commission for protecting the children. However, she said a

seven year old girl was brutally killed after sexual assault in Bhara Kahu which was only five kilometers away from here.

She said despite lapse of three days, the culprit was not yet apprehended.

She urged the speaker to take notice of the issue and direct the IG for carrying out transparent investigation into the matter.

ANF seizes over 424 kg drugs in 9 operations

RAWALPINDI (APP): Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) in their ongoing operations against drug smugglers conducted raids across the country and recovered over 424 kg drugs besides netting 10 accused including a woman, said an ANF Headquarters spokesman here on Monday.

He informed that in an operation conducted at Islamabad International Airport, ANF arrested a passenger, resident of Khyber, going on flight no PK-287 for possessing 29 heroin-filled and 11 charras-filled capsules.

In another operation near Islamabad Motorway Toll Plaza, ANF recovered 9.6 kg charras, 7.2 kg opium and two kg Ice drug from the possession of two drug smugglers residents of Peshawar and Nowshera, rounded up during the operation. In third operation conducted at a private courier office in Lahore Johar Town, over 2.5 kg heroin was recovered from a parcel booked for London.

The spokesman informed that in a raid conducted near Sohrah Goth Karachi, 26.4 kg charras was recovered from the possession of two accused including a woman, residents of Karachi. In fifth operation

conducted at a private courier office on Karachi Shahrah-e-Faisal, heroin concealed in a carpet was recovered. The parcel was being sent to Australia.

ANF in an operation foiled a bid to smuggle drugs from Dera Ismail Khan to Punjab and recovered 166.8 kg charras and 7.2 kg opium from a pick-up vehicle intercepted near Yark Toll Plaza on Indus Highway. ANF also arrested an accused resident of Dattakhel, Waziristan.

In seventh operation conducted by ANF and FC in Khyber, 11 kg charras was recovered. The spokesman further informed that ANF in an operation near Quetta-Kuchlak by-pass, managed to recover 100 kg charras and arrested an accused resident of Quetta. After preliminary investigation, two more drug smugglers, residents of Kalat and Quetta were nabbed from Quetta-Karachi road while a vehicle was also impounded.

In another operation near Quetta-Kuchlak bypass, ANF seized 90 kg charras and arrested an accused resident of Qilla Abdullah. Separate cases have been registered against the accused while further investigations are under process, he added.

CTP raising awareness about use of safety helmets

RAWALPINDI (APP): City Traffic Police (CTP) Rawalpindi on the directives of the Deputy Inspector General of

Traffic, Punjab are raising awareness about the use of safety helmets among motorcyclists.

According to City Traffic Officer (CTO) Tamoor Khan, CTP was running a special campaign aimed at raising awareness about traffic rules, road safety and the use of safety helmets. A large number of road users were also briefed about traffic rules, road safety and the use of helmets during the last seven days.

Mobile Education Unit of CTP arranged special briefing sessions on road safety and the use of

safety helmets at different educational institutions and other public places in the city, he added.

To make the campaign more effective and meaningful, traffic wardens and officers had also been issued special instructions, he said adding, the Education Wing of Traffic police was making efforts to spread awareness so that the road journey could be made safe and sound. Special efforts were made to educate the road users regarding traffic rules and road safety, he added.

The CTO urged the people to cooperate with traffic wardens as they were on the roads to facilitate them. A special squad was available to help and facilitate

the citizens on Helpline 1915, he added. He said, civilized nations always observed traffic rules. The citizens should know road safety and traffic rules that must be observed on roads. All the traffic issues could be resolved by observing traffic rules which were for the safety and protection of the road users, he added.

Traffic signals should not be violated as such violation with negligent driving might lead to fatal accidents, he said and informed that the traffic police were also disseminating information on various roads and traffic signals in all tehils of the district to educate citizens about traffic rules, signals and the damages caused by traffic violations.



ISLAMABAD: Kashmiris belonging to APHC holds an Anti-India protest outside the office of the United Nations Military Observers Group in India and Pakistan (UNMOGIP) for hosting G20 tourism meeting in the disputed Himalyan Kashmir.

