

PM to visit Azerbaijan on 14th
F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif is scheduled to pay a two-day official visit to Azerbaijan on June 14-15 at the invitation of President Ilham Aliyev. The members of the federal cabinet representing the priority areas of cooperation with Azerbaijan will be part of the prime minister's entourage, according to the Foreign Office.

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ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif chairing a meeting regarding preparedness and measures taken for the approaching 'Biparjoy' cyclone.

Biparjoy barrels toward Sindh's coastal belt

F.P. Report

KARACHI: Evacuations continued in Sindh throughout the day as Cyclone Biparjoy barreled toward the province's coastal belt on Tuesday. An alert issued by the Pakistan Meteorological Department's Tropical Cyclone Warning Centre at 9:30pm on Tuesday said the cyclone had moved further north-northwestward during the last six hours and now lay at a distance of about 380km south of Karachi and 390km south of Thatta.

"Maximum sustained surface winds are 150-160km/hour, gusts 170km/hour around the system centre and sea conditions being phenomenal around the system centre with maximum wave height [of] 30 feet. Favourable environmental conditions ... are in support to sustain its (cyclone's) strength through the forecast period," the centre said. It said that under the existing conditions, the cyclone was "most likely" to track further northward until the morning of June 14 (Wednesday), then recurve northeastward and cross between Ketī Bunder and the Indian Gujarat coast on the afternoon/evening of June 15 as a "very severe cyclonic storm" packing winds of 100-120km/hour, gusting 140km/hour.

The alert said that widespread wind-thunderstorm rain with some very heavy/extremely heavy falls accompanied with squally winds of 80-100km/hour gusting 120km/hour were likely in Thatta, Sujawal, Badin, Tharparkar, Mirpurkhas and Umerkot between June 13-17. Dust/thunderstorm-rain with few heavy falls and accompanied with squally winds of 60-80km/hour are likely in Karachi, Hyderabad, Tando Mohammad Khan, Tando Allahyar, Shaheed Benazirabad and Sanghar districts from June 14-16.

Storm surge of 3-3.5 metres high are expected at point of landfall, Ketī Bunder, and its surrounding areas, which would inundate low-lying settlements, the alert said. The centre also advised fishermen to not venture out into the open sea till the system abated by June 17. It said sea conditions along Sindh's coast may get "very rough to high", with storm surge of 2-2.5 metres. Similarly, rough to very rough sea conditions were expected along Balochistan's coast — with storm surge of two metres — that covers Sonmiani, Hub,

Kund Malir, Ormara and surroundings areas. According to the alert, dust/thunderstorm-rain with isolated heavy falls are also expected in the Hub and Lasbela districts of Balochistan from June 14-16 June.

Meanwhile, squally winds may cause damage to loose and vulnerable structures, including kutcha houses and solar panels. Earlier, Deputy Chief Meteorologist Anjum said that the effects of the cyclone on Sindh's coastal belt and Karachi would be visible today, to some extent, and tomorrow. He said that winds, between 15-20km/h, were blowing during the day in Karachi from the north, northeast. He added that the warm winds were blowing from Rajasthan, under which Karachi would continue to experience warm weather.

Later in the evening, Climate Change Minister Sherry Rehman said dust storms had begun on the Hyderabad-Karachi highway and urged the public to stay safe. She added that the cyclone was veering northeast and was still on course to "hit Ketī Bandar and Sir Creek area". Meanwhile, National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) Chairman Lt Gen Inam Haider Malik said the intensity of Biparjoy had gotten severe. "According to scientific reports, the cyclone's direction will turn to Ketī Bandar and Indian Gujarat," he stated, adding that an emergency had hence been imposed in all the vulnerable areas.

"On June 15, it will make landfall on Ketī Bandar and adjoining areas. Because of its width, far-off areas along the coastline can be affected," Gen Malik told reporters. In Karachi, he continued, there were chances of thunderstorms. "For this, we have alerted all the authorities and preparations have been made to combat any untoward situation." The NDMA chief added that 100,000 people will be evacuated from vulnerable areas and assured that the process would be completed by the morning of June 15.

"Karachi will likely face urban flooding given the scale and intensity of winds. Precautionary evacuations in Seaview areas have begun. We will keep you updated," she said.

(Continued on Back Page)

Tariq resigns as NADRA chairman

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: National Database and Registration Authority (NADRA) Chairman Tariq Malik on Tuesday stepped down from his post. Malik tendered his resignation in a meeting with Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif at the PM's House. The chairman is under investigation by the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) for alleged involvement in a corruption scandal.

As per reports, the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) and the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) are divided over whether the chairman should stay in office. This was Malik's second stint as NADRA chairman, with the first having ended in 2013. The PML-N government had initially removed him from the post, but the court had reinstated him. He later resigned himself, citing pressure and threats.

According to a private TV channel, Malik's name has also been added to the no-fly list because of the ongoing investigation against him. After the "revelation" of alleged corruption in the NADRA contract, the FIA obtained the details of its assets of Malik. They added that the anti-corruption circle in Islamabad was investigating the assets of the NADRA chief. The FIA summoned Malik on May 19 in investigations pertaining to the award of a "contract to a favoured international company at a high price".

ATC extends interim bail of Imran

LAHORE (INP): An anti-terrorism court (ATC) on Tuesday extended the interim bail of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan in three different cases related to the May 9 riots, including Jinnah House attack case, till June 27.

ATC Judge Ijaz Ahmad Buttar conducted the proceedings on the bail petitions of the PTI chairman. Imran Khan did not appear before the court during the proceedings. However, Imran's counsel submitted an application and pleaded with the court to exempt his client from personal appearance for one-day. He submitted that Imran Khan was suffering from fever.

At this, the court allowed the application and exempted the PTI chairman from personal appearance for one-day. The court also ordered Imran Khan to join the investigation, besides seeking an investigation report from the joint investigation team head on the next date of hearing.

PM to open IJP Road today

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif would inaugurate and break ground for different road projects of the federal capital and Rawalpindi here on Wednesday morning.

The prime minister will inaugurate the Srinagar Highway-Seventh Avenue overhead bridge. Later, he will attend the opening ceremony of the reconstructed IJP Road and also perform the groundbreaking of 11th Avenue.

The Frontier Post

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday directed for the upgradation of Main Line (ML-1) of Pakistan Railways on priority basis and said that the government was working on the revival of railways on urgent basis.

The prime minister said that ML-1 was the backbone of Pakistan Railways and in the future, Pakistan would provide trade corridor facilities to the regional countries through its railways and sea-ports systems. The prime minister chaired a meeting to review reforms in Pakistan Railways and and upgradation of ML-1. The meeting was attended by Minister for Finance Ishaq Dar, Minister for Commerce Syed Naveed Qamar, Minister for Railways Khawaja Saad Rafique and other relevant officials, PM office Media Wing said in a press release.

During the meeting, the prime minister observed that people were being facilitated through motorways, public transport, health and education initiatives, completed during the PML-N tenures. The meeting was apprised of the ongoing reforms and digitalization of railways. In the aftermath of last year's devastating floods, Pakistan Railways revived its operations on emergency basis whereas digitalization work was underway. Moreover, the ticketing system was completely digitalized, it was informed. The meeting was further apprised of the upgradation project of ML-1 and particularly its various options and processes. The prime minister appreciated post-flood efforts of Pakistan Railways for the restoration of its operations.

Special steps afoot to uplift merged tribal areas of KP: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday said that special measures had been included in the fiscal budget 2023-24 for the uplift of merged tribal areas of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

Expressing his resolve to transform Khyber Pakhtunkhwa as cradle of

peace, the prime minister regretted that the previous government had altogether neglected the development and progress of the province.

The prime minister expressed these views during a meeting with a delegation of Pakistan Muslim League-N leadership from the province, PM Office Media Wing said in a press release. During the meeting, the political situation of the country was discussed. They also deliberated over the upcoming general elections in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

During the meeting, Minister for Parliamentary Affairs Murtaza Javadi Abbasi, PM's Adviser Engineer Amir Muqam, Senator Pir Sabir Shah, members of the National Assembly captain (ret'd) Muhammad Safdar, Sajjad Ahmed and former MNAs Shahabuddin, Jamshaid Khan and Aurangzaib Nalotha were present. The prime minister assured that the federal government would ensure that the residents of KP should fully avail of its health and educational projects.

He further said that talented youth of the province would be provided with laptops and loans on affordable terms, adding the farmers would be given quality seed and timely supply of urea, besides equipping them with the latest technology. He observed that economic issues of the people would be reduced with the provision of trade facility in the border areas. The delegation appreciated the prime minister for inclusion of steps in the fiscal budget for the development and prosperity of province and its erstwhile tribal areas.

PM directs utilizing all-out resources for people's protection amid Biparjoy cyclone: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday directed the Sindh provincial government, National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) and other relevant organisations to utilise all-out resources to ensure people's protection keeping in view the Biparjoy cyclone.

The prime minister, who chaired a meeting to review the preparedness ahead of the possible impact of the

NEPRA raises power tariff

ISLAMABAD (PPI): National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (NEPRA) on Tuesday raised power tariff by Rs1.61 per unit, sending another blow to the consumers who are already undergoing torments of skyrocketing price hike. According to the notification issued by the power regulatory authority, NEPRA approved Rs1.61 per unit hike in electricity in the wake of the monthly fuel adjustment.

Shehbaz directs upgradation of ML-1 on priority basis

Biparjoy cyclone, asked the Sindh government, NDMA and other organizations to ensure the establishment of mobile hospitals in coastal areas and provide adequate emergency medical assistance there. He said in view of the storm, special arrangements of clean drinking water and food should be made at the camps of displaced persons.

The prime minister instructed Power Minister Engineer Khurram Dastgir Khan to ensure his presence in the districts of southern Sindh until the effects of the cyclone were over, to monitor the 24-hour power transmission system in the coastal areas. Prime Minister Shehbaz said after the cyclone, the possible damage to the power transmission system should be repaired immediately.

He also set up a committee to deal with the emergency situation arising in view of the Biparjoy cyclone. To be headed by Climate Change Minister Sherry Rehman, the committee would comprise Power Minister Engineer Khurram Dastgir Khan, Food Security Minister Tariq Bashir Cheema, NDMA Chairman Lt. Gen. Inam Haider Malik, and representatives of Sindh and Balochistan governments, Meteorological Department and National Institute of Health (NIH). The prime minister instructed the committee for constant consultation to deal with the situation arising from the cyclone and keep the people aware of any possible emergency. Complete evacuation of people from the coastal areas likely to be affected, should be ensured, besides providing relief materials to them.

"Inshallah, all the institutions will collectively deal with the possible situation arising from the cyclone Biparjoy cyclone," he resolved. The meeting was briefed on the route of the cyclone and the possible collision with the coastal areas. It was told that according to the current situation, the storm is likely to hit Ketī Bandar on June 15 and was predicted to end completely within three days. Winds are blowing at an average speed of 140-150 km per hour.

No one can be ousted from politics - Nawaz a living example

F.P. Report

LAHORE: Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb on Tuesday said no one could be ousted from the political arena as the conduct and actions of politicians shaped their future. "Nobody can force out anybody from politics if [his or her] actions are rightful and Nawaz Sharif is a living example in this regard," the minister said while addressing 'Meet the Press' programme here at the Lahore Press Club (LPC).

She said all-out efforts were made to minus Nawaz Sharif from the politics but in vain since he had deep roots among the people who wanted to see him in Pakistan for putting it again on the course of progress and development.

Marriyum said Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) Quaid Nawaz Sharif was a brave leader, who had courted his arrest before his workers. On the other hand, the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf chief used his workers to achieve his ulterior motives.

The minister said the general election would be held once the incumbent National Assembly completed its constitutional tenure and it was the responsibility of the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) to hold polls in the country. She said the PML-N was ready to contest the general election and it was the only party which had already launched its country-wide campaign in that regard. People turned out in big numbers in the public gatherings addressed by PML-N Chief Organizer Maryam Nawaz Sharif in different cities including Shujaabad, Vehari, Kasur and Lahore.

"The masses are fully fed up with the politics of hatred and anarchy," she said, adding the people would elect their representatives through ballot this time as a government which was imposed on them in 2018 had miserably



failed. "The party which came into the government as a result of suspending the RTS has collapsed like a house of cards" and the people would never let that happen again, she added.

To a query, she said the PTI chief would be held accountable for his wrong deeds and orchestrating the May 9 incidents in the country. The people involved in the mayhem on that day would be dealt as per the law. She said the coalition government would not have reformed the National Accountability Bureau laws, if it had wanted to victimize political opponents. Despite facing the worst form of political witch-hunt during the four years of PTI rule, the PML-N leadership did not play the victim card, she added.

The minister alleged that the PTI chief, soon after coming into the government, started victimisation of his opponents and sent all of them to jails and put some to death cells. She said the masses had rejected the politics of hatred and chaos being pursued by the PTI as they knew it would hurt the country, which was heading into right direction because to people-friendly economic policies of the incumbent government.

Due to the historic steps taken by Shehbaz Sharif led government in the agricultural sector, she said, the country had bumper crops last year in spite of the devastating floods. She said the government had taken precautionary measures to

cope with the cyclone which might hit the south of the country. Similar steps were taken last year to face the cyclone, she recalled. The minister said the government had introduced many packages for youth, farmers and women in the budget for the fiscal year 2023-24.

Marriyum said Rs 1 billion was allocated for health insurance of the journalists and media workers in the next year's budget, which would help them meet their medical needs. The health insurance scheme would be executed through the Press Information Department (PID) offices and a policy would be formulated in that regard within next two weeks, she added.

The minister said many media workers had visited the chamber of Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif when he was Leader of the Opposition in the National Assembly to request him for medical insurance, and the latter soon after coming into power, ordered to work out a scheme for the purpose. "The media persons were exposed to the worst state oppression during the four years of the PTI government," she added, while assuring that the PML-N would continue to stand with journalists. She said the Security and Safety Bill, which was with the Parliamentary Committee on Information and Broadcasting, would be enacted soon.

Bilawal appeals to people for cooperation

F.P. Report

KARACHI: Chairman Pakistan People's Party (PPP) and Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari has appealed to the public to take protective measures and to cooperate with the administration in view of the cyclone "Biparjoy".

According to the statement issued by Media Cell Bilawal House here on Tuesday, the PPP Chairman said that according to meteorological reports, the coastal areas of Karachi, Thatta, Sujawal and Badin are under threat of the 'Biparjoy'. He said that the government of Sindh is alert in view of the cyclone and is taking all possible safety measures, adding that all possible resources are being utilised to protect the life and property of the people.

Bilawal said that the people, especially those living in the coastal areas, should cooperate with the administration and move to safer places without delay. He emphasized that citizens living in old and dilapidated buildings should also be shifted to safer places on emergency basis. He also appealed to the fishermen not to go into the open sea for the next few days until the weather returns to normal.

"Travelling during rainstorms should be avoided, as taking all precautionary measures is the only way to avoid the potential damage of a natural calamity," he added. Bilawal also instructed his Party's office-bearers and workers to lend a helping hand to the administration in rescue and relief activities, while the law-makers of the party from the coastal areas should remain in their respective constituencies and stay in touch with the people. "PPP is always with the people, be it happy moments or difficult times," he added. He prayed, "May Allah Almighty protect every nook and corner of Pakistan and every Pakistani from natural calamities and keep them safe."

16 killed, 1,277 injured in road accidents in Punjab

LAHORE (APP): At least 16 people were killed while 1,277 injured in 1,168 road accidents in Punjab during last 24 hours. Of whom, 661 people with serious injuries were shifted to different hospitals, while 606 victims with minor injuries were treated on the spot by rescue medical teams, said a spokesman for Rescue 1122 here on Tuesday.

Analysis showed that 614 drivers, 33 underage drivers, 191 pedestrians, and 478 passengers were among the victims of road accidents. Statistics showed that 260 accidents were reported in Lahore which affected 314 people placing the provincial capital at top of the list followed by 103 in Multan with 103 victims and at third Faisalabad with 77 accidents and 82 victims. As many as, 1029 motorcycles, 75 rickshaws, 96 cars, 25 vans, nine buses, 37 trucks and 96 other vehicles and slow-moving carts were involved in the road accidents.

Police arrest 4,597 accused this year: CCPO

LAHORE (APP): Taking action against drug peddlers and other criminals, the Lahore police arrested 4,597 accused during the current year.

Lahore's Capital City Police Officer Bilal Siddique Kamyana said in a statement here on Monday that suspects were apprehended with substantial quantities of contraband including 2,369 kg hashish, 46.705 kg heroin, 25.102 kg crystal methamphetamine, along with a staggering 104,750 liters of liquor. Furthermore, under the Kite Flying Act, the police registered 3,746 cases and confiscated a number of items, including 58,849 kites and 6,454 string reels.

The CCPO said that 204 individuals involved in illegal display of weapons were charged, leading to the confiscation of 32 Kalashnikovs, 231 rifles, 161 guns, 3,253 pistols, and 49,610 rounds of ammunition. The CCPO said the police had also taken strict action against individuals engaging in one-wheeling activities, resulting in the arrest of 1,347 individuals, with cases registered against them accordingly.

Rangers assisting civil administration in rescue operations

KARACHI (APP): The Pakistan Rangers Sindh on the instructions of Director General Rangers was providing full assistance to the civil administration in rescue operations of evacuating the people from coastal villages to safe places.

The evacuation of villages of Sirani, S.F. Rahu, Gogra Memon, Badmi, Shekhani Garhi, Ahmad Raju, Bada Zero, Hajjam Goth, Shah Bandar, Ketu Bandar, which were expected to be hit by the cyclone in the coastal belt of Sajawal was underway. The residents were being shifted to safe places by private buses and government vehicles.

Sindh cancels all exams

KARACHI (PPI): The Sindh government Tuesday cancelled all examinations from tomorrow (Wednesday) in the wake of the Very Severe Cyclonic System (VSCS) Biparjoy — which is expected to make its landfall between Karachi and India's Gujarat on Thursday.

Issuing a notification in this regard, Karachi's Assistant Commissioner Abid Qamar Shaikh said: "All examinations, education seminars, summer camps and education-related activities may be cancelled/rescheduled from 14th June 2023 till the end of the storm to avoid any loss of human lives and inconvenience to the general public."

The notification said that the cyclone is likely to hit the coastal areas of Karachi Division and cause torrential rains or storms in the city.

KMC has completed Pak-China Friendship Park, tells Tessori

KARACHI (PPI): Sindh Governor Kamran Khan Tessori Tuesday said that the relationship between China and Pakistan is very strong and to further strengthen this friendship, Karachi Metropolitan Corporation has completed the Pak-China Friendship Park. We have to deal with cyclone situation bravely; the governor's house is delivering a month's ration to the people living in the coastal areas to help them.

He expressed these views while addressing the opening ceremony of Pakistan China Friendship Park on Kashmir Road on Tuesday. On this occasion, Administrator Karachi Dr. Syed Saifur Rahman, Consul General of People's Republic of China Mr. Zheng Heo, Ivory Coast, Indonesia. Consul General of Oman, Iran, Malaysia, Russia, Municipal Commissioner Syed Shujaat Hussain were present on this occasion besides Director General Parks Junaidullah Khan, Senior Director Information and Printing and Media Management Ali Hassan Sajid and other officers. Earlier, Governor Sindh along with Administrator Karachi and Consul General of China inaugurated Pakistan China Friendship Park, a large number of citizens were also present on this occasion.

Governor Sindh Kamran Khan Tessori said that Friendship is only strengthened when it is repeated time and time again. The encroachment mafia had a strong grip on the place where the park is built. KMC vacated it with tireless efforts and completed the park in a very short period of time. I congratulate KMC for this achievement. He said that this park is a manifestation of our long-standing and warm friendship with the People's Republic of China, the foundation stone of this park was laid on the occasion of Chinese New Year and on behalf of the citizens of Karachi, we sent a message to the citizens of China that we want to maintain a relationship of love and friendship with them. KMC has constructed this park very quickly, which shows that KMC is using its land for the purpose for which it was established.

He said that we want to make Karachi a better and developed city together with friendly countries. Their encouragement will pave the way for more development projects in the future which will give an opportunity to beautify Karachi. He said that two Chinese cities, Beijing and Shanghai, are the twin cities of Karachi. It is a matter of pride for us to attribute Pakistan China Friendship Park to our great neighbor China. Governor Sindh said that during the last seven months, Administrator Karachi Dr. Syed Saifur Rahman and his team have provided basic facilities to the citizens in Karachi. The steps that have been taken are not only commendable, for which I congratulate KMC and hope that this perform-

Lost & Found

I have lost my original 3rd year DMC and Certificate of Diploma of Associate Engineer Roll # 667462. If anyone finds please return it to Afsar Ali S/o Shah Ras Khan CNIC # 1 5 3 0 2 - 0 5 0 6 4 2 8 - 1 Contact: 0313-9958788.

ance will be continued in the future.

