

4 die in lightning strikes

QUETTA (Agencies): Four people, three children among them, were killed in incidents of lightning strike in Mastung district of Balochistan. Most parts of Balochistan experienced torrential rains, hail and windstorm, besides flood torrents, which damaged crops, dozens of vehicles, gardens and many roads. According to the administration, in Chaman, the day turned into night due to typhoon and sandstorm.

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LONDON: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif met King Charles III on the sidelines of a meeting of leaders of Commonwealth countries.

Pak-China friendship irreversible: Bilawal

— Peace, stability in Afghanistan key to regional socio-economic development

Muhammad Asad

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan will continue to support China on all core issues of its national interests as the Pakistan-China friendship is irreversible. Bilawal Bhutto Zardari warmly welcomed his Chinese counterpart's first-ever visit to Pakistan and underscored the support both nations had for each other on issues of core interests in both bilateral and multilateral forums and appreciated China's steadfast support to Pakistan in all issues including the core issue of Jammu and Kashmir.

While addressing a joint press stakeout along with the Chinese Foreign Minister Qin Gang following the fourth round of Pakistan-China Strategic Dialogue in Islamabad on Saturday, Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari termed the Pak-China friendship irreversible because bilateral ties between the two nations strengthened over the past years and enjoyed consensus across the generations and political divides.

During the dialogue, Pakistan and China reiterated their commitment to the high-quality development of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), which has accelerated socioeconomic development, job creation and improved peoples' livelihoods in Pakistan. Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari termed the CPEC a win-win initiative opened to all investors around the globe and expressed profound gratitude to China for its generous and timely assistance to Pakistan as the South Asian nation continued to grapple with the headwinds of the global economy in recent years.

While commenting on the Afghanistan issue, Foreign Minister Bilawal said that peace and stability in Afghanistan remain important to the region and Pakistan was ready to work with all stakeholders for a peaceful, stable, and united Afghanistan. According to Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, there was a huge potential for regional cooperation and development between Pakistan, Afghanistan, China, and Central Asian States but a peaceful and stable Afghanistan was vital to unlocking that potential in the broader South Asian region.

Bilawal termed terrorism the core issue and a red line for Pakistan which poses a serious threat to regional peace and security and a real stumbling block in the way of the progress of the people of Afghanistan. Foreign minister Bhutto mentioned that Pakistan was very keen on actually working on many projects, particularly within the SCO format including the CASA 1000, trans-Usbekistan-Afghanistan and Pakistan railway line, and others if the security concerns associated with those projects were resolved in due course of time. Bilawal categorically mentioned that Pakistan was of the view that the issue of terrorism emanating out of Afghanistan

must be isolated from the geopolitical squabbles of our time if this issue becomes a geopolitical football then there will be a serious challenge in the way of resolving this crisis.

While Speaking on the occasion, Chinese Foreign Minister Qin Gang said that Pakistan is a good neighbor, good friend and great partner of China and Beijing sincerely hopes that the political forces in Pakistan will build consensus to uphold stability and more effectively address domestic and external challenges so that it could focus on growing the economy, improving peoples lives and bring the country into a fast track toward development and rejuvenation.

According to him, China is closely looking at the social and foreign exchange pressure on Pakistan and Beijing will take all possible solutions and do its best to help Pakistan address such pressure. Foreign Minister Qin Gang appreciated Pakistan's concrete assistance for China at all global forums and assured that Pakistan's iron friend China will always work with Pakistan through the platform of CPEC, to align bilateral development strategies, share China's development opportunities, and build an even closer China Pakistan community with a shared future.

While responding to a media query regarding Afghanistan, Foreign Minister Gang noted that China and Pakistan are ready to actively support and help Afghanistan with its economic reconstruction and hope that the Taliban would embrace inclusive governance and moderate policies and maintain friendly relations with its neighbors. According to him, it is important that the Taliban take the security concerns of its neighbors seriously and take stronger measures to counter the various terrorist forces within Afghanistan.

Friendly ties between the three countries in the spirit of mutual respect, friendship, and mutual benefit, would help extend the CPEC towards Afghanistan, will promote our exchanges on cooperation in trade investment, and will enhance people-to-people contacts and cultural exchanges between our three countries, added Chinese Foreign Minister.

To another question, Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto said that the all-weather strategic cooperative partnership between China and Pakistan has grown rapidly in recent years, as China is Pakistan's largest trading partner one of our largest export markets, and a major source of foreign direct investment through the CPEC. He rejected the notions of so-called debt sustainability or debt trap propaganda that had been continuously propagated against Chinese investments and financial support to Pakistan. Bilawal Bhutto Zardari hailed the unique and time-tested Pak-China friendship and expressed deep gratitude for the Chinese sincere friendship.

PTI to hold rallies till 14th, announces Imran Khan

F.P. Report

LAHORE: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan announced Saturday that starting next week, his party would hold rallies every day till May 14 — when elections to the Punjab Assembly are scheduled to be held on the Supreme Court's order. He made the announcement in an address to workers at a rally at Lahore's Lakshmi Chowk metro station held to "support the Constitution, Supreme Court, and the chief justice of Pakistan".

The PTI held rallies in four cities — Lahore, Rawalpindi, Islamabad, and Peshawar. "It is the entire nation's decision to stand with the Constitution and [against] the way this mafia is putting pressure on and doing propaganda against the chief justice and [other] judges," Khan said while referring to the incumbent coalition government.

Announcing the plan for daily rallies, the PTI chairman said he would come out and prepare the public to protest if elections were not held. "When a country's Constitution is violated, it means the justice system and the rule of law have ended. Most of all, it means that the nation has lost its freedom and become slaves. "We will not rest till elections are held and Pakistan is free," he stressed.

Referring to Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari's recent visit to India to attend a meeting of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO), Khan said the way the former was treated by his Indian counterpart was a "matter of shame for all of us". Khan also addressed remarks made by Indian External Affairs Minister Subrahmanyam Jaishankar, who called Bilawal "a promoter, justifier, and spokesperson of a terrorism industry which is the mainstay of Pakistan". "Do you who called Bilawal "a promoter, justifier, and spokesperson of a terrorism industry which is the mainstay of Pakistan" have no manners or etiquette? A guest comes to your country ... inviting him and insulting him reflects on your country," Khan said.

Saturday's event was on a smaller scale than that staged for Queen Elizabeth in 1953, but still sought to be spectacular, featuring an array of historical regalia from golden orbs and jewelled swords to a sceptre holding the world's largest colourless cut diamond. Charles, 74, automatically succeeded his mother as king on her death last September, and the coronation is not essential but regarded as a means to legitimise the monarch in a public way. After the service, Charles and Camilla, 75, departed in the four-tonne Gold State Coach built for George III, the last king of Britain's American colonies, to ride to Buckingham Palace in a one-mile procession of 4,000 military personnel from 39 nations.

Meanwhile hundreds of soldiers in scarlet uniforms and black bearskin hats lined the route along The Mall, the grand boulevard leading to the palace, in what is the largest ceremonial event of its kind in Britain since

The Frontier Post

PM attends coronation of King Charles III

LONDON (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Saturday joined a galaxy of the states royals, officials and heads of the states and governments, at the coronation of King Charles III - a symbolic ceremony combining religious service and royal pageantry. The prime minister arrived the Westminster Abbey along with other foreign dignitaries to witness the coronation of 74-year-old King, who was crowned along with Camilla, the Queen Consort. King Charles III, became the 40th reigning monarch crowned there since 1066. The ceremony marked the pomp and formality featuring the centuries old traditions.

The coronation was the first occasion in 70 years that a British monarch ascended the throne. Over 400 VVIPs including 100 heads of the states and governments attended the event. Dating back to the 11th century, the British monarchy is amongst the oldest political institutions in the Western Europe. Before the arrival of the King, there were processions in the Abbey involving faith leaders and representatives, and representatives from some Commonwealth countries, carrying the flags and accompanied by the governor generals and the prime ministers. King Charles was presented to "the people" a tradition dating back to Anglo-Saxon times. Standing beside the 700-year-old Coronation Chair, the King was proclaimed the "undoubted King". The Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby performed the ceremony and administered the Coronation Oath to the King. He received the regalia, including the Sovereign's Orb and scepters before St. Edward's Crown was placed on his head. Later, he moved from the coronation chair to a throne after performing a number of rituals and crowned with St. Edward's Crown. King Charles III became the seventh monarch to wear St Edward's Crown after Charles II, James

Nawaz disqualified on basis of false, baseless allegations: PM

LONDON (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Saturday said former prime minister Nawaz Sharif was disqualified on the basis of false and baseless allegations and Imran Niazi was imposed on the country in 2018 through a conspiracy. Talking to the media here, he said an incompetent person Imran Niazi severely damaged the economy and the country and

Pakistan was put in danger while removing Nawaz Sharif from the political scene. He said Saqib Nisar led the campaign to get Nawaz Sharif disqualified on the basis of false and baseless allegations Saqib Nisar was using the power of suo moto not in the public interest but to make Imran Niazi successful, he said adding Saqib Nisar was working not as chief justice of Pakistan but as an agent of Imran Niazi and his sole aim was to defeat Nawaz Sharif and secure win for Imran.

Shehbaz said the audio leaks had unmasked all the characters who were part of the conspiracy. After surfacing the audio leak of Saqib Nisar, there was no doubt that there was a conspiracy and collusion to bring Imran Niazi to power by any means. He said the National Assembly had taken up the issue of the audio leak for a probe against Saqib Nisar and his son. The prime minister said elections of the National Assembly and provincial assemblies should be held on the same day according to the constitution. "It is not possible to hold elections in provinces on different dates as it will affect electoral results." The Parliament's right to legislate cannot be taken away as it was the constitutional and legal right of the legislative body, he added.

II, William III, George V, George VI and Elizabeth II - who last wore it at her own coronation in 1953. Charles's second wife Camilla, whom he married in 2005, was separately crowned queen during the ceremony. King Charles III had a special affection for the people of Pakistan, reflected over the years in his work through his charities and patronage of art. As Prince of Wales, he along with his wife Camilla Parker, then Duchess of Cornwall, visited Pakistan from 29 October to 3 November 2006 in the aftermath of the 2005 earthquake. Since 2017, the Prince's Trust, a charity founded by the King helps young people get into education, jobs and training, through "Enterprise Challenge Pakistan". The British Asia Trust, a charity founded by King Charles III in 2007 in collaboration with some South

Asian business leaders, is aimed at addressing issues such as widespread poverty, inequality and injustice in South Asian countries, including Pakistan.

For PTI's govt conduct of interstate ties was plaything: PM: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Saturday said that for previous Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf's government, everything including the conduct of interstate relations was a plaything. Reacting strongly to PTI leadership's attempt to create controversy over Pakistan's participation in the Shanghai Cooperation Organization Council of Foreign Ministers meeting in Goa, India, the prime minister on his Twitter handle, said it was deeply troubling how the PTI tried to generate a controversy around Pakistan's participation.

Imran should not worry about budget: Marriyum

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information and Broadcasting Aurangzeb said on Saturday that Imran Khan should not worry about next fiscal year's budget as "the facility of getting selected was no more available and the facilitators had also gone".

In a statement in reaction to Imran Khan's remarks, she said that Result Transmission System now has been fixed in the country. The government which destroyed the economy, and caused unprecedented inflation and unemployment for four years will never come to power again, she maintained.

The minister said the government which isolated the country on the foreign front, closed the CPEC, and stopped the country's development process will not come to power again. "Now the budget will be prepared only for the people and not for Farah Gogi and Bushra Begum", she said.

Marriyum Aurangzeb said now flour, sugar, electricity and gas will not become the budget of the mafia, it will be the budget of the people. Elections will be held, but the foreign agent, Toshakhana watch thief and Tyrian's father

will cry and shout on the streets," she said. Castigating Imran she said, he was claiming to stand with Supreme Court because he wanted to escape punishment in Tosha Khana, foreign funding, and Tyrian's paternity case.

She said Imran played with the constitution for the sake of power and violated it for the sake of power. The minister said Imran insulted the representatives of Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa for the sake of power and made a conspiracy of cipher for the sake of power. She said it was strange that Imran was talking about IMF who violated the deal with IMF signed by himself.

Minister for Information and Broadcasting Aurangzeb said that Imran stole watches, grabbed land, received illegal foreign funding, and raised the price of flour, sugar and electricity tariffs. Taking a jibe on Imran, she said he prepared the budget for Farah Gogi and Bushra Bibi, and borrowed over 20,000 billion and he made a huge budget worth £190 million pounds received from the UK.

Imran made a lot of budgets which hit the country with inflation and made people hungry and unem-

ployed, she said. The minister stated that elections will be held simultaneously in the country on completion of the constitutional term. She said the PTI "crashed" because of Imran's actions, his looting, dirty conspiracies, corruption and incompetence.

The incompetent foreign agent was not elected in the past and will never come to power in the future, she remarked. That government was going to make a budget which will be elected again and give employment to the people, she said. The government was going to make a budget that will be business-friendly and provide job opportunities to the people.

The government that will be re-elected was going to make a budget that will eliminate inflation and poverty. The budget would be made by the government which provided bread, electricity, and gas to the country at affordable prices, but during Imran era, these commodities prices shot up.

The Minister for Information and Broadcasting Aurangzeb the budget was being prepared by the government which eliminated terrorism and load-shedding from the country, which staged a comeback in the PTI rule.

PTI approaches PHC against KP govt Humayun Khan

PESHAWAR: Pakistan Tehreek Insaf (PTI) has filed writ petition against caretaker government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa seeking to declare their acts and deeds null and void following completion of 90 days after dissolution of provincial Assembly.

President of Pakistan, Election Commission of Pakistan, Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Chief Secretary, Secretary Law and Carretaker Cabinet are made respondents in the petition. Former Member Provincial Assembly and PTI leader Fazal Elahi has filed writ petition while Alam Khan Adenai, Inam Khan Yousafzai and Shah Faisal Ilyas will represent them before PHC.

The petition argued that that there is no legal ground for existing Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Caretaker government following failure in holding elections within 90 days. The writ added that constitution place responsibility on Governor for scheduling General election while latterly caretaker cabinet comes into existence under Article 105 of constitution. The petition prays that to stop caretaker government from issuance of any orders declared null and void earlier actions.

King Charles and Queen Camilla crowned in historic ceremony

LONDON: King Charles III was anointed and crowned on Saturday in Britain's biggest ceremonial event for seven decades, a sumptuous display of pageantry dating back 1,000 years.

In front of a congregation of about 100 world leaders and a television audience of millions, the Archbishop of Canterbury, the spiritual leader of the Anglican Church, slowly placed the 360-year-old St Edward's Crown on Charles' head as he sat upon a 14th-century throne in Westminster Abbey.

Gun salutes were fired at the Tower of London and across the capital, the nation, in Gibraltar, Bermuda and on ships at sea. "God save King Charles. Long live King Charles. May the king live forever," the congregation at the abbey said after a trumpet fanfare. During the historic and solemn two-hour service, which dates back to the time of William the Conqueror in 1066, Charles' second wife Camilla was also crowned

queen.

While rooted in history, the ceremony - televised for only the second time - is also an attempt to present a forward-looking monarchy, with those involved reflecting a more diverse country and all its religions. With the nation struggling to find its way in the political maelstrom after its exit from the European Union and maintain its standing in a new world order, the monarchy's supporters say the royal family provides an international draw, a vital diplomatic tool and a means of keeping Britain on the world stage.

"No other country could put on such a dazzling display - the processions, the pageantry, the ceremonies, and street parties," Prime Minister Rishi Sunak said. Despite Sunak's enthusiasm, the coronation takes place amid a cost of living crisis and public scepticism, particularly among the young, about the role and relevance of the monarchy.

Saturday's event was on a smaller scale than that staged for Queen Elizabeth in 1953, but still sought to be spectacular, featuring an array of historical regalia from golden orbs and jewelled swords to a sceptre holding the world's largest colourless cut diamond. Charles, 74, automatically succeeded his mother as king on her death last September, and the coronation is not essential but regarded as a means to legitimise the monarch in a public way. After the service, Charles and Camilla, 75, departed in the four-tonne Gold State Coach built for George III, the last king of Britain's American colonies, to ride to Buckingham Palace in a one-mile procession of 4,000 military personnel from 39 nations.

Meanwhile hundreds of soldiers in scarlet uniforms and black bearskin hats lined the route along The Mall, the grand boulevard leading to the palace, in what is the largest ceremonial event of its kind in Britain since

the coronation of Charles' mother. Tens of thousands of people ignored pouring rain to mass in a crowd more than 20 deep in some places to watch what some saw as a moment of history.

"When I was a young girl, I was able to watch (the coronation of) Queen Elizabeth on television in Hartford, Connecticut, at a friend's house because we had no TV," said retired U.S. teacher Peggy Jane Laver, 79. "So I'm thrilled to be here for the coronation in person." Inside the abbey, which was bedecked with flowers and flags, politicians and representatives from Commonwealth nations took their seats alongside charity workers and celebrities, including actors Emma Thompson, Maggie Smith, Judi Dench and U.S. singer Katy Perry.

Charles looked solemn as he swore oaths to govern justly and uphold the Church of England - of which he is the titular head. He was then hidden

from watching eyes by a screen for the most sacred part of the ceremony when he was anointed on his hands, head and breast by Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby with holy oil consecrated in Jerusalem.

After being presented with symbolic regalia, Welby placed the St Edward's Crown on his head and the congregation cried out "God save the King". His eldest son and heir Prince William, 40, then knelt before his father to pledge his loyalty as his "liege man of life and limb", both moments greeted by cheers from crowds outside. As he left the abbey, Charles wore a silk and ermine robe.

Much of the ceremony featured elements that Charles' forebears right back to King Edgar in 973 would recognise, officials said. Handel's coronation anthem "Zadok The Priest" was sung as it has been at every coronation since 1727. But there was also the new, including an



anthem composed by Andrew Lloyd Webber, famed for his West End and Broadway theatre shows, and a gospel choir. Charles' grandson Prince George and the grandchildren of Camilla acted as pages, and at the end there was an "unprecedented" greeting from faith leaders.

(Continued on Back Page)



LAHORE: Special Representative to PM on Interfaith Harmony and Middle East, and Chairman Pakistan Ulema Council Hafiz Muhammad Tahir Mahmood Ashrafi talking to media. —APP Photo

Difficult time is over, best people running the country: Rana Tanvir

LAHORE (APP): Federal Education Minister Rana Tanvir Hussain said on Saturday that the most difficult times of the country were over now, and the best people were running it at the moment.

He was addressing a ceremony held for distribution of wheelchairs among special students under the Prime Minister's Electric Wheelchair Scheme, organised by the Higher Education Commission (HEC) at the Punjab University here.

He urged the universities to improve their quality of education and making money should not be the purpose of their establishment. He said that the initiative of electric wheelchairs for physically challenged students was launched in 2018, and so far more than 600 such young people had received the chairs from the HEC.

He said that special persons were precious assets to society, and it was a responsibility of the government to provide opportunities to them to help them achieve their desired goals. He said the incumbent government was trying to fulfill its responsibilities on this front as well.

The minister asked all depart-

ments including the educational institutions to build ramps in their buildings to facilitate the special citizens. He said that the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) launched such programmes for the youth whenever it got a chance to serve them. He said that the PML-N, during its tenure, gave away laptops to the youth besides scholarships for higher education to talented students.

Rana Tanvir said that it was a matter of pride for the PML-N that it always promoted merit, good governance and initiated welfare projects for masses. He said that during its previous tenure, loadshedding was one of the major issues of the nation, and the then prime minister Nawaz Sharif and the incumbent premier Shehbaz Sharif resolved the issue of loadshedding on war-footing basis.

The minister said the PML-N government had introduced Metro Bus Service in Lahore, Multan and the twin cities of Rawalpindi and Islamabad, and the common people were facilitated directly.

The minister urged students to get vocational education as the skilled people were in high demand across the world. He regretted stopping of

the ranking system for the national universities, he said it should be restarted at the national level.

Responding to questions of the media persons, he said that amendments to the NAB Act could be passed by reaching consensus among all parties including Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI). He said all political parties had agreed that elections should be held on the same date in the Centre and provinces, but the PTI had objections on the final date.

The minister said that Imran Khan once again sat in the wheelchair so he should be given status of national special person, and the government should provide him an electric wheelchair. He said that Imran blamed others that they were cowards, but now he (Imran) himself was appearing before the courts by hiding his face under a black basket.

Punjab University Vice Chancellor Professor Dr Khalid Mehmood, HEC Director Ayesha Ikram also spoke. Special students also shared their problems with the minister. In the ceremony, electric wheelchairs were given to 37 special students from different universities of the province.

Sindh police constable shot dead in Orangi town

KARACHI (APP): A Sindh police constable killed on his way back from a wedding ceremony in Quaidabad area of Karachi here on Saturday.

According to details, unidentified armed men opened fire and killed the constable, 30-year-old Azeem Haider, near the Surjani moor area of Karachi.

In a statement, SHO Surjani stated that 30-year-old Azeem Haider was returning from a wedding ceremony when he was targeted by armed assailants near the Green Bus Stop in Surjani moor, which resulted in his immediate death.

The SHO said that the police found a purse and a mobile phone belonging to the deceased -- from the scene. Meanwhile, the police stated that the constable was targeted and the incident was not of a robbery resistance.

Sikh murdered in Nawab Town Lahore

LAHORE (NNI): Some unidentified persons killed a Sikh and injured his bodyguard in Nawab Town, a posh area of Lahore.

Some unknown armed motorcyclists opened fire on a Sikh named Sardar Singh in Nawab Town when he was walking with his bodyguard.

The police sources said that after receiving bullets in his head and chest, Sardar Singh died on the spot. Sardar Singh's bodyguard also received bullets in his body who was shifted to hospital in an unconscious state.

CORRIGENDUM

Advertisement published in Daily Frontier Post Peshawar Dated 8-4-2023 in "Public Notice" for Plot No. 521, Sector F-5 Phase 6 Measuring 7 Marla property by Registered deed no. 1000 Bahi No. 4, Volume No. 669 dated 6-11-15 was mistakenly written, while the correct date is 16-11-15, so the date should be read correctly as 16-11-15, the rest of the advertisement is fine.

Housing Officer/Transfer Hayatabad PDA Phase-V Pesh.

Sindh govt working on self-reliance projects: Sharjeel

F.P. Report

KARACHI: Sindh Minsiter for Information Sharjeel Inam Memon has said that the provincial government was working on self-reliance projects. He said this while speaking to a delegation of the Foreign Media Journalists Association (FMJA), which called on him here on Saturday.

The delegation included journalists, working for the foreign media outlets, was led by its President Ashraf Khan. The Minister Sharjeel Memon said that the provincial government had started working on the reconstruction project of

2.2 million houses damaged in the recent floods.

He said that the government had commenced a cheap, comfortable and good transport service to provide relief to the people of the province. He said that a safe and ideal Pink bus service had also been started for the woman.

Memon said that the provincial government was making all-out efforts for the provision of best services to the people.

The government had worked well in health, energy, education, agriculture, infrastructure and other sectors, he said adding that SIUT, Gambat Institute, NICVD, cyber-

knife institute, and other health related centres were performing well.

The Information Minister said that an unprecedented legislation had been done to empower the woman in the province. He said that necessary steps were being taken for rights of the woman and children.

He said that Thar coal project of the provincial government in the field of energy was significant one. The Minister, on the occasion, directed the officers of the Information department to fully facilitate the journalist community in discharging their professional responsibilities.

سوی ناردرن گیس Sui Northern Gas

حکومت پاکستان کے توانائی پلان کے مطابق اوگرا نے گیزرمیں گیس سیورکون کی تنصیب لازمی قرار دے دی

اوگرا کے احکامات کے تحت

سوئی ناردرن کی ٹیڑنے گیس سیورکون کی گھر گھر تنصیب کا آغاز کر دیا ہے

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PID/L3205-D

Custom foils smuggling bid

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: On 6th May, 2023, a credible information was received by Mr. Ashfaq Ahmed, Collector Customs Appraisal Peshawar

which was psed on to Mr. Rizwan, Additional Collector who prepared a team under supervision of Deputy Collector, Hammad Ahmed that an attempt will be made to smuggle F/O contraband

Arms and Ammunition in special designed cavity of the vehicle bearing registration No. C-8782 loaded with coal from Afghanistan to Pakistan.

On 06/05/2023, at 1035 Hours, the said

vehicle was scanned by NLC Scanner and was found having abnormal scan image. The scanned image revealed some suspicious goods concealed in the special designed cavity of the vehicle.