Arms, ammunition recovered

WARDAK (Agencies): Intelligence forces of Wardak province recovered a number of weapons and ammunition kept illegally. Lately, the intelligence forces of Maidan Wardak conducted an operation, where they recovered illegal weapons and ammunitions from different districts of the province, local officials said. The ammunition and weapons recovered include several missiles, different types of weapons and explosives devices, security officials of the province said.

Mine blast kills 1 child

GHAZNI (Khaama Press): One child was killed, and another was injured when an explosive device left over from a past conflict exploded in the Deyak district of Ghazni province. On Sunday, two youngsters, ages 9 and 12, found the explosive device that resembled a toy and tried to carry it home. However, a provincial official said that the explosive device detonated quickly, killing one of the children on the spot and injuring the other.

Massive earthquake rocks Badakhshan; tremors felt in Kabul

KABUL (Khaama Press): An earthquake of magnitude 4.9 rocked 98 Km southeast of Faizabad Badakhshan province, and the tremors were felt in Kabul, on Monday, at 10:43 am local time.

The earthquake of 4.9 happened at 10: 43 am local time today with a depth of 100 Km in Faizabad capital city of Badakhshan province, the Indian National for Seismology (NCS) said.

No casualties have been reported so far; further

details are awaited.

This is the second earthquake within 10 hours; the first earthquake occurred with a magnitude of 4.0, 69 Km east of Faizabad, Badakhshan province of Afghanistan, on Monday.

"Earthquake of Magnitude: 4.0, Occurred on 22-5-2023, 1:52 am local time, Lat: 37.04 & Long: 71.35, Depth: 10Km, Location Faizabad, Badakhshan province, Afghanistan," The Indian NCS tweeted.

Natural disasters like

earthquakes, landslides, avalanches, torrential rain, and flooding are widespread in Afghanistan.

Due to a lack of infrastructure and a proper management system, the country's severity and damage from natural disasters are massive.

As a result, additional safety measures and precautions are required to decrease the severity of the disaster, particularly in the north and northeast, including the capital city of Kabul.

'Travel ban affecting relations'

KABUL (TOLOnews): The Islamic Emirate's spokesman Zabiullah Mujahid said that the existing travel bans on the leaders of the Islamic Emirate will affect the interim government's relations with foreign countries. Mujahid said that the issue will cause mistrust between Afghanistan and the international community.

"We hope that the restrictions which are imposed on the officials of the Islamic Emirate will be removed soon. Doing so will increase the effectiveness of both the agencies and other countries as well as Afghanistan. I mentioned previously that restrictions do not bring any results, so they should not continue on failed paths with no results," Mujahid said.

In August 2022, the UN Security Council failed to reach an agreement on whether to extend travel exemptions for 13 members of the Islamic Emirate. "The lack of the extension of the travel ban exemption is because the interim government has not only failed to take steps to form an inclusive government and ensure human rights, but with the ban on female workers in the UN, it turned its back," said Sayed Jawad Sijadi, a university instructor.

"We still see that whenever there is a need, the UN Security Council allows (Amir Khan) Muttaqi to travel to Islamabad," said Bilal Fatimi, an international relations analyst.

Earlier, a UN Security Council committee agreed to allow the foreign minister Amir Khan Muttaqi to travel to Pakistan from Afghanistan, where he met the foreign ministers of Pakistan and China.

Everyone to take part in country's uplift: PM

KABUL (Agencies): The Acting Prime Minister of Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan Mawlawi Abdul Kabir has separately met with a number of scholars, elders, religious and influential figures of Kabul and Baghlan provinces, his office said in a statement Monday.

In the meeting, the Acting Prime Minister and Deputy PM Mawlawi Abdul Kabir, while, appreciating people's sacrifices for the establishment of the Islamic system said that the everyone should together under the umbrella of the current system and jointly work for the country's development, prosperity and self-sufficiency, according to the statement.

Elders and influential figures of the provinces, while showing their full support from the current system, expressed that the Islamic system was wish of every Afghan in the country, the statement said, adding that they are ready for any sacrifices to keep and support the Islamic system.

Also, they shared the challenges related to their provinces with the Acting Prime Minister and Deputy PM Mawlawi Abdul Kabir, and asked that them should be solved, the statement further said.