Addressing the event, Administrator Karachi Dr. Syed Saifur Rahman said that the area of this park is four acres and all facilities for the citizens in this park including walking track, jogging track, fountain, benches for sitting, shade trees, Flower beds and beautiful corridors are being constructed. He said that the long-standing relations between Pakistan and China have met every test, Pakistan-China friendship is as high as the Himalayas, I will request the Consul General of China to build a similar Pak-China Park in China. I am grateful to Governor Sindh for that thanks to their trust we could work for the betterment of Karachi, but still a lot remains to be done. All the credit for the construction of this park goes to the KMC officers, gardeners and contractor who worked very fast and completed it.

The Municipality of Karachi has fulfilled its responsibilities by constructing a park at this place. Speaking at the ceremony, Consul General of China Mr. Zheng Heo said that I congratulate the Municipality of Karachi on the opening of the Pakistan China Friendship Park will further strengthen the friendship of the countries.

INVITATION FOR BIDS FOR THE YEAR 2023-24

01. Saidu Group of Teaching Hospitals, Swat Invites sealed bids under National Competitive Bidding from Manufacturers or their Authorize Dealers for the Procurement of:

I) Cardiac Cath Lab Consumables II) Liquid Medical Oxygen

III) Janitorial Services for the financial year 2023-24.

02. Bidding shall be conducted through Single Stage Two Envelopes Bidding Procedure comprising a single package containing two envelopes as per KPRA Rules-2014. Each envelope shall contain separately Technical and financial bid clearly marked in bold & legible letters. The bidders are bound to provide complete information along with its postal as well as valid email address and phone number/s on each of the respective envelope.

03. Interested bidders must obtain Application Form along with complete set of bidding documents from the Office of the Medical Superintendent, Saidu Group of Teaching Hospitals, Swat during office hours on any working day on or before Thursday 06-07-2023 at 10:00 Hrs, against the non-refundable cash payment of Pak Rupees fifteen hundred per application form. Original Receipt of the paid amount must be attached to the Technical Bid inside its sealed envelope. The advertisement may be downloaded from the official website of Saidu Group of Teaching Hospitals, Swat www.sth.org.pk and www.kppra.gov.pk

04. Pre-bid meeting with the interested bidders will be held on Monday 26-06-2023 at 10:00 Hrs in the Committee Room of Saidu Group of Teaching Hospitals, Swat.

05. Interested Bidders must submit sealed bids to the office of the Medical Superintendent, Saidu Group of Teaching Hospitals, Swat on or before Thursday 06-07-2023 at 10:00 Hrs which will be opened on the same day at 10:30 Hrs in the presence of those bidders or their representative, who choose to attend the process. Bid submitted after Thursday 06-07-2023 at 10:00 Hrs shall not be entertained.

06. Financial bid must be accompanied with Bid Security (Cath Lab Consumables PKR. 1000,000/- Liquid Medical Oxygen PKR. 1000,000/- Janitorial Services PKR. 1000,000/-) in the name of the undersigned in shape of CDR/ Bank Guarantee/ Insurance Guarantee. Ordinary cheque in the form of bid security will result in bid rejection summarily.

07. Technical bid must be accompanied with a photocopy of the bid security (not showing the amount) or an Affidavit on Judicial Stamp paper to the effect that bid security as per Bid data Sheet is attached in the financial bid.

08. Bid must be computer typed & printed; and the offered bid price must be written both in words & figures. Bid price/quotations with cutting and over-writing shall not be accepted to the extent of that quoted item.

09. The technical proposal shall contain all the details in accordance with standard specification of the items/goods mentioned in the Schedule of Requirements (SOR) which must be supported by original catalogue/Brochures. All bidders are required to submit the relevant detail of technical proposal and required documents in soft copies (USB) duly labeled by a permanent marker with the name of bidder/firm.

10. Bidders are required to offer the most competitive lowest rate of their items, as negotiations on quoted rates are not allowed under the rules.

11. The undersigned reserves the right to reject any or all the bids as per provisions contained in Rule 47 of KPRA Procurement Rules 2014.

INF(P) 1268/23

Medical Superintendent
Saidu Group of Teaching Hospital Saidu Sharif Swat

آسامیاں خالی ہیں

ملکی اور کوہاٹ میں درج ذیل آسامیوں کیلئے طلب کوہاٹ کے سسٹم کنٹری (ڈویژن) اور (ریجنل) شیکارڈانہ اور ناؤ کوہاٹ کے اہل امیدواروں سے درخواستیں طلب ہیں۔

نمبر	آسامی	نمایندہ	تعداد	کوہاٹ	تعلیمی معیار	نمبر	آسامی
1	کیپٹن/ایئر	16	05	02	کوہاٹ	18	30
2	سینیئر سٹینڈ	16	01	02	کوہاٹ	18	30
3	جونیئر سٹینڈ	14	06	02	کوہاٹ	18	30
4	جونیئر کورٹ	11	11	10	کوہاٹ	18	30
5	ٹاکر	03	01	03	کوہاٹ	18	40

شرائط و ضوابط:

- کوہاٹ درخواست نام پر مندرجہ ذیل میں جج صاحب کوہاٹ سے وصول کئے جاسکتے ہیں۔
- امیدوار درخواست نام میں اپنا مکمل نام، ولدیت، تاریخ پیدائش، تعلیمی معیار، شادی کا کارڈ، نمبر، موبائل نمبر، تعلیمی قابلیت، درجہ، پوسٹل ایڈریس، اور دیگر معلومات فراہم کرنا ضروری ہے۔
- امیدوار درخواست نام میں اپنا مکمل نام، ولدیت، تاریخ پیدائش، تعلیمی معیار، شادی کا کارڈ، نمبر، موبائل نمبر، تعلیمی قابلیت، درجہ، پوسٹل ایڈریس، اور دیگر معلومات فراہم کرنا ضروری ہے۔
- کوہاٹ درخواست نام میں اپنا مکمل نام، ولدیت، تاریخ پیدائش، تعلیمی معیار، شادی کا کارڈ، نمبر، موبائل نمبر، تعلیمی قابلیت، درجہ، پوسٹل ایڈریس، اور دیگر معلومات فراہم کرنا ضروری ہے۔
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PAKISTAN CIVIL AVIATION AUTHORITY (PCAA)

CORRIGENDUM

I/T NO. HQCAA/1992/201/XXLN AND I/T NO. HQCAA/1992/202/XXLN

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

S. No.	Description & Bid No.	Fixed Bid Security (PKR)	Bid Submission Date/Time	Bid Opening Date/Time/Place	Last Date for issuance of Bidding Documents	Basis US \$ (Dollar)
01.	Procurement of High Power (HF) Transceivers System for JIAP Karachi & AIAP Lahore (with Testing, Installation & Commissioning)	Rs. 16,000,000/-	26-06-2023 11:00 Hours	26-06-2023 11:30 Hours Log. Center (S) (Log. ANS Branch)	23-06-2023	F.O.R
02.	Procurement of Automatic Weather Observation System (AWOS) for AIAP Lahore (with Testing, Installation & Commissioning)	Rs. 3,000,000/-	26-06-2023 11:30 Hours	26-06-2023 12:00 Hours Log. Center (S) (Log. ANS Branch)	23-06-2023	F.O.R

All other clauses would remain the same. This corrigendum is also available on PPRA website www.ppra.org.pk and CAA website www.caapakistan.com.pk

ADDITIONAL DIRECTOR LOGISTICS (ANS)
HQ CIVIL AVIATION AUTHORITY
Phone: 021-9907-2265 Fax: 021-9924-2675

PID/KQ#3570/22

www.caapakistan.com.pk

Govt working to revive economy, overcome other challenges: Ahsan

LAHORE (APP): Federal Minister for Planning Prof Ahsan Iqbal on Tuesday said that Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz government during its previous tenure launched significant uplift projects, eliminated terrorism, overcome power outage, revived economy and achieved other milestones for the progress and prosperity of the country.

Addressing the inaugural ceremony of newly constructed building of the Department of Energy and Environment Engineering, University of the Punjab, he said that it was pleasing to see completion of Energy & Environment Department's project which was approved during the PML-N's previous tenure.

He said that in 2013 before the PML-N govern-

ment, the country was facing severe economic challenges, power outage, terrorism, and the international media was labelling Pakistan as most dangerous country in the world but the PML-N after coming into power adopted comprehensive strategies to restore the country's image, eliminate terrorism, overcome load shedding and revive economy of the country.

The Minister said the PML-N government in 2013 had introduced a policy of 3Es – Energy sources and solutions, elimination of extremism and economic revival to put the country on road to development and progress which was successfully achieved as more than 11,000 megawatt electricity was generated and added to the national grid only in four years, taking out the country from darkness. It was a historic achievement as no government in 65 years could generate and add such electricity capacity in the system, he maintained. Ahsan Iqbal said that for action against terrorism and extremism, the security forces and law enforcement agencies were provided all resources and support to eliminate terrorism and ensure peace in the country, adding that officials of security forces had rendered great sacrifices in war against terrorism and suc-

cessfully eliminated the terrorism from the country. Due to China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), a number of foreign companies had shown interest in making investment in CPEC projects, while the foreign investors declared Pakistan safe heaven for foreign investment, he asserted.

The PML-N government had launched projects to construct roads and motorways of 2,000 kilometers, besides setting up campuses of universities even in under developed areas of the country for imparting higher education to the youth, he maintained. Ahsan Iqbal said that some elements could not digest the country's development and prosperity so they hatched a conspiracy against the then prime minister Nawaz Sharif and got him disqualified for not taking salary from his son, adding that their only agenda was to halt the country's progress and uplift.

The Minister said that today was the era of digital media and information technology, but it was needed to evaluate the material, narrative or propaganda being promoted on social media against the country and institutions, so that it could not manipulate or control our behaviours.

Organized efforts were being made to polarize and confuse the society through

social media delusion and hate for achieving particular agendas, he added. Ahsan Iqbal said that previous PTI government had shrunk the development budget to Rs 550 billion from Rs 1,000 billion, however the PML-N after coming into power once again increased the development budget to Rs 1,100 billion.

The Minister stressed the need for changing the lifestyles as a collective measure to revive country's economic situation and make a balance between country's income and expenditures ratio, asserting that country's debt burden needed to be decreased, otherwise, poverty rate could escalate till 2025. He highlighted that present government had evolved a framework of 5Es- Export led growth, E-Pakistan or digitalization, Environment, Energy and Equity in empowerment to make country self reliant after exploring new methods and resources for development, maintaining that the country was vulnerable to climate change impacts so efforts were required to find new energy sources and upgrade the existing one which could also ease Pakistan's energy debts. If such framework including lifestyle change was implemented successfully, the poverty rate could decline to 15 percent.

UNIVERSITY OF BUNER

Tender Notice

Tender No: 01/HEC-NRPU/2023

Sealed Tenders are invited under "Single Stage-Two Envelopes Procedure" from well-established and reputed firms/companies/suppliers, registered with income tax and sales tax department and appears the Active Tax Payer List of the FBR for the supply of the following Chemistry Lab Equipment's.

S. No.	Item	Quantity	Specifications
1.	FT-IR Spectrometer	01	Compact FT-IR Spectrometer with ZnSe ATR measurement.

- Quotations must be accompanied by 2% call Deposit in F/O the University of Buner.
- The envelope should be clearly marked with, i. Technical Specification, ii. Financial Quotation.
- Tender Form/ documents can be obtained from the office of the undersigned on working days on the production of receipt of Rs. 1000/- on account of "Tender Fee" or deposited online in Account No. 901179701 Maintained at HBL Sowari (Buner) Branch Code No. 0932.
- Tender Form/ documents can also be downloaded from the University Website www.ubuner.edu.com.pk. However, no tender documents will be accepted without tender fee.
- The university reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the tenders by assigning cogent reason, thereof and no claim, in this respect shall be entertained in any court of law.
- The bids must be delivered to the office of the undersigned till 11:30 AM on 12th July, 2023.
- Any bid received after the intimated time shall be rejected.
- Submission of any false statement/documents shall disqualify the bidder.
- The awarding firm /company will be entirely responsible for quality and quantity of the item.
- Errors and omissions, if any, shall subject to rectification by the University

Tender will be opened at 12:00 PM on 12/07/2023 in the presence of the Purchase Committee and representatives of the participating firms/bidders or their representative.

Procurement Officer | University of Buner
Email: PO@ubuner.edu.pk | Phone No. (0939)-555211 & 013

INVITATION TO E-BID THROUGH SAP-ARIBA DISCOVERY

Oil & Gas Development Company Limited (OGDCL) is the largest Exploration & Production Company listed on Pakistan and London Stock Exchange. Details about the company can be obtained from website <http://www.ogdcl.com>. Bids are invited through SAP-Ariba Discovery for the service/material given below under competitive bidding procedure as per Public Procurement Regulatory Authority (PPRA) rules:

SR #	TENDER ENQUIRY NO.	DESCRIPTION	BID SUBMISSION DATE & TIME	BID OPENING DATE & TIME
1	OGDCL-SCM-SERVICES-CB-PnP-60-369-210701729- 2023	Services for Inspection of Siemens Turbine-A (TB-5000) Installed at Dakhni Gas Processing Plant, Tehsil Jand District Attock Punjab Province	05.07.2023 AT 1030 Hrs.	05.07.2023 AT 1100 Hrs.
2	OGDCL-SCM-SERVICES-CB-PnP-60-387-211236389- 2023	Services for Execution of ATA-2023 Jobs at Qadirpur Plant/Field, District Ghotki Sindh Province	10.07.2023 AT 1030 Hrs.	10.07.2023 AT 1100 Hrs.
3	OGDCL-SCM-FB-CB-PROD-210647553- 2023	Wireline Set Permanent Production Packers 7 Inch 29-32 PPF Casing Weight Range, 3-1/2 Inch 10k PSI Safety Valves (TRSCSSVS) Along With Accessories and Associated Services.	17.07.2023 AT 1100 Hrs.	17.07.2023 AT 1130 Hrs.

- Vendors not having Ariba Network ID are requested to register themselves on SAP Ariba Portal by clicking on the link supplier.ariba.com to access and participate in OGDCL tenders.
- Complete Tender document(s) along with Scope of Work / TOR / Clarifications can be viewed and downloaded from SAP-Ariba RFP by clicking on the link discovery.ariba.com/profile/ANO1562899621.
- Original Bid Bonds as per RFP/Tender Document shall be submitted at the reception of OGDCL House, Jinnah Avenue, Blue Area, Islamabad, Pakistan on or before bid submission date and time mentioned above.
- OGDCL reserves the right to accept or reject any bid and to annul the bidding process and reject all the bids as per Public Procurement Regulatory Authority (PPRA) Rule-33".

EXTENSION

Reference to our Press Tender & Extension Notices published in national newspapers on 20.04.2023, 16.05.2023, 30.05.2023 and 06.06.2023, it is notified that the bids submission/ opening date is extended as follows:

SR #	TENDER ENQUIRY NO.	DESCRIPTION	FROM	TO
1	OGDCL-SCM-FB-CB-DRLG-207467126- 2023	Procurement of 20", 13-3/8", 9-5/8", 7" & 4-1/2" Casing	Date: 14.06.2023 Submission: 1100 hrs Opening: 1130 hrs	Date: 26.06.2023 Submission: 1100 hrs Opening: 1130 hrs

- Bid submission/opening time and all other terms & conditions shall remain unchanged.
- Bidders are requested to contact In-Charge Supply Chain Management (SCM) Services at Phone # +92-51-92002-3750 and Manager Supply Chain Management (SCM) Foreign at Phone # +92-51-92002-3652 for further queries / information.
- This advertisement is also available on PPRA website at www.ppra.org.pk and OGDCL website at www.ogdcl.com.

GENERAL MANAGER (SUPPLY CHAIN MANAGEMENT) OIL & GAS DEVELOPMENT COMPANY LIMITED

OGDCL HOUSE, JINNAH AVENUE, ISLAMABAD, PAKISTAN. PHONE NO. 92-51-920023540; FAX NO. 92-51-9244139

LARGEST TAX PAYERS COMPANY OF THE NATION "SAY NO TO CORRUPTION" WE EXPLORE PROSPERITY



Governor highlights significance of research for making progress

PESHAWAR (APP): Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor, Haji Ghulam Ali Tuesday highlighted the significance of research to make progress in 21st century and said that research should be target oriented and benefit each and every tier of society.

He was talking to senior professor of colleges which were given training in Higher Education Academy for Research and Training (HEART) Kohat. Caretaker Minister for Higher Education, Irshad Qaisar, Director HEART and Tasbeeh Ullah were present on the occasion.

Academy Director informed that governor about objectives of the academy and said that it is

has been established for professors to complete four-month course that is mandatory for their promotion.

He told that academy is facing many problems including unavailability of budget and training has conducted on self-help basis.

Speaking on the occasion, KP Governor assured his cooperation and said that the matter would be discussed with finance department and Planning and Development Department.

He said that teachers have always played a very prominent role in construction and development of a society stressing upon them to focus character and

capacity building of young generation.

He also advised teachers to inculcate norms of mutual respect, coexistence and tolerance among youth keeping in view growing trends of extreme elements in the society.

Governor said that teachers should make efforts to infuse students with passion of research to compete challenges in contemporary world that is moving fast towards new fields of science and technology.

Later, Abdus Subhan, Azam Khan of PMLN, Haji Imran Khan of ANP and Ameer Nawaz Khan of Lakki Marwat called on Governor and discussed problems of their areas.



PESHAWAR: Senior professors of colleges getting training course in Higher Education Academy for Research and Training (HEART) Kohat meeting with Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Haji Ghulam Ali.

TSA hails incorporation of ad hoc relief in budget

Kashif Ullah Khalil

PESHAWAR: Teaching Staff Association (TSA) Islamia College Peshawar has appreciated Syndicate decision to incorporate Ad hoc relief Allowance in the proposed budget.

The decision will help both for institution and the employees of Islamia College University and allocating Rs45 lakhs fund for repairing and renovation works in the premises and the members syndicate regard to approval of the Faculties.

Because the decision possible efforts members. TSA of translator Dr. Younas in accordance budget to repair for the houses as demand it and TSA from request the administration.

Similarly, the faculty reconstructions and faculty deans at for TSA was also engaged for long time. While the role of Vice Chancellor as the previous day's decision.

Power suspension notified

PESHAWAR (APP): Peshawar Electric Supply Company (Pesco) on Tuesday notified that due to maintenance work power supply will remain suspended from 132 KV Murree Road Abbottabad Grid Station on 14th, 19th and 26th June from 8:00 a.m. to 01:00 p.m. subsequently, the consumers of 11KV Bagnotar and Damtor feeders will face inconvenience.

It said that power supply will also remain suspended from 132 KV Gadoon-Al Haji Asia Steel Mill Transmission Line on 14th June from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. resultantly consumers of 11 KV Al Haji Asia Steel Mill feeders will face inconvenience.

GIZ, KP Minister, discuss cooperation in technical education

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: A delegation of the German Development Agency (GIZ) headed by its Coordinator for Sustainable Economic Development, Training and Employment in Pakistan Romina Kochius, called on Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Caretaker Minister for Industries, Commerce and Technical Education, Mohammad Adnan Jalil here in his office at Civil Secretariat Peshawar on Tuesday.

During the meeting they discussed issues of mutual cooperation and interest, especially in relation to the improvement of the training imparted in the technical training institutes established in the province under Technical & Vocational Education Training (TVET) Support Programme and to build the capacity of these institutes.

Director General (DG) Industries Barkatullah, Chief Economist of Industries Department, officials of Technical Education and Vocational Training Authority and other concerned authorities were also present on the occasion.

Speaking on the occasion, the provincial minister appreciated the cooperation and efforts of the

German organization in the preparation of technical skills and other sectors and expressed the hope that the German government would further expand this support.

He said that this cooperation based on mutual partnership under the TVET Support Programme for the training of the teachers of technical education requires further enhancement in the future.

He said that he wants to obtain better results through the provision of quality technical education in institutions and in this context he desirous to put these institutions on the path of providing better education. He added that the establishment of an independent research and development centre has also been planned in the Industries Department to explore and search the potential of industrial and economic development in the province.

According to his vision, technical training institutions will provide high quality training to ensure the availability of skilled manpower as per demand of the modern era. He said that the proposed research center will perform the responsibility for generating opportunities for investment in the province.