PAKISTAN CIVIL AVIATION AUTHORITY (PCAA)

INVITATION TO BID

Sealed bids (in accordance with PPRA Rule No. 36(b)) are invited by below mentioned office for the following requirements in Pak Rs.:-

S. No.	Description and Bid No.	Bid Fee (PKR)	Fixed Bid Security (PKR)	Bid Submission Date	Bid Opening Date / Time / Place	Last date for issuance of Bidding Documents	Basis PKR (Price)
(1)	Procurement of High Power (HF) Transceivers System for JIAP Karachi & AIAP Lahore HQCAA/1992/201/XXLN	1,500/-	Rs. 28,175,000/-	01-06-2023 1100 Hours	01-06-2023 1130 Hours Log. Center (S) (Log. ANS Branch)	31-05-2023	F.O.R
(2)	Procurement of Automatic Weather Observation System (AWOS) for AIAP Lahore HQCAA/1992/202/XXLN	1,000/-	Rs. 4,650,000/-	31-05-2023 1100 Hours	31-05-2023 1130 Hours Log. Center (S) (Log. ANS Branch)	30-05-2023	F.O.R

Bids may be submitted as per conditions set out in Bidding documents downloadable from the website www.caapakistan.com.pk (visible / downloadable within two (02) working days after publication/uploading of Invitation to bid notice) and obtainable physically from the address given below on any working day between 0900 Hrs to 1230 Hrs by paying Bid Fee (non-refundable) through deposit slip in Account No. 6-1-2-20614-714-115525 (Title of account "Pakistan Civil Aviation Authority") in Habib Metropolitan Bank Ltd. Star Gate Branch Karachi and submitting the request letter along with bank deposit slip, proof of Active Taxpayer, GST/NTN certificates of the bidder. No Bidding Documents would be issued on the Bid opening date. Bids must be dropped in Bid drop Box placed at under mentioned office by or before due date as per schedule.

Note: All bidders downloading the bidding document from website shall immediately inform PCAA through request letter (along with proof of active taxpayer list [ATL for sales tax and income tax] of FBR) at the address below for inclusion in subsequent communication. PCAA will not be responsible for any lack of communication or non-receipt of information by bidders due to ignorance / violation of this instruction.

Time period for performance of contract: Till the satisfactory completion of contract and warranty period.

PCAA reserves the right to accept/reject any or all bids due to cogent reasons which will be communicated to bidders on request. This advertisement is also available on CAA website www.caapakistan.com.pk.

Warning: Any financial instrument submitted by bidder, if found fake or got dishonored at any stage would result in blacklisting and legal action as per law.

Additional Director, Logistics (ANS),
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JIAP Karachi Pakistan Tel: 021-9907-2265 Fax: 021-99242675

PID/K# 315422 www.caapakistan.com.pk

PAKISTAN CIVIL AVIATION AUTHORITY (PCAA)

CORRIGENDUM

I/T NO. HQCAA/1992/197/XXLN

FOR:-

S. No.	Description and Bid No.	Bid Fee (PKR)	Fixed Bid Security (PKR)	Bid Submission Date	Bid Opening Date / Time / Place	Last date for issuance of Bidding Documents	Basis PKR (Price)
(i)	Procurement of X-Ray Generators & Consumables P/o scanning Machines at IAP, Islamabad HQCAA/1992/197/XXLN	1,500/-	Rs.3,911,040/-	16-05-2023 1100 Hours	16-05-2023 1130 Hours Log. Center (S) (Log. ANS Branch)	15-05-2023	F.O.R

Read:-

The bidders shall submit bid security as per each line item of the I/T as mentioned in Bidding documents:-

S. No.	Description and Bid No.	Bid Fee (PKR)	Fixed Bid Security (PKR)	Bid Submission Date	Bid Opening Date / Time / Place	Last date for issuance of Bidding Documents	Basis PKR (Price)
(i)	Procurement of X-Ray Generators & Consumables P/o scanning Machines at IAP, Islamabad HQCAA/1992/197/XXLN	1,500/-	As mentioned in Bidding Documents	16-05-2023 1100 Hours	16-05-2023 1130 Hours Log. Center (S) (Log. ANS Branch)	15-05-2023	F.O.R

All other terms would remain the same. This corrigendum is also available on CAA website i.e. www.caapakistan.com.pk

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Shaukat Khanum Memorial Cancer Hospital and Research Centre (SKMCH&RC) is a specialist tertiary care cancer centre built and funded by charitable donations with a mission to provide the best possible cancer care to all patients. SKMCH&RC has a team of UK and US-trained physicians who provide state-of-the-art diagnostic, treatment and support services to patients. SKMCH&RC is pleased to invite applications for the following positions:

Medical Consultants:

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- Consultant Paediatric Oncologist
- Consultant Pathologist
- Consultant Physician Critical Care & Pulmonary Medicine
- Consultant Physician Internal Medicine & Infectious Diseases
- Consultant Physician Internal Medicine & Nephrology
- Consultant Physician General Internal Medicine & Pulmonology
- Consultant Radiologist
- Locum Consultant Pathologist
- Locum Consultant Radiologist
- Consultant Breast Surgeon
- Consultant Upper GI Surgeon
- Consultant Orthopaedic Surgeon
- Consultant Head and Neck Surgeon
- Consultant Urologist
- Locum Consultant Urologist
- Locum Consultant Anaesthetist

Senior Instructors:

- Senior Instructor Clinical and Radiation Oncology
- Senior Instructor Medical Oncology
- Senior Instructor Anaesthesia
- Senior Instructor Breast Surgery
- Senior Instructor Head and Neck Surgery
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CPSP approved Fellowships:

- Fellow in Medical Oncology

Hospital Fellowships:

- Fellowship in Anaesthesia

Medical Officer:

- Anaesthesia
- Surgical Oncology

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- Database Administrator
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Note: All Senior Instructor positions for Karachi & Peshawar involve working at Lahore for two years, followed by two years of training overseas. For further details regarding the position and eligibility criteria, please visit our website on www.shaukatkhanum.org.pk

TO APPLY: Only online applications will be entertained. Please share your CV at the email address given below and do mention the position applied for in the subject line. We regret that only shortlisted candidates will be notified.

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Educated women guarantors of uplift of nation: Governor

PESHAWAR (APP): The Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Haji Ghulam Ali on Saturday said that educated women are the guarantors of the development of not only the family but also the country and the nation. Girls students should also be provided healthy sports activities along with education opportunities.

He expressed these views while addressing the 39th annual day function of Jinnah College for Women Peshawar University.

Governor Ghulam Ali said that Jinnah College is a historical and famous educational institute. He said that students are getting

opportunities today to get education based on modern facilities in colleges and universities so they should utilize these opportunities for the welfare of state and nation.

Haji Ghulam Ali said that girls students should be provided with healthy sports activities along with curriculum education as education and health are connected to each other.

The Governor said that the spirit of education should also be conveyed to those who cannot get education due to unfavorable situations.

The educational institutions should reduce their

fees, I will present an award on my behalf to the educational institutions that reduce the fees, said Ghulam Ali.

In the event, caretaker provincial minister Shafiqullah Khan, Vice Chancellor University of Peshawar Prof. Dr. Mohammad Idrees, Principal Jinnah College Prof. Dr. Tazain Gul, faculty members, students and parents participated in large numbers.

In the ceremony, Governor Ghulam Ali distributed appreciation certificates and trophies among position holders students of Intermediate in the academic year 2022-23.



PESHAWAR: Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Haji Ghulam Ali addressing 39th annual day function of Jinnah College for Women Peshawar University.

Sherpao seeks lifting of ban on wheat movement



F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: Qaumi Watan Party (QWP) Chairman Aftab Ahmad Khan Sherpao on Saturday asked the federal and the Punjab governments to help lift ban on the movement of the wheat.

A press release said that he was talking to a delegation of women party workers at Watan Kor, QWP headquarters in Peshawar.

Aftab Sherpao said the flour prices had soared in

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa due to the ban on the supply of the commodity from Punjab. "This ban has caused resentment among the residents of KP," he said, asking the government to help lift the restrictions to facilitate the people.

Rejecting the ban, he questioned whether KP was not part of the country. The QWP leader demanded an end to the illegal and unconstitutional ban on the wheat movement to the

province.

He feared that the prices of flour would go up further if the government did not intervene and took steps to bring down the rates.

Expressing concern over the poor law and order in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, he asked the government to take corrective steps to bring the situation under control. He feared that the law and order could further deteriorate if measures were not put in place to rectify the situation. The QWP leader said that the people felt insecure due to the poor security situation.

Sherpao also asked the government to take steps to fulfill the natural gas requirement of the consumers in KP particularly in the provincial capital.

Turning to the issue of inflation, he said that price-hike had made life miserable for the people, who were exposed to a host of problems. He said that the have-nots were unable to feed their children in the face of skyrocketing inflation.

Peshawar's residents facing gas load-shedding

PESHAWAR (INP): Worst gas load-shedding continued all across the city and even at the cooking time, there was no gas supply in most areas as a result, the citizens were facing severe problems.

There were complaints from various localities of no gas supply in most areas of the city including Hashtangari, Ramdas, Karimpura, Dalazak Road, Main Charsadda Road, Shami Road and the inner city. The citizens were facing numerous problems due to uncalled load-shedding hours and hours.

"We are facing severe problems due to lack of gas and despite of registering complaints over non-availability of gas supply, there was no sign of addressing the complaints by the official of the SNGPL, a consumer Murad Ali said.

Another consumer from the main Charsadda Road and Lala Zar College Paras Ahmad said that they have registered complaints from the last three-day but still there is no gas in the area even during cooking times.

Businessmen apprise newly appointed Chief Collector Custom

PESHAWAR (APP): A delegation of businessmen met newly appointed Chief Collector Customs, Fayyaz Anwar and apprised him about the issues causing hindrances in smooth sailing of Pak-Afghan trade.

The delegation led by President Frontier Customs Agents Association (FCAA), Zia-ul-Haq Sarhadi also congratulated Fayyaz Anwar over his appointment and expressed the hope that he will give due consideration to problems being faced by business community of the province.

The delegation members included Khalid Shazad of PAJCCI, Imtiaz Ahmad Ali, Vice President FCAA and Mian Waheed Shah, General Secretary FCAA.

Speaking on the occasion, Zia-ul-Haq Sarhadi who holds the office of Director Pak-Afghan Joint Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PAJCCI) paid

tributes to previous Chief Collector Customs, Muhammad Saleem and said he had remarkable services for betterment of commerce and trade in the region.

He said Fayyaz Anwar has also served on the post of Director Transit Trade Peshawar so he will be well informed about the issues being faced by business community.

The participants of the meeting informed Chief Collector Customs that presently hundreds of provisional Customs Licence has been issued at Custom stations of Torkhem, Ghulam Khan, Kharlachi and Angoor Ada as a result of which a number of illegal practices are being observed on daily basis.

They demanded cancellation of all provisional licence and issue of new ones to candidates who appears in qualification examination and pass the

text with distinction.

They also raised the issue of slow processing of goods clearance at border posts due to checking by different department including Frontier Corps, National Logistics Cell (NLC) and a couple of others.

Due to checking by different departments clearance of goods laden trucks takes a long time and sometimes perishable goods got rot, inflicting huge losses on business community.

The delegation members demanded expedition of construction work by NLC and completion of the project within its stipulated time of June 2023.

Zia Sarhadi said since the Azhakhel dry port is not operational and exporters are sending their consignments in private trucks as a result of which all of exportable items including gems, marble, handicraft, furniture, honey, carpet, match sticks are booked

from Karachi port.

Similarly, the Afghan cargo goods earlier came in past through Railway from Karachi to Peshawar and Chaman which is now coming directly from Karachi port to Torkhem rendering more than 200 Custom Clearing Agents as jobless in KP.

Speaking on the occasion, Chief Collector Customs, Fayyaz Anwar held out assurance of full cooperation to business community of the province.

He said the issues of businessmen would be given due consideration and resolved at the earliest by issuing prompt directives by him and other relevant staff of the collectorate.

Fayyaz Anwar expressed agreement with issues raised by delegation members and said he will take due action on all the suggestions made by businessmen.

TF calls for prioritizing needs of transgenders

PESHAWAR (APP): A meeting of Task Force on Trans-inclusive Humanitarian Response has called for prioritizing the rights and needs of transgender people in the aftermath of any natural disaster including climate catastrophes like the disastrous floods of 2022 affecting around 33 million people in the country.

The meeting was arranged by National Commission of Human Rights (NCHR) and Blue Veins, a non-governmental organization working on gender equality.

This was the first meeting of Task Force constituted with the objective of removing hindrances in inclusion of transgender community in disaster management plan both pre and post.

People belonging to different walks of life including the transgender community, officials of PDMA, Social Welfare Department, UNDP and media persons participated in the meeting.

The participants also stressed on ensuring legal recognition and protection of transgender individuals during emergencies.

They advocated for the recognition of transgender people's gender identity in relevant laws and for facilitation in the issuance of identity documents reflecting their self-identified gender.

Equip humanitarian actors with necessary knowledge and skills to address transgender individuals' unique needs, develop comprehensive training programs on transgender issues, rights, needs and raise awareness about the challenges faced by transgender people during emergencies, they added.

Earlier, Qamar Naseem, Programme Manager Blue Veins made a presentation on policy guidelines in humanitarian response. The guidelines were prepared by Provincial Disaster Management Department (PDMA) KP.

The overall objective of the policy guidelines is to enhance awareness and

understanding among humanitarian actors, stakeholders, and communities about the rights, protection issues and other concerns of transgender individuals in all phases of the Disaster Management Spectrum, Qamar added.

He also disclosed that NADRA (National Database Registration Authority) has issued notification declaring two transgenders in Peshawar as authorized in verification of documents of others for issuance of identity cards.

Speaking on the occasion, Additional Secretary Social Welfare Department, Muhammad Farooq informed the participants that work is in progress over legal frame work for removal of hurdles in inclusion of transgenders in humanitarian response.

Programme Manager Gender and Child Cell Provincial Disaster Management Department (PDMA), Syed Musaver Shah Gillani apprised the participants that at Khyber Pakhtunkhwa level, transgenders have been added in disaster management rules. The community will also be given due consideration in monsoon contingency plan, he added.

He said due to lack of proper data regarding transgender community, problems are faced in welfare and humanitarian related

activities. He said in 2015 a question came from KP Assembly seeking details of affected transgenders due to natural calamities, but the department did not have any reply due to lack of data.

Tariq Javed, Chairman National Commission for Human Rights stressed upon all departments concerned to give due consideration to problems being faced by transgender community and provide them relief.

President Trans Action KP, Farzana Riaz and Arzo also spoke on the occasion and informed the participants about the difficulties being faced by trans persons in getting relief and rehabilitation after disastrous flood.

They demanded measures for ensuring safety to their lives and for improving living standards by providing them jobs and inclusion in social activities. We should not be treated as aliens and given due representation in all segments of society as were given to other human beings, they added.

The meeting ended with the pledge from participants that efforts would be continued for resolving the problems being faced by transgender community especially in the wake of natural disaster like climate catastrophes.

PMI faces finance crisis

PESHAWAR (APP): Non-disbursement of quarterly funds to Post Graduate Medical Institute Peshawar as a result of the financial crisis in the province and due to the non-release of funds, the stipends of trainee medical officers are also delayed.

A letter written by the CEO of PGMIP clarifying his position to the trainee medical officials informing them about fund crises resulted in the delay of their monthly stipends.

Due to the severe financial crisis, there has been an extraordinary delay in the distribution of monthly stipends to TMOs by the government for the last few months, the letter says.

The CEO also clarified his position and said that due to the non-receipt of scholarships, the household budget of doctors has been affected.

Government has been releasing funds to Post Graduate Medical Institute Peshawar on a quarterly basis towards the monthly stipend of TMOs, he said in a letter.

He said due to the economic crisis of the province, the Finance Department could not manage to release funds on a monthly basis for the distribution of stipends to trainee medical officers.

"We have made a request to the Finance Department Khyber Pakhtunkhwa for the disbursement of the said funds," CEO PGMIP said in the letter.



PESHAWAR: Provincial leader PML-N Shazia Aurangzeb with lawyers at Peshawar High Court. — F.P. photo by Ghulam Murtaza

Minister condoles with family of Mufti Shakoor

PESHAWAR (APP): Federal Minister for Religious Affairs, Senator Talha Mehmood here Saturday visited residence of former federal minister, Mufti Abdul Shakoor and said that he was a simple man who lived all his life with dedication and earnest way.

He highlighted services of Mufti Abdul Shakoor and said that he was a simple man who lived all his life with dedication and earnest way.

He said that family of Mufti Shakoor would be provided needed help and assistance in future.

He prayed for eternal peace of departed soul and granting courage to bereaved family members.

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8 nanbai held over selling of less weight of bread

PESHAWAR (APP): In view of the shortage of flour in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, bakers in the city started their protest here on Saturday while the officials of the district administration have raided different places by checking the rates and weights of the bread and arrested eight Nanbai over selling less weight bread.

After the increase in the price of flour, the bakers and Nanbai reduced the weight of bread to their own instead of the official weight and rates as a result of the raid in different localities the district administration arrested 8 Nanbais who were selling underweight bread.

The Nanbhai reduced the weight of bread and increased the price of bread as an official of the district administration told media men during the raid.

Sale of low weight and expensive bread will not be tolerated, the official of the district administration said, adding, "Strict action will be taken by the government against those who do not comply with the official rates and weight."

Imported vehicle prices likely to drop

PESHAWAR (APP): Chairman Pakistan Motors Dealer Association Haji Muhammad Shehzad said on Saturday that the abolition regulatory duty on imported vehicles would make a significant difference to the prices.

Through a private news channel, he appreciated the government's decision and expressed the hope that if this decision was implemented soon, there would be a significant reduction in vehicle prices in the upcoming months despite of the increase in the dollar rate.

"The imposition of regulatory duty last year had made vehicles more expensive, which had a negative impact on sales and purchases", he added.

He said that due to the increase in the prices of

cars, people had stopped buying cars, which caused the industry to lose billions of dollars.

Giving an example, he said that the Honda company, which used to sell 50,000 vehicles a year, could only sell 10,000 vehicles this year.

He suggested that if Pakistan manufactured vehicles instead of importing them, besides controlling prices, we could collect revenue of one to one and a half billion dollars annually.

He further said that according to an MoU signed in the eighties, Pakistan was supposed to bring transport technology to Pakistan within five years and to manufacture the vehicles itself, but unfortunately, it could not be implemented till date.

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PESHAWAR: PPP Provincial Information Secretary Malik Amjad Afridi presiding over a party meeting. — F.P. photo



In brief

Man killed in Kohat F.P. Report

KOHAT: Unknown assailant killed man in the limits of Cantt police station, said police on Saturday. Naser Khan son of Naser Khan has been shot dead by unknown killers and fled after committing the crime. Reason behind his murder is not known yet. Police have registered the case against unknown people and kicked off investigation.

Arrangements reviewed F.P. Report

TANK: Additional Assistant Commissioner (AAC) Tank Jamshed Alam Khan on Saturday visited exam center in Government High school Garah Baloch and inspected arrangements for the ongoing Secondary School Certificate (SSC) annual examination 2023. The AAC, following the directions of the Deputy Commissioner, paid visit to the SSC exams center. During his visit, the AAC expressed satisfaction over the arrangements and gave necessary directions to the concerned officials for ensuring smooth conduct of the examination. On this occasion, some cheating material was also recovered. On which, the staff on duty was directed to ensure fair conduct of the examinations. The additional assistant commissioner said that cheating and use of unfair means would not be tolerated in the examination, adding, the strict action would be taken against violators.

25,000-maund wheat recovered

SHEIKHUPURA (APP): Assistant Commissioner Muridke Zainab Tahir has recovered 25,000-maund wheat from private godowns in Narang Mandi and other areas of the tehsil. According to official sources on Saturday, the AC conducted raids in connection with the crackdown on hoarding and smuggling of wheat in Tehsil Muridke, and recovered 20,000 sacks of the staple food commodity from various godowns. The total worth of the recovered wheat was Rs 100 million, according to official sources. Zainab Tahir said the wheat was stored in rice godowns in Narang Mandi, adding that the crackdown would continue without any discrimination. The tehsil administration has recovered 40,000 sacks of wheat during the last one-week operation against hoarders and smugglers, said official sources.

Meeting reviews census

BAHAWALPUR (APP): A meeting was held under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner Zaheer Anwar Jappa in the committee room of his office regarding the house and population census. Deputy Commissioner said that house and population census is a national duty and collecting the correct data is very important for the development of the country. The officers of the concerned departments and members of the civil society should cooperate with the census teams to collect accurate data records. During the house and population census campaign, correct registration of the students living in Madaris, hostels, educational institutions, and private hostels should be ensured. Additional Deputy Commissioner Revenue Muhammad Sarwar, Additional DC Headquarters Sumera Rabbani, Chief Statistics Officer Riaz Ahmad, Assistant Commissioner Bahawalpur City Fazlur Rehman, Assistant Commissioner Bahawalpur Saddar Mohsin Nisar, and officers of related departments were present in the meeting, while assistant commissioners of other tehsils participated through video link.



BANNU: Activists of PTI holding a banner during a rally to show solidarity with party chief Imran Khan.

Appointment of DEOs in Lower Dir demanded

F.P. Report

LOWER DIR: The local chapter of Jamaat-i-Islami demanded the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government and secretary education to fill the vacant posts of district education officer male and female in Lower Dir.

Speaking at a news conference at the Ahya ul Uloom Balambat the JI nominated candidates for provincial assembly Sahibzada Yaqub Khan, Shad Nawaz Khan, Saeed Gul, former tehsil nazim advocate Imranud Din and JI district general secretary engineer Yaqubur Rehman said that hundreds of cases were pending for the last few months in the offices of DEO male and female as the positions were vacant.

JI said that several teachers were waiting for their Haj leaves, promotion, GP fund advance and medical leaves for months. They said that the DEO female Bajaur was given an additional charge of the DEO female in Lower Dir while a deputy district education officer male had been given a look after charge as DEO male.

The JI leaders alleged that it was a joke with the people of this district. They pointed out that the district topped in the province in the past but now it was declining from many aspects. The participants threatened to stage a protest

sit-in in front of the deputy commissioner office if the demand was not met soon.

Former Director's Schools leave JI: Former provincial Director Elementary and Secondary Education department Hafiz Dr Muhammad Ibrahim (retired) announced to part his ways politically with the Jamaat-i-Islami and join another political party of his choice soon, sources close to him revealed.

Hafiz Muhammad Ibrahim, who retired from the education department as provincial director two months ago, according to sources wished to join the Pakistan Tehreek Insaf or Jamiat Ulema Islam Fazl soon for which contacts had been made with him. When contacted in this regard, he confirmed that the top leadership of various parties had contacted him but he had not taken a final decision yet.

The former director of education said that he had never thought to part ways with the JI but its leadership had no respect for workers in the party. He said that after consulting with his family and friends, he would soon announce joining any suitable party.

Students urged to avoid drug abuse and violation of traffic rules: The district police on Saturday launched an awareness campaign regarding the

traffic rules and drug abuse with its overall effects on society. The district police officer Tariq Iqbal and traffic in charge Khan Nazar Khan in this regard visited a private nursing college at Tarai Timergara and addressed its students. They shed light on the bad effect of drug abuse and ice using by students.

They also briefed the students about different traffic rules and asked the participants to follow those rules and also guide their juniors to do so. The DPO said that the nursing department was the backbone of the health department, while the future of Pakistan depended on the students. He said the parents had attached great expectations from their children so they should not disappoint them. He asked the students to read the Holy Quran and Hadiths and following the Islamic teachings.

He asked the students to keep them away from drugs, because people also hated drug users and their families were not respected in the society. He urged the students to identify drug dealers and crime professionals and report them to the police. "If you drive the bike carefully by avoiding over speeding, accidents can be reduced", he said, adding that precious lives of motorcyclists would be lost if motorcyclists did not take care.

Experts in moot explore faith-economy relationship

F.P. Report

MUZAFFARABAD: Renowned intellectuals, economists, and scholars from various corners of the globe convened to engage in insightful discussions on the "Role of Religion, Spirituality, Ethics, and Values in Economy and Society."

The third International Divine Economics Conference, organized by the Islamic Social Sciences Forum (ISF) of Hadi Foundation, in collaboration with esteemed universities and AJK Medical College, commenced with great enthusiasm, on Saturday. The conference aimed to question traditional economic paradigms and delve into the profound influence of religion, ethics, values, and spirituality on the economy and society. Speakers and participants geared up to challenge established norms and explore novel perspectives on the interplay between economic systems and the realm of faith.

The inaugural session, held at a local hotel, today, set the tone for the momentous event. Presided over by the former chief justice of Azad Jammu and Kashmir, Justice Chaudhary Muhammad Ibrahim Zia, the session featured addresses by notable figures such as Prof. Christopher Hodshire from the United States and Dr. Redek Tadeusz E. Biernacki from Chile, who joined remotely. Renowned economist Dr. Faheem Khan, Chairman of the Hadi Foundation, and Conference Chair Prof. Dr. Nisar Hussain Hamdani, along with other distinguished guests, also delivered thought-provoking speeches.