The Islamic Emirate

was always committed to provide entire the nation with better services and facilities in various grounds and the IEA's officials have been instructed to always address the challenges facing the people, as well as always keep their door open to the nation," the statement quoted Mawlawi Kabir as saying.

After the resumption of power by the IEA and establishment of the Islamic system all obstacles have been removed in the country, and now it is the time that every Afghan with complete honesty and firm determination should together work and step towards the country's development and prosperity.

Deputy PM meets elders of Paktika, Kabul



PAKTIKA - KABUL (Agencies): The Deputy Prime Minister for Administrative of the Islamic Emirate Mawlawi Abdul Salam Hanafi has met with the Deputy Governor of the country's eastern province of Paktika Makhdom Mawlawi Abdul Salam Saadat, his office said in a statement Monday.

The meeting was participated by a number of scholars, religious and influential figures of the province, the statement said.

In the meeting, Deputy

Governor of Paktika Makhdom Mawlawi Abdul Salam Saadat, spoke on behalf of others and shared the economic, social and security conditions, and challenges including lack of administrative buildings in some districts of the province, lack of enough electricity, and standard roads, with the Deputy PM Hanafi, the statement further said.

"The Islamic Emirate was always committed to address the people's problem countrywide and particularly, necessary attention will be paid to the existing challenges in Paktika province," said Hanafi.

Providing the best services and facilities for every national is one of the main responsibilities of any incumbent government, and the officials of the Islamic Emirate with full strength will try to address all challenges facing Afghans inside or outside the country, Hanafi added, according to the statement.

Anti-erosion work along Amu Darya finished

BALKH (TOLOnews): Local officials in Balkh province announced the completion of work along the riverbank of the Amu Darya River in Shortepa district.

According to the officials, the work on the riverbank of the Amu Darya River was started in this district last year and now has been completed, at a cost of more than six million afghani.

"Last year in (Dalwa), work was started and finally the residents of Shortepa district witnessed that today we completed work on it," said Sayed Ghulam Mashwani, head of the project on the Amu Darya

river.

"More than six million Afghans have been spent here. Thousands of bags were used here," said Abdul Hakim Haji Hekmat, head of the river region in the north.

Residents of the district welcomed the completion of the riverbank project of the Amu Darya river, but that more permanent structures will need to be built.

"In the future, all the areas of Shortepa district should be made more permanent along the riverbank of the Amu Darya," said Juma Murad, an elder in Shortepa district.

"People's gardens, crops, agricultural lands,

and people's houses were all destroyed, the water destroyed everything," said Ghulam Nabi, a Shortepa resident.

The deputy Balkh governor said that more permanent structures will be built along the Amu Darya River begin soon. "It is a big project and expensive and it will take time," said Noor Hadi Abu Idris.

Flooding around the river has destroyed a lot of agricultural land and many residential houses and public facilities in Takhar, Kunduz, Balkh, and Jawzjan provinces. It has caused huge financial losses for the residents of these provinces.

IE pledge positive and constructive interaction with world: ARG

KABUL (Agencies): The head of the Prime Minister's Office in a meeting with a representative of United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) said that the Islamic Emirate is pledged to positive and constructive interaction with the world.

The head of the Office of Acting Prime Minister Office, Mawlawi Zakir, met with a representative of UNAMA in Kabul and his accompanying delegation, ARG said in a statement.

The representative of UNAMA office, said that the UNAMA is striving to attract the attention of donor countries in the sector of completing uplift climate change control projects, in addition to humanitarian aid to Afghanistan.

He said that with the aim of attracting more aid to Afghanistan, the Islamic Emirate needs to increase flexibility and cooperation in some projects so that the concerns of donor countries are also resolved.

He said that United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) will present reports on the fight against narcotics and a number of other important issues at the UN Security Council meeting and the meeting held in Brussels on Afghanistan.

According to him, such meetings will continue to find solutions to existing problems.

Mawlawi Zakir hailed the efforts of United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) in the sector of humanitarian aid to Afghanistan and emphasized on the continuation of more aid.

"In the last two years, there has been a lot of progress and the Islamic Emirate is committed to positive and constructive interaction with the world" he said.