Similarly, he said that Department of Industry will carry out the responsibilities of registration of industries and all other matters, while the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Economic Zones Development and Management Company will make efforts for marketing the promotion of industrialization in the province.

The caretaker minister said that the support provided by the German institution in the establishment of the proposed research center would be appreciated and added that they are modernizing the technical education sector to enable our skilled youth in getting best employment opportunities in the international market.

In this regard, he sought support from the German institution to provide support in finding jobs for the province's skilled workers in the concerned trade in foreign countries while requesting further support in modernizing many advanced level courses.

The provincial minister said that he wants to put the department of industry and technical education in the right direction. He said that he believes in the strengthening of the institutions of technical education.

Ghazi assumes charge as SD Radio Peshawar FM 92.2

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Information Department's Senior Public Relations Officer Ghulam Hussain Ghazi has assumed the charge of Station Director Pakhtunkhwa Radio FM 92.2 Peshawar.

His new appointment was notified recently. He has previously served as the Regional Director of Information and in-charge of Pakhtunkhwa Radio FM 98 in Swat, apart from being Public Relations Officer of several Governors, Chief Ministers and Senior Ministers.

Meanwhile, Ghulam Hussain Ghazi visited various sections of Pakhtunkhwa Radio and reviewed the programs. The Radio producers and senior staff apprised him of the radio's performance.

On the occasion, Ghulam Hussain Ghazi reiterated his commitment to further improve the performance of Pakhtunkhwa Radio and make it truly an infotainment center in accordance with the policies and priorities of the provincial government. He clarified that providing useful information to the audience through radio, upholding the national cohesion and image building of the provincial government is his mission.



PESHAWAR: Caretaker Minister for Information, Auqaf, Haji, Religious and Minority Affairs Barrister Feroze Jamal Shah Kakakhel presiding over a meeting regarding renovation project of Mahabat Khan Masjid.

Maintenance of Mohabat Khan Masjid top priority

PESHAWAR, (APP): Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Caretaker Minister for Information, Auqaf, Haji, Religious and Minority Affairs Barrister Feroze Jamal Shah Kakakhel on Tuesday said that Mohabat Khan Masjid is an important and historic heritage of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, its maintenance is one of the top priorities of the caretaker government.

The concerns of the business community on the renovation project of the historic Masjid will be addressed and they will be taken into confidence. The caretaker provincial minister directed the concerned department to conduct a

detailed survey of the historic Masjid building.

Barrister Feroze Jamal Shah Kakakhel expressed these views while presiding over a meeting regarding the renovation project of the historic Mahabat Khan Masjid.

Advisor to the caretaker Chief Minister on Labor Malik Mehr Elahi, Mayor Peshawar Zubair Ali and leaders of the business community participated in the meeting.

On the occasion, Barrister Feroze Jamal Shah Kakakhel said that Mahabat Khan Masjid is an important and historic heritage, the maintenance of which is included in the pri-

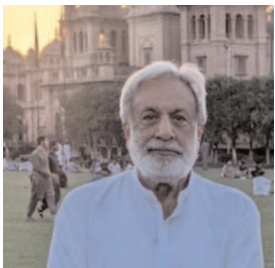
orities of the government.

The suggestions and opinions of the business community regarding the project will be considered and they will be taken into confidence.

Provincial minister, Barrister Feroze Jamal directed concerned department to inspect the building and structure of the Masjid as soon as possible.

On the occasion, Mayor Peshawar Zubair Ali thanked the caretaker minister for Information and Auqaf for the smooth progress in the renovation project of the mosque and for giving patience to the concerns of the business community in this regard.

Nisar Muhammad Nisar: The most Fortunate Islamian



F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: Institutions come into existence to produce capable, competent and efficient individuals to shoulder future responsibilities of a nation. The relationship between institutions and individuals, however, becomes a love affair, in case an institution is served by the same individuals who are its product.

The individuals own their mother-institution like their matriarch thus giving birth to a life-long relationship with the institution. This relationship keeps intact the spirit and courage of serving the institution,

which in turn serves the nation-building process.

Almost a century-long history of the Islamia College Peshawar most probably has a few examples wherein persons first well-groomed in the Islamian atmosphere as students, then after serving the institution for a longer period, they headed it. A unique example of this phenomenon is a person, who secured first position in his Matric examination in 1963 in NWFP.

Did his F.Sc and B.Sc from Islamia College and M.Sc from University of Peshawar in 1969, after serving more than three decades as teacher also headed this great seat of learning for three years. The successes line of this distinguished Islamian does not end here, he has the honour to simultaneously look after two institutions - Islamia College and Islamia Collegiate School - as principal.

Only one example of

Professor L. Tipping could be retrieved from the storehouse of Islamia College history who had held the dual charge of these two institutions some 94 years ago. Again, good fortune visited him in September 2007 when he became the first principal who undertook the responsibility of heading three institutions at a time - the Islamia Collegiate School, the Islamia College for Boys and the Islamia College for Girls. It was in his period that a girl's section was added to the main educational hierarchy of Islamia College Peshawar.

Allah the Almighty rewarded him for these meritorious services to Dar-ul-Ulum Islamia Sooba Sarhad in such a manner that during his period of principalship, the spade-work for Islamia College University was carried out under his dynamic leadership. And above all, the college was upgraded to uni-

versity level on December 4, 2007.

The month of March has a special significance in his life. He was born in the month of March, 1948, he performed Hajj in this month in 1999, the ordinance of Islamia College University was issued on March 26 and his retirement came on March 27-2-2018.

This fortunate Islamian is none the else but Professor Dr. Nisar Muhammad Nisar who studied at Islamia College from 1963 to 1967. Then served it from 1970 to 2005 as a Chemistry teacher and was appointed its principal in 2005. During his 35 years service career he served the Islamia College in various capacities like Chairman Department of Chemistry, Assistant Warden, Warden, Senior Warden, Provost Staff Proctor, Chief Proctor and Vice Principal. He retired as Principal on March 27, 2002.



PESHAWAR: Spokesperson Young Doctors Association Dr. Faizal Barkzai addressing a press conference. — F.P. photo by Ghulam Murtaza

KMU arranges awareness session on drug abuse

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: KMU anti-tobacco and drug control committee in collaboration with the IPS-KMU Peshawar and the Anti-Narcotics Force has organized an awareness session on "Drug abuse" to spread awareness amongst the students about the harmful effects drugs cause to our mental, physical, social and economic lives, their illegality and the fierce enforcement taking place for countering the narcotics in Pakistan. The deputy director ANF KP Wajid Yousaf was the chief guest, while the dean of basic medical sciences Prof. Dr. Robina Nazli, Registrar KMU Mr. Inamullah Khan, direc-

tor IPS Dr. Sami Siraj, chief proctor KMU Dr. Haji Bahadar, faculty and a large number of students were also present at the occasion.

Deputy Director ANF Wajid Yousaf gave the introduction of the ANF and the countering areas where the ANF is deployed on the ground. He then shared certain alarming facts and figures about the drug's production and usage. He shared that the UNODC calculates that more than 800,000 Pakistanis between the ages of 15 and 64 use heroin regularly. It is also estimated that up to 44 tons of processed heroin are consumed annually in Pakistan. He highlighted the several causes observed in the young generations to go towards drug addiction. The

main reasons include weakness in faith, depression, peer pressure, unintentional dependency of medicines, and lack of self-control, for experience and to enhance performance.

The deputy director emphasized that drug abuse has grown from an essential domestic problem into a national and global threat. ANF as a force will leave no stone unturned to curb this menace and will fight against all odds to secure our next generation. He imperatively held the strengthening of faith as the practical solution for curbing drug abuse. He made recommendations of self-belief, self-control, reduction in communication gaps, strong family bonding, self-awareness and involvement in

healthy activities as a workable way out to counter the drug's inclination. He suggested treating a drug addict as a patient and always being empathetic during his rehabilitation process.

The chief guest asked the young students to pledge not to be diverted by any wrong company and to always uphold the esteem of their faith and their family. He assured the participants of complete support and cooperation from the Force and emphasized the role of educational institutes in the societal space to save the future of Pakistan from the curse of narcotics by highlighting "Education as a weapon against drugs" within the ambit of "shape" strategy.



In brief

Five killed in road mishap

FAISALABAD (INP): At least five people were killed and four others injured in collision between a passenger bus and a tractor trolley here on Tuesday. Rescue sources said that accident took place in Satiana area of Faisalabad where a Islamabad bound passenger bus coming from Pakpattan collided with a tractor trolley. Five people were killed in the accident while four others sustained serious injuries. Police and rescue teams reached the scene of the accident, shifted the bodies and injured to local hospital. The police impounded both vehicles and after registering a case into the incident started an investigation.

Excise & taxation to complete target

F.P. Report

MARDAN: Director Excise, Taxation and Narcotics Control Fawad Iqbal has said that Mardan region is determined to collect its target in terms of various government taxes this year. And by June 30 all recovery will be ensured. In this regard, according to the declaration issued by the regional office, the process of tax recovery from all districts is going on. Currently in Mardan, 86% recovery has been done in terms of property tax, vehicle registration tax, excise revenue, motor vehicle tax, professional, token and registration taxes. Similarly, 89 percent from Swabi, 86 percent from Nowshera and 65 percent from Charsadda have been recovered in terms of taxes. 85% tax has been collected from all the districts of the region so far. Director Fawad Iqbal says that the tax targets will be met in any case by the stipulated time and the officials who perform best in tax collection will be strongly encouraged. He said that on the instructions of the government, the officials across the region have been given the task to fulfill their responsibilities in an efficient manner.

ANP hold APC for peace

F.P. Report

WANA: A special meeting of all parties was held today at the office of Awami National Party (ANP) to discuss the prevailing deteriorating situation of peace in lower Waziristan. APC unanimously passed a resolution to carry on their efforts to maintain peace and tranquility in South Waziristan Wana at all costs. They took a decision to persuade elders of the areas about their tireless efforts regarding getting disputes resolved sans any inclination towards personal gains. They will continue the same to work to deliver their services without any prejudice in future too. Maintaining peace is the main responsibility of the local administration and they would extend full cooperation to the local administration for maintaining peace in the area.

'Facilitation Centre' setup

MANSEHRA (INP): For providing information and guidance to the tourists visiting the Kaghan valley, Konsh Valley and Dara Bhogarmang, 'Tourists Facilitation Centre' has been established at University Interchange Manshera. Speaking at the inauguration ceremony, DPO Zahoor Babar said that the 'Tourists Facilitation Centre' will remain opened round the clock for assistance and guidance where tourists visiting the area could get information about the weather, travel time and condition of the route leading to the area.



HYDERABAD: A view of Cyclone affectee management room at casualty department of Sindh government hospital.

PPP becoming popular among masses in KP

F.P. Report

LOWER DIR: Pakistan People Party provincial president and federal minister for water resources Muhammad Ali Shah Bacha has said the party will form the next government in the province as it is emerging as a popular political party among the masses.

This he said while addressing a workers' convention at the Timer House as chief guest here the other day. PPP workers from different parts of the district attended the event which was also addressed by the PPP former provincial president Najmud Din Khan, former senator Ahmad Hassan Khan, former provincial ministers Mahmood Zeb Khan, advocate Muzafar Syed, Jehan Bahadar and others.

Earlier the party provincial chief was warmly welcomed by workers on his arrival at the Aman House in Chakdara. The speakers asked the workers to convey the party message to every nook and corner of the district. They said the party had planned a massive public rally at Khwazakhela in Swat to be held on June 17. They said the party chairman Bilawal Bhutto and other central leaders would address that

rally.

Speaking on the occasion the PPP provincial president Muhammad Ali Shah Bacha claimed that it was his party that forced the center to announce a 35 percent increase in the salaries of government employees. He said the extension of one year in the tax exemption for the Malakand region was also possible due to the efforts of his party. He said the PPP would never leave the masses alone in this critical time wherein they had been facing severe kind of inflation and unemployment in the country. The speakers asked the participants to make the Swat rally a success and work hard for people participation.

Two girls killed, two persons injured in separate mishaps: Two girls were killed due to the collision of a dyna car in Tora Teega, while the girls were rushed to the hospital with critical injuries, but they succumbed to their injuries.

The driver of the dyna car was arrested. Two young girls Samreen daughter of Samiullah age 10 years and Sunhera daughter Bashir Muhammad age 5 years were seriously injured due to the collision of a Dyna vehicle in Tora Tegha area of the suburbs. The police arrested Syed

Zareen, the driver of the vehicle. On other side in another accident of Suzuki car in Maidan bypass 2 persons Abdullah and Shahab of Koto seriously injured which is than taken to District headquarters hospital by Rescue.

Bakers booked: The Department of Food Lower Dir has fined dozens of bakers, milk sellers and shopkeepers for exceeding the official price list and selling low weight bread, in this regard under the special direction of Deputy Commissioner District Dir Iftikhar Ahmed and under the supervision of District Food Controller Kashif Ehsan.

Food Inspector Shabbir Ahmed took actions against bakers, general stores and milk sellers in Shaheed Chowk Timergara and Balambat Bazar on public complaint for exceeding the official price list and against several shopkeepers for selling low weight bread, not displaying the official price list and keeping expired items. Heavy fines were imposed on 08 shopkeepers, while FIRs were lodged against 08 shopkeepers. On this occasion, the Food Inspector issued strict instructions to all the bakers regarding the implementation of the official price list and weight.

Upgradation of High school sought

F.P. Report

PARACHINAR: The tribal elders of the central Karam have demanded that the Government Higher Secondary School in Manatu be upgraded to a higher secondary level. After matriculation, students are compelled to seek admission in distant areas for further education.

During a gathering in Manatu, the area's elders, including Malik Nawab Khan, Haji Sharif, Nek Ahmad, Mazid Khan, and other leaders, addressed the federal minister, Sajid Turi, the district administration and Omar Orakzai that the Manatu School be given the status of a higher secondary school.

The leaders said that in the central Kurram, hundreds of children from Kotki, Harsho, Murgan, Langro Donga, Zareef Kaley, Warishta Mela, Kamran Kaley, Hamariye, Chinarak, Karoot, Sarobi, Umargi, Bezdat, Gowaki, Sar Hawi, Dara Mandaan, Jabu, Leel Gada, Kundali Baba, Drani, and Shagi, come to this schools.

However, there is no higher secondary school in these areas, which forces students who have completed their matriculation to seek admission in schools located in distant areas. Therefore, the government is requested to immediately grant Manatu High School the status of a higher secondary school.

Five women abducted

FAISALABAD (INP): Five women were abducted in separate incidents of kidnapping in different localities of Faisalabad on Tuesday. Police said that culprits abducted daughter of Raj Bibi from Mir Chowk area of Madina Town.

In Siddiqabad, culprits Babar and others kidnapped daughter of Khalida Bibi at gunpoint. Young daughter of Imran was kidnapped by accused Bilal from 192-RB area of Chak Jhumra. Unidentified accused abducted daughter of Waqas from Sir Syed Town, Factory Area police station jurisdiction.

Kundi opens burns, plastic surgery unit at hospital

F.P. Report

D I KHAN: Minister of State for Poverty Alleviation and Social Security, Faisal Karim Kundi here Tuesday inaugurated the burn and plastic surgery unit at Mufti Mahmood Hospital, Dera Ismail Khan.

Former Member Provincial Assembly, Ahmad Karim Kundi, Dean's Gomal Medical College, Dr Nasim Saba Mehsum, Director of the hospital Dr Umar Shah Astrana, hospital director medical, Dr Muhammad Wasim, doctors, paramedics and elites of the city attended.

In his address at the symposium at Gomal

Medical College D I Khan in connection of inauguration of the unit, Faisal Kundi said that it was his desire to equip all hospitals of DI Khan with state-of-the-art facilities so that patients could not go for treatment to other cities including Islamabad, Multan or Lahore.

Faisal Kundi said the burns and plastic surgery units at Mufti Mahmood Hospital DI Khan were setup by the doctors on self-help basis and highly praised philanthropist Hidayatullah Khan Kundi for providing Rs eight million for purchase of equipment for the said unit that helped its operationalization.

He said Federal and

Provincial Governments would ensure every possible assistance to the people of Dera Ismail Khan. The state minister said that Rs1 billion were allocated for provision of health sector under an aegis of Pakistan Baitul Mall. He said treatment expenses of the children for five years with hearing problems were provided to Pakistan Baitul Mall under head of health sector.

Assistant Professor, Dr Tauseef Al Hassan appraised the participants about facilities and treatment provided to patients at the burn and plastic surgery unit. Later, shields were presented to the state minister and other speakers.

Naqvi inspects Nishtar Hospital construction work

F.P. Report

MULTAN: Caretaker Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi visited the under-construction project of Nishtar Hospital 2 in Multan and inspected construction works of various departments of the hospital.

Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi reviewed outdoor, pharmacy, laboratory, ultrasound and other departments. Project Director of Nishtar 2 gave a complete briefing about the project. He instructed to complete the construction and other matters soon.

Speaking to the media after Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi's visit to Nishtar Hospital 2 said that; we are doing our own

thing, no one is using us. Will definitely do something for development. Nishtar 2 will be made functional with 100% staff by September. Mohsen Naqvi added that Nishtar Two Hospital is in dire need of the people of Multan and surrounding areas.

Staff will not be taken from Nishtar Hospital. The foundation stone of Nishtar 2 was laid by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, he will accompany him on the inauguration. There is a ban on hiring, the Election Commission has allowed the hiring of doctors. The expansion plan of Cardiology Institute in Multan will also be fully functional by next month.

Children's hospital's new emergency will soon be built with the help of philanthropists. The ongoing development projects of Multan will get budget. The new building of Multan's District Headquarters Hospital will also become functional by the end of August.

Provincial Ministers Aamir Mir, Azfar Ali Nasir, Additional Chief Secretary South Punjab Saqib Zafar, Secretary Health, Commissioner Multan Aamir Khattak, RPO Multan Muhammad Sohail Chaudhary, Deputy Commissioner Umar Jahangir, Vice Chancellor Nishtar College University Professor Dr. Rana Altaf and others were present.

Implementation of Labour's laws stressed

Hafiz Aziz-ur-Rehman

HAFIZABAD: District leader Children Advocacy Network Sajida Faryad, Secretary Information Sangat Development foundation Syed Ghulam Abbas Sherazi and Coordinator Dr. Nazar Hussain Khokhar have stressed the need of implantation on protection of children laws for containing child labour, smuggling of children, exploitation and child abuse.

They said that Provincial Child Labour Committee also be functionalized so that this committee could make legal and other arrangements for curbing child labour effectively. They said that laws of Child Protection and Welfare Bureau also be revised to

overcome violence on children working in homes.

They said that Children Advocacy Network was working in 18 district of the Punjab for child protection and provision of legal support and psychological assistance to victim children as well as creating awareness among people to save children from exploitation and violence.

Family planning center established: Population Welfare Department setup family planning counter at Basic Health Unit Chak Chathah for controlling increase of unlimited population. Deputy Commissioner Hafizabad Umer Farooq Warriach inaugurated the counter. DO Population Madam Sajida Mushtaq and other

officers were also present on the occasion. DC also reviewed treatment facilities being provided in the BHU.

Addressing the inaugural ceremony, DC said that rapidly increasing population was major cause of social and economic problems of the country while establishment of population counters in government hospital was laudable steps of the population department and staff of these counters were providing useful advises to people for overcome increasing population. Meanwhile, DC was visited different areas of city Hafizabad to check standard of cleanliness and express his satisfaction over performance of sanitary workers.

Jirga held against menace Ice-drugs

F.P. Report

TAKHTBHAI: A grand jirga held against menace of drugs especially Ice-drug addiction, unscheduled load shedding and shifting of equipment from Takhtbhai Sugar Mill while argued competent authorities to address the issues

otherwise they will be compelled to arrange protest on larger scale.

The jirga chaired by tehsil Nazim Hafiz Muhammad while former Member Provincial Assembly Mian Nadar Shah, Muhammad Nawaz, Haji Dost Muhammad, Nauman Yousaf, Haji

Wajid Khan, Mian Waris Khan, Sardar Khan, Sardar Rehman, Haji Bashr, Haji Sardaraz, Saifullah, Mohsin Khan, Muhammad Yousaf, Liaquat Ali, Farooq Khan, Dr. Jan Alam and press club president Muslim Khan Sabir were present in the grand jirga.