In his address, former chief justice Chaudhary

Muhammad Ibrahim Zia emphasized Islam encompasses all facets of life, including the economic dimension. He applauded the conference as an excellent opportunity to deliberate on the economic challenges posed by conventional systems and make rational decisions. Prof. Dr. Nisar Hussain Hamdani, Chairman of the Hadi Foundation, provided an overview of Divine Economics and shed light on the latest developments in research within this field. He expressed hope that the conference would serve as a unique platform for stimulating discussions and debates on integrating religion, ethics, and values into the economy.

The gathering witnessed an enlightening address by Prof. Christopher Hodshire from the United States, who discussed divine economic justice and ongoing collaborations between religious institutions and their impact on poverty at both local and national levels. Prof. Hodshire also highlighted the shortcomings and pitfalls of capitalism and government policies, providing valuable insights for the participants.

The conference comprised several parallel sessions, today, each chaired by esteemed individuals in their respective fields. Dr. Tariq Majeed chaired a session dedicated to the theme of well-being, Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR), and Human Capital, which included engaging discussions on research papers and abstract presentations. Another session, led by Dr. Zafar Siddiqui, explored the subjects of education, human development, and innovation through thought-provoking papers and abstract presentations.

Mufti S. Umer Amaduuddin, a distinguished scholar, chaired a session focused on Islamic Banking and Economy. Co-chaired by Mr. Moghees Shoukat, this session witnessed stimulating discussions revolving around research papers and abstract presentations pertaining to the theme.

Furthermore, an insightful session, under the guidance of Dr. Attique ur Rehman, Director of the Kashmir Institute of Economics at the University of Azad Jammu and Kashmir (UAJK), delved into the practical applications of Divine Economics. Scholars presented papers and engaged in enlightening talks, contributing to a comprehensive exploration of this crucial aspect. The concluding session, chaired by Dr. Abdul Rasheed from SOE IIUI and co-chaired by Dr. Zalakat Khan from Peshawar University, revolved around the theme of conventional economics, providing a fitting end to the intellectually stimulating conference.

Eminent scholars and faculty members from various prestigious universities across Pakistan, including Abdul Wali Khan University, Mardan, Peshawar University, Quaid-e-Azam University, Islamabad, Pied University, Bahria University, Air University, International Islamic University, Islamia University, Bahawalpur, Punjab University, Karachi University, Fatimah Higher Education System Karachi, and ISRA University Hyderabad, graced the conferences with their presence. The conference will draw to a close tomorrow, with participants convening at the Azad Jammu and Kashmir Medical College Auditorium.

DEO restricts use of cell phones in schools F.P. Report

BUNER: The district education officer (Male) Buner district Iftikharul Ghani had issued directives to all schools, banning cell phones use during school hours in April last year with clear cut directives that all of the staff members would have to hand over their cell phones to the head masters/principals early morning and to collect it ending working hours so as to let them focus in teaching which is due responsibility to well prepared the future statesmen for future challenges.

As per the DEO it was decided in the high level DPS meeting was held in Peshawar dated 22nd April last year and the meeting was chaired by the minister education and secretary education and decision was in writing sent to all district education officers and the DEOs were forwarded it to all heads of schools of their jurisdictions and the same exercise was done here in Buner district too but to no avail till our going to press. It is pertinent to mention here likewise decisions are taking in the best interests of the beneficiaries and its proper implementation a must in larger public and future of the motherland as well.

Abductee recovered, kidnappers arrested

FAISALABAD (APP): The police have recovered an abductee, Imran, safely within a couple of days and arrested eight kidnappers including a woman from Khurarianwala. Speaking at a press conference at Police Lines here on Saturday, SP CIA Irtiza Kumail said that some accused had kidnapped a person namely Muhammad Imran from Lakkari Mandi Chowk on May 4, 2023 and demanded Rs 1 million as ransom for his release.

The Jhang Bazaar police, after receiving complaint, registered a case and started investigation. The police traced whereabouts of the accused in Khurarianwala and conducted a successful raid. Later, on their pointation, the police also recovered the abducted safely and seized a heavy quantity of weapons. SP Lyallpur Town Shamsul Haq Durrani and others were also present.

Citizen injures mobile dacoit in crossfire, video viral: A brave citizen injured one of two mobile dacoits in a crossfire in Faisalabad on Saturday. Disappointed with the police performance, the citizens of Faisalabad rose up against the robbers.

On Sant Singh Road, two-armed robbers snatched cash and a mobile phone from citizen Ijaz but when the robbers tried to escape, he opened fire from behind. Resultantly, the robber who was sitting behind the motorcycle fell due to the receive a bullet. When the citizen stopped firing, the bandit picked up his injured partner and ran away on the bike. City41 received the CCTV footage of the robbery in which all the aspects of the incident can be clearly seen. Faisalabad police start to search for the fugitives across the city.

Ceremony in honour of promoted police officers held

DI KHAN (APP): A prestigious ceremony was held in the honour of police officers promoted from sub-inspector to inspector here at Police Range Office.

According to a police spokesman, Regional Police Officer (RPO) Dera Abdul Ghafoor Afridi presented ranks to 17 Sub-Inspectors including Tariq Saleem, Mohammad Tariq, Haq Nawaz, Abdul Rasheed, Muhammad Mushtaq, Fazl Elahi, Sharifullah, Shah Wali, Karam Elahi, Muhammad Ayub, Kifayat Ullah, Aurangzeb, Muhammad

Aslam, Gul Wali, Chan Shah, Noor Aslam and Abdul Jabbar. The promoted officers were appointed as inspectors.

On this occasion, the RPO Dera said that following the vision of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Inspector General of Police (IGP) Akhtar Hayat Khan Gandapur, the measures were being taken on priority basis for promotion and welfare of police officers and employees.

The promotion was recognition to the hard work and excellence of police officers, he added. He was of

the view that timely promotion further improves the performance of departmental affairs, adding, the personnel and officers work with new passion and enthusiasm after promotion.

He mentioned that promotion and welfare of police officers and personnel was among his top priorities. At the end of the ceremony, RPO Dera expressed success and good wishes for the newly promoted police officers. He hoped that the promoted officers would contribute their best towards effective policing.

Five arrested, recovered weapons and drugs

ATTOCK (APP): Attock police arrested five suspects and recovered illegal weapons from them during its on going successful operations against drug peddlers in the district on Saturday.

On the instructions of DPO Attock Dr. Sardar Ghiyas Gul Khan, the Attock Police are conducting operations against drug dealers across the district. Sub-Inspector Faisal Mahmood of New Airport police station recovered 1200 grams of hashish from the accused Toqeer Hussain Shah, resident of Fateh Jang. ASI Aizaz Ali of Anjara police station recovered 1529 grams of hashish from accused Abdul Basit, resident of Chhab.

Similarly, ASI Fida Hussain of Sadar Police

Station Attock recovered 510 grams of hashish and a 30 bore pistol with ammunition from the accused Shahid Khan, resident of Boliwal and ASI Sadaqat Nawaz recovered 540 grams of hashish from the accused Basit Izhar Naqvi alias Badi Shah, resident of Boliwal.

In another operation, ASI Tariq Mahmood of Pandigheeb police station recovered 510 grams of hashish from the accused Imran Latif alias Chhaka, resident of Mohalla Sethiyanwala Pandigheeb. The accused were arrested and cases were registered against them.

Admn expresses concern over drowning incidents: Additional Deputy Commissioner General Attock Adnan Anjum Raja

chaired a meeting at DC Office here Saturday to review the issue of drowning of people in various rivers and canals of Attock district.

The meeting expressed concern over the incidents of drowning of many people in rivers and canals at different places of the district. In this regard, a committee comprising on the officers of District Council, Rescue 1122 and the Department of Civil Defense as its members, was formed to inspect the various rivers and canals in the district and make recommendations to prevent such incidents in future. The meeting decided that all the concerned institutions would also play their full role. The meeting was attended by the officers of the concerned departments.

DHQ hospital Timergara obtains new equipments

F.P. Report

TIMERGARA: District headquarters (DHQ) hospital Timergara has been provided with new ambulance vehicle, mammography machine for women breast cancer diagnosis, wheelchairs and other medical equipment and facilities for early diagnosis of women breast cancer.

Mammography machine has been installed in Headquarters Hospital Timergara. Timergara Hospital is the only hospital in Malakand division in which mammography machine has been activated and female staff have been trained for this facility. Female patients of Malakand division will benefit from this facility.

This facility is not available in any hospital of the division, these views were expressed by Dr. Ali Asghar Khan, MS of District Headquarters Hospital Timergara while talking to the media. The patients of Chitral and Bajaur are dependent and on an average more than 2,000 patients are in the OPD every day, he said that every possible effort is being made to provide medical facilities to the people. He said that an

MRI machine has also been installed in the Timalergara District Headquarters Hospital, while an ETT machine has also been activated for the diagnosis of heart diseases.

An ambulance vehicle equipped with all medical facilities and 20 wheelchairs have also been provided for the patients. Antibiotics vaccines are also available.

Trader's mother passed away: The mother of Haji Shoaib Jan, Alamgir Jan, the prominent traders of Timergara, passed away. She was buried in the ancestral cemetery of Qaziabad. People of all thoughts, including the trade community, participated in the funeral prayer in large numbers. She was grandmother of chairman tehsil Balambat Asim Shoaib and Wajid Shoaib former president of Chamber of commerce lower Dir.

Police launches awareness campaign among: Lower Dir Police launched awareness campaign among the students of schools and colleges regarding traffic rules and the harmful effects of drugs on the society. In this regard a program is held at Hayat college of Nursing Trai

Timergara DPO Lower Dir Tariq Iqbal, Traffic Incharge Khan Nazar Khan and College Director Rahmat Hayat gave special instructions to nursing students to avoid ice drugs and traffic accidents. Chief Guest DPO Lower Dir Tariq Iqbal Khan said that the nursing department is very important and is the backbone of the health department, while the future of Pakistan depends on the students and the parents also have many expectations from them, so the students study the Quran and Hadith on Islamic teachings.

Follow the rules and keep yourself away from drugs, because people hate drug users and their families are not respected in the society. Dealers are enemies of all of us and a nuisance to the society, so drug dealers do not deserve any discount. He urged the students to identify drug dealers and crime professionals and report them to the police. Adhering to the rules and driving the bike carefully by avoiding speed can reduce the accidents. Failure to be careful can cost the precious lives of motorcyclists. Orderly traffic is a sign of civilized nations.

Teenage girl abducted

LARKANA (INP): A 15-years-old girl was allegedly 'abducted' and 'gang-raped' by multiple suspects in Rato Dero area of Sindh, after which she was shifted to Chandka Hospital in a critical condition, police told media on Saturday.

According to the details provided by the police, multiple suspects allegedly abducted a teenager girl resident of Mohammadi

Colony and subjected her to rape in the Nader Shah area of Rato Dero.

The family members of the victim transferred her to Chandka Hospital in a critical condition. According to rescue sources, the affected girl has gone through a surgery and been shifted to the ICU. Upon receiving the information of the incident, the Sindh police have ordered an investigation into the matter.



HANGU: Residents holding a rally to condemn the Kurram incident.



DeSantis celebrates wins at end of busy legislative session

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. (AP): On the day he took office, Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis vowed to pursue an agenda that would heal the state's political divisions. In an op-ed, he pledged to prioritize environmental protection, the economy, education. He highlighted the "diverse, bipartisan group of qualified individuals" he hired for his administration.

"It is time for our state to come together," he declared in the January 2019 piece. More than four years later, DeSantis concluded a legislative session that establishes him as perhaps the most aggressive and accomplished conservative governor in the nation's bitter culture wars — just as he prepares to enter the 2024 presidential contest as a top rival to former President Donald Trump.

Intensifying his hard-right shift that began during the pandemic, the 44-year-old Republican governor in recent weeks has pushed the limits of divisive cultural battles over abortion, LGBTQ rights, sex education, guns, immigration and diversity. And in most cases, backed by Republican supermajorities in Florida's Legislature, he won. DeSantis in recent weeks signed a law to ban abortion at six weeks of pregnancy and another to allow people to carry concealed guns without a permit. He expanded what critics call his "Don't Say Gay" law that now blocks classroom instruction about sexual orientation and gender identity for all grades. And in the coming days, he will sign a law banning diversity, equity and inclusion programs in state colleges, along with another bill that prevents students and teachers from being required to use pronouns that don't correspond to someone's sex.

The governor has also used the power of his office to seize partial control of Disney World, one of his state's largest employers, which spoke out against the "Don't Say Gay" law. And as the 2024 presidential contest heats up, he's eager to celebrate his accomplishments. "When I became governor, the first day, sat in the office, I kind of just looked around and I thought to myself, 'I don't know what SOB is going to succeed me in this office, but they ain't going to have much to do because we're getting all the meat off the bone,'" he said during a news conference about fishing dates.

DeSantis' unapologetic conservative shift, an evolution years in the making, positions him well among GOP presidential primary voters, who tend to be fiercely partisan. But it has sparked concerns among others, including donors, GOP officials and even some moderate Democrats, who initially welcomed DeSantis' approach but now fear that his crusade to champion conservative culture may alienate as many people as it attracts. "His unrelenting focus on the cultural issues more than the economic issues gets to be tiresome," said longtime Republican donor Bobbie Kilberg. "I think people over time



will want someone who does not add to the scenario of pushing people further and further apart."

DeSantis is poised to launch a presidential bid as soon as next week, though allies believe that a formal announcement, which could begin with an exploratory committee, is more likely to come around the end of May. For much of the year, he has sidestepped questions about his national ambitions, insisting that he was focused on Florida's legislative session. DeSantis' team is optimistic that his conservative accomplishments will strengthen his appeal among primary voters who may be willing to move on from Trump.

"He's got a lot done," former Georgia Lt. Gov. Geoff Duncan, a fierce Trump critic, said of DeSantis. "Ron DeSantis is more of a conservative than Donald Trump has ever been." Still, would-be supporters like Duncan are concerned that DeSantis' fight with Disney has gone too far and that he should be zeroed in on more important issues. "He's focusing on the wrong Disney character," Duncan said. "Instead of picking on Mickey, you need to pick on Donald."

Those who know DeSantis best trace his emergence as a leading voice in the nation's cultural divisions to the pandemic. After initially agreeing to COVID-19 shutdowns, DeSantis soon established himself as one of the GOP's most aggressive critics of public health measures. He became a conservative hero of sorts as he promoted what he called "the free state of Florida." Before the pandemic, he followed through on his promise to focus on education funding and environmental protection. He dedicated billions of dollars to Everglades restoration and other water protection projects over his first term, and he continued such efforts into the early days of his second. He has also consistently pushed for and secured pay raises for teachers in the state budget.

Democrat Bob Buckhorn, the for-

mer mayor of Tampa, said he was "pleasantly surprised" at the governor's first months in office. But he said his hope faded soon after the pandemic exploded in the spring of 2020. "I think we all knew he was ambitious, but I don't think all of us knew how far he would go and the extent to which he would go to build credibility with an audience that doesn't represent Florida," Buckhorn said. DeSantis' team rejects the notion that he has fixated on red meat policies. They note the governor's spending on education and the environment in addition to recent moves to cut taxes on household items such as diapers.

DeSantis' super PAC, which already has a half dozen paid staffers on the ground in each of the first four states on the Republican presidential primary calendar, did not mention his bipartisan achievements in a statement touting DeSantis' "incredible success." "Gov. DeSantis' robust record of legislative accomplishments includes enacting a Parents Bill of Rights and standing up to draconian COVID mandates to supporting law and order and pursuing the death penalty for child rapists," said super PAC spokesperson Erin Perrine. "Ron DeSantis will never back down from pursuing strong conservative policies." Indeed, as 2024 has grown closer, DeSantis has done as much or more than any other Republican governor in America to use the levers of government to lean into cultural fights. Along the way, he embraced a new catchphrase: "Florida is where woke comes to die." In other legislative wins, DeSantis has made it illegal for state and local investment funds to consider companies' environmental, social and governance stances in his fight against "woke" corporations. He also signed a bill allowing the death penalty in child rape convictions, despite a US Supreme Court ruling that banned capital punishment in such cases.

Egypt presidential hopeful says supporters, uncles detained

BEIRUT (AP): An Egyptian politician residing abroad and planning to run in the country's presidential elections next year said that two of his uncles and a group of friends and supporters have been detained in recent days. Ahmed Altantawy, a former member of parliament, did not say how many of his supporters were detained, when it happened and whether they were released or were still being held. He said he was worried for the health of his uncles, suggesting they may still be held.

Human rights lawyer Khaled Ali said in a social media post that 10 supporters from Altantawy's former constituency were brought in for questioning, most of them accused of joining "a terrorist group" — a frequent government reference to the outlawed Muslim Brotherhood, an Islamist group. Ali said both of Altantawy's uncles face charges of joining and funding a terror group but did not elaborate on their current whereabouts.

Officials in Cairo did not immediately respond to requests for comment on

the claims. Altantawy declared his intention to run for Egypt's highest office in a Facebook post in March. In a video released, he said the arrests came ahead of his announced return to the country from Lebanon. The vote has widely been expected to be an uncontested race for the incumbent, President Abdel Fattah el-Sissi, whose government has cracked down on political opposition, detaining thousands of suspected supporters of the Muslim Brotherhood but also large numbers of secular activists.

Rights groups and former detainees have accused el-Sissi's administration of human rights abuses, including targeting dissent with brutal tactics — forced disappearances, torture and long-term detentions without trial, often in abysmal conditions. Human Rights Watch estimated in 2019 that Egypt has at least 60,000 political prisoners. Altantawy, a former journalist, served as a lawmaker in the largely pro-government legislature until 2020 and cultivated a reputation of independence. In announcing his run in March, he said he

wanted to offer a "civil and democratic alternative." In the video, he also warned supporters against risking arrest, urging them not to come to the airport to greet him upon his arrival. He denounced what he described as immoral and unlawful government tactics against political opponents.

"This cannot bring stability to a country," he said. "It can only afford a longer period of stability for the powers-that-be, at the expense of a country." Egypt's human rights record came under particular scrutiny last year, when it hosted the global climate conference in the Red Sea resort town of Sharm el-Sheikh. Then, one of the country's most high-profile detainees, rights activist Alaa Abdel Fatah, went on an extended hunger strike to draw attention to his detention. Abdel Fatah has spent most of the past decade behind bars because of his criticism of Egypt's rulers. In 2021, he was sentenced to five years for sharing a Facebook post about a prisoner who died in custody in 2019.

Ex-California college student arrested

DAVIS, Calif. (AP): A 21-year-old who was a student at the University of California, Davis, until last week was arrested on accusations of fatally stabbing two people and wounding another in attacks that terrified the quiet college community, police said.

Carlos Dominguez was taken into custody after 15 people called in reports of a person who matched the description of the suspect near a city park where he is accused of stabbing the second victim to death, said Davis Police Chief Darren Pytel. Pytel did not disclose a motive for the stabbings, which took place over a span of days starting with the discovery of the first body April 27, and said it was unclear if Dominguez knew the victims. Those killed were a 50-year-old homeless man well loved in the community and a 20-year-old UC Davis student. A homeless woman attacked in her tent is recovering.

"He was out wandering a neighborhood where the second homicide had occurred. He had a large knife in a backpack, wearing the same clothes from the third stabbing," Pytel told a news conference, explaining the circumstances of Dominguez's arrest. "That's highly unusual and unique." The multiple stabbings over the course of less than a week shattered the town's sense of safety. Some businesses closed early and college students said they were too frightened even to attend daytime classes on campus. "A murderer is off the streets, and our families will sleep easier tonight," Davis Mayor Will Arnold said at the news conference.

It wasn't immediately clear if Dominguez had an attorney who could speak on his behalf. UC Davis officials said in a statement that Dominguez was a third-year student majoring in biological sciences until April 25, "when he was separated for academic reasons." He enrolled at UC Davis in fall 2020 and previously attended Laney College, a community college in Oakland, California. Davis is a small city about 70 miles (112 kilometers) northeast of San Francisco and 15 miles (24 kilometers) west of Sacramento. There are roughly 67,000 residents in the city in addition to more than 13,000 students who live on the UC Davis campus.

The first death was reported when officers found David Henry Breaux in downtown's Central Park, hunched over a bench where he often sat or slept. The second victim, Karim Abou Najm, was found at Sycamore Park with multiple stab wounds. The stabbings all occurred within a mile of campus. , police were searching a residence near campus, where Dominguez lived with housemates. Pytel said police started receiving calls about a person who matched the description of the suspect. Officers discovered a "large fixed blade knife" in his backpack and took him in for more questioning with his consent.

Dominguez was booked into Yolo County Jail on a weapons violation related to the knife but was not arrested on two counts of homicide and one count of attempted homicide until shortly before news conference.

S Sudan struggling to implement power sharing deal: UN

UNITED NATIONS (AP): South Sudan is facing violent clashes and increasing disillusionment and frustration as it struggles to implement the most challenging provisions of a fragile 2018 power-sharing agreement, UN experts say in a new report.

The world's newest nation is struggling to integrate rival military forces, draft a new constitution and prepare for its first election as an independent country in December 2024, the experts monitoring sanctions against the world's newest nation said in a report to the UN Security Council obtained by The Associated Press.

The country's stability "will likely turn on the government's ability to reward the patience of those who remain committed to peace, rather than those who have sought to reshape it through violence," the report says. There were high hopes when oil-rich South Sudan gained independence from Sudan in 2011 after a long conflict. But the country slid into a civil war in December 2013 largely based on ethnic divisions when forces loyal to the current president, Salva Kiir, battled those loyal to the current vice president, Riek Machar.

Tens of thousands of people were killed in the war, which ended with the 2018 peace agreement, bringing Kiir and Machar together in a government of national unity. Under the agreement, elections were supposed to be held in February 2023, but last August they were postponed until December 2024. Kiir said he wanted to avoid creating conditions for more bloodshed. He issued a statement outlining the government's achievements and stressing that it would be "business as usual" before the elections.

The UN experts said the message was aimed at allaying two concerns — that the extension would be used to undermine the fragile power-sharing structures and would mean further delays, "not the progress that peace once promised." On the plus side, the panel said in the 37-page report that the unity government has survived, a series of laws have started to pave the way for the drafting of a new constitution, and a first batch of approximately 55,000 unified troops has graduated, even

though most haven't been deployed.

On the negative side, the experts said, most troops that graduated remain around their training centers, "though poor conditions have led to hundreds of deaths and thousands of desertions." Many graduates don't receive regular salaries, and most work in local communities to make money, the experts said. Those that have been deployed appear to have joined pre-existing military units rather than becoming part of a new national force, they said. While the parties agreed last year to unify the top command structure, they have not been able to reach a similar agreement for the lower ranks.

South Sudan is also facing its highest level of displacement since the peace agreement, and more than two-thirds of the population needs humanitarian assistance, the panel said. The experts said most South Sudanese have not seen "tangible progress" since the 2018 agreement was signed.

The deteriorating humanitarian situation is partly the result of violence and serious clashes in most parts of the country between well-armed rival forces, leading to deaths, people fleeing their homes, serious human rights violations, including sexual attacks, and difficulties delivering aid, the panel said. Much of the violence results from efforts to weaken opponents, but increasingly "from growing dissatisfaction with the political process in Juba," the capital.

Oil accounts for more than 90% of the government's revenue and almost all its exports, and as a result of the high oil price the government is likely to exceed its budget target of \$1.6 billion in gross oil revenues for the current fiscal year, the experts said, but the money has largely failed to reach institutions that could help stabilize the country. "The misappropriation and diversion of public resources not only continues to fuel political competition but also deprives the treasury of the resources needed to address the ongoing humanitarian crisis, fund the implementation of the peace agreement, and stabilize the country through regular salary payments and development," the panel said.

UK Tories suffer losses in Sunak's first electoral test

LONDON (AFP): Britain's ruling Conservatives suffered high-profile losses as results poured from Prime Minister Rishi Sunak's first major electoral test since he took office last year. In the depths of the worst cost-of-living crisis in decades, the local council elections held across swathes of England illuminated the main parties' standing ahead of a UK-wide general election expected next year.

Sunak admitted results looked "disappointing" but claimed he was "not detecting any massive groundswell of movement" towards the main Labour opposition or "excitement for its agenda". However, with over half of the 230 English districts having declared by late afternoon, his party had lost nearly 600 seats and control of almost 30 councils. Labour had netted more than 300 new seats and control of 12 new districts. Vote counting in the more than 8,000 seats will only be complete, just as Britain gears up for coronation of King Charles III.

But Labour leader Keir Starmer crowed that the trend was already clear. "Make no mistake, we are on course for a Labour majority at the next general election," he told cheering activists in Medway, southeast England, Plymouth in the southwest and Stoke-on-Trent in the Midlands -- where in 2016, 70 percent of voters backed Brexit.