The wars in the past four decades have affected Afghans in all sectors, and the international community needs to continue its aid in the sectors of humanitarian, climate change control, and basic projects, urging that this process should be separated from politics.

ANFDA head meets Afghan Ambassador



KABUL (Agencies): The head of Afghanistan Food and Drug Authority (ANFDA) Dr. Abdul Bari Omer and his accompanying delegations to Tehran met with Iran-based Afghanistan Ambassador Mawlawi Fazul Ahmad Haqqani.

In the meeting, Afghanistan Food and Drug

Authority's head Dr. Abdul Bari Omer shared the brief of his talks with Iran-based Afghanistan Ambassador Mawlawi Fazul Ahmad Haqqani, a statement said adding that the medicines' quality, quantity and their safe transportation to Afghanistan as well as some important issues have

also been discussed.

This is to be noted that a few days back, Dr. Omer and his accompanying delegations had visited to the Islamic Republic of Iran to discuss quality of food, drug and health products with the Iranian officials and strengthening the bilateral trade ties.

WHO warns of potential surge in dengue fever cases



KABUL (Khaama Press): The World Health Organization (WHO) issued a warning regarding the potential surge in cases of dengue fever, often known as bone-breaking fever, the organization stated. The organization also expressed

its readiness for its health workers to manage the disease in the country.

"With the onset of the rainy season, dengue cases could increase. We are preparing our health workers to manage dengue cases," the organization

tweeted. WHO emphasized educating medical personnel to control dengue fever in eastern Afghanistan, which endangers high risk.

The organization also held training sessions for 300 medical professionals

across the eastern provinces of Afghanistan.

"WHO has recently trained 300 doctors, nurses & lab technicians from 18 hospitals & 250 health facilities from Kunar, Laghman, Nuristan & Nangarhar," the organization added.

The three-day program on managing dengue cases featured 12 groups of 65 female health workers.

The organization also asked the people of Afghanistan to take the appropriate precautions to safeguard their families from mosquito bites and prevent dengue.

"The three-day dengue case management training was done in 12 batches where 65 female health workers participated. As we prepare health facilities, we remind the public to protect themselves and their family from mosquito bites and prevent dengue," it stated.

OCHA asks for urgent funding

KABUL (Khaama Press): According to the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs in Afghanistan, funding is urgently needed to assist Afghans with disabilities.

OCHA tweeted that 2.4 million people will live with disabilities in Afghanistan by 2023 and are disproportionately impacted by the current humanitarian crisis.

These people already encounter many obstacles when accessing essential services, healthcare, education, and job opportunities.

Their problems have been worsened by the current crisis, which is defined by conflict, displacement, and economic instability. As a result, they are now even more vulnerable.

The organization noted that aid organizations seek to assist 2 million people with disabilities, but financing is desperately needed to support them.



KABUL (Agencies): The country's Acting Industry and Commerce Minister, Nooruddin Azizi, on the sidelines of the 14th International Economic Forum in Kazan "Islamic World" discussed developing trade ties with the

this sector, the Afghan Ministry of Industry and Commerce said in a statement.

In the meeting, Russian Abubakar Seyyed Hussain Veitch, reminded of the establishment of Islamic banking and stressed on increasing the facilities and providing more educational opportunities for Afghan students.

"Russia will support people of Afghanistan by

providing them with work opportunities," Seyyed Hussain Veitch said.

The two side also discussed export of goods through warm waters to Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan and Afghanistan, according to the statement.

Meanwhile, Minister Nooruddin Azizi, meeting with President of Tatarstan, Rustam Menikhanov, asked him to visit Afghanistan, further said the statement.



ISLAMABAD: President Dr. Arif Alvi talking to a delegation of a local electric bike manufacturing company, at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

Caretaker KP CM review proposals for upcoming budget

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: Caretaker Chief Minister Muhammad Azam Khan chaired meeting regarding preparation for upcoming fiscal year while discussed and reviewed the strategic plans and other related matters regarding preparation of budget for the first quarter of fiscal year 2023-24.