CPEC is a major step towards economic development

Raffiul Haq

IN 2013, China and Pakistan signed an important agreement for economic development and regional connectivity. When Chinese President Xi Jinping paid an official visit to Pakistan in 2015, the government announced a two-day holiday in Islamabad as a protocol to deal with any untoward incident. During the meeting, the governments of both sides agreed that with China's cooperation and technical assistance, the desired trade routes between Pakistan and China will be completed in the next 15 years.

Under CPEC, roads, railways and pipelines will be built to transport gas, oil and goods from Pakistan's Gwadar port to Kashgar in the next ten years. Two centuries ago, famous French dictator Napoleon Bonaparte predicted about China's capabilities and potential: "China is the sleeping lion in Asia, let it sleep, when it wakes up it will shake the

world." Perhaps this is proving true today. Beijing awoke from its deep slumber when French President Francois Hollande said, "Today the lion is awake, but peaceful, happy and civilized." China is an Asian economic powerhouse.

It struggles to maintain practical and peaceful economic diplomacy because of its historical legacy. Therefore, in this global economic world, China is the only country that has the potential to directly challenge the hegemonic design of the American leadership and influence in the world. China is not only the fastest growing market in the world but also an important manufacturing country in the international world. Over the past two decades, China has initiated global investment, trade and capital flows to the world and has maintained the desired economic growth.

Despite being the most populous country in the world, its per capita income is increasing every year, changing the living standards of the people living there and turning the country

into a global economic power. After Deng Xiaoping came to power in 1978, he decided. And he introduced the "Open Door Policy" to make China an 'Asian giant', allowing some 680 million Chinese people to escape the poverty in which they had been thriving. China is the world's emerging and leading economic power, growing at an average of 10 percent per year compared to the rest of the economic world.

The leading British magazine The Economist has predicted that in the coming years, China will overtake the US as the largest economy, taking advantage of the latest technology. Moreover, China represents about 30 percent of the global GDP of US\$23.19 trillion, which is higher than the GDP of the US, on the other hand, at US\$19.42 trillion.

The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is an important part of the BRI, a project to promote and build a land-based "Silk Road Economic Belt" connecting regional countries to China via

Pakistan. This will in turn have a huge positive impact on the global economic system. Because this "Belt" is a global infrastructure network and connectivity development project that will stretch from Xinjiang (China) through the Central Asian Republics (CARs) to Moscow and reach Europe. Similarly, the Maritime Highway will create a chain of ports and coastal infrastructure from South and Southeast Asia to East Africa and the Northern Mediterranean.

In fact, the BRI aims to directly link investment with Asia, Europe, the Middle East and Africa with a large logistics and transport network spanning nearly 65 countries. According to the World Bank report, BRI is an excellent project for investment. One impression is that China is spending about US\$40 trillion in global investment. In return, billions of rupees will be collected in terms of tax returns and these projects will create vast employment opportunities. It is also said that BRI is a grand plan to integrate China into the global econ-

omy. The 17 economic and industrial projects in this series highlight the fact that China has adopted a unique economic approach to government-to-government cooperation while improving the economic systems of dependent and middle-income countries along the Silk Road.

But it was a crucial challenge for China how to connect other countries in the region with China. Pakistan was a reliable and viable country for China to complete this mega project within the stipulated period. Since 1951, friendly political, diplomatic and historical relations have been established between China and Pakistan. Both helped each other in times of need and supported each other at various regional and international forums. Currently, she is engaged in the construction of the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), a key part of China's ambitious One Belt One Road (OBOR) economic plan.

Later transformed into the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), it is a regional connectivity plan to increase geographic connecti-

ty and improve road, rail networks that will promote economic growth and free trade in an era of economic globalization. And in the near future it is being seen as a major breakthrough towards business and employment. The international community has expressed its views on this project in different ways. However, it can be hoped that CPEC will help improve the economy of regional countries as it will lead to trade and economic stability and technological advancement.

In particular, CPEC will provide an opportunity for China and Pakistan to promote regional connectivity, trade growth and infrastructure development. Which will promote economic prosperity, economic freedom and political stability in Pakistan. And will promote sustainable nexus for peaceful coexistence. In this regard, Pakistan should adopt a speedy, long-lasting and stable policy for CPEC to counter the nefarious ambitions of a traditional rival like India.

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Iran's president begins Latin America tour

CARACAS (AP): In his first visit to Latin America, Iran's headline president met with his Venezuelan counterpart and declared that both countries have "a common enemy," alluding to the United States, before signing a series of cooperation agreements. President Ebrahim Raisi's visit to Venezuela came a year and a day after President Nicolás Maduro visited him in Iran. Both countries are under heavy US economic sanctions.

Raisi said the link between the two countries "is not normal, but rather a strategic relationship," insisting that their nations have "common interests and we have common enemies."

"They do not want the two countries, Iran and Venezuela, to be independent," Raisi said referring to the US government. His tour of allied nations in Latin America, including Cuba and Nicaragua, comes amid rising tensions with the administration of US President Joe Biden.

The US has accused Iran of providing Russia with materials to build a drone manufacturing plant east of Moscow, while the Kremlin seeks to ensure a steady supply of weapons for its invasion of Ukraine. US intelligence officials believe the plant in Russia could start operations early next year, but Iran has said it supplied drones to Russia before the start of the war. The more than dozen agreements signed by officials from the countries include scholarships for Venezuelan students and the importations of cattle to Iran. Maduro's visit last year to Iran resulted in agreements to expand ties in the oil and petrochemical industries, the military and the economy. But only a handful of the agreements have materialized. Venezuela and Iran have maintained close relations since the government of the late President Hugo Chávez. Maduro, who became president in 2013 after Chávez death, has promoted trade relations with Iran, China, Russia and Turkey to try to overcome the effects of the economic sanctions. Iran, particularly since 2020, has helped alleviate part of a fuel shortage in Venezuela. "We are on the right



side of history and together we will be invincible," Maduro said. Meanwhile, Iran and Venezuela want to increase bilateral trade to \$20 billion, up from \$3 billion, Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi said during a visit to Caracas.

During the visit the two countries signed a memorandum of understanding to expand cooperation in petrochemicals with a view to carrying out joint projects, building on their already-close cooperation in oil. "We have decided to increase the cooperation between the two countries," Raisi said through translation in a statement with Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro after the petrochemical deal and a dozen other cooperation deals were signed. "The goal we have for commercial and economic cooperation, the first step is to take the level of cooperation to \$10 billion," Raisi said. "The next step, we want to take it to \$20 billion." He provided no time frame on the goal. The governments, both under US sanctions, provided no details of the petrochemical deal. Venezuelan state television said the accord between Venezuelan state petrochemical firm Pequiven and its Iranian counterpart would facilitate cooperation in oil exploration and development and assess the possibil-

ity of joint projects.

The countries also signed a deal to expand cooperation in mining, but provided no details. Maduro hailed Raisi's visit and the two countries' bilateral relationship and said further deals and investments were on the horizon. The Caracas visit is the first stop on a Latin American tour by Raisi, who will also travel to Cuba and Nicaragua. Iran and Venezuela signed a 20-year cooperation plan in Tehran last year, pledging partnership on oil, defense and other issues. That deal includes repairs to oil refineries in Venezuela, which has the world's largest crude reserves but has struggled to produce enough gasoline and diesel, leading to intermittent shortages that have forced drivers to queue for hours. Iran has provided fuel and diluents to convert Venezuela's extra-heavy crude into exportable varieties and since 2020 has supplied parts for repairs to the refining circuit. A unit of Iran's state-owned refiner NIORDC signed a 110-million-euro contract in May 2022 to make repairs at Venezuela's smallest refinery, El Palitio, which has a capacity of 146,000 barrels per day. Iran is also set to be involved in a modernization project at Venezuela's largest refinery complex, partly to restore distilling capacity.

Two active-duty Marines plead guilty to Capitol riot charges

WASHINGTON (AP): Two men who were active-duty members of the Marines Corps when they stormed the US Capitol pleaded guilty to riot-related criminal charges. Joshua Abate and Dodge Dale Hellonen are scheduled to be sentenced in September by US District Judge Ana Reyes. Both pleaded guilty to a misdemeanor count of parading, demonstrating or picketing in a Capitol building, according to a spokesperson for the US Attorney's office for the District of Columbia.

Many Capitol rioters are military veterans, but only a few were actively serving in the armed forces when they joined a mob's attack on Jan. 6, 2021. A third active-duty Marine, Micah Coomer, also was charged with Abate and Hellonen. Coomer pleaded guilty to the same misdemeanor charge in May and is scheduled to be sentenced by Reyes on Aug. 30. All three men face a maximum sentence of six months of

imprisonment. As of May 19, the Marines were still in the service. No additional information was available. David Dischley, an attorney for Abate, declined to comment on his client's guilty plea. An assistant public defender who represents Hellonen didn't immediately respond to an email seeking comment. Authorities arrested the three men in January: Abate at Fort Meade, Maryland; Coomer in Oceanside, California; and Hellonen in Jacksonville, North Carolina. Witnesses stationed with Coomer at Marine Corps Base Quantico in Virginia and with Hellonen at Camp Lejeune in North Carolina identified them in videos of the Jan. 6 riot, according to the FBI. A third witness - also a Marine - identified Abate from footage captured inside the Capitol, the FBI said.

During a June 2022 for his security clearance, Abate said he and two "buddies" had walked through

the Capitol on Jan. 6 "and tried not to get hit with tear gas," according to an FBI special agent. "Abate also admitted he heard how the event was being portrayed negatively and decided that he should not tell anybody about going into the US Capitol Building," the agent wrote in an affidavit. After the riot, Coomer posted photos on Instagram with the caption "Glad to be (a part) of history." The angles of the photos and the caption indicated he had been inside the Capitol on Jan. 6, the FBI said. The phone number listed for Coomer in his military personal file matched the Instagram account. Coomer drove to Washington on the morning of Jan. 6 from his military post in Virginia. He attended then-President Donald Trump's "Stop the Steal" rally with Abate and Hellonen before they entered the Capitol. Inside the Rotunda, they placed a red "Make America Great Again" hat on a statute

before taking photos of it, prosecutors said. The three men spent nearly an hour inside the Capitol before leaving. Less than a month after the riot, Coomer told another Instagram user that he believed "everything in this country is corrupt." "We honestly need a fresh restart. I'm waiting for the boogaloo," he wrote, according to the FBI. When the other user asked what that term meant, Coomer wrote, "Civil war 2." "Boogaloo" movement supporters use the term as slang for a second civil war or collapse of civilization. They frequently show up at protests armed with rifles and wearing Hawaiian shirts under body armor. Over 1,000 people have been charged with federal crimes for their conduct at the Capitol on Jan. 6. Approximately 600 of them have pleaded guilty, mostly to misdemeanors punishable by maximum terms of imprisonment of six months or one year.

Relatives fight for custody of kids who survived plane crash

BOGOTA (AP): A custody battle has broken out among relatives of four Indigenous children who survived a plane crash and 40 harrowing days alone in the Amazon rainforest in an extraordinary showing of youthful resilience that captivated people around the world. The siblings, ranging in age from 1 to 13, remained hospitalized and were expected to stay there for several more days, a period that Colombia's child protection agency is using to interview family members to determine who should care for them after their mother died in the May 1 crash.

Astrid Cáceres, head of the Colombian Institute of Family Welfare, said in an interview with BLU radio that a caseworker was assigned to the children at the request of their maternal grandparents, who are vying for custody with the father of the two youngest. "We are going to talk, investigate, learn a little about the situation," Cáceres said, adding that the agency has not ruled out that they and their mother may have experienced domestic abuse. "The most important thing at this moment is the children's health, which is not only physical but also emotional, the way we accompany them emotionally," she

said. A grandfather Narciso Mucutuy accused Manuel Ranoque of beating his daughter, Magdalena Mucuty, telling reporters the children would hide in the forest when fighting broke out. Ranoque acknowledged to reporters that there had been trouble at home, but he characterized it as a private family matter and not "gossip for the world." Asked whether he had attacked his wife, Ranoque said: "Verbally, sometimes, yes. Physically, very little. We had more verbal fights." Ranoque said he has not been allowed to see the two oldest children at the hospital. Cáceres declined to comment on why that was the case. The children were traveling with their mother from the Amazonian village of Araracuara to the town of San Jose del Guaviare on May 1 when the pilot of the Cessna single-engine propeller plane declared an emergency due to engine failure. The aircraft fell off the radar a short time later, and a search began for the three adults and four children who were on board. For more than a month, the children survived by eating cassava flour and seeds as well as some fruits they found in the rainforest, which they were familiar with as members of the Huitoto Indigenous group.

They were finally found and helicoptered to the capital, Bogota, and then to a military hospital where they have been given psychological services and other support. Officials have sought to do so in a culturally sensitive way, arranging for spiritual ceremonies and food the children are accustomed to. As they convalesce, the children have told relatives harrowing details of their time in the jungle. The oldest, Lesly Jacobombaire Mucutuy, said their mother was alive for about four days after the crash before dying. Ranoque said. Having a safe environment to talk openly about their experience and whatever emotions they may be feeling, be it grief or pride over having survived, will be key to recovery, said Dr. Robert Sege, a pediatrician and director of the Center for Community-Engaged Medicine at Tufts Medical Center in Boston. How children process trauma can vary by age, he added. "Our brains are always trying to make sense out of things," Sege said. "And if we're at different developmental stages, the way we make sense is going to be different." The plane was found two weeks after the crash in a thick patch of rainforest. The bodies of the three adults were recovered, but

there was no sign of the children, prompting hopes that they could be alive. Soldiers in helicopters dropped boxes of food into the jungle, and planes fired off flares at night to illuminate the ground for crews searching around the clock. Rescuers also used speakers to blast a message recorded by the children's grandmother telling them to stay in one place. The children were ultimately found about 5 kilometers (3 miles) from the crash in a small clearing. Gen. Pedro Sanchez, who led the search effort as chief of the military's Special Operations Command, said rescuers had passed within 20 to 50 meters (70 to 160 feet) of the site on a couple of occasions but missed them. Relatives and officials have praised Lesly for guiding her younger siblings through the 40 days in the jungle, which teems with snakes, poisonous frogs, mosquitoes and other animals. The youngest turned 1 while they were missing. "God forbid most teenagers get put into that position, but she clearly was able to gather her wits and figure out what needed to be done," Sege said. "That's really important to hold on to. The children, as they grow up, need to remember not just the tragedy but how they kept the baby alive."

UN concerned over Libya migrant arrests

TRIPOLI (Reuters): The United Nations mission in Libya said it was concerned by the arbitrary arrest of migrants and asylum seekers in the country, accompanied by what it called a disturbing rise in hate speech and racist discourse. The mission said Libyan authorities had detained thousands of men, women and children from the streets and their homes, or following raids on alleged traffickers camps and warehouses.

It said many of them, including children and pregnant women, were being detained in overcrowded and unsanitary conditions and that thousands of others, including some who entered Libya legally, had been collectively expelled. Last week eastern Libya authorities deported thousands of migrants into Egypt, making them cross the border by foot. In Tripoli, migration police have recently deployed at a major city roundabout where many migrants gathered daily for work. Despite insecurity in Libya, where political control is contested and armed factions control most territory, the country is home to about half a million migrants. Some seek to travel onwards to Europe, others to work in the oil-financed economy. Both Prime Minister Abdulhamid al-Dbeibah in Tripoli and eastern Libyan military commander Khalifa Haftar recently travelled to Rome where Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni is pushing to reduce migrant crossings to Italy. In eastern Libya, authorities said they had detained 20 Bangladeshi citizens aboard a boat attempting to cross illegally to Italy and that "all legal measures" had been taken against them. Mohammed Ismail, 48, a Sudanese metal worker who had arrived in Libya illegally said he had faced brutal treatment from people traffickers but had regularised his status with authorities. He was worried about reports of deportations, he said. In Tripoli, in the west, an Egyptian plumber who asked to remain anonymous because he feared reprisals, said many of his friends had been arrested.

"I'm frightened of detention, kidnapping, being held for ransom and forcible deportation... it's difficult to survive in Libya," he said. The Government of National Unity in Tripoli and local authorities in eastern Libya did not immediately respond to requests to comment on the UN mission's statement.

Refugees in Chad risk losing aid

N'DJAMENA (Reuters): Thousands of Sudanese refugees who fled to Chad to escape fighting in their country could be cut off from humanitarian and medical aid during the approaching rainy season, medical charity Medecins Sans Frontieres (MSF) said. More than 100,000 people have fled across the border to Chad since conflict broke out in Sudan in April, and numbers could double over the next three months, the United Nations' refugee agency (UNHCR) warned earlier this month.

MSF's Head of Mission in Chad, Audrey van der Schoot, said the flooding that usually occurs during this time of year could isolate refugees and host communities in Chad's eastern Sila region and other areas that share a border with Sudan. Rains will also bring a higher risk of waterborne and infectious diseases given poor access to clean water and sanitation, she said. "We fear that with the coming rainfall, people in this border area will be trapped and forgotten," she said, noting that arrivals from Sudan were continuing. Nearly 30,000 refugees are in Sila, where they lack shelter, water and food due to deficiencies in humanitarian assistance. Many have moved in with local host families as a result, putting pressure on meagre resources, MSF said. One of the poorest countries in the world, Chad was already hosting close to 600,000 refugees before the latest Sudanese crisis.

UN chief calls for coordinated global action on disinformation

UNITED NATIONS (AP): The proliferation of hate and lies on digital platforms and the threat that artificial intelligence can become an uncontrolled "monster" demand coordinated global action - starting with a code of conduct for governments, tech companies and advertisers that promotes truth and protects human rights, the UN chief said. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said he plans to appoint a scientific advisory board in a few days, and an advisory board on artificial intelligence in September to prepare initiatives that the UN can take. He said he would react favorably to a new UN agency on artificial intelligence and suggested as a model the International Atomic Energy Agency, which is knowledge-based and has some regulatory powers.

Guterres told a news conference he plans to consult widely on the just released principles for the UN Code of Conduct for Information Integrity on Digital Platforms, which he will issue before next year's UN Summit of the Future. He expressed hope that the code will be widely supported, but when asked whether governments and tech companies are willing to take steps to make digital space safer, he replied, "That's the question I ask myself." "We are dealing with a business that generates massive profits, and we are dealing also in some situations with governments that do not entirely respect human rights, so this is a constant battle - and in this constant battle, we must mobilize all those that are committed to information integrity in digital platforms," he said. Heidi Beirich, co-founder of the Global Project Against Hate and Extremism, agreed that while it's a positive step that the UN is calling for international solutions to this global problem, its code of conduct won't likely be sufficient to stop the torrent of false and hateful information online. "The fact of the matter is that voluntary codes, including the companies' own terms of service on these issues, have failed to rein them in," Beirich said. "The problem for the UN is they can't do what it seems is going to have to be done to deal with this problem, which is basically legislation."

Guterres said there are many initiatives underway, including a law and code of conduct in the European Union for its 27 member nations and a U.K. summit on AI safety in the autumn. Other governments also are looking into forms of regulation. But he said there is a view that regulation

isn't easy because things are moving very quickly, and that therefore a global approach is needed. Guterres said a key problem is that the tech company business model prioritizes engagement over privacy, truth and human rights. He said tech companies need to understand that massive profits cannot be created "at the expense of a model of engagement that goes before any other consideration." The UN chief said the code of conduct will not be a solution, "but it will be global" and it will enable governments, tech companies, advertisers and others "to commit to what needs to be done in order to guarantee or at least to seriously promote information integrity in digital platforms." The principles Guterres laid out for the code of conduct include commitments "to refrain from using, supporting or amplifying disinformation and hate speech for any purpose." For governments, it seeks commitments not to respond to misinformation, disinformation and hate speech by blocking legitimate comment, shutting down the internet or banning platforms or media outlets - and to guarantee protections for journalists and independent media. For companies that control digital platforms, it seeks a pledge to be transparent about their algorithms, advertising and how they deal with misinformation, disinformation and hate speech - and to eliminate double standards that allow hate speech and disinformation to flourish in some languages and countries while they are prevented more effectively in others. Tech companies are also urged to give people a greater choice over the content that they see, and how their data is used. Guterres said a commitment sought from digital platforms includes "urgent and immediate measures to ensure that all AI applications are safe, secure, responsible and ethical, and comply with human rights obligations." He said the United Nations "will try to be in the center of all the networks and movements that will be created" to deal with AI technology as it develops. But he said this won't be easy because governments and international organizations haven't invested sufficiently in recent decades in personnel who have the necessary scientific and technical knowledge. "It also requires the commitment of the platforms themselves, and of the AI creators themselves," Guterres said, "but we will do our best to be a platform where everybody can be together in order to make this agenda advance positively."