Labour is particularly targeting former strongholds in northern England, the so-called "red wall", which crumbled in 2019. The smaller Liberal Democrat party was also performing

remoulding the party after it suffered its worst general election performance in decades in 2019, when ex-prime minister Boris Johnson won by a landslide vowing to "get Brexit done". The party has enjoyed double-digit national polls leads since late last year, as the Tories felt the fallout from several chaotic weeks when they ditched Johnson and then Liz Truss as leader in quick succession. Conservative transport minister Huw Merriman indicated his party was still paying the price for that tumult.

Local constituents have been "talking about older news about former prime ministers -- but saying your current leader seems to have what it takes", he told the BBC, insisting that Sunak was on the right track. However, Labour was projected to have won a nine-point lead over the Conservatives if all of Britain had gone to the polls, enough, it claimed, for Starmer to become prime minister. The party won control of prized targets such as Medway in southeast England, Plymouth in the southwest and Stoke-on-Trent in the Midlands -- where in 2016, 70 percent of voters backed Brexit.

Labour is particularly targeting former strongholds in northern England, the so-called "red wall", which crumbled in 2019. The smaller Liberal Democrat party was also performing

strongly, gaining more than 200 seats and control of six more councils. It was making inroads in wealthy Conservative districts on the edge of London that are represented nationally by members of Sunak's cabinet -- the "blue wall".

The centrist opposition party took control of the council in Windsor and Maidenhead, west of London, an area represented in Westminster by former prime minister Theresa May. "We are exceeding all expectations," Liberal Democrat leader Ed Davey said. "We have delivered a hammer blow to the Conservative party in the blue wall ahead of next year's general election." Meanwhile, the Green Party took full control of a council for the first time, in Suffolk in eastern England.

Jonathan Carr-West, chief executive of the Local Government Information Unit, noted that the Conservatives were already defending a dismal showing the last time the same council districts voted in 2019. "Voters may well return to the Conservative fold" at the next general election, he told AFP. "But yes, it's looking pretty bad for them so far. To do badly from a very bad baseline in 2019 is very, very bad indeed." Sunak meanwhile defended a law change requiring voters to show photo identification for the first time, a move denounced by Labour and others as an attempt to suppress the vote.

Wagner boss threatens Bakhmut pullout in Ukraine

KYIV (AP): The owner of Russia's Wagner military contractor threatened to withdraw his troops next week from the protracted battle for the eastern Ukrainian city of Bakhmut, accusing Moscow's military command of starving his forces of ammunition.

Yevgeny Prigozhin, a wealthy entrepreneur with longtime links to Russian President Vladimir Putin, claimed that Wagner fighters had planned to capture Bakhmut by May 9, Russia's Victory Day holiday celebrating the defeat of Nazi Germany. But they were undersupplied and suffering heavy losses, he said, and would hand over operations to the regular army on May 10. It is not the first time Prigozhin has raged about ammunition shortages and blamed Russia's military, with which he has long been in conflict. Known for bluster, he has previously made unverifiable claims and threats he hasn't carried out.

Prigozhin's spokespeople also published a video of him shouting, swearing and pointing at about 30 uniformed bodies lying on the ground. He says they are Wagner

fighters who died alone, and demands ammunition from Russian Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu and General Staff Chief Valery Gerasimov. "These are someone's fathers and someone's sons," Prigozhin says. "The scum that doesn't give us ammunition will eat their guts in hell."

Yohann Michel, a research analyst with the International Institute for Strategic Studies think tank, said Prigozhin's comments should usually be taken with a grain of salt, but "this time I would take a shovel of salt, at least, or maybe a truck." But why Prigozhin is threatening to pull his forces out is an open question, Michel said. He might want to regroup without being accused of retreating; he may worry about being fired for not taking the city and prefer to say he left on his own; or he could genuinely need more ammunition.

"The only thing I am taking seriously from that declaration is that Bakhmut is probably not ready to fall," said Michel, who is based in Berlin. Wagner has spearheaded the struggle for Bakhmut, the war's longest — and likely bloodiest — battle. US National Security Council

spokesman John Kirby said the US estimates that nearly half of the 20,000 Russian troops killed in Ukraine since December were Wagner fighters in Bakhmut. A pullout by Wagner would be a huge blow to the Russian campaign.

For the Ukrainian side, Bakhmut has become an important symbol of resistance to Russia's invasion. President Volodymyr Zelenskyy says its loss could build international support for a deal that could require Ukraine to make unacceptable compromises. Like Michel, Ukrainian officials were skeptical about Prigozhin's claims of ammunition shortages. Military intelligence representative Andrii Cherniak told The Associated Press that Prigozhin was trying to "justify their unsuccessful actions" in Bakhmut. Shoigu didn't immediately respond to Prigozhin, but his ministry reported that he ordered a top official to ensure a "continuous supply" of all necessary weapons and military equipment to Russian troops. And in a counterpoint to Prigozhin's visibility, an official video showed Shoigu inspecting tanks and other military equipment

destined for Russian troops in Ukraine.

At the end of last year, the US estimated Wagner had about 50,000 personnel fighting in Ukraine, including 10,000 contractors and 40,000 convicts the company has enlisted. That makes it a small part of Russian fighting forces. If Prigozhin did pull Wagner's troops out of Bakhmut, it would have serious implications, Michel said. "If he's removed from the front line — except if Russia surprisingly has reserves that they did not want to use before — I think we can say it is the end of this phase of the offensive for Russia," he said.

Prigozhin's acrimonious relations with the military brass date back to Wagner's creation in 2014. During the war in Ukraine, he has publicly accused some top Russian military officials of incompetence — behavior that is highly unusual in Russia's tightly controlled political system. Prigozhin alleged that Russia's regular army was supposed to protect the flanks as Wagner troops pushed forward but is "barely holding on to them," deploying "tens and rarely hundreds" of troops. "Wagner ran out

of resources to advance in early April, but we're advancing despite the fact that the enemy's resources outnumber ours fivefold," Prigozhin's statement said. "Because of the lack of ammunition, our losses are growing exponentially every day."

Hanna Maliar, deputy head of Ukraine's Defense Ministry, said that Ukrainian artillery had destroyed some Wagner ammunition depots, and other military officials said Ukrainian forces were holding their own in Bakhmut. The Russian Defense Ministry, meanwhile, said its forces had destroyed a bridge that Ukrainian troops used to supply their side in Bakhmut. It wasn't possible to independently verify either side's claims. Prigozhin has toured Russian prisons to recruit fighters, promising inmates pardons if they survive a half-year tour of front-line duty with Wagner. Western countries and United Nations experts have accused Wagner mercenaries of committing numerous human rights abuses throughout Africa.

Bakhmut, about 55 kilometers (34 miles) north of the Russian-held regional capital of Donetsk, has tacti-

cal military value for Moscow, though analysts say it won't be decisive in the war's outcome. The city had a prewar population of 80,000 and was an important industrial center. It is now a ghost town. Western officials and analysts believe Russia has run low on ammunition as the 14-month conflict became bogged down in a war of attrition over the winter. Prigozhin had already threatened to withdraw from Bakhmut once before, in an interview with a Russian military blogger last week.

Asked by The AP about Prigozhin's statement, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov declined comment. Also, an oil refinery in Russia's southern Krasnodar region, which borders the Crimean Peninsula that Russia illegally annexed, briefly caught fire after it was attacked by a drone, Russia's state news agency Tass reported. The fire was small and was quickly put out, the report said. It was the second straight day that the Ilyinsky refinery had come under a drone attack. Drone attacks on oil facilities in Russian regions bordering Ukraine have been reported almost daily over the past week.

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Special children, duty of State and society

CARETAKER Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa has noted that special children deserve special attention from all of us including the government, welfare organizations, and the well-off segment of society. While addressing an event regarding special children at Chief Minister House in Peshawar, Azam Khan admired the role of welfare organizations in imparting education and training to special children and urged the well-off segment of society to cooperate with such welfare organizations in this noble cause.

Persons with Disabilities (PWDs) have always been a vital part of our society and this segment of society always merits special attention not only from their close relatives but they need care and assistance from the society and the government of the country. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), about 15% of the world's population lives with some form of disability while a survey by the Pakistan Poverty Alleviation Fund revealed that the disability prevalence rate stood around 12%, with 2% complete disabled individuals. In fact, persons with disabilities face problems of diverse nature including maltreatment and discrimination in society, inaccessibility to education, exclusion from the health system, barriers in employment, lack of due share in inheritance, and inequality in family life. At the same time, personal disadvantage restricts their ability to move, hear, speak, or see which commonly leads to illiteracy, joblessness, poverty, and the destitution of special persons throughout their life. According to a WHO report, Persons with Disabilities (PWDs) around the world experience health inequities, face limitations and resultantly often live miserable life and die earlier than normal people.

Morally, it is the duty of every citizen to assist his/her handicapped colleague as and when needed during the course of life, while it is the basic responsibility of a welfare state to legislate and take special initiatives to provide them with essential financial, technical, material and moral support to create a conducive environment and enable them to perform routine functions to compete in the society. Historically, the UN, the World Health Organization, international nongovernmental organizations, and civil society had played an essential role in spreading awareness regarding PWDs' rights, providing them with financial, technical, and legal aid to bring comfort to their lives, and transforming special persons into a useful citizen and sharing the responsibility of the government in this regard. The UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (PWDs) comprehensively covers the rights of social persons, while the UN Office of Human Rights Commissioner coordinates with the world nations and monitors the rights of the PWDs in member nations across the world.

At the national level, the Ministry of Human Rights has adopted multiple legislations including the Disabled Persons Employment and Rehabilitation Ordinance 1981 and the ICT Rights of Persons with Disability Bill-2018 along with the ICT Act-2020, which aim to establish special education centers, allocate greater jobs quota and provide better health facilities for special persons. While multiple legal and administrative measures had been taken to increase accessibility and movement of special persons including allocation of seats in trains, and buses, designation of parking places, construction of wheelchair ramps, and issuance of special vehicle number plates to empower the PWDs in the country. Although a lot had been done by successive governments, however, there is a lot that needs the attention of the leaders as well as the civil society and the common public. Presently, about 531 Special Schools are being run by the government and private sector across the country, yet numerous special children in remote areas have no access to school. No provision of suitable health facilities and delayed identification of disabilities continuously cause a lifelong impairment of the children. There is a dire need for public-private partnership and collaboration with international partners and INGOs to establish a comprehensive mechanism that timely identifies impairment of the child at the pre-birth stage, ensures follow-up treatment, rehabilitation, schooling, and employment along with suitable life settlement of the special children so they can live a dignified and happy life like other people in the world.

A fierce information war is being fought in Caribbean nations with Russian state media trying to peddle one narrative about the Ukraine war while a fact-checking site from Kyiv battles to rebut the stories. In Cuba, Kremlin-controlled media outlets such as Russia Today, Sputnik and RIA-Novosti have been the main providers of news content on the war in Ukraine for the country's official press.

Prensa Latina, Granma, Trabajadores, Cubadebate and the digital sites of provincial newspapers take reports from Moscow and reproduce the official line. Beyond the Caribbean island, the Russian versions of events in Ukraine are being picked up by media across Latin America. Radio Marti, the independent radio and television channels which is a sister media organization to VOA, picks up these stories and attempts to offer Cubans a different version of the conflict. The media organization is overseen by the Office of Cuba Broadcasting (OCB) at its headquarters in Miami, Florida. This is part of the US Agency for Global Media, which also runs VOA. OCB joined forces with StopFake.org, a Ukrainian fact-checking outlet to counter Spanish language Russian propaganda in Cuba, Latin America and Spain.

The initiative started on February 24, 2023, exactly one year since the Russian invasion of Ukraine. Since then, it has published stories challenging what it claims are false Russian propaganda published by Cuban media or in other

publications in the region. One example is "Ukrainian soldiers beat up a Brazilian legionnaire." This story appeared in Ecovision Digital, an online media source in Ecuador last month. The same news outlet reported that Latvian cars donated to Kyiv have ended up for sale. An

Graham Keeley

stated clearly that the Russian versions were not true. One example was: "Fake: Ukraine actively recruits women using chemical or biological weapons," which was published on April 26. Another headline ran: "False: In the

publish stories there." Every week Radio Marti receives reports from StopFake.org about what it claims is Kremlin disinformation. How successful Radio Marti and StopFake.org are in getting their message through to

Legion International," received 1,646 impressions and its people reach was the same number. Another story by Radio Marti published on April 25, which found that the public perception of Russia had declined in the world in 2022, received 8,373 impressions and its people

but the recent link up with Radio Marti has been very important for us. We produce text stories and explainers," he told VOA.

"In the global south we see an increase in Russian disinformation where there are no limits, unlike in the global north, where there are some sanctions." Fedchenko said on social media like Twitter StopFake.org noted an increase in activity from Russian state media, with blue ticks being returned to Russia Today, a pro-Russian media organization. He said Russian attempts to influence governments were not confined only to Latin America, but also to Spain, which in July will take over the European Union Council Presidency and will represent the bloc of 27 states around the world. "Part of what we are trying to do is to ensure that Ukraine is present in the media. Russia is traditionally dominant," he noted. StopFake.org is part of the International Fact-Checking Network (IFCN) and verifies information for the Meta platform (Facebook) as a third partner.

Russia has increased the effectiveness of its disinformation campaigning on social media and claims only a small fraction is detected by the West, according to leaked US intelligence documents seen by The Washington Post. The claim was part of a detailed analysis of Russian propaganda on social media platforms such as Twitter, TikTok, Telegram and YouTube. The document, which was not dated, appeared to have been prepared by the US chief of staff, US Cyber Command and Europe Command, The Post reported.

VOA

The fight against Russia's fake news in Cuba

He said Radio Marti published stories about Ukraine that were correct, as well as other reports that stated clearly that the Russian versions were not true. One example was: "Fake: Ukraine actively recruits women using chemical or biological weapons," which was published on April 26. Another headline ran: "False: In the United States, Ukraine recruits homeless people to fight in the Legion International." "When the Russian invasion happened last year, we started 'Witnesses to the war' to interview people in Ukraine to hear their narrative. Cuban state media has deals with Russian state media and published their version," Alba told VOA in an interview from Miami. "We presented the idea to StopFake.org to have something published in Spanish. Through affiliates in Latin America, we can publish stories there." Every week Radio Marti receives reports from StopFake.org about what it claims is Kremlin disinformation. How successful Radio Marti and StopFake.org are in getting their message through to Cubans is difficult to know. "It is very difficult to access our website in Cuba, but it is very popular on Facebook," said Alba.

apparently harmless story, but Radio Marti said this is part of a slow drip of disinformation designed to change the public's opinion of the Ukraine conflict.

The Russian embassy in Madrid did not reply to attempts from VOA for a comment. Alvaro Alba, deputy director of OCB, worked as a journalist for the Spanish newspaper ABC in Russia during the Soviet era until the early 1990s. He said Radio Marti published stories about Ukraine that were correct, as well as other reports that

United States, Ukraine recruits homeless people to fight in the Legion International." "When the Russian invasion happened last year, we started 'Witnesses to the war' to interview people in Ukraine to hear their narrative. Cuban state media has deals with Russian state media and published their version," Alba told VOA in an interview from Miami.

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Cubans is difficult to know. "It is very difficult to access our website in Cuba, but it is very popular on Facebook," said Alba. Data collected by OCB gives an idea of the impressions and reach of each story on Facebook. Impressions are the number of defined accounts that saw a post at least once. Reach may include multiple views of posts by the same defined accounts.

A story published on April 26 entitled "Fake: US, the Ukraine recruits homeless people for the

reach was 8,054. Alba says the initiative with StopFake.org is not just centered on Cuba but could be broadened to the rest of Latin America. Yevhen Fedchenko, chief editor of StopFake.org and director of the Mohyla School of Journalism in Ukraine, said journalists in Ukraine started the initiative to challenge the Russian narrative about Kyiv in 2014 during the Maidan Revolution in which then-President Viktor Yanukovich was ousted. "We introduced Spanish language services

AL Summit to seek Arab solutions to Arab problems

ARAB League summits are the main event in the order of joint Arab action. They resemble a compass that guides our work and determines our path and direction. These summits are also an occasion that preoccupy Arab public opinion and do not concern the political elites or decision-makers alone. They thus have a truly enormous responsibility to always express the concerns of Arab citizens and meet some of their aspirations and ambitions.

There is no doubt that the upcoming summit, which will be hosted by Saudi Arabia on May 19, will be held at a very critical time. Concerns are increasing among Arab publics about issues such as the latest events in some Arab countries or what is happening in the world in terms of unprecedented developments, the breadth of their impact and the weight of their consequences that affect the Arab region in various ways and to varying degrees.

Some urgent issues, imposed by emergency circumstances, await the upcoming summit. The most important of which is the unfortunate crisis that has erupted in Sudan, an important Arab country due to its location, historical legacy and population. We have all been follow-

ing, with great sadness, the situation in Sudan following the outbreak of a military clash that poses serious threats to the country's unity and the integrity of its capabilities. In addition, the consequences of the conflict and the deteriorating security situation threaten civilians, who have found themselves besieged and threatened by a clash they had nothing to do with. It is natural and even expected for the Arab League and its member states to have a role, presence and influence in dealing with this serious crisis, and to help Sudan not only to overcome it but also to address the fundamental causes that led to its outbreak in this tragic way.

The summit, as the organizing framework for comprehensive Arab stances, can hopefully build a unified Arab position in support of Sudan and its people. We have already witnessed the organization's early involvement in the crisis, as the Council of the Arab League has held two meetings in this regard at the level of permanent representatives. It is quite fortunate that the summit is being held at this time, as it provides an opportunity to mobilize the various mechanisms of Arab action to deal with this grave crisis, especially since it has urgent humanitarian dimensions. Emergency and emerging

Hossam Zaki

crises should not overshadow our Arab reality, which is full of prolonged and lingering crises, whether in Yemen, Syria or Libya. These crises have imposed an unimaginable cost on the countries affected and even on the Arab region as a whole. These countries have lost years - if not decades - of development, seen their territorial integrity threatened and been left vulnerable to foreign interventions that are rejected because they undermine Arab national security.

Fortunately, the parties to these crises are now clearly exhausted and drained after years of fighting and internal strife. They are starting to realize that it is impossible to resolve these conflicts militarily and that even the winner loses amid the destruction that befalls the homeland. Such circumstances usually provide an ideal climate for initiating a political settlement. Indeed, we have recently been witnessing a kind of security and military calm on the various battlefields, which paves the way for political and diplomatic efforts. On the other hand, awareness has lately increased among Arab countries of the dangers of leaving these conflicts unresolved, especially since their catastrophic

consequences do not remain within the borders of the countries where they first emerged. We have thus recently witnessed rather positive Arab action. For instance, in Yemen, there have been positive developments in terms of calm and the exchange of prisoners between the Houthis and the legitimate government. We are looking forward to more on this path in light of the agreement between Saudi Arabia and Iran that was reached in March.

In Syria, we can see action being taken to restore the Arab dimension of the prevailing crisis and not leave it in the custody of external parties, which mostly consider only their own interests. These external parties are not necessarily exposed to the dangerous, negative consequences of the unresolved continuation of the Syrian crisis, whether in terms of refugee flows, the spread of terrorism, crime and drug trafficking or other security, economic and social repercussions. However, the greatest role and the most important responsibility remains dependent on the will of the parties to these crises themselves to engage in a serious path of political settlement aimed at restoring normal conditions. The Palestinian cause, of course, remains a strongly

present pillar in all Arab summits. The upcoming summit will be held at a time when the cause faces great challenges in light of the rise to power of a right-wing Israeli government that does not believe in a two-state solution. Israeli policies have led to growing tensions and an escalation of violence and repression against the Palestinians in the Occupied Territories, especially since the beginning of this year. The escalation reached its climax during the month of Ramadan, when we witnessed settlers and extremists storming the Al-Aqsa Mosque compound in a blatant provocation of all Arabs and Muslims, not only Palestinians. An emergency meeting of Arab foreign ministers was held at the Arab League's headquarters in March to strengthen the Palestinian stance in the face of this extremist Israeli approach. This month's summit is expected to adopt resolutions that support the steadfastness of the Palestinians and reflect Arab support for them.

Although Arab summits mainly discuss political files, there are other issues that do not usually receive the focus of public opinion and the media, such as economic and social issues, although they are no less important. A major geopolitical crisis in Ukraine has led to a series of successive

crises in the global economy related to food and energy prices, high levels of inflation, and debt. Several Arab countries have been greatly affected by the serious economic and social repercussions of these crises, which is why such issues could make it to the summit's agenda. For example, the Algiers summit of November 2022 adopted an important strategy for achieving Arab food security.

There is no doubt that the challenges facing the Arab region at the present moment prompt more urgency than ever before to carefully address the issues of economic integration and Arab investment. In a nutshell, the convening of Arab League summits remains, in itself, evidence of the vitality of the Arab order and its ability to coordinate at the highest levels, promote consensus in visions, and crystallize unified positions that serve Arab countries and support their positions, especially in a world that is heading toward more polarization.

We all look forward to the upcoming summit in Saudi Arabia as an important addition to the balance of Arab national security and Arab development cooperation, and a step on the road toward finding and activating Arab solutions to Arab problems and crises.

Arab News

If artificial intelligence is intelligent, why is it artificial?

WHEN William Shakespeare titled his play "Twelfth Night," he also offered up the alternative title of "What You Will." Perhaps the initial title appeared too opaque or confusing? Humanity's latest play has been given the title artificial intelligence, but I suggest that we clear up some of the confusion and call it "What We Will."

With the appearance of this new technology and its rapidly expanding powers, we are rushing to try to understand what it is we are unleashing. We are well aware it could have a tremendous impact on our society, but this latest discovery does not come from a Michelangelo, Beethoven or an Einstein, the last of which would be able to summarize his new understanding of the universe in one short, simple phrase. Instead, this discovery has emerged from a collection of young - perhaps brilliant - minds, none of whom fully understand what it is we are dealing with or

where we are being led.

I cannot help but dwell on this new phenomenon being labeled both intelligent and artificial, with each of these adjectives depending on the other in a somewhat confusing way. An intelligence that is artificial is essentially reliant on humans to spread it and, eventually, to hide or disguise its artificiality. To compete with our own minds and intelligence, it has to be fully released into the world but also adopted by humans, knowingly or unknowingly. It is a novel entry to an already complex world.

Having been derived from what we call deep machine learning, artificial intelligence is able to digest immense quantities of information and make connections we have not yet made. As such, it could offer us interesting new concepts, identifying patterns we may have missed, and could make a fine assistant for some of our tasks and decision-making. Artificial intelligence could exponentially accelerate

research into cures for cancer and other such pioneering applications. It will also help us to automate tasks, while reducing human error, particularly when it comes to repetitive tasks. However, artificial intelligence has already started a new technological arms race between world powers, all scrambling to develop its most advanced potential military applications. It is not at all implausible that artificial intelligence could, in the relatively near future, direct wars by identifying targets and dispatching drones, and even developing strategy and rapid countermeasures, just as computers today can beat the world's greatest chess grandmasters with ease.

This arms race is not unlike the nuclear arms race, and its consequences could be equally damaging, leading to a new cold war of wits. What is most confusing about artificial intelligence today is that it is still a guessing game. We know that a massive wave

is heading our way, but we do not yet know where, when or how big it will be. As Yuval Noah Harari, author of "Sapiens," wrote in The Economist last week, we urgently need to regulate AI and new technologies. "We need an equivalent of the Food and Drug Administration for new technology, and we need it yesterday," he wrote. Harari also contrasted new technologies such as AI with older technologies that revolutionized our world and our geopolitical realities by reminding us that "nukes cannot invent more powerful nukes, (but) AI can make exponentially more powerful AI." We are entering a new field of technological wizardry that is creating a whole new set of challenges for human society, but we cannot let this allow us to forget the many tremendous challenges we are already facing. More than the confusing artificial intelligence has already created, it is also one of those shiny new

things that we cannot take our eyes or our minds off. As is our habit, we are again ignoring the more pressing challenges of environmental degradation, poverty, war and hatred that every day reduce our chances of handing over a livable world to our children.

The environment is certainly not artificial; we are destroying it with every passing day, yet we know we cannot survive without it. It is not artificial to realize that we are killing our once-fertile agricultural lands, just as we are killing our oceans, but we know we cannot live only off polluted air and water. Ecosystems around the world are breaking down, as floods, wildfires and hurricanes retaliate to destroy our living spaces. I doubt that artificial intelligence will come to us with a sudden fix before it is too late. It is warranted for us to wonder how we can regulate as diffuse and confusing a threat as artificial intelligence and other new technologies. Over the past

century, we have tried to regulate warfare, we have tried to regulate weapons of mass destruction, but look at us today, embroiled in a new European war that every day threatens to turn into a nuclear-armed confrontation between world powers. Unfortunately, we do not have much to show for decades of effort to tame our own worst instincts and intelligence. Human discoveries are key to our history and of course they have brought great advances and opportunities for us human beings. But very often they have also come with heavy price tags, as we have discovered with climate change and the destruction of our environment. Earth has unfortunately been exhausted by our greed, hatred and disregard. That is why we must make sure that we shape artificial intelligence as "What We Will," because it is our responsibility to ensure that it provides us with real intelligence and not with artifice and even greater confusion.