Besides caretaker provincial minister for planning Hamid Shah and advisor to chief minister for finance Himayatullah, Chief Secretary Nadim Aslam Chaudhry, Additional Chief Secretary Zubair Asghar Qureshi, Principal Secretary to Chief Minister Amjad Ali Khan and higher authorities of finance and planning attended the meeting.

The participants were briefed in details about the budget estimates for the first quarter of new fiscal year, preliminary outline of new budget, the annual development program and

other important aspects of the proposed fiscal budget. The forum made threadbare discussion on the financial constraints of the provincial government and reviewed the various proposals to steer the province out of these financial constraints.

It was decided in meeting that during the next couple of days, a detailed briefing would be arranged for the Prime Minister of Pakistan regarding financial constraints being faced by the province due to non-payment of funds under different federal transfers.

Addressing the participants, the caretaker Chief Minister directed the quarters concerned to adopt realistic approach in the preparation of new budget adding that there was no room for unnecessary expenditures in the new fiscal budget. All possible efforts should be made to ensure that the funds are allocated in accordance with the proposed development strat-

egy of the provincial government with special focus on the completion of approved ongoing development projects in the province, he added.

Meanwhile the chief minister also chaired a meeting of the policy board of Pakhtunkhwa Energy Development Organization (PEDO) which agreed the proposed increase in water use charges from Rs 0.425 per KWH to Rs 1.10 per KWH for the private sector hydro power projects established in the province. A proper case to this effect would be sent to the federal government. Once the increase is approved, the annual income of the provincial government would increase from Rs 1.3 billion to Rs 3.4 billion per annum, it was told in meeting. The forum also decided to form a committee which will prepare draft rules for the appointment of the members of PEDO Executive Committee and submit the same to provincial Cabinet for final approval.

Main accused in radio Pakistan vandalism, arson case

PESHAWAR (INP): Police on Monday claimed to have arrested the main accused in the Radio Pakistan Peshawar vandalism and arson case.

The accused identified as Moosa Khan was responsible for setting the Radio Pakistan Peshawar building on fire during a protest on May 10 following the arrest of former prime minister and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf chairman, Imran Khan. Vehicles parked in the building of Radio Pakistan were also set on fire, while the miscreants damaged and looted government property, including cameras, microphones and other office equipment.

The police said Moosa Khan was arrested during a successful raid in Peshawar's Paka Ghulam area. Furthermore, the arrest of other accused involved in the vandalism and arson case is underway. Last week, Peshawar police nabbed a prime suspect, who sold the gate of the Radio Pakistan Peshawar building after protestors vandalized and set the building on fire on May 9. Investigation revealed that Umar had sold the stolen gate of Radio Pakistan to a junk dealer for Rs 9,000. The police, however, swiftly took action, arresting the primary suspect and successfully recovering the stolen gate.

PTI pleads SHC to restrain Karachi mayor's election

KARACHI (INP): The Sindh High Court on Monday hearing a PTI petition seeking restraining order against holding Mayor's election in Karachi, issued notices to the election commission and others.

The next date for hearing the case will be fixed later. UC Chairman, Zeeshan Zaib of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), has filed petition in the high court against Karachi's mayoral election. "Now UC chairmen are taking oath, while the mayor's election is away," court observed. "How could a UC chairman represent whole party," the bench asked the petitioner's lawyer. "The party's authority letter has not been annexed with the petition," court remarked.

"Petitioner union committee chairman has also been detained after filing the petition," lawyer replied. "A crackdown has been unleashed against the PTI after May 09," counsel further said. "Several PTI leaders have been arrested while some of them went into hiding," he said.

LHC rebukes PTI for seeking relief for workers

LAHORE (INP): The Lahore High Court rebuked the counsel for the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf that his clients attacked government installations, did not spare any public and private property and now after destroying the country, they were objecting to the courts.

Meanwhile, a special squad has been set up to arrest the wanted leaders of the PTI. The squad will comprise Anti-Terrorist Squad and Islamabad police. The squad will make arrests in Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. The Rawalpindi bench of the LHC was hearing miscellaneous petitions against the detention of PTI workers.