Erdogan unwavering on two-state policy

NICOSIA (AP): Turkey's president said that any deal resolving Cyprus' nearly half-century ethnic division must be based on recognition of a breakaway Turkish Cypriot state in the island nation's northern third. President Recep Tayyip Erdogan's remarks in the north during his first overseas visit after his reelection last month aren't new, but suggest that Ankara's policy line on Cyprus remains unwavering, despite international condemnation of the two-state deal proposal that runs contrary to UN resolutions calling for a single, federated Cyprus.

"No one can bear to waste another 50 years of time," Erdogan said during a joint news conference with Turkish Cypriot leader Ersin Tatar. "If there is to be a return to the negotiating table, the only way to do this is to recognize the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus." It also dashes hopes harbored by Cyprus' internationally-recognized government of a

speedy return to negotiations, although a spokesman for President Nikos Anastasiades said that Erdogan will be judged by his deeds rather than his words. Cyprus was split in 1974 when Turkey invaded in the wake of a coup by supporters of union with Greece. Turkish Cypriots declared independence nearly a decade later, but that's only recognized by Turkey, which maintains more than 35,000 troops and an array of armaments in the north. UN-led peace talks haven't resolved the dispute. The most recent round in July 2017 broke down over a Turkish insistence on maintaining military intervention rights and a permanent troop presence under any new arrangement. Another stumbling block was a Greek Cypriot rejection of a Turkish Cypriot demand for the right to veto all government decisions on a federal level. Turkish Cypriots number approximately about a quarter of Greek Cypriots. Turkey and the Turkish

Cypriots say it would be pointless to carry on negotiations based on a federated Cyprus and have instead pushed a two-state deal as a new starting point. Greek Cypriots say they can't agree to a deal that would formalize the country's division.

"The just demands of the Turkish Cypriots are clear and unequivocal. Turkish Cypriots have never been a minority and never will be," Erdogan said. The Turkish president said Ankara would also push ahead with plans to supply Turkish Cypriots with electricity through an undersea cable. The north has for years experienced chronic power supply issues. The electricity cable would complement 66.5-mile (107-kilometer) undersea pipelines Turkey constructed in 2015 to supply fresh water to the arid north. The Cyprus government decried the pipeline project as a means for Ankara to "augment Turkey's influence and control over Cyprus."

US halts online asylum appointments at Texas crossing

LAREDO, Texas (AP): The Biden administration has stopped taking mobile app appointments to admit asylum-seekers at a Texas border crossing that connects to a notoriously dangerous Mexican city after advocates warned US authorities that migrants were being targeted there for extortion. US Customs and Border Protection gave no explanation for its decision to stop scheduling new appointments via the CBP One app for the crossing in Laredo, Texas.

Several asylum-seekers told The Associated Press that Mexican officials in Nuevo Laredo, across the border from Laredo, Texas, had threatened to hold them and make them miss their scheduled asylum appointments unless they paid them. Humanitarian groups in Laredo say they had recently warned CBP of the problems and that certain groups were controlling access to the international crossing on the Mexican side. Migrant advocates say the situation in Nuevo Laredo, which is plagued by cartel fighting

and other problems, casts doubt on the administration's argument that Mexico is a safe place for the record number of people fleeing violence in Central America and elsewhere. Rafael Alvarez, 29, who fled Venezuela, said that after he landed in Nuevo Laredo in early June, Mexican immigration authorities at the airport seized his travel documents, including a print-out of the email confirming his CBP One appointment, and demanded he pay 1,000 Mexican pesos, about \$57. He was held with other migrants.

"They would tell us covertly, 'You're going to put the money in this envelope and pass it to us,'" Alvarez said, recalling what officials told him and other migrants. The officials, he said, threatened to hold them so they would have their appointments canceled. Alvarez, whose appointment was the next day, said he refused to pay and was eventually released, but five Russians who were held with him paid a total of 5,000 pesos, about \$290. They initially

were asked to fork over double that amount, but they told officials they did not have that much, he said. Alvarez said other Venezuelan friends who flew to Nuevo Laredo in late May also paid to have their documents returned. Thousands of asylum-seekers are stuck in Mexican border towns, waiting until they can get an appointment to seek refuge in the United States after being blocked during the COVID-19 pandemic by a public health restriction called Title 42 that was lifted last month. Though the government opened some new avenues for immigration, the fate of many people is largely left to the CBP One app that is used for scheduling an appointment at a port of entry.

The government said it would continue to open 1,250 appointments daily by reallocating the slots for Laredo to the seven other crossings along the US-Mexico border. It vowed to honor online appointments issued for the Laredo crossing before the June 3 change.

The Frontier Post

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May 9 violence, court summary and lesson learnt

THE National Assembly (NA) on Monday passed a resolution demanding the trial of May 9 rioters involved in attacks on military and state installations without any delay under the Pakistan Army Act, 1952. The resolution moved by Defence Minister Khawaja Asif claimed that a political party and its chairman broke the law and Constitution on May 9 and orchestrated attacks on military installations. It further says that the actions of that party and its chief caused damage to the state institutions, that cannot be compensated and its evidence is present. Therefore, actions must be taken against them according to the law and Constitution without even a day's delay. The resolution alleged that the burden of these anti-state actions conducted by the party was not being taken by its own members and they were distancing themselves from it. It further read that no human rights were violated in the inquiry against the rioters, while that political party was spreading propaganda and leveling fake accusations in this regard.

The May 9 violence and the heinous events that occurred on that dark day left behind unpleasant memories for the Pakistani nation. Unfortunately, a deplorable narrative was crafted by the PTI leadership regarding the no-confidence motion that led to the ouster of the PTI government and the events thereafter which completely subverted the innocent young workers/ supporters of the party who unashamedly waged war against the state and institutions in the blind following of their leadership. Many of them had offered apologies for their actions while a majority of the PTI leaders also condemned May 9 violence, expressed remorse over the actions, and disassociated themselves from the party in a show up of their solidarity with the state and national Institutions. Presently, thousands of PTI workers are under arrest across the country for their alleged involvement in May 9 events while a few dozen detainees, who were involved in attacks on military installations, hand been handed over to the Military for their onward trial under the Pakistan Army Act, and Official Secret Act. The coalition government had already begun the trial of May 9 rioters in military courts while the recent resolution of the National Assembly was a mere symbolic confirmation of the government's action that has attracted worldwide criticism from human rights groups, civil society, INGOs, media, and political activists in the country and abroad.

Realistically, the leaders and rulers are like parents/elders of any nation. While the state always remains kind and displays big-heartedness over such childish and immature actions of its youth/ common political workers, particularly those who are misled by their leaders for hidden motives. If the PTI was mistaken in misuse of its workers and inaccurate appreciation of the situation/events then the coalition government was also mishandling the situation by resorting to extreme measures against the ill-motivated political workers. A similar episode was telecasted by former US President Donald Trump on January 5, 2021, in the garb of ultra-nationalism that also attracted worldwide condemnation and the Biden government trialed rioters in ordinary courts and culprits received sufficient punishment from the US judiciary. If military courts' verdicts are reviewable by the higher courts then the coalition leaders' unrestricted persuasion for rioters' trial in military courts is nothing else than a worthless political animus that would surely earn disgrace and condemnation for the rulers.

The coalition government has left a short period of time to show its performance to grab sympathies from its voters/ supporters as well as from the common public. The Shebbaz government must focus on economic challenges and public issues including rising inflation, law and order situation, and the problems likely to cause by the worst weather conditions in the coming months. The military must display kindness and generosity toward the preparators of the May 9 attacks, who are surely punishable but after all, they are demotivated political workers instead of trained terrorists/ criminals. The country and its military have no scarcity of enemies and challenges thus wasting precious time in dealing with such trivial issues would not earn additional respect for the institution. Thus, pitching into sludge and filth would further denigrate the pious institution. Presently, anti-Terrorism courts are the best available mechanism to try May 9, rioters which not only have legal provisions to deal with such cases but will not offer any opportunity to the culprits to earn public sympathy. It is high time that the Military carries forward its apolitical role by keeping itself at a distance from the ongoing political wrangling in the country, as the ruling political pandits have mastered changing color and they have already contested a battle against the military some time ago. Thus going in between could be a better strategy for the Army, and the coalition leaders must demonstrate political wisdom as time continuously revolves around the days, which resembles fate and alters every other day.

Israel's E1 plan threatens the future of the Palestinian people

Ramzy Baroud

THE Israeli government is at it again, actively discussing the construction of thousands of illegal settlement units as part of a massive settlement expansion scheme known as E1. Though Israeli construction in the East Jerusalem area has supposedly been halted under international pressure, the Israeli government has found ways to keep the plan alive. It has done so through the constant expansion of the various settlements in the name of "natural expansion," the confiscation of Palestinian land and the ruthless yet routine demolition of Palestinian homes.

But why does the US, Israel's main defender and benefactor, oppose, at least verbally, the construction in E1, while turning a blind eye to illegal construction throughout the West Bank? The answer lies in the fact that E1 will further expand Jerusalem's municipal boundaries, minimizing any Palestinian demographic presence in the city (from the current 42 percent to about 20 percent) and prejudicing any political solution that includes East Jerusalem. East Jerusalem is a Palestinian city, occupied by Israel since the June 1967 war. It is recognized by the UN and international law as part of the Occupied Territories. Israel should have neither legal rights nor jurisdiction there. Washington, which rarely cares about the rights of Palestinians, is concerned that, without East Jerusalem as part of the political equation, any discussion of a "two-state solution" will become forever obsolete.

In other words, the US is more worried about the political, not territorial, consequences of the Israeli decision. Indeed, America's entire political program in Palestine and Israel is situated within the two-state solution template. Without it, Washington's role would cease to serve any purpose. This is why US Secretary of State Antony Blinken criticized Israeli settlements during his speech to the American Israel Public Affairs Committee last week. Though he covered the habitual US commitment to Israel's security,

occupation and apartheid in Palestine. Instead, Tel Aviv is working toward a specific end: A formula of permanent domination, one that would satisfy its quest for "security," demographic superiority and "defensible" borders. It matters little that Israel's vision for its own borders is largely inconsistent with international law. All that matters to the current government - in fact, all Israeli governments - are the "national interests" of the country's Jewish population, whose

motive in the Palestinian city: Maximum land with an absolute Jewish majority. For this to take place, much work has to be done; namely, ensuring the territorial continuity between the massive illegal Jewish settlement of Ma'ale Adumim and Jerusalem. Israel's motives are not a secret. A long report by the Zionist Jerusalem Center for Public Affairs champions and illustrates Tel Aviv's objectives in detail. The report warns against allowing "security and

Bank into two main regions, south and north.

Considering the current administration and "security" divisions of the West Bank, a major territorial division would deny Palestinians any sense of physical continuity, let alone statehood. In other words, apartheid would become permanent and, from Israel's perspective, sustainable. As for the westward expansion, connecting Ma'ale Adumim to the so-called metropolitan Jerusalem through construction in E1 would help Israel achieve a fundamen-

Palestine, 28,208 illegal settlement units "were advanced" in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, in 2022, compared to 22,030 in 2021. An even higher number is expected in 2023. As for Palestinian home demolitions, the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs paints a grim picture. In the first quarter of 2023 alone, 290 Palestinian structures across the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, were demolished or seized. This represents an increase of 46 percent compared to the same period last year. East Jerusalem has seen a major share of this destruction, specifically 95 homes and other structures between Jan. 1 and March 28, according to the World Council of Churches. The outcome has been the displacement of 149 Palestinians, including 88 children. The price of Israel's major plans in East Jerusalem and the rest of the West Bank is not just humanitarian. It is essentially political, aimed at cutting off Palestinian communities from one another, isolating Jerusalem completely and ensuring a Jewish demographic majority for generations to come.

Though Blinken tries to emphasize the threat of such actions to the two-state solution, the real danger lies in the fact that these measures threaten the very fabric of Palestinian society and the political future of the Palestinian people. Israel's quest to reactivate its E1 plan requires not just mere condemnation, but tangible and decisive action, especially as Benjamin Netanyahu's far-right government is more out of control than ever before.

These steps, and more, will "damage prospects for two states," the cornerstone of US foreign policy in the Middle East. Israel, on the other hand, is not interested in a two-state, one-state or any "solution" to its military occupation and apartheid in Palestine. Instead, Tel Aviv is working toward a specific end: A formula of permanent domination, one that would satisfy its quest for "security," demographic superiority and "defensible" borders. It matters little that Israel's vision for its own borders is largely inconsistent with international law. All that matters to the current government - in fact, all Israeli governments - are the "national interests" of the country's Jewish population, whose future has been linked to the crushing of the political aspirations and civil rights of the country's native inhabitants.

describing it as "nonnegotiable" and "ironclad," he also warned against "any move toward annexation of the West Bank ... disruption of the historic status quo at holy sites (and) the continuing demolitions of homes." These steps, and more, will "damage prospects for two states," the cornerstone of US foreign policy in the Middle East. Israel, on the other hand, is not interested in a two-state, one-state or any "solution" to its military

future has been linked to the crushing of the political aspirations and civil rights of the country's native inhabitants.

Jerusalem's particular significance stems from two factors: Its historical, spiritual, economic and administrative centrality to all Palestinians and the fact it has been the holy grail of Israel's settler colonialism in Palestine for the last 75 years. A quick look at the map of East Jerusalem is enough to explain Israel's

urban discontinuity between Jerusalem and Ma'ale Adumim, or the reversion of Jerusalem to a border-town status ... that would preclude the city's eastward development." The reference to "eastward development" is particularly dangerous, as many illegal Jewish settlements have been deliberately planted in various parts of the West Bank, all the way to the Jordan Valley, for the sole purpose of linking them up, thus dividing the West

tal component of its expansionist strategy. According to the Zionist Jerusalem Center, such a merger would "incorporate both settlement and security as two vital, complementary components of Israel's national interest." And, wherever there is Israeli construction in occupied Palestine, there is always the destruction of Palestinian properties and the confiscation of land.

According to the Office of the EU Representative in

The West has lost the plot in the Balkans

Jasmin Mujanovi

IMAGES of pipe-welding and stone-throwing Serb militant nationalists assaulting NATO peacekeepers in the northern Kosovo town of Zvecan in late May put the Balkan country in the international spotlight once again. The violence erupted in the Serb-majority north of the country after Kosovo police escorted to work mayors who had been recently elected in local polls which ethnic Serb residents had boycotted.

The news that Serbia had concurrently placed its military on high alert had many unfamiliar with Balkan affairs asking if another armed conflict was about to break out in Europe. The answer is no, we are not on the verge of another Balkan war. But that does not mean the situation in Kosovo is not alarming.

Apart from the violence, what is raising concern in the region is the role that the United States and the European Union have played in abetting a dangerous new phase of Serb nationalist militancy in Kosovo and in the Western Balkans more broadly. Kosovo declared its independence from Serbia in 2008, backed by the US, the United Kingdom, Germany, France and Italy, also known as the Quint. It came after almost a decade of international supervision under the UN Interim Administration which was set up at the end of the Kosovo War. During this interim period, Kosovo remained nominally part of the then Federal Republic

of Yugoslavia as an "autonomous province", but Belgrade exercised no actual authority over any aspect of the territory's governance, save for a limited presence in a handful of Serb-majority municipalities in the north.

Kosovo had also enjoyed a significant degree of self-rule during the socialist period, though its ethnic Albanian majority was a frequent target of repression. In 1989, as Slobodan Milosevic seized power in Belgrade, he imposed a new constitutional regime on Kosovo and turned the region into a veritable police state with ethnic Albanians stripped of virtually all civil liberties. This draconian rule eventually resulted in armed resistance by the Albanian community, and ultimately NATO's military intervention. Over the past 15 years, the US and the EU have sought to secure a normalisation deal between Pristina and Belgrade. Despite successive rounds of high-level talks, the two sides remain as far apart on a settlement as ever - as the clashes in Zvecan neatly illustrate. But there is no question of equal culpability here. The problem remains almost entirely on the Serbian side. The increasingly autocratic regime of Serbian President Aleksandar Vucic is categorical in its refusal to accept the sovereignty of Kosovo. At the last round of talks held in Ohrid, North Macedonia in March, Vucic refused to even sign the purported deal he had "agreed" to, telling Serbian citizens in a subsequent address that he did not want

"to make an international legal agreement with the Republic of Kosovo".

In Serbia's regime-aligned media, the ethnic Albanian community, which comprises 92 percent of Kosovo's population, are routinely referred to by ethnic slurs, while the government in Pristina is branded as the "temporary" local authorities. And in Kosovo's Serb-majority north, Belgrade maintains a sort of clandestine occupation, administered through a network of local ultranationalists and gangsters, as The New York Times recently detailed. But Serbia's reactionary posture is not limited to Kosovo.

The Serbian leadership and large segments of the public who have been inundated by more than three decades of revisionist state propaganda, exist in a world of their own. Neither Belgrade nor a large part of the Serbian public accepts that the Milosevic regime - in whose last cabinet Vucic served as information minister - was the chief architect of the Yugoslav dissolution or of the subsequent decade of conflict that engulfed the region. They falsely claim that Serbia did not wage wars of aggression against Slovenia, Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Kosovo between 1991 and 1999. They also falsely maintain that Serbia did not orchestrate a systematic, genocidal campaign of extermination, terror, and expulsion against the non-Serb population of Bosnia between 1992 and 1995, which dis-

proportionately affected the Bosniak community. In fact, the genocidal violence directed against the Bosniaks by Milosevic and his Bosnian Serb proxies was so severe that approximately half of all casualties during the Yugoslav Wars and 82 percent of all civilian deaths during the Bosnian War were ethnic Bosniaks.

Post-war Bosnia has remained riven by dysfunction and strife because of the US-brokered Dayton Peace Accords and the extreme degree of autonomy given to ethnic chauvinist elements under the country's new constitution. In the Republika Srpska entity, which Milosevic's genocidal purge carved out as a Serb-majority region and which is loyal to Belgrade, the secessionist regime of Milorad Dodik undermines even the most modest reforms, while explicitly pushing for the breakup of Bosnia, with Russian and Serbian assistance. In light of Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine, one would think that there would have been severe political and diplomatic repercussions for Serbia and its proxies due to their close links with the Kremlin and their own expansionist machinations in the Western Balkans. But precisely the opposite has taken place. For example, in the case of the clashes between Serb nationalists and NATO peacekeepers in Zvecan, the Quint condemned the country's prime minister,

Albin Kurti, for having sent the police to escort the newly elected mayors to their offices in the north.

The US also ejected Kosovo from the NATO-led Defender 23 military exercises and threatened local officials with sanctions. Washington's ambassador to Pristina Jeffrey Hovenier also said his country will no longer assist Kosovo in seeking international recognition. By contrast, Serbia and Vucic suffered no consequences. Republika Srpska's Dodik has also faced no repercussions for meeting regularly with Russia's President Vladimir Putin, whom US and European officials have repeatedly called a "war criminal". The entity is still receiving funding from the EU for various development projects and although Dodik is under US and UK sanctions, he continues to openly lobby US officials in Washington. The Bosnian Serb leader is also not the only anti-state actor in Bosnia to benefit from a curiously high degree of Western appeasement. Draganovic, the leader of the hardline Croat nationalist HDZ party who also enjoys the patronage of the Kremlin, seems to have his interests defended directly by the internationally appointed Office of the High Representative (OHR).

Last October, the OHR used its expansive executive powers to rewrite Bosnia's election laws in his favour and then in April of this year amended the constitution of the

Federation entity in order to install an HDZ-dominated government. In Bosnia, as in Kosovo, the US and the EU seem uninterested in curbing Russian influence; instead, they have sought to accommodate Moscow-backed militant nationalists. Why? Because the West has concluded that it is not worth the time or effort to confront people like Vucic, Dodik, or Covic in a region as peripheral to its interests as the Western Balkans. The US and the EU have instead opted for a kind of Kabuki policy, maintaining a performative posture of opposition to militant nationalists but expending political and diplomatic capital to help them achieve their aims in the fleeting hope that this will pacify them.

The result, of course, has only been a more emboldened form of nationalist extremism in the Balkans - most of it sponsored by the West. Unfortunately, both the US and the EU appear wholly committed to this course, as evidenced by their surreal reactions to the violence in Zvecan. That will likely remain the case until domestic publics, including the Bosnian and Kosovar diasporas in the West, and their legislative allies, can effectively make the case for why Western double-dealing in the Balkans is dangerous to Europe's stability and security. Until then, however, Belgrade is likely to continue fomenting chaos, safe in the knowledge that Washington and Brussels will look the other way.