Donald Trump is on course to return to the White House

IT had been five long years since Donald Trump last visited Turnberry, his golf resort in southwest Scotland, and when he landed in Aberdeen this week he announced "I'm home." This was clearly a dig at Joe Biden. After all, Trump, whose late mother Mary Anne MacLeod was born in the Western Isles, is far more Scottish than Biden is Irish.

Yet, jokes aside, there is no question that he does feel a great sense of being half-Scottish, despite his New York swagger. And his devotion to his mother is evident. This week he also cut a ribbon at a ceremony to break ground for a second course at his Menie Estate golf resort near Aberdeen. It will be called the MacLeod course in her honour. Since the Trump Organization bought Turnberry in 2014, significant changes have been made to the course. So far, 13 of the holes have been altered. After playing there on Wednesday afternoon, Trump sat down with the course managers to discuss improving the 6th and 7th holes. It says so much about the energy and ambition of the man. This was a whirlwind tour of Scotland for the ever-busy Trump. Today, he is on the west coast of Ireland visiting his golf resort at Doonbeg. When I met him on Wednesday to interview him for GB News - the only broadcast media interview that he had agreed to do on this tour - the first thing I said to him was "You must miss this." He confessed, "Yes, I miss it a lot."

It seems clear, however, that he won't be back at Turnberry again for quite some time. He will be 77 next month and despite his wonderful portfolio of golf courses and being a golf fanatic, his mind is fixed firmly on the next American presidential election. While he seemed in a much more relaxed

mood than when I'd seen him in America on previous occasions (playing two rounds of golf clearly helps) my impression is that none of his determination has gone away. In fact, I think that his use of populist messages will be even clearer and stronger than it was in the last two American elections. Perhaps the best example of this was when we discussed the war in Ukraine. Trump was emphatic that, if he were President, he would be able to negotiate a peaceful solution to the conflict within 24 hours. Some people might laugh at that declaration on the grounds that it's ludicrous, but the point is that nobody can forget that he said it. And this is what Trump does better than anybody: he says things that stick in people's minds. Through this technique, he manages to lead the debate. Having spent a fair bit of time with him on Wednesday, I also felt that he is a

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man whose anger - while tangible - is more measured than you might expect. With that said, he feels victimised by a politicised judiciary and he is utterly determined to fight for vindication. He will go all-out

to win. He already appears to have dealt a fatal electoral blow to Ron DeSantis.

I have no doubt that 70 million-plus Americans would vote for him. The question is, can he persuade enough of the rest of the electorate, whose votes he needs to win the election? Relying on people recognising that Joe Biden appears to be in fragile health, or that Kamala Harris is unsuitable for high office, will not be enough. Ultimately, it is Trump's big message that really matters. Although I am only too aware that the large scale use of mail-out ballots will always be open to question, I have disagreed with him somewhat

when it comes to his overemphasis on the "stolen" election. It is also entirely true that social media and mainstream media have refused to disclose the contents of the Hunter Biden laptop, which incriminated Joe Biden himself, despite everyone now knowing that the allegations surrounding this affair were accurate. But I believe that Trump is moving on from these things. He is even beginning to refer to it as "the rigged election" and saying the cards were stacked unfairly against him. When I questioned him on it, he said, "Look, you raised this, not me! If I give a speech for an hour, I might only talk about this for a few seconds." I think he would be wise to look to the future rather than the past. So, what is the missing ingredient that I think he will need to win the election? In 2016, he appeared virtually from nowhere in political terms with a pitch that said to the electorate: "I'm one of you, not one of them in the Washington Beltway. I'm on your side and I'm going to make your life better."

Trump was there to stand up as their champion. He must reaffirm this message. Of course he can talk about China, or the war in Ukraine, or about any number of other global affairs. Indeed, his foreign policy was perhaps the strongest part of his Presidency. But it is the hard sell to everyday Americans being hampered by the cost of living that should be his primary focus. He needs to outline a big, strong, positive message, because it is all too apparent that the Democrats will be unable to match him on that score. At the moment, the formula has not yet been created, and there's a while to go between now and November 2024. But having seen President Trump in such good form in recent days, I am convinced that he has more than a 50 per cent chance of winning the next election and returning to the White House.



How long will the Israeli aggression and torture last?

At least 90 countries of the world have called on Israel to lift the ban on Palestinians. A resolution was passed by the United Nations General Assembly on December 30 against Israel's occupation of the Palestinian territories. Later, on January 6, Israel announced a series of financial sanctions against the Palestinian Authority in retaliation. A meeting was held on January 16 to propose a recommendation to the United Nations Supreme Court (ICJ) on the Israeli occupation. Based on the consent of the majority of member countries, it is called to lift the restrictions on Israel.

There is no end to talk about Ukraine in the world now. Israel has been violating human rights in Palestine for ages. Where is the world's sense of humanity and conscience about Palestine? How many countries in the world are sent peacekeeping forces? Why peacekeeping forces are not sent to Palestine? Palestinians wake up with the fear of death. Land occupation and killing of Palestinians are both dardice for Israelis. The world conscience is silent on this matter. Gaza is practically an open-air prison. The Palestinians are Muslim, oppressed by a party that is oppressing them and occupying their land, whose extremism is clearly visible, but no one cares! The humanitarian disaster and genocide in Palestine is a chronic crisis of modern civilization. It seems that everyone has surrendered to the power of Israel.

Israeli attacks on Palestine continue and the situation is getting worse with time. More than 170 Palestinians were killed in Israeli aggression in 2022, the highest ever. More than 30 of the dead were children. At least 9,000 Palestinians were injured in the Israeli attack. The recent visit of the Minister of National Security, Ben Gavi, to the holy Al-Aqsa Mosque immediately after the formation of the new Israeli government has created a very tense situation, which poses a threat to local and regional security. Such provocative actions will push the lasting peace process in the Middle East further away.

According to AFP, the number of Palestinians killed in the West Bank this month has reached about 20 people. Besides, 256 Palestinians, including 66 children, were killed in the Israeli attack from May 10 to May 21, 2021. More than 2,000 Palestinians were injured, including 600 children and 400 women. The damage to infrastructure at that attack was severe. At that time 2000 buildings were destroyed. 8 lakh people were cut off from water supply. Ireland has previously cut ties with Israel and labeled the state a terrorist because of repeated attacks in complete violation of international law. Besides, 600 artists of the

Masud Rana

world have boycotted performing in Israel. India's ongoing campaign called 'Indian Campaign for the Cultural and Academic Boycott' calling for a cultural and academic boycott of Israel is based on the premise that normalizing relations with a violent occupying and apartheid state like Israel through knowledge and cultural exchange is deeply unjust and unethical.

According to Human Rights Watch's 2021 report, "Israel continues its intent to maintain Jewish dominance over Palestinians throughout the territories it controls." Many observers, diplomats, and human rights organizations have expressed concern over the actions of the Israeli military in the West Bank in the past year. The United Nations human rights agency UNHCR has spoken about Israeli soldiers before. His complaint is that Israeli soldiers use firearms on Palestinians merely out of suspicion or as a precaution. It is a violation of international principles.

Israel, the poison bed of the Middle East, has always shown monstrous power by being the biggest expansionist, terrorist, occupier and ally of the occupying country. In the past Jews were killed by Christians, killed by Nazis. English and British killed. Exiled from Europe. After killing nearly 6 million Jews, Adolf Hitler wrote in his autobiography, 'I could have killed all the Jews if I had wanted to. But I left something so that the next generation would understand how horrible they were, and why I was anti-Jewish.'

Terrorist Israel cannot sustain its illegal existence without the help of America and Europe. America and Europe know very well that for centuries they have been unable to do anything to the Arabs in overt and undercover battles, so they are finally playing with Israel as their chess piece.

Israel's goal is to destroy the resilience of Hamas, divide the Palestinians, and turn Lebanon against Hezbollah. They did not win either. Rather, they have been repeatedly defeated on the political front as well. Militarily, Hamas is one of the best in the world and technologically advanced for a hundred years, Israel and its allies such as the United States, Britain, and France have been forced to retreat many times. Not only that, after the attack on Gaza, the Israeli army was also disappointed! In an interview with the country's Channel 12, a pilot admitted, "We met the frustration of stopping the rocket attacks and destroying the Palestinian leadership by destroying their buildings."

Netanyahu had to leave with his head bowed down after the terrible persecution in Gaza, the killing of more than 250 Palestinians, including 65 children. After losing the post, there are allegations of corruption

against him. In addition, the International Criminal Court and human rights organizations appear to be more interested in bringing Israel to justice for war crimes.

Bangladesh has called for the cessation of any kind of provocative activities of Israel that destroy Palestinian and regional peace. It also reiterated its commitment to support the Palestinian people's right to a sovereign and viable state based on the 1967 borders with East Jerusalem as its capital. At the emergency meeting of the Executive Committee of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) held in Jeddah on January 10, Ambassador Mohammad Javed Patwari, Ambassador of Bangladesh to Saudi Arabia and Permanent Representative of OIC, expressed Bangladesh's opinion. The meeting was held to determine the actions to be taken to stop the incitement of Israel and the ongoing Israeli aggression against Palestine, which took place recently in the Al-Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem.

What is going on in Palestine cannot be justified by any moral code of conduct. Palestine is essentially an Arab country and must be allowed to remain an Arab country. Last May, a woman was lying down after being shot by Israeli soldiers in the West Bank of Palestine. frozen body wearing a jacket It says 'press'. I am talking about Al-Jazeera journalist Shirin Abu Akleh. He could not be saved. Shirin Aklehi is not the only journalist. Palestinian men and women from all walks of life and even the media have been victims of the Israeli occupation for decades. 2022 was no different for the Palestinians. This year was also like a nightmare for them because of Israel's occupation, raids and brutality. The United Nations itself said that the year just passed was the worst and worst for Palestinians in the West Bank since 2006.

Israel is a rogue state built illegally and illegally on the heart of the historical Palestinian state. This state, which was built through the forcible occupation of Palestinian land and the mass killing and displacement of Palestinians, has been behaving in a terrorist manner since day one. Only the abolition of this illegal state and the establishment of an independent Palestinian state can be the solution to the Arab-Israeli crisis. A time will come when the Jews will have to leave the settlement of Sadr with tears in their eyes. Atrocities and aggressions by the occupying Israeli forces have been increasing in recent years with the indifference of the international community, which is very worrying. Everyone must be vigilant in not diverting the attention of the United Nations and the international community from the new global crisis and the dire situation in the occupied Palestinian territories.

Khader Adnan death: Palestinians will not give up their struggle for freedom

ISRAEL'S occupation of Palestine has taken on a brutal escalation in recent months, with Israeli soldiers and prison guards appearing to believe that they are judge, jury and executioner. With the absence of accountability and almost zero investigations into Israeli field assassinations, it is clear that the death penalty has become a weapon of the occupiers.

The uptick in the number of shoot-to-kill cases has been widely reported, but it appears that Israel is also unhappy with the presence of an active community of prisoners. The handling of the case of Khader Adnan has shown that Israel has no respect or tolerance for prisoners' rights, which are guaranteed in international humanitarian law. The 45-year-old Palestinian activist was taken from his home in the West Bank town of Arabah on Feb. 5. Three weeks later, the Benjamin Netanyahu-led government progressed a bill that would allow courts to impose the death penalty for deadly terror attacks against Israelis. On the 86th day of his hunger strike, Adnan was found unconscious in his cell in an Israeli jail. He was later declared dead at a local hospital.

The introduction of a death penalty bill had been threatened by the far-right Minister of National Security Itamar Ben-Gvir, who supervises Israel's jails. A joint statement by Netanyahu and Ben-Gvir said that the initial bill stipulates that "courts will be able to impose a death penalty on those who committed a nationalistically motivated murder offense against a citizen of Israel." Adnan was on hunger strike demanding to know

why he was in jail. Israel imposes administrative detention on Palestinians based on a draconian law - the British Defence (Emergency) Regulations from 1945. In a May 1951 Knesset debate, then-Jewish activist and future Prime Minister Menachem Begin, who was branded a terrorist by the British, described the emergency laws that Israel today uses to legalize house demolitions and administrative arrests as "tyrannical" and "immoral." He said: "These are tyrannical laws, these are immoral laws, and these are Nazi laws. An immoral law is also an illegal law ... If these laws, the terrorist laws of an oppressive regime, remain in place in the state of Israel - one day there will not be left a single part of society unhurt by them."

As reported in the Hebrew media, an Israeli Jewish member of the Knesset, Ofer Kasif, from Hadash - the joint Arab-Jewish Democratic Front for Peace and Equality party - on Tuesday accused Israel of what he called the "cold-blooded" murder of Adnan, saying that the victim's blood will be "on Netanyahu's head." Kasif stated: "The occupation got what it wanted - after 10 administrative arrests without charges or evidence and 10 hunger strikes, the occupation managed to assassinate Khader Adnan in cold blood." According to Kasif, Adnan did not die but was murdered and he already blames Netanyahu for any blood that is spilled because of the revenge taken by Palestinian Islamic Jihad. "He was murdered because of his views. This is not a mistake - that was the goal," Khasif

said. The number of Palestinians held without charge or trial has reached more than 1,000, including children, professionals and elected officials. The Israeli human rights group HaMoked was quoted by the Associated Press as stating that, as of last month, the number of Palestinians held in administrative detention had reached 1,016. There were also four Israeli Jews being held without charge.

Israel knew that Adnan had previously, in 2015, been detained without being charged and that he went on a 55-day hunger strike before the authorities agreed to release him. That was the 10th time he had been held without charge. Israel also knew he would not end his hunger strike this time, but it failed to ensure that he was under constant watch by medical personnel. Article 13 of the 1949 Geneva Convention relative to the Treatment of Prisoners of War states that prisoners of war "must at all times be humanely treated. Any unlawful act or omission by the Detaining Power causing death or seriously endangering the health of a prisoner of war in its custody is prohibited, and will be regarded as a serious breach of the present Convention."

And UN General Assembly Resolution 45/111 of 1990 states in its ninth clause that: "Prisoners shall have access to the health services available in the country without discrimination on the grounds of their legal situation." In a last testament penned in jail by Adnan on April 2, two months into his hunger strike, he called on the Israeli occupiers not to carry out an autopsy on his body and said he

wanted to be buried in a simple grave next to his father's resting place. He also addressed the Palestinian people, writing: "I send you this will with love and greetings, with complete confidence in God's mercy ... this is God's land, and it is ours, and it contains a promise, the promise of the after-life. Do not despair, for whatever the occupiers may do, no matter how much they may trespass upon us with their occupation and injustice ... God's victory is near." Lawyers for Adnan's family are now fighting in the Israeli high court to ensure Israel respects the will of the deceased Palestinian.

The story of Adnan, who is considered by Palestinians as a martyr who died for a cause, brings back memories of a hunger-striking Irish prisoner who died in jail 42 years ago. On May 5, 1981, 27-year-old Sands, the IRA's leader in the Maze prison near Belfast, starved himself to death. Peter Taylor, who covered the story at the time, told the BBC his death was a watershed in Northern Ireland's Troubles, helping to pave the way for the Irish Republican Army's political wing, Sinn Fein, to become the largest party on the island of Ireland today. Palestinians deeply believe that their long ordeal will ultimately achieve its goals, even though many will have suffered in order to do so. Regardless of whether Israel legally imposes the death penalty or merely ensures that those who oppose it die in jail, Palestinians will continue their struggle for freedom and an end to the occupation. The sooner that sane Israelis and the international community realize that peace can prevail in Palestine and Israel the better.

We must do more to protect journalists

IN every corner of the world, journalists are intimidated and locked up at distressing rates and far too many are killed just for doing their jobs. On this World Press Freedom Day, there is much to be concerned about given the threats that journalists are facing daily. There is also much work to do to ensure that we have a world that recognises the need to guarantee the right to press freedom.

The Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ) is reporting a sharp rise in the number of journalists killed on the job in 2022. A total of 67 media workers died in the field, which is an almost 50 percent increase from 2021. The raging war in Ukraine is largely responsible for the uptick in the killing of journalists but there are other countries, notably Mexico and Haiti, where we are losing colleagues for reporting on the front lines or standing up to the tyranny of police states and terrorists.

The escalating violence in Israel and the occupied Palestinian territories is also claiming lives. In May 2022, Israeli forces killed veteran American-Palestinian journalist Shireen Abu Akleh while she was covering an Israeli military raid on a Palestinian refugee camp in Jenin, in the occupied West Bank. CPJ is also reporting that a record number of journalists were imprisoned in 2022, a sign of a

weakening of those press freedoms worldwide. There were 363 journalists detained in more than 30 countries last year, with the highest number of detainees held in Iran, China and Myanmar. The overall figure is nearly double from 2015 and the highest since the press freedom group began tracking imprisonments three decades ago. The recent arrest of Wall Street Journal reporter Evan Gershkovich in Moscow on trumped-up "espionage" charges has coincided with the news last week that a leading journalist in China named Dong Yuyu will be facing trial on similarly exaggerated charges of spying. These two arrests are two sides of the same coin: A crackdown on journalism by two authoritarian states that are intent on eroding press freedom.

The Chinese journalist, Yuyu, works for a major state media outlet called Guangming Daily, where he is an editor and commentator. He was a former Nieman Fellow at Harvard University in 2007, where I had a chance to meet him, and he is well known and respected for his forthright assessments and clear analysis of the challenges that China is facing. He was arrested a year ago, but his family just decided to go public as he is facing trial and up to 10 years in prison. Gershkovich, the 31-year-old Wall

Street Journal reporter based in Russia, was detained while on a reporting trip in Yekaterinburg in March. He is the first American journalist since the Cold War to be arrested by Russian security services. The Journal, the White House and press advocacy groups around the world deny Russia's claims that he was a spy and have called for his immediate release. Beyond the illegal arrests and detentions and beyond the killing of journalists, there is also a wave of harassment that is occurring daily, particularly targeting women, across the world. Journalists like Pakistan's Gharida Farooqi, have been the target of a vicious campaign of profane and menacing harassment. The struggle she has had just trying to do her job exemplifies a global epidemic of online harassment that quells the voices of thousands of women journalists worldwide who have been targeted, humiliated and attacked while in the field doing interviews, attending public events and covering breaking stories. In a survey of some 700 women journalists conducted by the nonprofit Washington-based International Center for Journalists (ICFJ) and UNESCO, nearly three out of four women journalists said they had suffered online abuse in their work. Some 30 percent of the

respondents said they were self-censoring on social media, while 38 percent tried to make themselves less visible online.

The report stated: "Online violence against women journalists is one of the most serious contemporary threats to press freedom internationally." The GroundTruth Project stands in solidarity with these colleagues and joins the CPJ, the Nieman Foundation and a long list of other advocacy organisations calling for justice for the killing and wrongful detention and intimidation campaigns online of journalists. GroundTruth has joined many news organisations in calling for the immediate release of both Gershkovich and Yuyu as well as too many other reporters wrongfully detained in Myanmar, Iran, Egypt, Nicaragua and a list of countries that is distressingly long. The organisation is expanding its Report for the World programme, which seeks to support independent media in countries around the world where we are seeing that an erosion of local journalism is running parallel to an erosion of democracy. On this World Press Freedom Day, we ask everyone to do what they can to support journalists who must be free to be out there on the ground in the most challenging places on earth to bring home the stories that matter and to do so without fearing for their lives.

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

Pak textile merchants carve out niche at Canton Fair

BEIJING (APP): “Business is good this time. Our trade volume may reach \$1 million for this phase,” said Gauhar Mustafa, Owner, Gohar Textile Mills Pvt Ltd., Pakistan, at the 133rd China Import and Export Fair held in Guangzhou, China.

The 133rd China Import and Export Fair, also known as the Canton Fair, concluded its third and final phase in Guangzhou, China on May 5. Over the past five days, textiles, fabrics and clothes were showcased alongside other products to international buyers.

It is Mustafa’s 5th time attending the fair. This year he had sustainable, recyclable home textiles with him. “We are getting many customers worldwide,” he pointed out, adding that as China’s epidemic prevention and control has entered a new stage, it is easier for international traders like him to travel back and forth, and trade delegations find it better to fortify ties with their partners and peers and explore new opportunities.

For Tayyab Rasheed,

Director Marketing (Towel Division), A.I. Textiles, Pakistan, the story is even longer. It is his 7th time here.

The textile sector in Pakistan has an overwhelming impact on the economy, contributing 60% to the country’s exports. In today’s highly competitive global environment, the textile sector needs to upgrade its supply chain, improve productivity, and maximize value-addition to be able to survive.

However, Pakistan’s textile group exports declined by 14.2 percent during the first 10 months (July-April) of the current fiscal year 2022-23 (FY23) and stood at \$13.71 billion as compared to \$15.97 billion during the same period last year, according to data released by All Pakistan Textile Manufacturers Association (APTMA) on May 2.

Standing out today as a leading manufacturer of quality Greige, fabric & made ups for home and institutional textile sectors across the globe, the company attracted buyers from different countries.

Rasheed told China Economic Net that some Chinese companies visited their booth, expressing willingness to deepen trade ties with the company as they offer fair price and fine quality at the same time.

“They also want to explore the Pakistani market. We hope that China and Pakistan can do more business and cooperate more with each other,” he further said.

As Rasheed put it, the textile sector in Pakistan has its competitiveness. Our industry is expanding - Pakistan produces its own cotton; now it has a state of the art machinery imported from Europe, China and so on; our labor cost is less than some other countries in Asia; therefore, we have edges to sell our quality products at cheaper prices.”

“I’m here to sell my products and I’m here to represent my country Pakistan,” he said proudly. He told the reporter that before they got many orders, many customers from this fair. And this

time, “Hopefully we will increase our sales with the whole world.”

Launched in 1957 and held twice yearly, Canton Fair is considered a major gauge of China’s foreign trade. This year’s fair resumed all on-site activities in Guangzhou, after being held largely online since 2020 due to COVID-19 prevention measures.

The on-site activities of the 133rd Canton Fair occupied an area of 1.5 million square meters, with 35,000 companies participating offline and foot traffic exceeding 2.9 million people. All figures set new records. During the offline exhibitions, export deals worth a total of \$21.69 billion were signed, which was better than expected, according to fair spokesperson Xu Bing.

The event attracted overseas buyers from more than 220 countries and regions either online or offline. Nearly 130,000 buyers attended the offline exhibitions, with approximately half coming from countries along the Belt and Road.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Azad Jammu and Kashmir Chaudhry Anwar Ul Haq meeting with Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar at Finance Division.

Secretary visits Woodwork Centre

GUJRAT (APP): Provincial Secretary Industries and Commerce Ehsan Bhutta visited Woodwork Center in Gujrat, operating under the administrative control of Technical Education and Vocational Training Authority (TEVTA).

Regional Director and other officers concerned accompanied the secretary. Punjab Industries Department’s spokesman told the media on Saturday.

The Project Director briefed the secretary about different sections of the institution that is famous for its wood works. The institute offers short courses and a three-year Diploma in Wood Work And Designing, which is in high demand both locally and abroad. Majority of the government offices buy office furniture from the institute due to its high quality, design and durability, the PD said.

The secretary appreciated the artisans working in different sections of the institute including polishing, painting, Kashi-Kari, laser calligraphy, sewing and wood cutting etc.

Gold prices up by Rs500

ISLAMABAD (APP): The per tola price of 24-karat gold increased by Rs500 and was sold at Rs225,500 on Saturday against its sale at Rs225,000 the previous day, the All Sindh Sarafa Jewellers Association reported.

The price of 10 grams of 24-karat gold also increased by Rs429 to Rs193,330 from Rs192,901, whereas the price of 10 grams of 22-karat gold went up to Rs177,219 from Rs176,826.

The price of per tola silver decreased by Rs 80 to close at Rs2870 and that of ten-gram silver also dipped by Rs68.58 to close at Rs2460.56 while price of gold in international market dipped by \$ 19 to close at \$2017 against the sale of \$2036, Association reported.

Pakistan earns \$535m by exporting transport services

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan earned US \$535.870 million by providing different transport services in various countries during the eight months of the current fiscal year (2022-23) as compared to the corresponding period of last year.

This shows a growth of 8.06 per cent as compared to \$495.880 million earned through the provision of services during the corresponding period of the fiscal year (2021-22), the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) reported.

During the months under review, the exports of sea transport services witnessed an increase of 42.38 per cent, going up from \$74.310 million last year to \$105.800 million during the months under review.

Among the sea transport

services, the exports of freight services increased by 104.65 per cent from \$44.080 million last year to \$90.210 million whereas the exports of other sea transport services decrease by 48.43 per cent from \$30.230 million to \$15.590 million current year, the PBS data revealed.