Advocate Shaukat Rauf Siddiqui appeared in court on behalf of the PTI workers. The court expressed annoyance over the lawyer's objections raised in court. "How can the court provide relief to someone nominated in a case of vandalism and arson?" Justice Aziz noted. He further commented that the PTI workers attacked government installations and did not spare any public and private property. "After destroying the country, they were now objecting to the courts, which provided them relief," the judge remarked.

Advocate Siddiqui said the court was neither giving relief to their workers, nor listening to them. The judge retorted that the court was releasing the prisoners without even listening to

LHC orders release of Mazari, declares detention illegal

RAWALPINDI (INP): The Lahore High Court's Rawalpindi Bench on Monday declared PTI leader Dr Shireen Mazari's arrest illegal and ordered his immediate release. Justice Chaudhry Abdul Aziz of the Rawalpindi Bench of the Lahore High Court conducted hearing of the petition filed against detention of PTI leader Shireen Mazari. Counsel for Shireen Mazari Barrister Shoaib Razaq and Aneeq Khatana appeared in the court while Shireen Mazari's daughter Iman Mazari was also present in the court.

The court ordered that if Shireen Mazari was not named in any other case, she should not be arrested again. The court also asked Shireen Mazari to submit an affidavit to the deputy commissioner that she will not indulge in any such activity in future. Speaking to the media, Iman Mazari said that her mother was arrested three times in a week. "But today the court canceled the second MPO order against my mother. The government should not try to destroy the houses like this," she said. Iman Mazari said that she had no link with PTI but it was unfortunate that Imran Khan forgot the workers and party leadership.

arguments. Justice Aziz became furious over the PTI lawyer's continuous interference. "I am also receiving threats. I go to court alone. I don't even keep a gunman," Justice Aziz said, adding he made decisions according to the law, and does not want to get involved in a political discussion here.

SHC stops Police from transferring detained Karachiites under 3-MPO out of city: The Sindh High Court (SHC) on Monday ordered not to transfer Karachi citizens -detained under Maintenance of Public Order (3-MPO), out of the city. The petition was filed against the detention of 10 citizens.

The SHC issued notices

to parties for May 29 and sought a response from the Sindh government. The petitioner claimed youth undergoing exams were also arrested.

Earlier, Information and Transport Minister Sharjeel Inam Memon said that the Sindh government will compensate the commuters belonging to the lower and middle-income groups whose motorbikes were torched by arsonists on May 9 during the violent incidents in the port city Karachi. He told the journalists that the police had registered the first information report of the incidents of the damaging of buses of the Peoples Bus Service and other acts of vandalism in Karachi on May 9.

LHC warns IGP of action in Imran Riaz recovery case

LAHORE (INP): The Lahore High Court (LHC) on Monday warned Punjab Inspector General Usman Anwar of action in journalist Imran Riaz Khan recovery case. The warning was issued by LHC Chief Justice Muhammad Ameer Bhatti while hearing a plea of the journalist's father.

After being asked about the progress report on the recovery of the missing journalist, Punjab IG Usman Anwar presented the report. "Imran Riaz Khan was not wanted by Punjab police, nor the raid at his house was conducted by us," the Punjab IG told the LHC CJ. Usman Anwar further claimed after off the record contacts it was learned that Imran Riaz Khan was not under the custody of any agency in the country.

According to you, Imran Riaz is not in Punjab, the CJ said to Punjab IG and added that he is worried about the life of the journalist. "Court wants to ensure the safety of Imran Riaz Khan," Punjab IG Usman Anwar suggested the honorable high court issue notices to the defense and interior ministries in the case. The court while ordering the Punjab IG to take steps for the journalist's recovery adjourned the hearing for an indefinite period.

The first information report (FIR) of Senior journalist and anchorperson Imran Riaz Khan had been registered on his father's complaint. As per details, the DPO Sialkot said that the abduction FIR of the senior journalist was registered at the Civil Line police station. He said that abduction sections are included against unknown persons and a committee comprised of IT specialists and police officers has been constituted for the release of the journalist.

Court hands over Yasmin to police

LAHORE (PPI): An anti-terrorism court in Lahore on Monday handed over senior PTI leader and former Punjab health minister Dr Yasmin Rashid to the police on three-day physical remand.