Aljazeera

Time for European nations to review Syria policies

Dr. Mohammed Al-Suami

AFTER 12 years of war in Syria, European countries are facing difficult choices regarding their Syria policies. There is even a temptation to consider the new internal and regional realities among European supporters of a more pragmatic Middle Eastern policy. Nevertheless, some internal considerations seem to prevent a policy review regarding European support to the Syrian opposition.

The continuing relationship between European capitals and Syrian activists is the key to understanding the difficulty of a reconciliation process between the former and the Syrian authorities. For instance, more than 100 Syrian associations, meeting on June 6 at the Arab World Institute in Paris, created a common platform to continue championing the establishment of a "democratic Syria."

This democratic aspiration is now mainly expressed by Syrian opposition activists based in European countries. Besides this aspiration, the geopolitical context is not in favor of a reconciliation between Brussels and Damascus, a Russian ally, in the context of the war in Ukraine.

What Europe wants in Syria is a political solution based on a compromise between the official government and the Syrian opponents in exile. There is also hope of ensuring justice for the oppressed Syrian people. Europe's diplomatic position, based on the search for a Syrian political alternative to the rule of Bashar Assad, has been continuous since the beginning of the Syrian uprising. However, there has been some degree of flexibility among European countries during the fight against Daesh and after the earthquake that hit the

country last winter.

In the wake of February's earthquake, the European Council recalled that the restrictions on the Syrian regime were taken "in response to the violent repression of the Syrian population by the Syrian regime and those linked to it and includes 292 persons targeted by both an assets freeze and a travel ban, and 70 entities subject to an assets freeze." However, it specified that Syria's sanctions relief, for a period of six months, aimed "to facilitate the speedy delivery of humanitarian assistance."

In spite of this new opening, the Europeans have not taken the initiative to reopen their embassies in Syria. Indeed, since 2012, only the Czech Republic has remained diplomatically active on Syrian soil, while others severed their ties with Damascus. Since

then, some European countries have decided to reopen their embassies, such as Bulgaria, Cyprus, Hungary and Greece. Despite this limited diplomatic presence, the main European countries are still not ready to reopen their diplomatic facilities in Syria at a time of rising confrontation with Russia.

It seems that the logic of building geopolitical blocks is stronger than the perspective of seeking solutions to regional problems through dialogue. Through their official support to Syrian civil society activists and strong political opposition to Damascus, Russia's Middle Eastern ally, the Europeans want to save face and to convince regional partners to build a regional coalition against Russia.

The new regional dynamics are not in line

with European views regarding the Syrian crisis. Beyond the humanitarian aid and symbolic support to exiled Syrian opponents, European capitals have little to offer the Syrian people, who face economic despair and a dire security situation. European capitals basing their Syrian policy only on the idea of confronting the "Assad regime" is not sufficient to solve the security crisis in the country. This policy does not offer any way out of the crisis and does not constitute a solution for the Syrian people. It is time for the European capitals to start a review of their Syria policies.

Policies based only on the rejection of the rule of Assad cannot be a solution for Syria in 2023. Twelve years after the beginning of the war, rethinking Syria necessitates making difficult compromises to find solutions to the eco-

nomic problems of the war-torn country. Moreover, the socioeconomic desperation of the Syrian people needs to be considered when a new European policy for Syria is formulated. This new policy should not be merely a face-saving exercise and a means to project European hostility toward Russia in the context of the war in Ukraine. One way out for the European capitals is to follow the Arab states in their decision to find a new modus vivendi with the Syrian authorities to better address the regional economic and security challenges. Until today, European officials have not offered a concrete diplomatic path or any suitable proposal to end the war in Syria. After 12 years of the conflict, it is time for a new policy to find a way out of the Syrian crisis

Arab News

How the US can lead the way on Sudan peace efforts

Dalia Al-Aqidi

THE protracted nature of the ongoing conflict in Sudan portrays a grim outlook, with it so far lacking any conclusion or resolution. It is disheartening to witness how two rival generals have effectively converted the peaceful capital Khartoum into a dreadful battleground, driven solely by their personal vendettas.

The ongoing power struggle in Sudan involves two influential figures vying for control and authority. At the forefront, we have Gen. Abdel Fattah Al-Burhan, a prominent military commander who has assumed the de facto leadership role in Sudan, for an extended period, through his commanding presence and actions. Opposing him is Gen. Mohamed Hamdan Dagalo, who holds leadership over the Rapid Support Forces, a formidable paramilitary group within the country. This intricate power dynamic experienced a significant turning point in October 2021, when Al-Burhan and Dagalo formed an alliance to orchestrate a military coup that resulted in their ascension to the positions of effective leader and deputy leader of Sudan, respectively. However, the harmony between these two leaders has deteriorated, leading to public clashes and disagreements.

These tensions have manifested themselves in overt and covert maneuvers, as both generals have been observed deploying additional troops and equipment to military camps in Khartoum and across the nation. This accumulation of forces is a worrisome escalation, reflecting their intensified rivalry and determination to consolidate their power and influence. Regrettably, the civilian populace of Sudan is bearing the brunt of this power struggle.

Within the city of Khartoum, an unfortunate multitude of individuals have found themselves trapped within the confines of their own homes since the initial eruption of violence on April 15. Perpetrators stationed in various central neighborhoods have engaged in relentless exchanges of fire, utilizing rooftops and the narrow spaces between buildings to target the warplanes above. This prolonged siege has resulted in an intermittent electricity supply, essential provisions such as food and water becoming scarce and a surge in incidents of looting and robbery, further intensifying the hardships endured by residents. According to the Ministry of Health, the distressing casualty figures stemming from the ongoing conflict indicate a civilian death toll in excess of 865, with an additional 5,000 individuals sustaining injuries. However, it is crucial to acknowledge that these reported numbers likely represent a conservative estimate, with the actual magnitude of human suffering and loss probably surpassing the official figures. The Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights has severe apprehensions regarding the ongoing conflict in Sudan and its dire consequences for civilians. According to spokesman Jeremy Laurence, the office highlighted a particularly distressing incident that occurred last week involving an attack on a bustling livestock market in Khartoum. This assault tragically resulted in the loss of eight civilian lives, including three members of the same family. The Sudanese Armed Forces was responsible for the airstrike on the Al-Muwaliyyah market. Additionally, Laurence men-

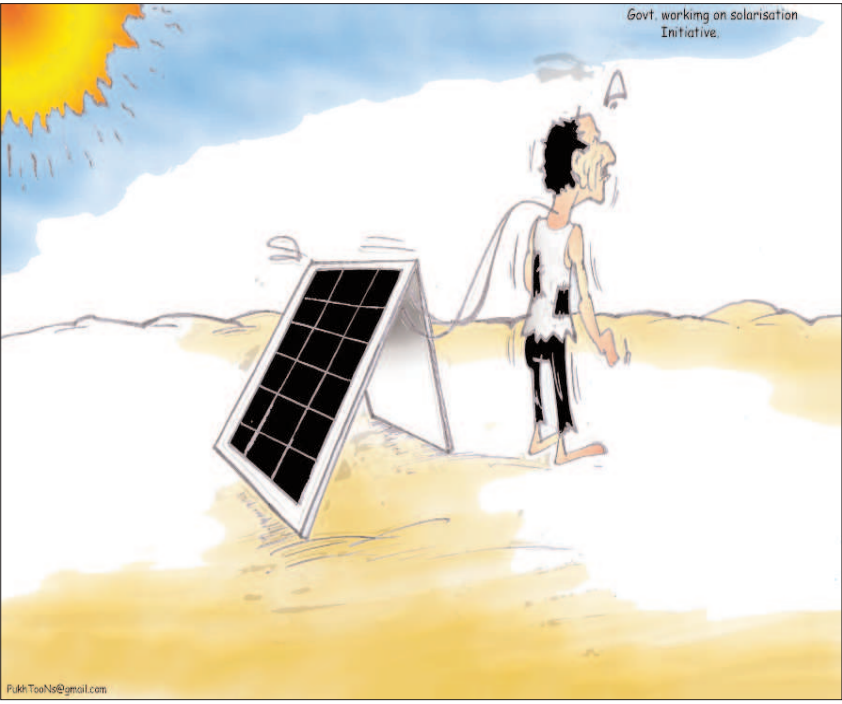
tioned another incident that took place on the same day, when a child was reportedly killed after a shell struck their family residence in southern Khartoum. These incidents exemplify the grave toll being exacted on innocent lives amid the conflict. In the quest to end the conflict and restore peace, there are several measures that the US could consider implementing. Firstly, it could leverage its diplomatic influence by engaging in high-level negotiations with the conflicting parties in Sudan. By actively mediating and facilitating dialogue, America can encourage the rival factions to seek common ground, while emphasizing the importance of human rights, stability and reconciliation in their discussions. Moreover, Biden's administration can exert diplomatic pressure on Sudan by collaborating with international partners and organizations, such as the UN and regional bodies like the African Union. By coordinating efforts and leveraging collective influence, a united front can be presented to Sudanese authorities, reinforcing the imperative of a rights-based approach and encouraging them to actively pursue a peaceful resolution.

In addition to such diplomatic endeavors, Washington can offer support for humanitarian efforts within Sudan. By providing robust assistance, including financial aid, resources and expertise, the US can contribute to alleviating the dire humanitarian conditions the Sudanese population faces. This could involve facilitating access to food, clean water, healthcare and shelter, thereby addressing the immediate needs of the affected civilians.

Furthermore, the leader of the free world could prioritize efforts to strengthen governance structures, the rule of law and institutions in Sudan. The US could help establish a foundation for sustainable peace and stability by promoting transparency, accountability and inclusive governance. This may involve supporting capacity-building programs, fostering civil society engagement and promoting initiatives that uphold human rights, democracy and the rule of law. By aligning its actions with its stated commitment to human rights, the Biden administration could demonstrate its dedication to upholding its fundamental values and principles, while working toward a positive resolution in Sudan.

However, the Biden administration's handling of the issue has been deemed inadequate. One notable example was the exclusion of Sudan from the summit with African leaders in Washington last December, which was partly influenced by the country's military coup. Additionally, during President Biden's visit to Saudi Arabia in July 2022, Sudan did not feature prominently in policy discussions.

Arguably, the US could have pursued a more assertive stance against the rival generals in Sudan, although the feasibility of such a course of action is debatable. Sudan's state of affairs has undergone such profound and transformative changes in recent months that a mere restoration of the previous status quo is no longer feasible or viable. Recognizing the urgency and magnitude of the challenges at hand, a concerted and collaborative effort is required to bring about meaningful change and restore stability in Sudan.



This is Starmer's moment

Polly Toynbee

THE spectacle of the Conservative party is a wonder to behold. Boris Johnson the destroyer will carry on sinking the remains of the galleon he once captained - out of sheer revenge. Cabals of every rightwing complexion include the old bastards of yesteryear - John Redwood still at it - and new red-wallers seeing their brief careers vanish before their eyes. Whipping and dangling ministerial office no longer work as the necessary force holding the party together.

Johnson loyalists may be few, but their noise is amplified by a Tory press infected with the same virus, bewailing his departure. Newly knighted Jacob Rees-Mogg writes in the Mail on Sunday that Johnson is "in pole position for a future leadership contest". Johnson ally James Duddridge tells the Telegraph, "He will be back. Full stop. As a matter of fact." Nigel Farage claims he is in talks with Johnson aides to set up a new party to "defend the Brexit legacy". Jake Berry tweets in fury, "You voted for Brexit - the establishment blocked it. You voted for @BorisJohnson - the establishment has forced him out. Who is in charge here ... The voters or the blob?" Fantasy or not, such outbursts get megaphone treatment from those taking Johnson's popularity on his own assessment, as laid out in his resignation letter: "When I left office last year the government was only a handful of points behind in the polls. That gap has now massively widened." Not so. He was ousted because Labour was 11 points ahead, widened now to 16. Johnson's personal ratings are abysmal: Ipsos's Ben Page says he tops the list of prime ministers who did a "bad job".

But the Torysphere has its fingers in its ears, not listening to voters, obsessed by woke conspiracies, blobs, remainers, the "establishment", the liberal elite or any other "them" they can find to avoid looking in the mirror. They are the cause of their own downfall. You might think this is only the usual turmoil that happens when the pendulum swings against a government too long in power. But this time it's different. Under its feet the ground is shaking, tectonic plates are on the move, all its belief systems are crumbling. The aftershocks of a financial crash, austerity, Covid and Brexit have set off a tidal wave sweeping away four decades of the Thatcher creed that has dominated the Tory party since her reign. The party is stranded on a far shore, with too few believers ever to return to power on a raft of those old ideas. The Thatcher revolution of 1979 left a long legacy, its chickens coming home to roost one by one. Just about every one of her totemic policies is profoundly unpopular now. Sewage has been such a good metaphor for utility privatisations, with energy companies equally reviled. The loss of 4m council homes, unreplicated, is keenly felt. The "big bang" ignited dangerous dependence on finance and an explosion in obscene top salaries. Her industrial sabotage still resonates in desolate, left-behind zones; industrial policy, meanwhile, is popular, with investment in

green growth, gigafactories, wind turbines, carbon capture and green hydrogen no longer dismissed as "picking winners". Only old ideologues believe Thatcher's mantra that all this should be "left to the markets". Her outsourcing of services deliberately avoided trade unions, cementing the bottom half of wages to the floor. She caused inequality to soar, never to return to its 1970s level, with hard-won working rights lost to zero-hours contracts, a gig economy and freelance insecurity.

young who voted overwhelmingly to remain will not forgive or forget.

Brexit's only blessing is that it may have vaccinated the UK against the nationalist populist wave sweeping some countries. Now Britain has seen the Brexit fallout, even if not quite Bregretters, it's hard to imagine any UK demagogue winning on an isolationist, Little England, pull-up-the-drawbridge message. The courtesy of Boris Johnson, we've been there, done it, and learned our lesson. Onward, a Tory one-nation thinktank, warns of the party's existential col-

Yet the current Tory trope is that net zero should be dropped as unpopular. Immigration is not in the top five issues, with Brexit now marked as a negative against the Tories, says Ashcroft. Brexit broke their party and it may take a political generation to get it out of their bloodstream, while the young who voted overwhelmingly to remain will not forgive or forget. Brexit's only blessing is that it may have vaccinated the UK against the nationalist populist wave sweeping some countries. Now Britain has seen the Brexit fallout, even if not quite Bregretters, it's hard to imagine any UK demagogue winning on an isolationist, Little England, pull-up-the-drawbridge message.

ty. Yet, despite the recent strikes, more people think unions play a positive rather than a negative role in Britain today. David Cameron and George Osborne's austerity was inspired by Thatcher: the smaller the state the better, they insisted. For decades, the UK collected far less tax than equivalent EU countries - and now pays a heavy price in a failing NHS, social care, education and everything else. But Tory MPs are blind to the seismic change in public attitudes: they put their faith in Sunak's promised tax cuts as the party's salvation, expecting a 2p income tax cut next March, and demanding more. Polling in key seats shows that that is no life raft, however. Just 12% prefer cutting taxes and spending less on public services, with 38% wanting to keep tax and spending as they are. Another 36% want taxes raised, with more spent on public services. Labour will be wary of trusting such public altruism, but it shows an extraordinary shift in sentiment, with Labour being more trusted on solid economic management. After the crash, austerity, Brexit and Covid, the public is rejecting old Thatcherite nostrums.

Michael Ashcroft's polling for the Mail on Sunday shows that people are most concerned about the cost of living and the NHS, followed equally by the economy and climate change. Yet the current Tory trope is that net zero should be dropped as unpopular. Immigration is not in the top five issues, with Brexit now marked as a negative against the Tories, says Ashcroft. Brexit broke their party and it may take a political generation to get it out of their bloodstream, while the

lapse. Millennials are the first demographic cohort not to become more likely to vote Conservative as they age, they find, and "this situation is worsening." Each cohort is more educated, and the more educated are less likely to vote Tory, or turn Tory later, either. Campaign group Next Gen Tories, trying to win that cohort back, says: "Age is the new dividing line in politics. It is now a stronger indication of voting intention than class, gender or race. For every 10 years younger a person is, they are nine points less likely to vote Conservative." It is a culturally different generation: more green, less capitalist as they have less capital of their own, sunk by childcare costs, needing good, affordable state nurseries and services.

Though none of this guarantees the permanent triumph of social democracy, Labour needs to seize the monumental meaning of this turning point. This is not 1997, when Thatcherism still had to be accommodated. This is 1979 reversed. Don't expect the speakers contending to be their idol's heir at Monday's Margaret Thatcher conference to face the fact that Thatcherism is finally dead, her policies electorally toxic. The party that selected Johnson and Liz Truss, the party with Suella Braverman as home secretary, will be a long time recovering.

The party in which every candidate to be an MP has to worship at the Thatcher shrine may take many election losses to flush Thatcherism and Brexit out of their veins before they can re-emerge as an electable modern, internationalist, one-nation Conservative party.

Germany's anti-Palestinianism is escalating

Majed Abusalama

ON June 6, the European Legal Support Center (ELSC) released a report on the suppression of Palestinian activism in the European Union and the United Kingdom. Focusing on the use of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance's (IHRA) working definition of anti-Semitism, the document found that there had been "widespread restrictions of the right of assembly and freedom of expression" related to criticism of Israel.

In one of the three countries the report focuses on - Germany - it found violations that ranged from dismissal of employees on false charges of anti-Semitism to denials of public spaces for pro-Palestinian events to defunding of organisations. None of ELSC's findings surprised me. As a Palestinian resident of Germany, I have seen it all. I came to the country in 2015, having survived almost three decades of constant Israeli aggression on Gaza.

I carried the trauma of war, of the brutal Israeli siege, of the constant ethnic cleansing and dispossession of my people at the hands of the Israeli occupiers. And when I tried to speak up about it, about the suffering of my people, I was immediately shut down. I was constantly warned to be careful what I was saying because it did not reflect "German values". I was told that I am an anti-Semite, that I am a terrorist. I tried to make my voice heard on German mainstream media, but to no avail. If I had tried to write for an Israeli newspaper, I would have had greater freedom to express myself than I ever did on German media outlets. I even got taken to court for my Palestinian activism. In 2017, two Israeli activists and I protested against Knesset member Aliza Lavie speaking at a hasbara event called "Life in Israel - Terror, Bias and the Chances for Peace" at Humboldt University in Berlin. The German media smeared and falsely accused us of anti-Semitism, while the university made a criminal complaint against us for "trespassing". We were immediately criminalised for our peaceful protest. But after three years of legal battles, we were vindicated - we won!

I have been to several other countries in Europe and I have never faced such hostility from the state for my Palestinian activism as I have in Germany. And I feel that the German state's violent anti-Palestinianism is reaching new peaks with every passing year. As ELSC's report pointed out, the justification for Germany's crack-down on anything that is critical of Israel is often alleged anti-Semitism. It equates Zionism with Judaism despite the fact that this false equivalence has been rejected by countless Jewish scholars and groups across the world. This accusation has been actively used by both public and private institutions to suppress not only the Boycott, Divestment, Sanctions (BDS) movement but anyone who speaks up to pressure the Israeli regime to comply with international and human rights law and grant Palestinians their rights. In 2019, the German parliament passed a resolution describing the BDS movement as anti-Semitic. This motion has been used to shut down, silence and censor pro-Palestinian activism, despite the fact that German courts have already ruled against anti-BDS actions by state authorities on several occasions, finding that they violate freedom of expression.

The false charges of anti-Semitism have also been used to target specific individuals and especially people of migrants backgrounds who stand ridiculously accused of "bringing anti-Semitism to Germany". In February 2022, German state-owned broadcaster Deutsche Welle fired seven Palestinian and Arab journalists for alleged anti-Semitic statements. Two of the journalists, Maram Salem and Farah Maraqa, challenged their defamation campaign and dismissal in court and won. But the German authorities' anti-Palestinianism goes beyond trying to suppress anti-Israel criticism. Their ferocious response to attempts by the Palestinian community to mark the Nakba - the word Palestinians use for their ethnic cleansing from their homeland - demonstrates that they aim to literally deny Palestinian existence in

public space. Last year, I physically experienced the full extent of what this means. After the Berlin police banned a rally to mark the Nakba and two courts upheld its decision, hundreds of Palestinians and their allies decided to take to the streets in small groups anyway. We wore kufiyahs to show our solidarity.