The exports of air transport rose by 2.71 per cent going up from \$406.150 million last year to \$417.170 million during July-February (2022-23).

Among the air transport services, the exports of passenger services increased by 6.22 per cent, from \$266.240 million to \$282.810 million, whereas the exports of freight services surged by 3.35 per cent, from \$20.320 million to \$21.000 million, in addition, the export of other air

transport services dipped by 5.21 per cent from \$119.590 million to \$113.360 million.

Meanwhile, the exports of road transport services during the months under review witnessed a decline of 17.25 per cent by going down from \$10.320 million to \$8.540 million during this year, it added.

Among the road transport services, the exports of freight services increased by 18.22 percent, from \$2.360 million to \$2.790 million during the fiscal year under review, while other road services dipped by 27.76 percent to \$ 5.750 million from \$7.960 million.

The export of postal and courier services also declined by 14.51 per cent, from \$5.100 million to \$4.360 million, the data revealed.

Pakistan’s pavilion to help enhance exports to China, other SCO states

BEIJING (APP): Pakistan’s pavilion at the Qingdao SCODA Pearl International Expo Center is a great platform to enhance Pakistan’s exports to China and other countries of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO). “This kind of online platform is very important to enhance our exports but it has to be more demand-driven,” Commercial Councilor, Pakistan Embassy Beijing, Ghulam Qadir told APP.

The international expo center is located in the core area of the SCO Local Economic and Trade Cooperation Demonstration Area (SCODA), with a total area of 168,800 square meters. In November 2022, the center was put into operation.

Pakistan has exhibited products including clothes, rice, and various food items, and also displayed its culture and traditions at one of the exhibition halls.

Ghulam Qadir said that there is a need to see what kinds of products are being imported by China and what are their preferences.

“We also need to know

the demand by the other SCO countries, and based on their demand, we need to increase and diversify such products which are to be displayed here,” he added. He said the pavilion facility is actually supported by the government of China. And it was given to Pakistan for the very reason that the Chinese government also wants Pakistan to enhance its exports to China.

He pointed out that there is a huge trade deficit with China which could be bridged to enhance Pakistan’s export to China. “This pavilion is a great opportunity to showcase our brands, diversified products, our talents. People can have a taste of Pakistani food and other products,” he added.

In a recent media tour to Qingdao, Shandong province organized by the CIGC Center for Asia and Pacific and the Information Office of the Qingdao Municipal People’s Government, the correspondents from Pakistan, China, and other countries were briefed that the SCODA was designed

with the purpose of building China’s first and only business, tourism and cultural complex for SCO countries, and a space for experiencing new scenarios of cultural tourism.

To further facilitate economic and trade cooperation with the SCO countries and build a modern trade comprehensive service carrier, the SCO Local Economic and Trade Cooperation Demonstration Area (SCODA) took into consideration the economic and trade application scenarios and cooperation needs of SCO countries, relied on the China International Trade Single Window, and creatively established the China-SCO Local Economic and Trade Cooperation Comprehensive Service Platform.

The platform was officially launched online on November 25, 2022. With the support of the General Administration of Customs, it has become the first international zone of the China International Trade Single Window.

The purpose of the platform is to build a home port for Chinese enterprises to enter other SCO countries, and vice versa. It provides services for trade entities, logistics entities, financial institutions, and regulatory agencies through three application carriers: an online web page, a handheld mobile terminal, and an offline service center.

The Service Platform consists of three major systems: comprehensive information display, comprehensive function application, and comprehensive data release. With the eight modules of cross-border procurement, one-stop clearance, full-chain logistics, intelligent tax engine, featured finance, panoramic service, new district window, digital SCO, and 73 sub-functions, the platform provides SCO countries with the full-cycle, full-factor, and full-chain one-stop solutions for economic and trade cooperation, with the integration of trade with customs clearance, logistics, and finance.

Founder kicks off drive for LCCI polls

LAHORE (APP): Founder, the largest group of businessmen and industrialists, in its meeting here on Saturday formally kicked off campaign to muster support from voters for the forthcoming annual election to the Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LCCI).

A large number of trade leaders including former

Lahore chamber’s presidents Shahzad Ali Malik, Mian Misbah, Sheikh Muhammad Asif, Almas Hyder, Abdul Basit, Sheikh Shahid Hassan were also present.

Addressing the meeting, veteran trade leader and former LCCI President Shahzad Ali Malik vowed that he would continue to hold business community

in high esteem and help solve their problems on priority as business community is the backbone of national economy.

Elaborating the election strategy to the Founder’s members, Malik said, “We will visit all major markets and hold marathon sessions with office-bearers of respective local trade unions.”

Malik said that after taking the trade leaders into confidence, Founder took a consensus decision that only the capable candidates having good reputation among business community would be awarded the Founder’s tickets in the next annual election of Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

Political dilemma in contemporary Pakistan

Khawaja Wajih-u-Din

The mystery of old or new Pakistan is one of the most difficult conundrums for the experts. Other things remaining the same, one thing is constant in both the cases, and that is corruption in our country is a way of life.

As a child I remember seeing a TV drama titled “Mirza Ghalib Bandar road par”. Perhaps pretend two days immediately after partition. In one scene a business deal was being struck. It showed one person shrinking his arms and signaling 75% as a very small share and by stretching them, showed 25% as a very big share. This perhaps was the mindset from the beginning.

Anybody who is somebody tries to get undue favours including uncovered Bank Loans or loan write-offs securing guh land, allotments at throw away prices, or obtaining government jobs for their kith and kin on considerations other than merit. So it can be said without any fear of contradiction that in our country,

Pakistan is reeking with to-day has flowed or filtered down directly from the higher echelons of power, the so called elite. So the effect on an average man is pretty obvious, and to-day the result is that cor-

ruption has been accepted as a way of life.

The same is the position in almost all the third world countries, but in Pakistan, it has assumed most dangerous proportions and now we are being known as the one of the most corrupt countries in the world.

Let us define the world corruption. It is really a very wide and comprehensive term. Anyone who shows favour to some person at the expense of the other is certainly corrupt. It is not necessary that he should take money or accept illegal gratification for this purpose. A person who does not follow merit may not be financially but is certainly morally corrupt.

Similarly a government or a system or an authority, who deprives a certain person of his legitimate right willfully and deliberately and out of malice is also corrupt. In the same way a businessman who cheats the customer, indulges in black marketing, uses false measures, adulterates goods, or a professional person who charges exorbitant fees for his services rendered, are all corrupt and guilty. They do contribute towards rapid deterioration in the moral standards of the society. In all to amass wealth by all means and get rich quick, is very sad commentary on the actual state of affairs at

they can go to any length in their quest for GOD of MAMMONS.

Corruption is prevalent in all the countries of the world but in our country it is a very horrible problem, necessitating immediate consideration.

History tells us that majority of corrupt elements have become clean overnight just by switching their loyalties. Be as it may, we see the same set of people leaving the sinking boat and make use of the popular public sentiment for achieving the above mentioned goals. In the past also we have seen influential people joining the popular party without caring for their political ideology. The end result is the same big wigs form the successive governments to further their agenda, without considering the misery of a common man. To continue to stay in office was and is the main objective, whatever the cost.

For an ordinary Pakistani citizen to get trivial things done is a Herculean task. He either has to look for a contact or has to resort to other methods of corruption. As a matter of routine we see people in authority behaving like a master who has some superiority complex.

Some people allege that even some postings and appointments cost money.

If someone has to pay up huge amount of money for a posting or an appointment, naturally, he would ensure that he gets the return with huge profits. The ultimate sufferer is the system and ordinary people of Pakistan. This has necessitated large scale bunglings, foul play and what not. For decade’s loans, amounting to billions, money laundering of billions, tax evasion, Land grabbing, fraud and misuse of power and different scandals have surfaced against the bigwigs but with no logical conclusion. The cases been stuck up against so-called big people wilding political influence, and the ultimate recovery is undoubtedly herculean task requiring tremendous energy and dedication.

Everyone who has a chance tries his best to accumulate wealth at the expense of poor people of the country. Surely most of us have watched in deep disgust and anguish, the havoc caused by the so-called elite to the governance with the unscrupulous “auction” of sacred trust of people. It’s high time that we realize that one of the reasons for rise in extremism in the country is that people are not getting their due.

As yet there has been no concrete academic discussion in our country on the

omenon of corruption. Introduction of the news channels was a good step but it has been reduced into a propaganda machine by the corrupt element. Of course an Ex-president of Pakistan is on record as that if a person in this country is not corrupt, he is not Pakistani. It is really very painful to see that nobody in this country is apparently satisfied. Patriotism is at all time low. This is because of false values and false standards wrongly or mistakenly adopted. Just cast a glance on our politicians. Most of them get elected on catchy slogans playing on the nerves of the poor innocent gullible people, and also Spending money recklessly on the election campaign.

The simple and straightforward people are duped and deceived by various slogans. It would be no exaggeration to say that by and large, a person of modest means can hardly think of fighting an election. It is because the amount of money required is colossal, and is beyond his reach money.

We see that elite enjoys a very high standard of living., moving in Hondas and Pajeros, living in posh houses, besides enjoying a very high standard of life. It is still more surprising to see our religious leaders, using Pajeros as a matter of

routine. It is still more surprising to see that most of them are not even literate, and only by exploiting religion they run the whole show, to the utter disappointment and frustration of the helpless electorate who are just silent spectators to this gory drama perpetuated in the name of either religion or democracy or both. No wonder we see many countryman seeking greener pastures.

The former Chief Minister of a province while speaking to kids is on record having said that corruption is normal.

The crisis that Pakistan is facing on the economic front is so humongous that only God knows how we will come out of it. The major reason for it is corruption and only corruption. Miss management of government resources for the sake of political considerations is corruption. Sugar crisis, flour crisis, petrol prices are a few to be named. Ex Prime Minister of Pakistan has been quoted in the press that fraud of Rs.20 billion has been played on the people of Pakistan in the recent free flour distribution. All these things are controlled by big cartels who’s aim is to fleece the common man. Unfortunately they have roots everywhere.

So as an ordinary citizen of this country, I would like

give some plausible suggestions, which if implemented with sincerity and dedication, can go long way in getting rid of this menace.

1. All appointments shall be made on merit. The methodology of right man for the right job be adhered to. This is all the more mandatory to arrest the brain drain. Federal or provincial public service of commissions needs to be strengthened.

2. Display of wealth and ostentation should be banned. Pajero culture is very offensive and needs curtailment at least. In a country where people cannot feed their children properly and health and medical facilities are almost non-existent, people are dying due to all time high inflation, as a whole are generally frustrated and dismayed.

3. Similarly there should be no house built on a plot of more than 1000 Sq.yds.

4. Admission in schools and colleges should be purely on merit. The curriculum needs to focus more on honesty, professionalism, innovation, creativity and hard work.

5. In the federation and the provinces, all senior assignments in the field and secretariat, should be made on merit, with the prior approval of the President and the Governor respec-

tively.

6. The judiciary must be strengthened, so that it can ensure “equality before law. Having said that the judicial system itself requires revamping.

7. Average pay needs to be increased to a level so that an ordinary person can live a decent life.

8. In this world of social media the government by setting an example should try to inculcate morality and ethics amongst the younger generation.

9. Efficiency level needs to be improved everywhere. Personal likes and dislikes should give way to professionalism.

10. And finally all special allotments of lands to everyone should be abandoned.

Let it be clearly stated that it is not possible to get rid of this menace, which has eaten in into our vitals, but it can be cut to some size, if consistent efforts coupled with sincerity of purpose, are made, but it will have to a long-term Jihad. Of course dedication in pursuing this noble objective is a sine quo none.

I genuinely feel that if these measures are adopted in good faith, there will be a significant improvement in the situation in the foreseeable future.

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In brief

Sethi felicitates cricket team for becoming No 1 ICC team

KARACHI (APP): Chairman of Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) Management Committee Najam Sethi has congratulated the Pakistan Cricket squad on becoming world no.1 in ICC One-Day International category. He, in his Saturday late-night message, said that the Pakistan team got the first position in the ICC ODI ranking by defeating New Zealand in the fourth ODI match in the metropolis. He said that it was a happy moment. Najam Sethi said, 'I am proud of this team and wish the best for them.' He said that Pakistan Cricket team captain Babar Azam, the whole team, and the coaching staff deserved the appreciation at this great moment. The PCB Chairman recalled that in his previous tenure as PCB chairman the Pakistan team had achieved a landmark by becoming the number one team in the lists of Test and T201. He hoped that this training would also help win Asia Cup and then World Cup.

Archery Association gets new cabinet

PESHAWAR (APP): Pir Adil Shah, Haji Sharafat Ullah and Sarfaraz Khan have been elected as Chairman, President and General Secretary of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Archery Association (Wisal Group) here at election meeting held at a local hotel on Saturday. Former Secretary General of the Pakistan Archery Federation and founder of Archery Games in Pakistan Wisal Muhammad was also present on this occasion with no representatives from Directorate General Sports Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, and KP Olympic Association were there to act as observers. However, the elections of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Archery Association (Wisal Group) have been completed with Pir Adil Shah Chairman, Haji Sharafatullah President and Sarfraz Khan Secretary were elected unopposed. Representatives from Dera Ismail Khan, Bannu, Malakand, Kohat, Hazara, Swat, Swabi and Peshawar participated in the election. Wasal Muhammad Khan, the founder of Archery in Pakistan and Ex-Secretary General of the Federation, former Secretary of Provincial Archery Association Kashif Anwar and Nawab Ali of Provincial Sports Directorate were also present in the meeting. In the meeting, the election of officials for the next four years of the Cabinet of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Archery Association (Wisal group) was carried out unanimously. Pir Adil Shah from Kohat elected as Chairman with Senior Vice President Haseeb Ahmed Khan, Vice Presidents Asghar Khan, Miss Sumayyah (Swat), Miss Jawaira, Miss Sumayyah Afzal, Muhammad Hanif, Associate Secretary Faiza Bibi and Finance Secretary Imran Khan are the other elected members. The Executive Committee includes Mustafa, Rabhani Shah, Waqar Syed, Sohail Ahmed and Jawairia Khan. On this occasion, newly elected Secretary General and Level-II international coach of archery, Sarfaraz Khan said that the district of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa are a stronghold of archery along with other sports, but unfortunately, no heat was paid to the players of other districts. He said no work has been done for archery's promotion in this region.

Nervy Man City beat Allardyce's Leeds to go four points clear at top

M A N C H E S T E R (Agencies): Manchester City moved four points clear at the top of the Premier League by surviving a late scare to beat a Leeds side playing under new manager Sam Allardyce for the first time. Two fine first-half goals by Ilkay Gundogan had done the damage for City, who appeared utterly dominant as they headed towards their 10th straight league win. Gundogan's first neat finish, which came after Riyad Mahrez found him in space on the edge of the area, was into the bottom left-hand corner of Joel Robles' goal. His second, again with Mahrez the provider, was identical apart from that he found the opposite corner of the net. City were in full control but could not find a third goal to finish Leeds off after the break. Even Erling Haaland, for once, failed to score - his best effort came back off the post. Their best chance to wrap the game up came with six minutes to go, when Pascal Struijk fouled Phil Foden inside the area and referee Andrew Madley pointed to the spot. Regular penalty-taker Haaland passed up the chance to take it and add to his 51-goal tally for the season, but saw Gundogan miss out on a hat-trick when he

sent his effort against the post. That gave Leeds hope and, only 58 seconds later, they were somehow back in the game. Manuel Akanji failed to deal with a long ball and substitute Rodrigo beat Ederson with a low finish. Their noisy supporters roared them forward in search of an unlikely equaliser but City were not in the mood to let the three points slip. Pep Guardiola's side march on, with the next step in their Treble bid coming against Real Madrid at the Bernabeu on Tuesday, in the first leg of their Champions League semi-final. They now have four Premier League games left and for the first time this season have a significant lead over second-placed Arsenal, who travel to third-placed Newcastle on Sunday. Leeds and Allardyce, meanwhile, only have a grim fight against relegation ahead. With three games left, they remain out of the relegation zone on goal difference - but they will have to show far more attacking intent in the next few weeks if they are to avoid the drop. Gundogan shows his value to Man City Gundogan's contract ends in the summer, and it is games like this that show how foolish it would be for City to

allow him to leave after seven years at Etihad Stadium. The 32-year-old Germany midfielder is far less flamboyant than some of his City teammates but his knack for finding space or timing his run to make or score a goal remains an important weapon. He made the difference here, even if he should probably leave the spot-kicks to Haaland in future. Until the late drama that followed Gundogan's miss, this was exactly the kind of stroll that City wanted before they face Real in a tie that will define their season. Guardiola made seven changes from the team that beat West Ham on Wednesday, many of them with Madrid in mind, but there was no sign of any loss of rhythm. The biggest concern will be an injury to left-back Nathan Ake, who was forced off in the second half and must be a doubt for Tuesday. Leeds have something to build on Allardyce's comments at his unveiling in midweek, when he claimed to be the equal of any manager in the Premier League, succeeded in taking the pressure off his players before kick-off, but he could do little more to help them once the game began.

Babar's next goal of winning World Cup

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistani Skipper Babar Azam who would be completing the century of matches in ODI format on Sunday was focused to set more records in the game and sees winning the World Cup as his next goal. Babar has had an illustrious career since he made his debut for Pakistan in ODI against Zimbabwe in Lahore almost eight years ago. The prolific batter has transformed himself into one of the most successful batters in recent history. He has been the number-one batter on the ICC ODI Rankings since 2 April 2022 and currently holds the Sir Garfield Sobers Trophy for ICC Men's Cricketer of the Year and ICC Men's ODI Cricketer of the Year award, the last being his second in as many years. "Being the captain of a World Cup winning side would be sweet," in Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) Podcast. When Pakistan and New Zealand would walk out for their final meeting of the five-match ODI series at the National Bank Stadium on Sunday afternoon, Babar,

the fastest batter to 5,000 runs, will complete the century of matches in the format. Babar believes team director Mickey Arthur's presence has been integral in the transformation of the prolific batter. The presence of Mickey Arthur, the then head coach and now team director, helped him evolve into a reliable stroke-maker. "I want to mention Mickey as he played an integral role in my transformation. As a cricketer, there's a feeling that if you are not up to the mark, you might get dropped from the side, but he gave me the confidence. He asked me to give my best to the side and not worry about getting axed from the side and that helped me a great deal. He did not only do it with me but with every player in the side and that is why we have eight to nine players in the side currently from that lot," he said. Speaking about the road to becoming an international cricketer he said was full of sacrifices. "I was very close to my paternal uncle and when he passed away, I was on a tour with Pakistan U19

in South Africa. He always used to take care of my bats and repair them for me. I lost my paternal grandmother when I was playing a match in Islamabad. I could not make in time for the final rituals, as I could not find a bus to Lahore. "My journey has had its fair share of sacrifices. But, I am glad that I have a family that supports me. My mother bought me my first-ever cricket bat and gear, and I used that bat for good two to three years. My dad has been a great influence in my life. He tells me to be never complacent and that keeps me hungry and focused. My brothers always lend me support in tough times," he said. Babar said the most crucial bit in leading a team was to provide clarity to each and every player and have honest and open communication with the players. "This breeds positivity in the team environment and brings everyone together as a team. As a captain, you have a kind of a dual responsibility because as a non-captain, you only focus on your field and batting, but now you also have to

Booker scores 47, Durant adds 39, Suns beat Nuggets 121-114



PHOENIX (AP): Devin Booker has carried a massive offensive load for the Phoenix Suns in these playoffs, averaging more than 35 points per game despite defenders draped all over him in most games. Faced with a nearly must-win game on Friday night, he somehow did even more. Booker scored 47 points, Kevin Durant added 39 and the Phoenix Suns beat the Denver Nuggets 121-114 to cut Denver's lead to 2-1 in their Western Conference semifinal series. "It's all I know, this is all I dreamed of as a kid," Booker said. "I've dedicated a lot of my life, moved away from my family when I was young, to pursue being in these moments."

Booker had another ultra-efficient scoring night, shooting 20 of 25 from the field, including 5 of 8 from 3-point range. Durant shot just 12 of 31 from the field, but made 14 of 16 free throws. "They knew what we had to do to win this game," Suns coach Monty Williams said. The Suns will try to even the series in Game 4 on Sunday in Phoenix. The Suns took a 90-88 lead into the fourth quarter, retaking the lead after the Nuggets erased a 15-point halftime deficit. Phoenix scored the first nine points of the fourth — including the final two on Durant's fast-break dunk — to push their advantage to 99-88. They wouldn't trail in the fourth quarter. Durant

started 1 for 9 from the field but made 11 of his final 22. "It's frustrating not making shots, because that's what I'm paid to do," Durant said. "But there also comes a time when you've just got to figure it out and push through it." Denver's Nikola Jokic — who finished second in the MVP voting on Tuesday to Philadelphia's Joel Embiid — finished with 30 points, 17 assists and 17 rebounds. Jamal Murray led the Nuggets with 32 points, while Michael Porter Jr. added 21 points and 12 rebounds. Murray said he was disappointed he didn't contribute more down the stretch. "I had some great looks at the end of the game and that would have kept us right there," Murray said. "I feel like they pulled away because of that. I have to be more locked in, more relaxed down the stretch." Denver coach Michael Malone said his team played well at times, but that the defense against Booker was "unacceptable." Booker repeatedly got near the rim for short jumpers or layups, which contributed to the 20 of 25 shooting night.



MANCHESTER: Erling Haaland of Manchester City battles with Rasmus Kristensen of Leeds United (L) during the Premier League match between Manchester City and Leeds United at Etihad Stadium.

Henry hopes NZ can avoid whitewash against world No 1 Pakistan

KARACHI (Monitoring Desk): Bowler Matt Henry is hopeful New Zealand can avoid a series whitewash in Pakistan by producing an improved display in Sunday's fifth and final one-day international against the world number one side. New Zealand landed in Pakistan without regular skipper Kane Williamson, who is likely to miss this year's World Cup with a knee injury, while several frontline players are busy honouring franchise commitments in the Indian Premier League. The team under Tom Latham managed to draw the preceding T20 series 2-2 but Pakistan have taken an unassailable 4-0 lead in the one-day series.

In the fourth ODI on Friday, skipper Babar Azam smashed 107 to help Pakistan post a commanding 334-6 at the National Stadium in Karachi. In reply, New Zealand were all out for 232 in the 44th over to succumb to a 102-run defeat. "It's a shame we really haven't had the success that we wanted to ... " Henry told reporters after the loss. "Even though it's not nice not to have won, we're definitely taking some positives out of this tour so far. "We've still got one game to go and hopefully we can put that performance together." The tourists are hoping the experience of playing nine limited-overs matches in subcontinent conditions would stand them in good stead at the ODI World Cup in India later this year.

Henry had no hesitations admitting Pakistan had outplayed his team in home conditions. "First and foremost, our focus has been on this tour. We're coming here to Pakistan to challenge ourselves and compete the best we can," said the 31-year-old who has been New Zealand's best bowler on this tour. "Obviously it's frustrating to be four-nil but sometimes you've got to give kudos to the way that Pakistan have been playing their cricket. "They are obviously number one in the world at the moment and playing in their home conditions. "They've been able to really adapt to these conditions and put the squeeze on key moments."

Exhibition hockey match to be played tomorrow

MULTAN (APP): The exhibition hockey match between Commissioner XI and International Players XI will be played at AstroTurf hockey stadium tomorrow. Divisional Sports Officer Rana Nadeem Anjum said that Commissioner Multan Engineer Aamir Khattak was striving for promotion of sports. An exhibition hockey match organized by Sports department and District Hockey Association will be played tomorrow in this regard. Aamir Khattak will lead the Commissioner XI while Pakistan's famous international players will entertain hockey fans in the match with their best game in the newly constructed AstroTurf hockey stadium.

Amir five-wicket haul leads Pakistan U19 to nine-wicket win

C H A T T O G R A M (Monitoring Desk): A five-wicket haul from Amir Hassan and half-centuries by Shahzaib Khan and Azan Awais led Pakistan U19 to a nine-wicket win over Bangladesh U19 in the first one-day at the Zahur Ahmed Chowdhury Stadium in Chattogram on Saturday. The second one-day of the five-match series will be played at the same venue on 8 May. Chasing a modest 166-run target, Pakistan U19 got off to a great start with the opening pair of Shahzaib Khan and Azan Awais providing a solid 148-run stand for the first wicket. Left-handed Shahzaib, who was named

player of the match in the solitary four-day match held last week, got out after making 83 off 116 deliveries. His innings included seven fours and three sixes. Left-handed Azan returned undefeated on 69 off 99 balls, hitting six fours and a six as the touring side achieved the target in the 38th over. Earlier, after being put into bat by Pakistan U19 captain Saad Baig, the hosts' batters had no reply to a great spell of fast bowling from Rawalpindi-born Amir Hassan. Amir, who picked up four wickets in the first innings of Bangladesh U19 in the four-day match, bagged

five wickets today. He ended with match figures of 10-2-24-5 as Bangladesh U19 scored 165 for nine in their 50 overs. For Bangladesh U19, Mahfuzur Rahman Rabby was the notable run-getter with 70 not out off 100 balls, which included eight fours and two sixes. **Scores in brief:** Pakistan U19 beat Bangladesh U19 by nine wickets Bangladesh U19 165-9, 50 overs (Mahfuzur Rahman Rabby 70 not out; Amir Hassan 5-24) Pakistan U19 166-1, 37.2 overs (Shahzaib Khan 83, Azan Awais 69 not out) Player of the match – Amir Hassan (Pakistan U19).