The PTI leader was produced in the court in connection with Jinnah House attack case. As the investigative officer sought physical remand during the court proceedings a medical report of Dr Yasmin Rashid was also submitted. To which the investigator said she had been discharged from the Services Hospital and according to hospital's report her blood pressure is now normal.

Former Punjab Advocate General Awais Ahmad represented Yasmin Rashid in the court, arguing against approving her physical remand on medical grounds. The court, however, handed her over to the police on three-day physical remand.

Two cops martyred

KANDHKOT (INP): Two cops were martyred and three others injured when robbers attacked a police mobile with rocket launcher late on Sunday night.

According to details, robbers targeted a police mobile with rocket launcher while it was on routine patrolling on Indus Highway. The vehicle was adversely damaged in the attack resulting in martyrdom of two cops and leaving three others injured. The bodies and injured were shifted to hospital for medico-legal formalities. The police cordoned off the area after the attack and conducted search operation for the attackers but no arrest could be made till filing of the report.

GHQ to host ceremony

RAWALPINDI (INP): Youm-e-Takreem Shuhada-e-Pakistan will be marked on May 25 with the main ceremony to be held at Pakistan Army General Headquarters (GHQ).

A number of ceremonies of Quran recitation and prayers for fallen heroes will be arranged across the country. People will pay tribute to the eternal sacrifices of the martyrs of the Pakistan Army, Rangers, Frontier Constabulary (FC), Police, and other law enforcement agencies who laid down their lives for the peace and order of the homeland to end terrorism.

Imran blasts PDM govt for crackdown against PTI

LAHORE (INP): Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan blasted the fascist government for rising barbarism and said that the PDM government's ongoing fascist acts of crackdown against PTI and corrections and unlawful detentions of PTI leaders, workers and supporters was a clear replica of Hitler's policy who used arson as a pretext to crush his political opponents.

In a statement on Monday, PTI Chairman said that like on February 27, 1933, the German Parliament (Reichstag) building burned down, resultantly the Nazi leadership and its coalition partners used the fire to claim that communists were planning a violent uprising.

Imran Khan said that as a result, an emergency legislation was passed, which was commonly known as the Reichstag Fire Decree that abolished a number of constitutional protections and paved the way for Nazi dictatorship.

Moreover, he said that the decree permitted the Nazi regime to arrest and incarcerate political opponents without specific charge to dissolve political organisations to confiscate private property. PTI Chairman reminded that how arson was used by Hitler to crush his opponents, the communists. He said: "Similar frame up is going on in Pakistan."

Chairman Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf

(PTI) Imran Khan has also stopped Zulfi Bukhari and other party leaders staying abroad from returning home.

In interaction with PTI leaders abroad, the party chief asked Makhdoom Tariq, Zulfi Bukhari, Shehbaz Gill and others to stay there for two weeks. "You need to stay abroad till the party issues are normalized, otherwise you could be arrest," he advised them.

After directions from Imran Khan, the PTI leaders abroad delayed their program of returning home and will announce schedule of their return after asked by top party leadership to come back.

Imran gets tax notice from Punjab excise dept: Excise and Taxation Department has issued a luxury house tax notice of PKR 14.4 million to Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan on Monday.

Excise and Taxation Section of Model Town has issued a notice to PTI chief Imran Khan, imposing a luxury house tax of PKR 14.4 million. According to the Excise and Taxation Section, today is the last date for submitting the challan. It is pertinent to mention here that Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf chief and former premier Imran Khan is facing a number of cases including in National Accountability and is currently on bail from the relevant courts.

PM assures support to promotion of sports

F.P. Report

QUETTA: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Monday assured

that the federal government was committed to provide all possible resources for the promotion of sports and to create conducive opportunities for the youth of the country to excel in all genres of games.

Addressing an inaugural ceremony of the 34th National Games, the prime minister said that the nation was proud of its players and athletes who had not only earned fame in the country, but also brought laurels from abroad. The prime minister said that the national games were being held in the province after a lapse of 19 years. "Holding of the national games in this historic city, manifests the national unity and strength and patriotism for the motherland," he added.