Despite our small numbers, police presence was overwhelming, with armoured vehicles deployed that reminded me of home under Israel occupation and colonisation. Wearing a kufiyah and looking Palestinian, I was stopped by a dozen police officers. They asked for my ID, and one asked why I am wearing a kufiyah, saying that I was protesting and violating the ban. While objecting to being stopped, I was suddenly grabbed, attacked brutally, and detained. They almost dislocated my shoulder and I had to be hospitalised for it. However, the psychological pain of what I experienced was much worse than the physical one. I was not only denied the opportunity to publicly mourn my people's dispossession, but two days earlier, I - and other Palestinians and our allies - had also been banned from mourning Palestinian journalist Shireen Abu Akleh, who had been killed by the Israeli army. This year, we tried again to commemorate the Nakba. We tried to mobilise the left, encouraging environmental, feminist and migrant groups to join us and ran the preparations on the slogan "Free Palestine from German guilt". But yet again we were banned.

Some groups defied the ban, carrying Palestinian flags and a banner saying "Existence is resistance" through the streets. A heavy police presence made sure that not even a small flash mob event could take place. And yet again they accused us of anti-Semitism to justify our erasure from public space. Not only is this an unfounded allegation, but it also raises the question of why the German police - so worried about public display of anti-Semitism - is not banning racist and neo-Nazi groups, who actually hold anti-Semitic beliefs,

from marching all across the country. For example, last year, just two months after we were banned from marking the Nakba, neo-Nazis were allowed to march through the city of Mainz; and it was not the police that dispersed them but a large crowd of anti-fascists. The Palestinian community in Germany is one of the largest in Europe, but they are made invisible, regularly intimidated by the German police and institutions, put under surveillance, and dehumanised in the media as anti-Semites and potential terrorists. These tactics aimed at depoliticising Palestinians can affect their residency status, job search, or even accommodation.

One has to wonder what these "German values" are if in their name, Palestinians are systematically mistreated in this brutal way. One has to wonder if they are not simply a reflection of white supremacy, enabling the German state to extend Israeli apartheid against Palestinians onto its own territory. This has taken a toll on Palestinian Germans. Many of them are fearful to speak up; others are exhausted by the constant struggle they have had to lead to claim the right of free expression that everyone else enjoys in Germany. Palestinian intellectuals have been attacked publicly and stigmatised, which has often affected their careers. And yet, Palestinians in Germany continue to resist state repression and silencing. There is a young generation of Palestinians who do not want to comply with German state dictates just so they feel they fit in. They do not stay silent in the face of humiliation and pressure. Organisations like Palästina Spricht (Palestine Speaks) are not letting any act of repression go by without a public reaction and challenge.

Criminalising Palestinians for speaking up for Palestinian rights, while neo-Nazis are allowed to raise their fascist slogans in public, is Germany's moral failure. It is time Palestine is freed from German guilt. It is time Germany stops demanding that Palestinians pay for its historical sins and embraces the Palestinian struggle for justice and liberation.

Lloyd Webber to set them to music). "When I got this job, I said I was gonna do things differently cos I want to change politics," he told the audience, and earned a little applause. He doesn't realise that when you pick a fight with a Boris, or a Trump, or a Berlusconi, it changes nothing. They only dominate the media cycle even more.

Rishi asked us to imagine a future in which AI can "transform our lives" by helping us do our jobs better, but it'll never work for governance - for politics is universally corrupting. Were Britain to install its first ever automatic prime minister, have no doubt that within 24 hours of going online, R2-D2 would start soliciting bitcoin bribes and be caught in bed with a laser printer.

What Sunak doesn't realise about picking a fight with Boris

Tim Stanley

REST in Peace, Silvio Berlusconi. Makers of Clairoi hair dye are insoluble. The 86-year old swinger was to politics what Roger Moore was to James Bond, proof that age doesn't mean you have to stop doing what you love. Bookies now have him as odds-on favourite to win the next election.

We do love to laugh at the Italians, with their countless prime ministers and shameless corruption. None of that for us in Britain, where the PM is so clean he could give Daz a run for its money - and consequently is quite dull. Rishi gave a speech to a group of techies in London, and whereas Boris would have riffed on a half-remembered history lesson about the industrial revolution ("Britain

invented the bath plug") Sunak sounded as though he knew this snoozy subject inside out.

What can AI do? It has "helped the paralysed to walk", he said, "discovered superbug-killing antibiotics" and will find "ways to grow crops to feed the entire world". AI is Jesus, though He comes not in the form of a lowly carpenter from the Middle East but a billionaire graduate at Harvard who must be bribed to relocate. To turn the UK into the new Silicon Valley, Rishi ticked off the visa programmes set up by the Tories. A "scale-up" visa for companies; an "innovator founder" visa; and, my favourite, a "high potential" visa that says you can come here even if you don't have a job so long as

"you graduated from one of the top 50 unis", have cash and can speak English.

The Conservatives might be promising to "stop the boats" for refugees, but they've made it possible for rich kids at Yale or MIT almost to walk on water to reach the UK. Then came the question about Boris and his honours list. A chance to reassert the dignity of one's office. "Boris Johnson asked me to do something I wasn't prepared to do," said Rishi, as if Boris had asked him to strip naked and dance the Carioca, when all he wanted was some peerages for his mates. Ah, but it's against procedure (Rishi not only loves the rules and has memorised the rules, I'm told he's working with Andrew

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Ex-chief, Saudi diplomat discusses enhancing mutual trade, economic cooperation

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: Zulfiqar Ali Khan, former president of the Sarhad Chamber of Commerce and Industry and Chairman, Pak Sri Lanka Business Council Khyber Pakhtunkhwa chapter held a meeting with Mr. Mubsher Al-Shehri, Commercial Attaché of Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA) in Pakistan.

A press release issued here on Tuesday said the meeting took place in the Royal Embassy of Saudi Arabia in Islamabad, in which matters relating to mutual trade promotion and cooperation were discussed.

The meeting emphasized the need of tapping all

available potentials in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA) and Pakistan.

A detailed discussion was held regarding enhancing bilateral trade and launching of joint ventures/projects in the meeting.

On the occasion, the KSA commercial attaché Mubsher Al-Shehri assured to provide all facilities to the business community to boost up the mutual trade and economic relations between the two brotherly Islamic countries.

Zulfiqar Ali Khan while speaking on the occasion stressed that a greater partnership in available investment opportunities with the business community of

Pakistan generally particularly in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

KP is an underprivileged and neglected province of Pakistan, Mr Khan said.

He said it is reality that KP is lagging behind as compared to other federating units of the country and neglected all the time, which had remained in war for many decades.

Therefore, he emphasized it is a dire need of hour to take initiatives for bringing economic prosperity and development in this region.

Khan said "opportunities should be provided to the business community and investors of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa in KSA so

that it will create employment avenues for many people, resultantly bring economic prosperity and development in this province.

He mentioned a large number of Pakhtuns were working in KSA so they want to enhance the role of KP in development and progress of the KSA. He added we wanted to play an important role in the tourism, construction and manufacturing sectors.

Earlier, Mubsher Al-Shehri, Commercial Attaché of Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in Pakistan gave an invitation to Zulfiqar Ali Khan along with a delegation of business community to KSA.

100-index of Pakistan Stock Exchange loses 244 points

ISLAMABAD (APP): The 100-index of the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) shed 244.21 points on Tuesday, a negative change of 0.538 per cent, closing at 41,538.72 points against 41,782.93 points the previous day.

A total of 144,168,405 shares were traded during the day as compared to 179,118,281 shares the previous day, whereas the price of shares stood at Rs.4,124 billion against Rs. 5,568 billion on the last trading day.

As many as 327 companies transacted their shares in the stock market; 91 of them recorded gains and 208 sustained losses, whereas the share price of 28 companies remained unchanged.

The three top-trading companies were Hascol Petrol with 14,363,000 shares at Rs.5.85 per share;

TPL Properties with 13,506,846 shares at Rs.13.73 per share and WorldCall Telecom with 12,977,181 shares at Rs.1.17 per share.

Pak Services witnessed a maximum increase of Rs.33.29 per share price, closing at Rs.883.29, whereas the runner-up was Philip Morris Pak with an Rs.31.99 rise in its per share price to Rs.458.64.

Unilever Foods witnessed a maximum decrease of Rs.889.00 per share closing at Rs.22,111.00; followed by Rafhan Maize with Rs.545.00 decline to close at Rs. 8,350.00.

Rupee sheds 35 paisas against US Dollar

Pakistani Rupee on Tuesday weakened by 35 paisas against the US Dollar (USD) in the inter-bank trading as it closed at Rs 287.97 against the pre-

vious day's closing of Rs 287.62. However, according to the Forex Association of Pakistan (FAP), the buying and selling rates of dollars in the open market stood at Rs 303 and Rs 305 respectively.

The price of the Euro went up by Rs1.25 to close at Rs 311.18 against the last day's closing of Rs 309.93, according to the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP).

The Japanese Yen remained unchanged to close at Rs 2.06, whereas a decrease of Rs 0.23 was witnessed in the exchange rate of the British Pound, which traded at Rs 361.83 as compared to its last day's closing of Rs 362.06.

The exchange rates of the Emirates Dirham and the Saudi Riyal appreciated by 10 each to close at Rs 78.40 and Rs 76.78 respectively.

Gold prices decline by Rs 4,000 to Rs 221,500 per tola

The per tola price of 24 karat gold decreased by Rs 4,000 and was sold at Rs 221,500 on Tuesday against its sale at Rs Rs 225,500 the previous day.

The price of 10 grams of 24 karat gold also decreased by Rs3,430 to Rs189,900 from Rs193,330 whereas the price of 10 grams 22 karat gold went down to Rs.174,075 from Rs177,219, All Sindh Sarafa Jewellers Association reported.

The price of per tola and ten-gram silver remained constant at Rs 2,650 and Rs 2,271.94 respectively.

The price of gold in the international market decreased by US\$2 to \$1961 against its sale at \$1963, the association reported.

Bahria Foundation employees, ex-personnel of Pak Navy: SLIC extending Life and Health Insurance solutions

F.P. Report

KARACHI: State Life Insurance Corporation of Pakistan (SLIC) signed an agreement with Bahria Foundation to provide group life and health insurance to over six thousand employees of Bahria Foundation and retired personnel of Pakistan Navy. Shoaib Javed Hussain, Chairman (SLIC) and V/Adm Khan Hasham Bin Sadiq HI(M) witnessed the event where, executives from both organizations were also present. This partnership is yet another step towards making life and health insurance accessible to every Pakistani.

"As part of our mission of extending the benefits of insurance to all sections of society and meeting our commitments to our policy holders and the nation; we take pride in providing financial and health protec-



tion to the employees of Bahria Foundation and retired personnel from Pakistan Navy," said Mr. Hussain, Chairman (SLIC).

"This strategic partnership commemorates our commitment for continuous improvement and innova-

tion for our employees as well as the welfare of retired personnel of Pakistan Navy," said Mr. Sadiq, MD Bahria Foundation.

State Life Insurance Company of Pakistan (SLIC) is the largest and

the only AAA rated insurance company in the country. Over the past one year, the corporation has emerged as one of the most successful State-Owned enterprises in the country. Learn more about the corporation at statelife.com.pk.

European stocks rise before key US inflation data

LONDON (AFP/APP): European stock markets steadied and the dollar largely fell against main rivals Tuesday as investors awaited monthly US inflation data that could determine the Federal Reserve's next move on interest rates.

Expectations are for the US central bank to hold fire at the end of its meeting Wednesday -- after 10 straight hikes to combat elevated inflation.

But there is a chance it could hike again should Tuesday's consumer prices number weaken less than expected.

"If we don't see a slowdown in core (inflation) prices, then that might introduce some nervousness that might prompt the Fed to hike again tomorrow instead of the pause that is currently being priced," noted Michael Hewson, chief market analyst at CMC Markets.

Core inflation strips out contributions from energy and food -- the two sectors mainly responsible for con-

sumer prices indices rocketing worldwide over the past year.

The Fed decision comes as central banks around the world continue to struggle in their battle against inflation, which remains well above their two percent targets.

The European Central Bank is expected to unveil another increase Thursday despite the eurozone dipping into recession, while the Bank of Japan is tipped to stand pat when it meets Friday.

Canada and Australia announced increases last week.

Official data Tuesday showing record UK wage growth, despite lagging the country's inflation rate, increased the chances of another rate hike from the Bank of England next week and possibly more there after, analysts said.

China's central bank, however, announced a small cut in its short-term lending rates as authorities try to kickstart a recovery

in the economy, which has run out of steam after an initial burst following the lifting of zero-Covid restrictions.

Tuesday's move comes after figures showed inflation remained subdued and saw the yuan drop against the dollar, though the currency pared the losses on reports that fresh stimulus measures were being discussed.

The cut reveals "growing concerns among policymakers about the health of China's recovery," said Capital Economics economist Julian Evans-Pritchard.

China's problems have weighed on the crude market, even after Saudi Arabia's surprise decision to slash output by a million barrels a day next month.

Oil futures jumped Tuesday but made only some headway into the four percent losses suffered a day earlier when Goldman Sachs slashed its price forecast for the third time in six months.

Ambassador of Pakistan to Damascus visits SCCI

SIALKOT (APP): The Ambassador of Pakistan to Damascus Shahid Akhtar on Tuesday visited the Sialkot Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SCCI).

Senior Vice President Sialkot Chamber of Commerce and Industry Wahub Jahangir and Vice President SCCI Amir Majeed Sheikh welcomed the guest.

During the meeting, issues related to the diplomatic, commercial relations and trade promotion with Damascus were discussed. SVP SCCI Wahub Jahangir stressed for strengthening mutual trade ties between Pakistan and Damascus and said there was a huge scope for business opportunities between Pakistan and Damascus.

He said the both countries should facilitate single country trade exhibitions and frequent trade delegation should be exchanged between the both countries to encourage B2B linkages.



MULTAN: Chairman & CEO Discount World Richard Sultan and RG&CC's Project Sect Col. Habib-ur-Rehman exchanging documents after signing MoU.

Workers' remittances down 12.84 in July-May FY-23

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: The overseas workers' remittances posted a decline of 12.84 percent during first eleven months of fiscal year 2022-23 as the remittances fell from \$28.489 billion in July-May of FY22 to \$24.831 billion in the period under review.

On a year-on-year basis, the overseas workers' remittances recorded an inflow of US\$ 2.102 billion in May 2023, posting a decrease of 10.40 percent as compared with the same month of the previous year's inflow of \$ 2.346 billion, according to the latest data released by State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) on Tuesday.

On a month-on-month basis, the overseas workers' remittances also decreased by 4.36 percent from \$2.198 billion in April 2023 to \$2.102 billion in April 2023.

According to the remittances' inflows during May 2023 were mainly sourced from Saudi Arabia (\$524 million), the United Arab Emirates (\$335.8 million), the United Kingdom (\$306.5 million) and the United States of America (\$257.2 million).

Shipping activity at Port Qasim

KARACHI (APP): Two ships namely, Demeter and Calypso Gas carrying Mogas and LPG, berthed at Oil Terminal and Engro Terminal respectively on Monday.

Meanwhile, another edible oil carrier 'Mega-1' with 28,000 tonnes of Palm oil also arrived at the outer anchorage of Port Qasim on Tuesday.

A total of 07 ships were engaged at POA berths during the last 24 hours, out of them an edible oil carrier 'Yun-Ding-19' sailed out to sea on Tuesday morning & two more ships, Honor Win and Calypso Gas are expected to sail on the same day.

A cargo Volume of 79,124 tonnes, comprising 65,937 tonnes imports Cargo and 13,187 tonnes export cargo, including containerized cargo carried in 1,198 Containers (614 TEUs imports and 584 TEUs export) was handled at the port during the last 24 hours.

There are eight ships at Outer Anchorage of Port Qasim, out of them two ships, PS-Pelican and Scarabe are expected to take berths at Oil Terminal and Bulk Terminal on Tuesday & another container ship, EM-Astoria is due to arrive at Port Qasim on Wednesday.

DW enters into MoU with RG&CC

F.P. Report

MULTAN: Discount World (DW) on Tuesday signed a memorandum of understanding with the Rumanza Golf & Country Club (RG&CC), which is Asia's largest 18-hole 72-par golf course with distinctive features that offer breath-taking views which are treat for both the eyes and the soul.

The alliance which is powered by VISA is one step forward aimed at facilitating the large consumer base of VISA premium card holders, and the initiative taken by Discount World to club with RG&CC could be termed as one essential move by those who possess the never-ending love for Golf.

DW's strategic alliance will not only be a revolutionary move to promote Golf in the country, but will also facilitate the Golf players across the country to live their dream and excel on the lush green Golf field as a result of the alliance between the two organizations powered by VISA.

"We are extremely thrilled and delighted to partner with the picturesque

Rumanza Golf Club, to promote Golf in Pakistan for the locals and tourists who will now have a chance to enjoy Golf with added benefits, as a result of their trust on VISA and being the loyal premium card holders. Today, it gives me great honor to represent Discount World (DW) which acts as the bridge between the beautiful Rumanza Golf Club and the enthusiasts of this sport of Golf, who will be served with added benefits," said Sultan Richard, Chairman & CEO, DW.

The MoU was signed between Sultan Richard and RG&CC's Project Sect Col. Habib-ur-Rehman.

Welcoming the joint alliance powered by VISA, Rumanza Golf & Country Club's (Project Sect) Col. Habib-ur-Rehman said, "It is a great privilege to tee off this partnership with Discount World which has been powered by VISA, this alliance will pave the ways for the people possessing the love for this sports, while also serving as an opportunity for their loved ones to experience a tranquil and serene view topped up with other facilities on offer ranging from savoring rich gourmet delicacies and regional treats to experience the thematic zones of RG&CC."

Discount World - DW is the leading alliances aggregator of Pakistan. The forte of DW is to provide enterprise loyalty solution - services and to manage deals & discounts CVP (Customer Value Proposition) B2B & B2C via enabling it on banking channels & digital mobile application and other digital technology mediums.

Discount World - DW has been offering beyond standard channel to the Pakistan's & International corporate market.

Discount World - DW has been catering more than 20 Million+ customer network base Nationwide-Pakistan, UAE & GCC Region and has been affiliated with 5000+ POS Active; along with top niche quality brands of Pakistan & global renowned brands.

Discount World - DW tends to focus on being the corporate centric service provider as per to the corporate entity's requirements & guidelines.

Islamabad Industrial Association lauds some budget moves

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: President of Islamabad Industrial Association (IIA) Muhammad Ahmed said on Friday that the budget is average for the industrialist community.

Lauding the budget has said that IT, SME, solar, agro-based industry, will take a boost after getting tax holidays as well as reduced tax tariffs, and minimum compliance of documentation.

Speaking at the post-budget press conference, Muhammad Ahmed Waheed said that

Super Tax has been imposed across the board on income above Rs150 million, which was previously Rs300 million and only applicable on ten sectors including banking which is against the claim that no new tax has been imposed.

Leaders of IIA Usman Shaukat, Khalid Jaweed, Mian Akram Farid, Atif Ikram Sheikh, Tariq Sadiq, Mian Waqas Masood, Zakria A Zia, Aamir Waheed, Mirza Muhammad Ali, Malik Sohail Hussain, Naeem Paracha and others were also present at the occasion.

He said that energy tariff for the industrial sector is very high resulting in enhanced cost of doing

business compelling this sector to use energy efficient devices but duties and taxes have been increased which is disappointing.

He added that investors of erstwhile FATA and PATA will be able to get their investments recovered because of extensions of income tax and sales tax exemptions for one year.

An extension of income tax exemption for one year was granted for the ongoing REIT projects, enabling them to complete the halted real-estate sector, he noted.

The business leader said that youth entrepreneurship has been encouraged by three-year income tax exemption up to the age of 30 years, enabling them to improve their businesses.

Every taxpayer has been allowed to bring one hundred thousand dollars under section 111(4) of Income Tax Ordinance without giving a source of income which will help government to overcome shortage of forex reserves. Previously, this limit was only five million rupees.

The president IIA questioned the figures presented in the budget as the total budget is almost Rs14500 billion whereas tax collection for the year 2023-24 has been set at Rs9200 billion. There would be a budget deficit of 5300 billion but no source was

identified to bridge the deficit.

The budget document has failed to address the core issue of expansion of taxpayers base as it is feared that the existing taxpayers would be further burdened to meet the new tax target, he said, adding that charging twice the amount of tax from non-filers is counterproductive unless they are brought into the tax net.

The Finance Minister said that prices have been decreased but also announced to increase the petroleum levy by Rs10 which will result in immediate increase.

Tokyo stocks end higher

TOKYO (AFP/APP): Tokyo shares ended higher Tuesday after Wall Street stocks advanced ahead of key economic data and central bank decisions.