Zalmi Foundation awards Rs1m to Arshad Nadeem for Commonwealth Games feat



F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: Zalmi Foundation on Saturday awarded javelin-thrower Arshad Nadeem one million rupees as a token of appreciation for his last year's historic feat in the Commonwealth Games in Birmingham, UK. The prize money was awarded to Arshad by Pakistan Super League franchise Peshawar Zalmi's

Director Cricketing Affairs, Muhammad Akram on behalf of franchise chairman Javed Afridi and Zalmi Foundation. "Today, we were pleased to welcome Arshad Nadeem to the Zalmi Headquarters to present him with the well-deserved cheque by the Director Cricketing Affairs Peshawar Zalmi, Muhammad Akram. Zalmi takes pride in recognizing and celebrating

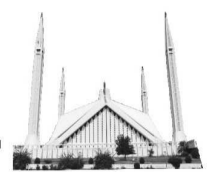
the achievements of our national heroes, and encourages the youth from all walks of life to strive for excellence and make our country proud," a statement issued by Zalmi said. The 26-year-old Arshad claimed the gold medal in the javelin throw event of the Commonwealth Games with a massive throw of 90.18m at Alexander Stadium, Birmingham in August, last year.

Torch of the 34th National Games reaching City on Sunday evening

PESHAWAR (APP): The torch of the 34th National Games, which will begin this month in Quetta, and was lit at the Quaid-e-Azam's mausoleum in Karachi a day earlier has been sent to other parts of the country and will be reaching historical City Peshawar, famous as the City of flowers. According to the program, the torch will reach Bacha Khan International Airport Peshawar on May 7 in the evening. International athletes will bring it to Peshawar Sports Complex on the same day with special arrangements having been made for the Torch to reach Peshawar. On May 8, the torch will be brought to PAF Headquarters Peshawar from where it will again go to Peshawar Sports Complex and from there in traditional Tango rally, the

Torch will be taken to various markets throughout Peshawar city with the aim of creating awareness among the public about the Games initiated by Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah in 1948. The torch will be handed over to the Punjab Olympic Association on May 9 at Attock (Khairabad Bridge). Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's 372-member squad will participate in the 34th National Games for which currently trials have been continued and all the participating associations are conducting their trials on different dates and some of them have their training camps. The number of male athletes is 252 and the women officials will be 17 while ten more officials will go with the squad. DG Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Sports Board will be the Chef de Mission

of the squad while with them Ilyas Afridi and Miss Safina Babar have been appointed as Deputy Chief of Mission. The contingent, in the first phase, will leave for Quetta on May 11 to participate in 12 different Games to be organized in the first phase and this time the Games have been divided in two phases due to lack of accommodation in Quetta city. In the first stage, there will be team events, while in the second stage, individual competitions will be held. The sailing competitions will be held in Karachi. Syed Aqil Shah said that the formal opening ceremony of these games will be held on May 22. In the first phase, hockey, football, handball, boxing, baseball, kabaddi, volleyball, badminton, rugby, and wrestling will be held.



In brief

Police held owner of dog for biting, injuring boy

RAWALPINDI (APP): Police have arrested the owner of a dog biting and injuring a ninth class student in Ganjamandi area, informed police spokesman on Saturday. Muazzam was walking the dog without a chain, the accused had left the dog open, which bit his son and injured him. Ganjamandi police registered a case on the request of the victim's father and arrested the dog's owner Khurram. SP Rawal Town said that the case will be investigated on merit and the arrested accused will be challaned by the court with concrete evidence and will be punished. Meanwhile, Rawalpindi police have arrested two proclaimed offenders wanted in cheque dishonor case. Police have registered separate cases against both of them and further investigation was in progress.

IRSA releases 148,200 cusecs water

ISLAMABAD (APP): Indus River System Authority (IRSA) on Saturday released 148,200 cusecs water from various rim stations with inflow of 135,900 cusecs. According to the data released by IRSA, the water level in River Indus at Tarbela Dam was 1438.82 feet and was 40.82 feet higher than its dead level of 1,398 feet. Water inflow and outflow in the dam was recorded as 37,500 cusecs while outflow as 48,000 cusecs. The water level in River Jhelum at Mangla Dam was 1122.35 feet, which was 72.35 feet higher than its dead level of 1,050 feet. The inflow and outflow of water was recorded 43,200 cusecs and 45,000 cusecs respectively. The release of water at Kalabagh, Taunsa, Guddu and Sukkur was recorded as 68,700, 53,700, 38,900 and 9,000 cusecs respectively. Similarly, from River Kabul, a total of 35,000 cusecs of water released at Nowshera and 11,300 cusecs released from River Chenab at Marala.

Raja congratulates National Cricket Team

ISLAMABAD (APP): National Assembly Speaker, Raja Pervaz Ashraf extended his heartfelt congratulations to the national cricket team on their recent victory against New Zealand in the one-day series and attaining the number one spot in the International Cricket Council's (ICC) ranking. In a message on Saturday, Raja Pervaz Ashraf applauded the entire management and all the players, including chairman Najam Sethi, for their efforts in bringing glory to the country. He praised the team's dedication and hard work, which resulted in their outstanding achievement of becoming the world's best cricket team. The Speaker also lauded captain Babar Azam for scoring the fastest 5,000 runs in one day cricket and urged other players to follow in his footsteps. He emphasized that the Pakistani youth possess immense talents and have proven their abilities in every field. In conclusion, Raja Pervaz Ashraf congratulated the Pakistan cricket team on their success and expressed his belief that they would continue to make the country proud with their outstanding performances.



ISLAMABAD: Establishment of Free Medical Camp by 21 Wing Panjnad Rangers to provide the facility of free medical checkup minor treatments and free medicines to the needy and poor people at Noor Pur Shah Girls High School Bari Imam. —APP Photo

Strategic dialogues between Pakistan, China and Afghanistan a welcome gesture: Abdul Qadir

ISLAMABAD (INP): Chairman Senate Standing Committee on Petroleum and Natural Resources Senator Abdul Qadir on Saturday said the strategic dialogue between the Foreign Ministers of Pakistan, China and Afghanistan are very important and welcomed to establish an atmosphere of trust and cooperation between Pakistan and Afghanistan for regional peace and stability. In his press statement, he viewed that the visit of the Chinese Foreign Minister will strengthen bilateral relations as well as Pakistan-Afghanistan relations will be boosted with the effective role of China.

He said that Pakistan and China are strategic partners and iron friends. Chinese Foreign Minister Chen Gong's visit to Pakistan will strengthen strategic ties between the two countries and make practical cooperation

more effective, integrated and deepened.

He said that the Chinese leadership believes in the philosophy of economic development and elimination of regional differences.

Qadir said that Afghan Interim Foreign Minister is also on a visit to Pakistan along with a high-level delegation, whose arrival in Pakistan is of extraordinary importance in view of the situation in both countries and the region. The strategic dialogue between the Foreign Ministers of Pakistan, China and Afghanistan is very important and welcome.

He said that during the visit, the strategic cooperation partnership between Pakistan and China will be confirmed and a roadmap for multilateral cooperation will be prepared.

He said that the visit of the Chinese Foreign Minister to Pakistan is a manifestation of frequent

talks between the officials of the two countries. Pakistan and Afghanistan also need to continue discussing bilateral issues at the official level.

He said that there is an urgent need to establish an atmosphere of trust and cooperation between Pakistan and Afghanistan for regional peace and stability. Both countries are suffering from insecurity and terrorism. If the two countries find a lasting solution to their mutual differences, terrorists will not get a chance to destroy the peace of the region.

He said that there is a need to promote trade between Pakistan and Afghanistan. Increased trade is only possible due to the development of political and diplomatic relations.

He further said that China has played its positive role in improving the relations between Iran and Saudi Arabia and in the future.

Talha visits Mufti Abdul Shakoor's residence

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony Senator Muhammad Talha Mahmood on Saturday visited the residence of late Mufti Abdul Shakoor at his native town and offered condolence with his family.

He was accompanied with Jamiat Ulama-e-Islam-Fazl Provincial Secretary General Maulana Ata-ul-Haque Darwaish and others.

Besides offering Fateha, the minister prayed to Allah Almighty to bestow the departed soul in Jannah and grant patience to the bereaved family to bear this irreparable loss with equanimity.

On this occasion, Talha announced an aid of two million rupees for the family of Mufti Abdul Shakoor and handed over the money to Darwaish.

He said with this amount, the housework would be started for the family of Mufti Abdul Shakoor from today.

He said JUI-F Chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman instructed him to take care of Mufti Abdul Shakoor's family. Mufti Abdul Shakoor lived his life with great simplicity and he had left a great example of humility, Talha opined.

Begum Samina Alvi inaugurates int'l food festival

ISLAMABAD (PPI): On Saturday, the first lady Begum Samina Alvi has inaugurated an international food festival at a local hotel in Islamabad.

The pictures of the inauguration ceremony went viral across the social platforms. The food festival has been attended by the local residents of Islamabad including the members of the diplomatic corps along with their families and people from different walks of life had enjoyed the festival.

The festival includes the stalls of traditional dishes. The festival has been commenced with a ribbon-cutting ceremony after which Begum Samina went to the stalls and showed her keen interest in the food on offer.

The organizers of the festival told Begum Alvi about the cuisine on display. They appreciated and thanked the presence of her and said it was an encouragement for them.

Huge cache of arms recovered, one held

RAWALPINDI (APP): Police have arrested arm smuggler and recovered huge cache of arms and bullets from his possession here on Saturday, informed police spokesman. Naseerabad police stopped a suspected vehicle at picket and during the search, 19 pistols and 1500 Kalashnikov bullets were recovered from the vehicle. The police arrested the accused Inamullah besides confiscating his vehicle. SP Potohar, while appreciating the performance of police team, said that operations would continue against those who supply illegal weapons.

Abid Sher Ali accuses IK, Saqib Nisar, others of sabotaging CPEC, derailing economy

ISLAMABAD (APP): Abid Sher Ali, a leader of Pakistan Muslim League-N (PML-N), has demanded the arrest and imprisonment of former Chief Justice Saqib Nisar for deliberately stalling the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) project to isolate Pakistan, promote their own interests, which has led to the current economic situation in Pakistan.

Addressing media representatives on Saturday, Abid Sher Ali, a former federal state minister said sabotaging the CPEC was part of an insidious conspiracy masterminded by

Khan and Nisar.

He blamed Imran, Saqib Nisar and their accomplices for conspiring against former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif for providing an open field to Imran Khan.

He said that former Chief Justice Saqib Nisar was the mastermind behind the plot to derail Pakistan's journey towards development and happiness. Sher Ali called for the stolen money of the Pakistani nation to be returned and for investigations to be conducted into other scandals. He also blamed Imran Khan for

hiding in the bucket and trying to discredit the Pakistani army.

The PML-N leader also criticized the judges who declared former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif disqualified and targeted his family.

He argued that Sharif was the main architect of CPEC and ending electricity crises and that it was time to acknowledge that Pakistan's progress was derailed by insidious conspiracies. Sher Ali demanded justice for the Pakistani people and the return of the nation's stolen wealth.

IMF reluctant to release funds for Pakistan: Sheikh Rashid

RAWALPINDI (PPI): Awami Muslim League (AML) chief Sheikh Rashid Ahmed on Sunday lamented the use of unethical language against the Supreme Court.

In a series of tweets, the former interior minister said the top court was showing tolerance on his matter. He said the nation stood behind the judiciary as it made the decision as

per law and Constitution.

Mr Ahmed said the International Monetary Fund (IMF) was reluctant to release funds for Pakistan where economic crisis had worsened. "Only elections can save the country," he asserted.

Criticising the recent visit of Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari, he said: "No foreign minister has made so many

foreign trips in the 75-year history as done by Bilawal in one year".

He said the foreign minister had humiliated the country by visiting India, adding that people in occupied Kashmir were also enraged at it.

He said former president Asif Ali Zardari's wish to make his son prime minister would not come true.



ISLAMABAD: An artist Tanvir Nazir makes a sketch of Britain's King Charles III at a park in Islamabad on May 6, 2023, ahead of the coronations in London of Britain's King Charles III and Britain's Camilla, Queen Consort. —INP Photo

Demand for "Level Playing Field" not obstacle in elections: Irfan Siddiqui

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz (PML-N) Senator Irfan-ul-Haque Siddiqui on Saturday said that a demand for a "Level Playing Field" was not an obstacle in the way of elections.

Talking to a private news channel, he clarified that the demand of a "Level Playing Field" is not about Nawaz Sharif or Maryum Nawaz personal agenda, but it is about disqualifying and ridiculing a democratic popular leader of the country by bringing him under false charges through political revenge.

The PML-N wants to be redressed all of the abuses and all the false cases to be dropped, which will increase respect for the institutions, he added.

The senator asserted that the election will be held on time and it doesn't matter who is qualified or not, PML-N just wants the country's economy and security issues to be resolved before going to the elections.

"Apart from this, it is also important to complete the ongoing deal with the IMF", he added.

On a question about

negotiating with PTI on the issue of the election, he said that there is no element of democratic thinking or understanding in the party of PTI, while it is necessary to have an open heart and courage to negotiate.

He further said that dissolving the provincial assemblies was a political mistake of PTI for which they now want to punish the entire nation.

He also said that PML-N never believes in the politics of confrontation, so we condemn the raid on Pervaiz Elahi's house in Gujrat.



ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony Senator Muhammad Talha Mahmood on Saturday said Hajj training was mandatory for all intending pilgrims and all the participants would be awarded certificates.

Addressing a press conference here at the Haji Camp Islamabad, he warned that if anyone did not attend the training session as per schedule, it would create issues for the intending pilgrims at the airport while proceeding to Saudi Arabia to perform the sacred obligation.

Shedding light on the significance of these training sessions designed for the intending pilgrims, the minister said it would help them in performing the Hajj rites in a more appropriate manner.

He said it was also necessary to be acquainted with the local rules and regulations of the host country so that they could have a peaceful and memorable journey to the holy land.

He said all intending pil-

grims, being representatives of Pakistan, should express maximum restraint and good behaviour as there would be Muslims from every nook and cranny of the world.

He expressed his apprehension that in the past, the medicines used to provide the pilgrims during Hajj operations were not of good quality. "I have collected some samples of the medicines while visiting the Hajj medical mission here and these medicines would be sent to a laboratory to examine their quality," he added.

The minister said if any medicine would be found of low quality, the company would be delisted and fined as well.

He further mentioned that he would hold a special audit of the quantity of the medicines to ensure that it was not lesser than the required number.

He said the main purpose of this entire exercise was to provide quality medicines to the pilgrims.

Talha told the media that he had never claimed to make state-of-the-art Hajj

arrangements under his auspicious leadership this year clarifying that despite difficulties, he would try his best to provide ease and comfort to the pilgrims.

The minister, before briefing the media, also gave thought-provoking lectures to the male and female pilgrims under training here at the Haji Camp Islamabad separately.

He realized how these training sessions were important for them.

At the end, he also interacted with the Moavineen-e-Hujjaj under training there and urged them to be responsible while performing their duties during the entire Hajj operation.

On this occasion, the minister was informed that 36 Hajj assistants were not attending the training session without any prior information.

He directed that if they were not participating in the training session without any logical reasons, their nominations must be cancelled and others should be given a chance to serve the 'Guests of Allah'.



ISLAMABAD: Daily wage labourer taking nap while waiting for customers at Peshawar mor. —APP Photo

Illegal weapons recovered

KUNAR (Agencies): The counter-terrorism management officers of Kunar said that during a series of operations, 40 thousand different types of weapons and ammunition were recovered. These weapons and ammunition were recovered based on the detection reports, which were kept illegally by some locals. The counter-terrorism department committed to collecting all illegal weapons to maintain a strengthened security, said a local official of the department.

The Frontier Post

AFGHANISTAN

Shawwal 16, 1444 — Sunday, May 07, 2023

Drop in polio cases recorded

KABUL (Agencies): WHO announced that last year two children were left disabled due to polio in Afghanistan. This figure is the lowest number of polio cases recorded in Afghanistan. WHO in a tweet that “with vaccination, polio cases will reach zero and Afghanistan will be free of this disease.” Earlier, the World Health Organization announced that in less than a year, 9 million children under the age of five in Afghanistan received polio vaccines.

Kabul residents struggle with dried-up wells, decreased ground water

KABUL (TOLOnews): Kabul residents complained about the lack of water. They said that despite their economic challenges, they are compelled to buy water. Residents of Kabul urged the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan to work on supplying water to the capital. “We used to have water in our well at seven meters when the Kabul River had water, but now that the water level has dropped to about eighty or ninety meters, we have no water, and the well has dried up,” said Baz Mohammad, a resident of Kabul. “I have a state faucet which has been dry for nine months. Tankers are current-

ly coming to the streets and we buy one barrel for 10 afghani,” said Ketab Khan, another resident of Kabul. According to some environmentalists, the excessive use of underground water has caused the reduction of water in the capital. “The indiscriminate consumption of water happens in the commercial centers that wash cars, carpets, bathrooms and swimming pools,” said Sayed Qayum Hashemi, an environmental expert. However, the Afghanistan Urban Water Supply and Sewage Corporation (AUWSSC), said that Kabul City’s supply of water has been reduced by 50% due to the lack of rainfall, and, as a result, the

majority of residents buy the water they need from private companies. “Canals used to provide water in quantities between 2,000 and 2,400 cubic meters, but they currently only provide 800 to 900 cubic meters. The water level has dropped due to the decrease in rainfall and snow,” said Shafiullah Zahedi, head of the Kabul City Sewage Water Supply Corporation. According to the Ministry of Energy and Water, Kabul city is currently facing a severe water scarcity due to a number of factors including an increase in population, the usage of subsurface water, and climate change.

Residents of Alishero demand health service at door step

KHOST CITY (Pajhwok): The residents of Alishero Tarezio district in south-eastern Khost province demanded the provision of health services while officials pledge to operationalise eight already constructed clinics in the province. Efforts are underway for the operationalisation of eight clinics built few years ago in southern Khost province, an official said. These clinics were built few years ago by the past government in different parts of the provinces. Of these eight clinics, two were built in the Traizo Alishero district — one was in the Sinkhor area and another in the Spinkeuborio area. Local tribal elders said in the past government they often demanded that these clinics should be operationalized but their demand was ignored. They said government spent millions of Afghani on the construction of these clinics and if they are not operationalized the facilities may be damaged. Haji Mirza Gul, a tribal elder told Pajhwok Afghan News, only 5,000 families lived in the Tarezio area and they was no other health facility without the Alishero central clinic. He added considering the population of the area the currently existing clinic could not meet the demand of local people adding two more clinics should be operationalized. “We have been offered promises but the Sinkhor clinic was not made active, government has not resources to operationalized and sent doctors to the clinic, this is the central point for three districts and we want the clinic here to be made operational,” the tribal elder added. He said local residents have been struggling with economic hardship and they could not afford to pay for the medic. Haji Nazir, another tribal elder, said that the Sinkhor area was situated 30 kilometres to the east from Khost City close to Duran Line. He added the residents of locality have grave economic problems and was unable to take their children to private clinics. He added buildings for the clinics in Sinkhor and Spoin Boraio areas had been constructed years back but it yield no benefit to the local residents. “We take our ill family members, maternity patients to district centre where health services were not up to the mark. We have a clinic in our own area which is not functional, we demand health service at our doorstep,” he added. Nazir Roshan, a civil society activist in Khost province, said state run health services were weak and being ignored. He added currently there was no enough medicines and personnel in the district health centers to address public health issues in time. “Most clinics in the far-flung areas of the country were non-functional, even if patients go to a clinic for treatment, they could not get proper treatment or medicines.”

Khost Health Department Director Dr. Fazal Karim Mandozai acknowledged to Pajhwok Afghan News that eight clinics in Khost province were not active. He added 20 percent work on the clinics was remaining, adding that it was the reason why these clinics are not made operational. “We asked the Ministry of Public Health to complete the remaining construction work and pressed to allot personnel for these clinics in for the ongoing solar year as well.” He said after the take by the ‘Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan’ (IEA) mobile health teams had been dispatched to the areas where people had limited access to health facilities.

Afghan team leaves for Iran to participate in 5G Summit

KABUL (Khaama Press): A delegation led by Dr Qalandar Ebad, acting minister of public health, has left for Iran to attend a G5 summit.

Acting Public Health Minister Dr Qalandar Ebad, Deputy Minister of Finance Mawlawi Mohammad Ishaq Sahibzada, and a few other officials travelled to Iran to attend the G5 conference, according to a statement from the Public Health Ministry. According to the ministry, the delegation will discuss cooperation in the health sector at the summit. Currently, the health situation in the country is a matter of concern and lack of medical equipment, human capacity, vaccines and financial issues.

According to the recent World Health Organization report of emergency health service, over 828,000 acute respiratory infections (ARI) were newly reported. Since October 2022, of the total 4,353,661 ARI cases reported, representing 13.3% of the total population of Afghanistan, 45.1% have afflicted children under five years of age. In addition, ARI cases have increased since 2022 compared to the average of the previous three years. The report estimated that 17 % of adults experienced mild to moderate psychological disorders, including depression, anxiety and post-traumatic stress disorder. The document stated that February was a prolific month in providing



health services to the Afghan people. The organization said that it committed in 2023 to reach its target and continue to provide healthcare services to the people of Afghanistan. “With the target for 2023 of 15.6 million people, WHO, with its partners, has continued to build up the effort to ensure access to essential healthcare services throughout the country, including remote and hard-to-reach areas,” the report read. “By the end of February, WHO established 185 primary healthcare facilities in underserved/white areas across 26 provinces, in which over 220,000 people received services. In addition, WHO distributed more than 2800 cubic meters (CBM) of medical

and non-medical supplies to the partners in response to ongoing health emergencies,” the report stated. According to the report in February, over 828,000 acute respiratory infections (ARI) were newly reported. Since October 2022, of the total 4,353,661 ARI cases reported, representing 13.3% of the total population of Afghanistan, 45.1% have afflicted children under five years of age. In addition, ARI cases have increased since 2022 compared to the average of the previous three years. The report estimated that 17 % of adults experienced mild to moderate psychological disorders, including depression, anxiety and post-traumatic stress disorder. However, more than 200 trauma centres will close,

leaving more than 250,000 people without access to trauma care. Over 3.5 million individuals won’t have access to lifesaving care, and more than 400 mobile health teams will stop operating. There will be no safe deliveries, postpartum care, or antenatal care for more than 290,000 pregnant women. The report stated that this would restrict the 1.5 million reproductive-age women’s access to reproductive health treatments in Afghanistan. Since the Taliban took over the country, they introduced harsh suppressive policies against women. As a result, the restrictions have created obstacles for the International organization to provide healthcare services in the country, particularly in remote areas.

Heavy rains, flash floods kill 4, injures 25



JALALABAD (Khaama Press): Heavy rains and flash floods killed four people and injured 25 others in Nangarhar province on late Friday night, the provincial government in a statement said. The provincial government officials in a telephone call to Khaama Press said that flash floods have caused serious financial and human losses to the local people. According to Taliban officials, at least four children were killed and 25

others were injured, and some 300 residential houses were badly destroyed due to flash floods. Furthermore, the flash floods have caused destruction to thousands of acres of agricultural land in Kaama, Lalpur, Goshita, Koz Kunar districts and some other areas of Nangarhar province. Local residents have circulated pictures on social media showing the destruction of residential houses caused by Friday nights’ heavy rains and flooding in

certain parts of the province. Local residents have asked aid organizations to help the affected families during these difficult times. In the meantime, heavy rains coinciding with strong winds damaged gardens and fruit trees in the northern Balkh, Samangan, Takhar, Kunduz and Baghlan provinces. Afghanistan’s meteorological department predicts more rains and floods in some 18 provinces of the country in the coming days.