The prime minister further observed that the young people of Pakistan possessed huge potential which could be utilized in different categories of games, so that they could further bring successes to the country. Assuring government's complete support, he said in the past, they had distributed lap-tops, established Danish schools and promoted games, besides, awarding the high achievers. He said in the field of sports, they were committed to provide all available resources to the youth because a nation

became healthy if its youth was healthy and could achieve progress if its young segment was properly educated.

The prime minister said that specter of terrorism in the past had affected different parts of the country with the terrorists mounting attacks on GHQ and Army Public School. The armed forces and law enforcement agencies had decided to eradicate the menace with the support the nation, he said, adding in that fight, officers and personnel of the armed forces and law enforcing agencies and people from all segments of society offered huge sacrifices, so that the curse of terrorism could be crushed forever. The prime minister said the whole nation saluted all those who faced terrorism bravely and offered sacrifices.

They foiled the nefarious designs of the enemies who wanted destruction of the country, he added. Referring to May 9 incidents, the prime minister said a Pakistani could not harbour such a destructive thinking, but belonged to thinking of an enemy of the country. He said on that day, miscreants torched Quaid's (Corps Commander) House in Lahore like the terrorists had set Quaid's Residency in Ziarat on fire.

The prime minister stressed that they should take steps within the confines of laws and constitution so that these incidents

could not be repeated. He said May 9 would always be remembered as the blackest day in the country's history and the incidents that took place on that day were highly condemnable. He regretted that the miscreants also disrespected the monuments of the shuhada. The prime minister reiterated that with the support of nation, they would rebuild Pakistan in all sectors and fields. He also congratulated the governor, the chief minister and the management committee for making excellent arrangements to host the national games.

Amir Dogar rearrested

MULTAN (INP): Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader Amir Dogar was rearrested on Sunday shortly after his release from Jhang. Speaking on the occasion, the PTI leader said that he was released for 12 days but rearrested by Multan police.

Amir Dogar said that arrests can't weaken their determination for a national cause and Imran Khan was their 'Redline'. He said that we strongly condemned the May 09, vandalism but it all occurred in reaction of arrest of chairman PTI. Dogar claimed that the future belongs to Imran Khan and he will surely take the slot of prime minister again.



MUZAFFARABAD: A girl along with others participating in a rally to protest against G20 meeting hosted by Indian government in Srinagar.

Courts being set up

(Continued from Page 1)

So that there is nothing fabricated in it." The Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), he said, had challenged the constitution of the Commission, arguing that it was the job of the Chief Justice of Pakistan. He said no parliamentarian was part of the Commission rather two chief justices of the IHC and the BHC, while its head was Justice Qazi Faiz Esa whose role and his fight against all the allegations made by his own community members defined his character.

"The PTI would have been satisfied if honourable justices Muneeb, Mazahir Naaqvi and Ijaz ul Ahsan were made part of the Commission because all these were part of the previous commissions. There is no doubt and ambiguity in the mind of every Pakistani and mine that the attacks on

military installations like GHQ, residences of army officers and bases were perpetrated under an inimical design," he added. Only military installations were attacked apart from some civil departments and which could only be expected from India and not Pakistanis, he said. "Without any political affiliation, every parliamentarian has the duty to defend the armed forces in the backdrop of May 9 incidents."

"The nations who do not respect their martyrs and remember the sacrifices of its saviours have no prestige. The Nishan-e-Haider martyrs gave the supreme sacrifice for motherland but the protestors did not keep that sacrifice of Captain Sher Khan Shaheed while desecrating his mural." The Chagi Monument, which was the symbol and identity of the country's defence, deter-

ment and success, was also vandalized, he added.

"Imran Khan said he was unaware of what was happening outside but he remembered to contact Azam Swati as had access to phone while in custody. He used telephone in the court and throughout the night to give instructions to his people," he alleged. Khawaja Asif regretted that the former prime minister made a slight condemnation after three days of the incident. "Imran Khan alleged that there were people of agencies in the attack."

I name them as the list is available. There were two of his sisters, one of his nephew, Mian Mahmood ur Rasheed, Usman Dar, Ejaz Chaudhary, Shehryar Afridi, Yasmin Rashid and etc. these all have been captured in videos and photos while provoking the people to violence," he said.