Afghan journalist Mujahid Kakar remembered

KABUL (TOLOnews): Saur 15 (May 5) marks the third anniversary of the death of the highly respected Afghan journalist Mujahid Kakar, who was a former head of TOLOnews. Kakar died in Germany from an illness. Kakar has been called the founder of a new journalism method in Afghanistan. “Mujahid Kakar was a bright start in the Afghan media. He made a great effort to promote professional journalism in the country. We can name TOLOnews as one of his achievements,” said Zabiullah Sadaat, Director of TOLOnews. A former employee of

the MOBY Group, Homayoun Danishyar, described Kakar: “The essential services Mr Kakar paid for TOLOnews has been witnessed by me, one after the other. He was not out of work for a second even.” The first debate discussion among the presidential candidates in 1388 (solar year) is considered one of Kakar’s greatest achievements. Naim Sarwari, managing Director of MOBY Group in Afghanistan and former colleague of Kakar, said that Kakar was a very professional journalist. “We have spent many days with him traveling inside and outside the coun-

try. He was very kind and friendly. He was a committed friend,” Sarwari said. “Mr. Kakar had an essential role in bringing new journalism to Afghanistan. A large number of professional and experienced journalists that are working now have been trained by Mujahid Kakar,” said Tamim Shahir, a journalist. Despite facing political and social pressure, Kakar continued working as a journalist and made tremendous changes in the journalism field in Afghanistan. Kakar was infected by cancer and died at age 51 on Saur 15 (May 5) in 2020.

GHAZNI (Agencies): Acting Information and Culture Minister, Mullah Khairullah Khairkhah on his trip to Ghazni province of Afghanistan, assessing historical reservoirs of the province, said that the historical reservoirs are the spiritual and cultural identity of Afghans. Minister Khairkhah, on his visit reminded saying that in the current fiscal year 1402, a number of historical reservoirs of Ghazni will be restored. Khairkhah called for the cooperation of all people in protecting the historical sites in the country.



Jobless Badghis youth forced into illegal emigration

QALA-I-NAW (Pajhwok): Some educated youth in western Badghis province say they are forced to go for illegal emigration due to unemployment. They want the interim government to create job opportunities for them. Unemployment is among the problems haunting youth over the last 20 years. With their consistent demands falling on deaf ears, they regret, many educated people are left with no option but to leave their country. **Poverty & unemployment**

Abdul Rauf Ishaqzai, a resident of Aab Kamari district who obtained a bachelor’s degree in Dari literature two years ago, complains he has been jobless. He adds because of being jobless, he must travel to Iran illegally. He is the only breadwinner for a family of four — caught in abject poverty. Ishaqzai expects the Islamic Emirate to provide job opportunities for educated youth and adhere to merit in appointments. Ali Mohammad Qurbani, a 22-year-old victim of unemployment who completed his high school education a year ago, also plans to travel to Iran illegally. Qurbani has applied for jobs in a number of private and public offices, has been successful so far. He is

eager to continue his education and study to the doctorate level if he gets a job. He calls poverty and unemployment the main impediment to the realisation of this dream. He also asks the Islamic Emirate to focus on generating job opportunities to prevent young people from going abroad. Driver Ghulam Mohammad estimates: “About 60 percent of passengers travelling with me are individuals who go abroad for work.” “Most of those who travel illegally to Iran are literate and educated people. They have to leave the country in quest of work. The passengers we take are aged between 18 and 40.” **Expert view** Issues like war, drought, poverty, unemployment and political changes are among the factors behind youth leaving the country — legally or otherwise. Ali Reza Kargar, a university professor, identifies jobs, economic growth, political stability, security, capacity enhancement and a friendly environment as some of the ways to prevent illegal emigration. He stresses: “Jobs must be generated to discourage young people from going abroad illegally.” Meanwhile, the Ministry of Refugees and Repatriation acknowledges

Afghans go to foreign countries illegally. Abdul Mutalib Haqqani, spokesman for the ministry, told Pajhwok the main reason behind illegal emigration was restrictions on banking operations. Propaganda by foreigners is another factor prompting people lose trust in Afghanistan’s system, he believes. A public awareness programme has been launched to address the problems of illegal emigration, Haqqani says, adding MoRR has signed a memorandum of understanding with the ministries of public health and education to create jobs for deserving people and prevent them going illegally to other countries. Tor Jan Khademi, acting director of labour and social affairs, claims local officials have drawn up multiple programs for young people, including small businesses and short-term jobs. He says: “The migration of young people to Iran is out of interest, not compulsion... most of Badghis youth do not go there for work. They do so because they are interested in going abroad. We have provided jobs for many of them.” More than 3,500 people, including women, were given work through the ministry concerned last year, recalls the official.

Wheelchair basketball team participating in competitions

KABUL (Agencies): The country’s national wheelchair basketball team went to Thailand from the capital Kabul to participate in the preliminary competition for the Paralympic Asian Games. Mawlawi Abdul Wadud Haqqani, Chairman of the National Olympic Committee and Sports of the country said: “Physically disabled athletes should play with strong morale and high spirituality with the motive that they represent a Muslim and strong nation and in accordance with all the Islamic Sharia laws. The Head of the wheelchair basketball federation, Shukrullah Zhirak, assured the full preparation of the national team and said that the national team has practiced hard and complicated exercises before and it is expected that they will defeat their rival team and enter the Paralympic Asian Games. The national wheelchair basketball team will play its first match against Kuwait on Monday, May 8, and then the second match against the Philippines. Eight Asian countries will participate in the competitions, they will compete in two groups and the winning teams will get the right to participate in the Asian Paralympic Games. It is expected that the Paralympic Asian Games will be hosted by China in the near future.

ARCS held a meeting to develop its services



KABUL (Agencies): The Afghan Red Crescent Society held a general meeting in Kabul to address development and the development of its services. A meeting among 100

officials of the Afghan Red Crescent Society was held nationwide and is scheduled to continue until the end of this week, according to reports. On meeting mainly con-

centrate discussions on the development of the mission and services of the Afghan Red Crescent Society in the country and to find solutions to the challenges of the organization, reports said.



PESHAWAR: PTI workers holding a rally at Pir Zakuri Bridge, Ring Road to express solidarity with the supremacy of the Constitution and Chief Justice.

IHC annuls NAB notices to Imran Khan, Bushra Bibi

ISLAMABAD (Agencies): The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Saturday declared the notices from the National Accountability Court (NAB) to PTI chairman Imran Khan and his wife Bushra Bibi in the Toshakhana case as unlawful.

Imran Khan and Bushra Bibi had challenged the NAB summons to them in Toshakhana inquiry. A division bench of the IHC, comprised of Chief Justice Aamir Farooque and Justice Babar Sattar, announced the verdict. "The first notices by the NAB, served to Imran Khan and his spouse are unlawful," the bench said in its decision. The high court had earlier summoned the NAB over notices to Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chairman Imran Khan and his wife Bushra Bibi in Toshakhana case.

Bushra Bibi, in her challenge to the NAB call-up notices in the high court stated that the court should declare the NAB call-up notices illegal and the inquiry should be barred

from making changes in the investigation till the final verdict. The Toshakhana issue has become a sticking point in national politics after the Election Commission of Pakistan disqualified the PTI chief for making "false statements and incorrect declaration."

Imran summoned by CTD for investigation in two cases: The Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) – Islamabad chapter – has summoned former Prime Minister and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chief Imran Khan in two cases registered against him.

According to the details, the CTD of Islamabad has summoned former prime Imran Khan in two cases, on May 10 and May 11, at the Police Line Headquarters, seeking Khan to present his stance over undergoing cases. In the notice, the CTD stated that PTI chief Imran Khan should appear to present his stance in the ongoing investigations. "If he has any evidence in his favor, he should

present it," the CTD notice reads.

The notice warned Khan that necessary action will be taken if he fails to appear on the summoned date. Last month, Islamabad police have summoned former prime minister and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf chief Imran Khan for an investigation into nine cases registered against him. As per details, Islamabad police summoned the PTI chief on April 11 (tomorrow) for an investigation into two cases, while the former premier is also directed to appear before police at Police Lines Headquarters on April 12 for a probe into 7 other cases.

All cases against the PTI chief are being investigated by the Counter Terrorism Department (CTD). The summons of all cases have been dispatched to Imran Khan's Zaman Park residence. The notices said Khan should appear before the investigation teams to record his statement. "In case of non-appearance, the law will take its due course."

SC reforms law: Govt seeks dismissal of petitions

ISLAMABAD (Agencies): The federal government has filed an application in the Supreme Court of Pakistan seeking dismissal of all petitions filed against the Supreme Court (Practice and Procedure) Act. The plea seeking to throw out all the petitions was part of the government's response which it filed in the apex court on Saturday.

The government in its response maintained that the new law provides for regulation of the chief justice's powers under Article 184/3 of the Constitution. There will be no trimming of the judiciary's powers through this act, the government said and added, under Article 184/2 only the right of appeal has been granted.

Additional Attorney General Amir Rehman submitted the government's response in the Supreme Court. It its reply, the government maintained that the petitioners challenged the law with mala fide intentions. There was no legal protection to chief justice's master of roster concept, it added. The right of appeal is absolutely necessary for fair trial and Article 10A of the Constitution provides that right, the government said.

Most wanted BLF leader killed

QUETTA (PPI): The most wanted terrorist leader of the Baloch Liberation Front (BLF), Muhammad Asa, aka Mullah Ibrahim was killed in a clash between rival terrorist groups over looted money, according to a report on Saturday.

The deadly confrontation erupted over a dispute regarding the division of extorted money. Muhammad Asa's demise is considered a significant blow to the BLF. The confrontation unfolded when two factions of the BLF engaged in a fierce exchange of gunfire over a dispute about extortion and ransom funds.

Muhammad Asa, who carried a bounty of Rs4 million placed on his head by law enforcement agencies, fell victim to the violent clash. The slain terrorist had joined the ranks of the BLF in 2010 and quickly rose to become a leader, operating primarily in the Kharan and Shor areas.

Sudan envoys begin talks amid pressure

ASWAN, Egypt (AP): Sudan's warring sides began talks Saturday that aim to firm up a shaky cease-fire after three weeks of fierce fighting that has killed hundreds and pushed the African country to the brink of collapse, the United States and Saudi Arabia said.

The negotiations, the first between the Sudanese military and the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces, or RSF, since the fighting broke out on April 15, were underway in Saudi Arabia's coastal city of Jeddah, on the Red Sea, according to a joint Saudi-American statement. The talks are part of a diplomatic initiative proposed by the kingdom and the US that aims to stop the fighting, which has turned Sudan's capital, Khartoum, and other urban areas into battlefields and pushed hundreds of thousands from their homes.

In their joint statement, Saudi Arabia and the US urged both parties to "actively engage in the talks towards a cease-fire and end to the conflict, which will spare the Sudanese people's suffering." The statement did not

offer a timeframe for the talks, though it was expected the initial session could last two-three days. The talks come after concerted efforts by Riyadh and other international powers to pressure the warring sides in Sudan to the negotiating table. Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Faisal bin Farhan welcomed the rival sides to Jeddah, saying on Twitter that he hopes the talks would restore "security and stability" in Sudan.

Since a 2021 coup that upended Sudan's transition to democracy, the kingdom has been mediating between the ruling generals and a pro-democracy movement. After Sudan's top two generals – commanders of the military and the paramilitary – turned on each other after months of tensions and the latest fighting broke out in April, Jeddah became a hub for those evacuated by sea from Sudan's main sea port of Port Sudan. Officials from the military and the RSF said the talks would address the opening of humanitarian corridors in Khartoum and the adjacent city of Omdurman, which have been the centers of the

battles. They would also discuss providing protection to civilian infrastructure, including health facilities that have been overwhelmed and suffer from dire shortages of both staff and medical supplies, one military official said. An RSF official they would also discuss a mechanism to monitor the cease-fire, which is one of a series of truces that failed to stop the fighting. The officials spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss the talks in Jeddah.

Meanwhile, Sudan's pro-democracy movement said the talks would be "a first step" to stop the country's collapse and called on leaders of the military and the RSF to make a "bold decision" to end the conflict. The movement, which is a coalition of political parties and civil society groups, had negotiated with the military for months to restore the country's democratic transition after a 2021 military coup led by army chief Gen. Abdel-Fattah Burhan, who also chairs the ruling sovereign council, and his deputy in the council Gen. Mohammed Hamdan Dagalo.

Ukraine downs Russian hypersonic missile

KYIV (Agencies): Ukraine said it downed a Russian hypersonic missile over the capital Kyiv using a newly acquired US Patriot defence system in what would be a first in its ability to intercept one of Moscow's most modern weapons. The Kinzhal missile is one of the latest and most advanced Russian weapons. Its military says the air-launched ballistic missile has a range of up to 2,000km (1,250 miles) and flies at 10 times the speed of sound, making it hard to intercept.

A combination of hypersonic speed and a heavy warhead allows the Kinzhal to destroy heavily fortified targets, such as underground bunkers or mountain tunnels. "I congratulate the Ukrainian people on the historic event. Yes, we shot down the 'unique' Kinzhal," Ukrainian Air Force Commander Mykola Oleshchuk said in a Telegram post on Saturday. "It happened during the nighttime attack on May 4 in the skies of the Kyiv region."

It was the first time Ukraine is known to have used the Patriot missile

defence system. Oleshchuk said the Kh-47 was launched by a MiG-31K aircraft from Russian territory and was shot down with a single Patriot missile. The Ukrainian military has previously admitted lacking assets to intercept the supersonic weapon. The Kinzhal, which means "dagger" in Russian, is one of six "next generation" weapons unveiled by President Vladimir Putin in 2018 when the Russian leader boasted it cannot be shot down by any of the world's air defence systems.

The air-launched ballistic missile can reach speeds of up to Mach 10 (12,350 kilometres per hour) and is capable of carrying nuclear or conventional warheads. The Thursday air raid came a day after Russia accused Ukraine of a failed attempt to assassinate Putin in a drone attack on the Kremlin citadel in Moscow and threatened to retaliate. Moscow has since accused Washington of involvement in allegations denied by both Ukraine and the United States. Ukraine took its first delivery of the

Patriot missiles in late April. It has not specified how many of the systems it has or where they have been deployed, but they are known to have been provided by the US, Germany and the Netherlands.

Germany and the US have acknowledged sending at least one system, and the Netherlands has said it provided two, though it is not clear how many are currently in operation. Ukrainian troops have received the extensive training needed to be able to effectively locate a target with the systems, lock on with radar, and fire. Each battery requires up to 90 personnel to operate and maintain. Ukrainian Defence Minister Olexsii Reznikov said he first asked for Patriot systems when visiting the US in August 2021, months before Russia's full-scale invasion but seven years after Moscow illegally annexed Ukraine's Crimea peninsula. He has described possessing the system as "a dream" but said he was told by US officials at the time it was impossible.

Tariq elected President PHC Bar Association

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: Tariq Afridi Advocate of Grand Alliance secured 985 votes and elected President Peshawar High Court (PHC) Bar Association defeating his rivals in a tough contest.

Lajbar Khan was elected General Secretary, Sawar Khan as Vice President, Noor Wali Khan as Joint Secretary while Nida Khan Advocate was elected Finance Secretary of PHC Bar.

A tough competition was witnessed among three candidates for slot of General Secretary, two candidates for Vice President, three candidates for Joint Secretary and two candidates for Finance Secretary. Engr Amir Muqam, Pakistan Muslim League (N) Khyber Pakhtunkhwa President and Advser to the Prime Minister on Saturday congratulated Provincial President Muslim Lawyers Forum, Tariq Afridi for winning the Peshawar High Court Ba Association (PHCBA) annual election and other office bearers of the alliance.

In a statement here, Amir Muqam said that Tariq Afridi success was a result of the hardwork of the Muslims Lawyers Forum and the allies. He said the success of Tariq Afridi has made it crystal clear that the false narrative and poor policies of Imran Khan was rejected by the lawyers of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

Muqam meets Uzbek counterpart

TASHKENT (APP): Adviser to Prime Minister for Political and Public Affairs, National Heritage and Culture Engr Amir Muqam met his counterpart, Minister of Culture and Tourism of the Republic of Uzbekistan Nazarbekov Ozodbek Akhmadovich at Mayor's of Sardara Region Akmal Jan residence.

Minister of Culture and Tourism of the Republic of Uzbekistan welcomed the Adviser to Prime Minister and said that the two countries have always had friendly and brotherly relations, says a press release here. Adviser to Prime Minister conveyed his deep gratitude to the government of Uzbekistan, for the generous hospitality.

During the meeting, they discussed mutual interest issues including possibility of strengthening ties in cultural ties between the two brotherly countries. Minister of Culture and Tourism of the Republic of Uzbekistan Nazarbekov Ozodbek Akhmadovich acknowledged the potential for cooperation in the field of cultural heritage and expressed his desire to undertake joint ventures on a progressive basis.

He warmly welcomed the Adviser to Prime Minister in the III Bakhshi International Festival. Nazarbekov Ozodbek Akhmadovich promised to make concerted efforts to further promote the cultural and sports exchanges and cooperation, so as to deepen mutual understanding and friendship between the two peoples of Pakistan and Uzbekistan.

Punjab CTD arrests 11 terrorists

LAHORE (Agencies): The Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) Punjab has arrested 11 terrorists belonging to proscribed outfits during different intelligence-based operations in various districts of the province. According to the CTD spokesperson, the terrorists belonged to various banned organizations, including Al-Qaeda, Daesh and Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan.

Moreover, some of the alleged terrorists were identified as Mehtab, Tariq, Gul Azam, Muawiya, Imad, Waris, and Jabar. All the terrorists were detained from different districts of Punjab, including Lahore, and 10 cases were registered in Lahore, Bahawalpur, Gujranwala, Rawalpindi, Sahiwal in this regard.

Likewise, the combing operations also resulted in the arrest of 100 suspects and 76 FIRs were registered during this week, said the CTD official.

Over 50 dead as ethnic clashes erupt in Manipur

MANIPUR (Agencies): The death toll of ethnic clashes among tribal groups in India's remote northeastern state of Manipur has reached 54 after another night of violence as the country's armed forces struggle to enforce law and order.

Reportedly, thousands of troops were dispatched to Manipur state after violence broke out amid a protest staged by a tribal group on Wednesday. Internet was jammed, while law enforcers were allowed to shoot at sight orders but only in "extreme cases" to force the fighting factions to walk away from violence. AFP quoted local police as saying that a tense calm prevails after a recent scrap on Friday night, while according to The Press Trust of India, the total tally of the dead in the hospital morgues in the state capital Imphal and

Churachandpur district further south has reached 54.

"Sixteen bodies were kept in the morgue of the Churachandpur district hospital while 15 bodies were in Jawaharlal Nehru Institute of Medical Sciences in Imphal East district," PTI reported, citing an unnamed local official. "The Regional Institute of Medical Sciences at Lamphel in Imphal West district reported 23 dead."

Manipur Director General of Police P Doungel told reporters on Friday that security forces were bringing the situation under control. Army patrols had "gone a long way to quell the thing off", he said. Security forces and the Manipur government have yet to issue an official death toll for this week's violence.

But India's law minister Kiren Rijiju told reporters

today that "many lives have been lost" after days of clashes alongside damage to property. The suspension of internet services has slowed down the flow of information from Manipur and the current situation on the ground after the latest clashes on Friday is not clear. An Indian army unit based in neighbouring Nagaland state said 13,000 people had sought shelter from the violence "within military premises".

On Thursday, security forces fired tear gas in Imphal to disperse protesters, some of whom had set alight vehicles and houses in parts of the city. Charred vehicles were seen on streets otherwise empty due to the imposition of a round-the-clock curfew. Defence officials said Friday that additional troops had been brought into the state by road and air.

FM upheld Pak's stance on Indian soil: Sherry

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Climate Change, Senator Sherry Rehman on Saturday said that the Foreign Minister upheld Pakistan's stance on Kashmir during his recent visit to India. Talking to a private news channel, she said that the Foreign Minister's decision to attend the SCO summit in India was a courageous move and it was made after thorough consultation with all stakeholders, including the Parliament.

Minister further said that despite India's actions, Pakistan cannot afford to withdraw from the membership of regional forums because they could play a vital role in safeguarding national interests. During the meetings of these forums, Pakistan got a chance to consistently articulate its national position and convey its stance on various issues affecting the region, she asserted.

Responding to a ques-

tion, she said that it appears that the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) was attempting to monopolize every issue for its own self-interest, disregarding the broader implications. To another query, she made it clear that terrorism knows no boundaries and poses a common threat to all nations. Therefore, it is crucial to address this issue whenever an opportunity arises for open dialogue.

On the question of political instability in the country, she said that the political landscape is deeply fragmented, with political parties experiencing significant divisions and rifts. The primary cause of this instability can be attributed to the negative and self-centered politics pursued by Imran Khan, she criticized.

Moreover, this uncertain situation has created obstacles in finalizing the IMF agreement that increase the economic instability in the country, she asserted. Minister urged all stake-

holders to come together and work for the welfare of the people. To a query, she informed that funds received for flood victims have been re-purposed and a major portion of the Frontline Relief, intended for providing assistance to affectees, has been utilized under the Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP).

On climate change issue, she said that "The issue of climate change requires significant attention and action, and we are actively engaged in addressing it. One notable step in this regard was the formulation of the 'National Hazardous Waste Management Policy'. She stressed that it was crucial that national issues like climate change and terrorism were not politicized or used as a pretext for political gain. These matters require collective efforts and bipartisan cooperation for the betterment of our environment and future generations, she added.

Islamabad declines, Lahore admn allows PTI to hold rally

ISLAMABAD, LAHORE (INP): The district administration in Islamabad did not allow the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf to take out the rally. However, the opposition party has got permission to take out its procession in Lahore on Saturday.

The PTI sought permission for the rally from Islamabad's Zero Point to F-Nine Park Saturday evening. According to the notification, due to imposition of Section 144, there is a ban on all types of gatherings. The Chinese foreign minister and other important personalities are also present in the federal capital. The VIP movement will be disrupted due to the rally. The security agencies have

also issued an alert of terrorist attack in the twin cities.

PTI Islamabad President Ali Nawaz Awan had sought permission for the rally. According to the notification, the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf had not followed the terms of the NOC in the past and had also damaged government property, so it is feared that the terms will be violated this time as well. That is why the Islamabad administration does not allow the rally.

The Islamabad deputy commissioner issued the notification. On the other hand, the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf has received a conditional permission from the district administration to take out a rally from Zaman

Park to Lakshmi Chowk. The permission for the rally has been given by the district administration after taking an oath and taking an assurance from the PTI to implement various conditions.

The conditions included that the rally will be permitted from 2:00 pm to 7:30 pm; the rally management will cooperate with the police and be responsible for security. The permit further states that during the rally, speeches against the judiciary and institutions will not be allowed. For better security, the focal person and PTI officials will cooperate with the concerned security and district administration.

King Charles

(Continued from Page 1)

However, there was no formal role for either Charles' younger son Prince Harry, after his high-profile falling out with his family, or his brother Prince Andrew, who was forced to quit royal duties because of his friendship with late U.S. financier Jeffrey Epstein, a convicted sex offender. They sat in the third row behind working members of the royal family.

Not everyone among the crowds was there to cheer Charles, with hundreds of republicans booing and waving banners reading "Not My King". More than 11,000 police were deployed to stamp out any attempted disruption, and the Republic campaign group said its leader Graham Smith had been arrested along with five other protesters. But they were a minority with most drawn to the occasion by its unique nature or family connections.

Diana Brereton said she had travelled from Toronto in Canada to follow in her grandfather's footsteps as he had marched as a soldier in the coronation procession for George V in 1911. "He marched along here and 112 years later I'm

here, keeping the family tradition for another king," she said. Welby will call for all those in the abbey and across the nation to swear allegiance to Charles — a new element that replaces the homage traditionally sworn by senior dukes and peers of the realm.

However, that has caused controversy, with Republic calling it offensive, forcing Welby to clarify it is an invitation not a command. After returning to Buckingham Palace, the royals will make a traditional appearance on the balcony, with a fly-past by military aircraft. Also in traditional British fashion, the weather in London could feature heavy bursts of rain, forecasters said. Celebrations will continue on Sunday with nationwide street parties and a concert at the king's Windsor Castle home, while volunteering projects will take place on Monday.

"When you see everyone dressed up and taking part it is just fantastic. It makes you so proud," said teacher Andy Mitchell, 63, who left his house in the early hours to get into London. "My big concern is that younger people are losing interest in all of this and it won't be the same in the future."

Separately, the UK police have arrested leading members of the anti-monarchy group Republic as they prepared to protest along the route of a procession, the organisation said. "They've arrested six of our organisers and seized hundreds of placards, they won't tell us why they've arrested them or where they're being held," a Republic activist told AFP in London's Trafalgar Square. Republic chief executive Graham Smith was one of those arrested before the group had a chance to wave placards declaring: "Not My King." Some onlookers nearby shouted "free Graham Smith!" But others shouted "God save the king" and waved Union flags.

A camera crew from the group Alliance of European Republican Movements was at the scene and asked a senior police officer why the group had been detained. "They're under arrest. End of," the officer told them, walking off. There was no immediate comment from London's Metropolitan police force, which was controversially granted new anti-protest powers by the UK government under a new law rushed through this week.