The benchmark Nikkei 225 index climbed 1.80 percent, or 584.65 points, to end at 33,018.65, while the broader Topix index added 1.16 percent, or 26.02 points to 2,264.79.

The dollar fetched 139.52 yen, against 139.56 yen in New York on Monday.

Investors were awaiting the release of key US inflation data later in the day that could play a big role in the Federal Reserve's keenly anticipated interest rate decision.

The report will likely influence whether the Fed follows expectations and skips an interest rate increase after more than a year of hikes.

In Tokyo, the market took cues from rallies on Wall Street, following "the trend of gains mainly in major high-tech stocks", IwaiCosmo Securities said in a note, adding "a wide range of stocks were bought from the start of the day".

Myanmar exports over 117,000 tons of green grams

YANGON (APP): Myanmar exported more than 117,201 tons of green grams in the first two months of the 2023-24 fiscal year, according to the country's Ministry of Commerce on Tuesday.

From April 1 to June 2 this year, the country earned over 76.639 million US dollars from the exports of green grams, the ministry's figures showed. Myanmar's total exports of beans and pulses, including green grams, during the

period reached over 310,573 tons, its figures showed.

"Green grams were mostly exported to China," U Soe Win Maung, advisor of Myanmar Pulses, Beans, Maize and Sesame Seeds Merchants Association, told Xinhua. They were also exported to Vietnam and a number of European countries, he added.

Green grams and black grams are the most commonly cultivated beans and pulses in Myanmar,

accounting for around 60 to 70 percent of the total production of beans and pulses in the country, he said.

In the 2022-23 fiscal year, Myanmar exported more than 1.91 million tons of beans and pulses including over 691,399 tons of green grams, the ministry's figures showed.

Beans and pulses are Myanmar's second-most cultivated crops after rice, accounting for 33 percent of the country's total agricultural production.



In brief

Valencia leaves Fenerbahce

LONDON (Agencies): Ecuadoran forward Enner Valencia left Fenerbahce after a three-year stint to join Internacional, the Brazilian side announced Monday. In a statement, the Porto Alegre club said Valencia, 33, signed a three-year contract with them and will be introduced to Internacional fans on June 26. Valencia had played for Fenerbahce since 2020, scoring 59 goals in 116 appearances and winning a Turkish Cup with the Istanbul club. On Tuesday, Fenerbahce tweeted to thank him for his service and wished him the best in the rest of his career. Valencia racked up 29 goals in 31 Turkish Super Lig appearances to be the domestic league's top scorer in the 2022-23 campaign. The Ecuadoran captain also scored 38 goals to be his nation's all-time highest scorer. He had previously played for Mexico's Tigres, as well as English clubs West Ham United and Everton.

Tori Bowie's cause of death revealed

LONDON (Agencies): Tori Bowie, the world champion US sprinter and former athlete was found dead in her home in May due to childbirth complications at the age of 32, an autopsy report noted, terming her cause of death as natural. Her death due to the complication was also confirmed by her agent. Bowie won 4x100m relay gold at the Rio Olympics in 2016, plus 100m silver and 200m bronze. Kimberly Holland, Bowie's agent told CBS News that speculation over her death had been "very hurtful". "So hopefully, now knowing the truth, there will be many apologies," said Holland. Bowie was found dead in Orlando, Florida, as the local Sheriff's department attended "a well-being check of a woman ... who had not been seen or heard from in several days." A report from Orange County Medical Examiner's Office, the US sprinter was eight months pregnant and she died while giving birth. It remains unknown whether her family or friends knew about her pregnancy. According to the report, the possible causes of death included respiratory distress and eclampsia—a rare complication of pre-eclampsia that can cause seizures and strokes.

Asadullah Khan back

KABUL (Agencies): Asadullah Khan has returned as Afghanistan's chief selector and will move back to Kabul after a stint with Qatar as head coach. He will replace Noorulhaq Malikzai, who had stepped down from the role but will continue to work as a committee member. "It has been a privilege to serve as the head of the selection committee for the esteemed Afghanistan Cricket Board," Malikzai said. "Due to personal and family commitments, I am unable to continue in this significant position. I have requested to continue my association with ACB as a member of the committee, and I am committed to providing my utmost cooperation to Asadullah Khan and the board." With Khan as the chief selector, Malikzai, Mir Mubarez and Ahmad Shah will work as supporting selectors in the four-man panel. Taj Malik Alam and Mohammad Khan Zadran are retained as domestic selectors. "I am honored to be entrusted with the responsibility of heading the selection committee of players," Khan said in a statement.

Aroob, Tuba take Pakistan to victory in ACC Asia Cup game



ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistani spinning duo of Syeda Aroob Shah and Tuba Hassan helped Pakistan pull out a super victory against Nepal in their first match of the ACC Women's Emerging Teams Asia Cup 2023 at the Tin Kwong Road Recreation Ground in Hong Kong on Tuesday. Chasing a modest 88-run target, leg-spinners Aroob and Tuba never allowed the opposing batters to settle and picked up wickets regularly. The duo ended up taking two wickets apiece, while off-spinner Umm-e-

Hani and left-arm spinner Anoosha Nasir snapped a wicket each to give Pakistan a nine-run win. For Nepal, Kabita Kunwar (20, 32b, 2x4s) and Kabita Joshi (15 not out, 17b, 1x4) were the only batters to enter into double figures. Earlier, after being put into bat, Pakistan A were bowled out for 87 in 19.2 overs. Opening batter Shawaal Zulfiqar top-scored for her side with a 36-ball 28, hitting one four. For Nepal, Indu Barma was the most successful bowler, taking three wick-

ets for six runs from three overs. Kabita Joshi, Kabita Kunwar and Sita Rana Magar bagged two wickets apiece. Pakistan would now take on hosts Hong Kong on Thursday. Scores in brief: Pakistan A 87 all out, 19.2 overs (Shawaal Zulfiqar 28, Fatima Sana 16; Indu Barma 3-6, Kabita Kunwar 2-12, Kabita Joshi 2-16, Sita Rana Magar 2-16). Nepal 78-6, 20 overs (Kabita Kunwar 20, Kabita Joshi 15 not out; Syeda Aroob Shah 2-16, Tuba Hassan 2-23).

Only Stokes could get me back to Test cricket, says Moeen

EDGBASTON (Agencies): Moeen Ali said Ben Stokes was the only England captain who could have persuaded him to come out of Test retirement. A one-word message from Stokes, after first-choice spinner Jack Leach had been ruled out of all five Ashes Tests against Australia, was all it took to bring slow-bowling all-rounder Moeen back into England's red-ball set-up. And Moeen could now be set for a return to Test cricket at Edgbaston, in his home city of Birmingham, when the Ashes series starts on Friday. "Stokesy messaged me with a question mark -- 'Ashes?'," Moeen told reporters at Edgbaston on Tuesday. Moeen said he had not heard the news about Leach, who has a back injury, and thought



Stokes was joking. "Then the news came through and I had a chat with him," he said. "That was it. It's the Ashes. To be part of it would be amazing," Moeen, who turns 36 on Sunday, last played Test cricket in September 2021. But his developing relationship with Stokes -- the pair were together with Chennai Super Kings during this year's Indian Premier League -- proved the difference. Asked if there was any other captain who could have persuaded him to change his mind, Moeen replied: "Probably not, no." A powerful batsman as well as an off-spinner, Moeen has played 64 Tests for England, taking 195 wickets and scoring 2,914 runs. But Australia have proved tough opponents for Moeen, with his career bowling average shooting

up from 36.66 to 64.65 in Ashes cricket. Nevertheless, he said he is relishing the chance to be involved as England bid for a first Ashes series win since 2015. "The fact that it is the Ashes and it is such a big series, to be part of it would be amazing," said Moeen. England have won 11 of their 13 Tests since Stokes joined forces with coach Brendon McCullum last year and Moeen said he is keen to be involved in the exciting brand of cricket. "There are no question marks over any shots you play, which gives me licence to play a few more rash shots, I guess. "Even with the ball, he is more on the aggressive side. I know I go for runs but Stokesy also knows there are some wicket-taking deliveries in between. That's all he cares about."

Umar Akmal 'ready' to represent Pakistan again if given chance

LAHORE (Monitoring Desk): Experienced middle-order batter Umar Akmal on Tuesday, stated that he is willing to represent the Pakistan cricket team again if given the opportunity. Umar Akmal spoke to the media here and shared that he is still making hard yards to earn his return to the national side by working on his fitness and skills. "I am training continuously, due to the ongoing camp in the academy I am training in Qadir Academy which my father-in-law built," he shared. "With cricket, fitness is very important to focus on so I am training hard and spend the whole day doing so. "Of course, I am ready to play for Pakistan again if given a chance," he responded to a question. Umar Akmal also commented about him potentially playing in the upcoming Lanka Premier League (LPL) and stated that it depends on the franchises whether they pick him or not but expressed optimism to perform well. "It is up to them to sign me for Lanka Premier League if they do I will give my hundred percent," said Akmal.

Umar Akmal then went on to comment on the specialised camp for spinners, currently underway at the National Cricket Academy (NCA) and extended his well wishes to all the participants. "Players are working really hard in the camp. I have personally watched them making efforts in this hot weather," he said. "I hope that these players get rewarded for their hard work," he concluded. It is pertinent to mention that Umar Akmal last donned Pakistan jersey in 2019 in the T20I against Sri Lanka at Gaddafi Stadium here. He remained a regular part of the Pakistan men's cricket team from his debut -- in 2009 -- to 2016. He represented Pakistan in 16 Tests, 121 ODIs and 84 T20Is, piling up 5887 runs across formats with the help of three centuries and 34 half-centuries.

Denver Nuggets beat Miami Heat to claim first NBA title



MIAMI (Agencies): The Denver Nuggets clinched their first NBA title as a 94-89 win over the Miami Heat sealed a 4-1 series triumph. Nikola Jokic led his side to victory with 28 points to end the Nuggets 47-year wait for the championship trophy. Serb Jokic, 28, was named the Finals' most valuable player to add to the two overall MVPs he won in 2021 and 2022. "We're not in it for ourselves, we're in it for the guy next to us and that's why this [means] even more," Jokic said following victory at Ball Arena. Jokic also contributed 16 rebounds, while Michael Porter Jr added 16 points and 13 rebounds as the Nuggets ground out the decisive victory in game five. The Nuggets never lost more than twice in any of their play-off series, ending their march towards a historic success with 10 victories in their last 11 post-season games. Denver trailed 71-70 at the start of the fourth quarter, and 89-88 with just under two minutes remaining, but the hosts would not be denied after they hit the front with a Bruce Brown lay-up. For Miami, Jimmy Butler scored 21 points and Bam Adebayo 20 but they were unable to

keep their hopes of an unlikely comeback alive. Only one of the 36 teams to have previously fallen 3-1 behind in an NBA Finals -- the Cleveland Cavaliers in 2016 -- had managed to come back to win the championship. "It was an amazing effort by the team," Jokic said. "That is why basketball is a fun sport, it is a live thing, you cannot say this going to happen, there are so many factors. "I'm just happy we won the game." Nuggets coach Michael Malone told the home supporters: "I've got news for everyone out there. We are not satisfied with one." It is the fourth major North American sports title in the past two years for owner Stan Kroenke -- who also owns Premier League club Arsenal -- alongside NFL Super Bowl success for the Los Angeles Rams, Colorado Avalanche's NHL Stanley Cup win and Colorado Mammoth's National Lacrosse League Cup victory.

PVF ropes in Brazilian coach

ISLAMABAD, Jun 13 (APP):Pakistan Volleyball Federation (PVF) has roped in the services of a Brazilian coach to prepare the players for upcoming international tournaments. "PVF has hired the services of a foreign Brazilian coach and will also be hiring a Brazilian physical trainer, and Iranian Analyzer for the Pakistan team. Pakistan senior and junior training camps are in progress in Islamabad under the supervision of a Brazilian Coach," Chairman Pakistan Volleyball Federation Ch. Muhammad Yaqoob said in a press briefing here at a local hotel on Tuesday. He said both national teams were preparing to participate in upcoming international events including AVC Challenge Cup from July 8 to 15 in Taiwan, First Asian Men U16 Volleyball Championship at

Uzbekistan from July 22 to 29, Asian Senior Men's Volleyball Championship in Iran from August 17 to 25 and Asian games. "We are working on all age groups from u16, u18 to u20 as to bring the talented players to fore. We have got a lot of talent and the future of Pakistan volleyball is very bright," he said. He said Pakistan Volleyball Federation has planned to organize the National League in November this year. "More than two American university's men's and as many Women's Volleyball teams will visit Pakistan to play matches against our sides early next year. A prize distribution ceremony was also held on the occasion for the Five-Nation Engro QAVA League winners 'the Pakistan team'. The Five-Nation Engro QAVA League was held in

Pakistan last year in November 2022. Five countries Iran, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Afghanistan, and host Pakistan participated in the league. The Iranian is number one in Asia and number 8 at the world level and participated in the mentioned league. Pakistan beat four countries and played the final match against Iran, Pakistan won the final against Iran and got a massive victory, he said. He said Engro Pakistan was a major Sponsor of the Pakistan Volleyball Federation, and our aim was to achieve qualification in the 2028 Olympics.

Shaheen will 'likely miss' Sri Lanka series

KARACHI (Monitoring Desk): Pakistan's pace ace Shaheen Afridi will likely miss the upcoming Test series against Sri Lanka. Sources said the lanky pacer could be rested during next month's assignment due to workload management ahead of the World Cup this year. Sri Lanka Cricket (SLC) will announce the schedule of the two-match Test series later, which is part of the ICC World Test Championship soon. Earlier, it was also reported that Pakistan are unlikely to play ODI matches during their Test tour of Sri Lanka. The SLC and the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) had discussed the possibility of playing ODI matches alongside the two-match Test series between the two sides. However, according to sources, the idea will likely be dropped due to unforeseen circumstances. Shaheen is currently playing in England's T20 Blast for Nottinghamshire, where he has claimed 13 wickets in nine matches. The lanky pacer said the benefit of the experience of playing league cricket is that he can share the knowledge gained with other players when he returns home.

Mbappe says never discussed extending stay with PSG

PARIS (Agencies): Kylian Mbappe's future at Paris Saint-Germain was in serious doubt on Tuesday after the France superstar told AFP he had never discussed extending his contract with the club beyond next year. Mbappe and his entourage spoke out the day after he sent a letter to the club confirming he would not take up an option to remain at the French champions until 2025. That immediately raised the spectre of the 24-year-old forward, one of the most coveted players in world football, following Lionel Messi out of Parc des Princes this summer because if Qatar-owned PSG do not cash in by selling him now, he could leave for nothing at the end of next season. In a statement to AFP, Mbappe said he had informed PSG "on July 15, 2022" of his decision not to activate an option to extend his contract, which ends after next season, for an extra year "and the only aim of the letter was to confirm what had already been spoken about previously". "Kylian Mbappe and his entourage confirm that this matter has not been discussed since over the course of the year, except a fortnight ago to announce the sending of the letter. "No potential contract extension has been mentioned," it continued. "After maintaining publicly in recent weeks that he would be a PSG player next season, Kylian Mbappe has not asked to leave this summer and has just confirmed

to the club that he would not be activating the extra year." Mbappe and his entourage explained. The statement concluded by saying that the 2018 World Cup winner and those closest to him "regret that the letter was circulated in the media and that these exchanges were made public with the sole aim of damaging their image and the discussions with the club". Mbappe's letter to PSG comes a year after the player signed a new deal to stay at the French champions, turning down an approach from Real Madrid in the process. According to sources with knowledge of the discussions, PSG do not intend to let Mbappe leave for nothing and were surprised that the letter was leaked. With the player confirming he will leave when his contract expires in 2024, PSG risk losing a huge asset for nothing in a year's time, meaning they could now opt to sell him in the current transfer window, which is open until September 1. Mbappe's decision not to renew, first revealed by French sports daily L'Equipe, is a major blow to PSG. It comes as they have been planning to make the forward the focal point of their team after allowing Messi to leave at the end of his own two-year contract. - Real Madrid on alert? - Having missed out on him a year ago, Real would again lead the suitors. They are in the market for a new striker after reigning Ballon d'Or Karim Benzema ended his 14-year

stay in the Spanish capital by moving to Saudi Arabia. Mbappe is currently with the France squad preparing for Euro 2024 qualifying matches against Gibraltar and Greece. Recently made the new France captain, a smiling Mbappe appeared relaxed as he trained with his teammates at their base near Paris on Monday. He was still a teenager when he joined PSG on a season-long loan from Monaco in August 2017, just after helping the club from the principality win the Ligue 1 title. The move turned into a permanent transfer the following year in a 180 million-euro (\$195m) deal. He helped France to World Cup glory in 2018 and has established himself as arguably the leading forward on the global stage. Mbappe scored a hat-trick in France's 2022 World Cup final defeat to Messi's Argentina before helping PSG win a record 11th French title. He was Ligue 1's top scorer last season with 29 goals and netted 41 in 43 games in all competitions. Yet it was a frustrating season, as PSG were knocked out of the Champions League in the last 16 by Bayern Munich and lost at the same stage in the French Cup. Their regularly poor performances in the second half of the campaign persuaded PSG not to offer new terms to Messi, who fell out with the club after missing training to take an unauthorised trip to Saudi Arabia.

Football trials for women players held in Swat

F.P. Report

SWAT: Football trials for women players were held in Swat under the Prime Minister's Youth Talent Hunt programme. More than 100 women athletes of Swat region participated in the trials held at the ground of Swat Public School Nave Clay Junior Branch. On this occasion, Pakistan Muslim League (N) Women's Wing Provincial Vice President Shah Izzat Bibi was the chief guest. He inaugurated the official trials, along with former International Athlete and Director of Sports of Bacha Khan University Charsadda Shabana Khattak, Vice President of PML-N Women's Department Zakia, Miss Shaughta, Pakistan WAPDA Football Player Muhammad Ayaz, Director of Sports Swat. University Amjad Ali and other important personalities were present, the enthusiasm of the girls dur-

ing the trials was visible, Organizing Secretary and Director of Sports Bacha Khan University Charsadda Shabana Khattak of Prime Minister Youth Talent Hunt Program Khyber Pakhtunkhwa supervised the trials, Prime Minister Mian Muhammad Shahbaz Sharif In the light of the special instructions of the Prime Minister's advisor Amir Moqam, the series of trials of various sports is going on step by step under the supervision of Special Assistant Shiza Fatima. In which a large number of players participated, speaking on the occasion, Pakistan Muslim League-N Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Women's Wing Provincial Vice President Shah Izzat Bibi said that Prime Minister Youth Talent Hunt program in women's football trials. It is heartening to see the large number of girls and at the same time I am grateful to the government for organizing such a great event. Because such activities



can bring out the hidden talent of these children and make the name of the country shine, he said that the main objective of the Prime Minister's Talent Hunt program is to find and bring out the talent across the country. While there are 10 dif-

ferent women's games and the football event is also a part of it, he said, "We are trying our best to ensure that the players are selected on the basis of merit in these games, because the selection on merit is the basis for the selection of players." Will be able to

win medals at national and international level. He said that it is hoped that by organizing the Prime Minister's Youth Talent Hunt program, new talent will emerge who will be able to go ahead and make the name of the country and the nation bright.

In the event, Shabana Khattak, Organizing Secretary of Prime Minister Youth Talent Hunt Women's Football Event and Director of Sports of Bacha Khan University Charsadda distributed souvenirs among the chief guests and other participants.



In brief

IRSA releases 205,500 cusecs water

ISLAMABAD (APP): Indus River System Authority (IRSA) on Tuesday released 205,500 cusecs of water from various rim stations with an inflow of 287,700 cusecs. According to the data released by IRSA, the water level in River Indus at Tarbela Dam was 1438.70 feet and was 40.70 feet higher than its dead level of 1,398 feet. The water inflow and outflow in the dam was recorded as 128,000 cusecs and 65,000 cusecs, respectively. The water level in River Jhelum at Mangla Dam was 1139.30 feet, which was 89.30 feet higher than its dead level of 1,050 feet. The inflow and outflow of water was recorded at 56,200 cusecs and 37,000 cusecs, respectively. The release of water at Kalabagh, Taunsa, Guddu and Sukkur was recorded as 94,500, 90,900, 58,700 and 22,600 cusecs, respectively. Similarly, from River Kabul, a total of 63,700 cusecs of water was released at Nowshera and 20,800 cusecs was released from River Chenab at Marala.

IESCO enhances load-management

ISLAMABAD (APP): Islamabad Electric Supply Company (IESCO) on Tuesday announced to increase duration of power load-management temporarily in its entire region due to the gap between the demand and supply of electricity. According to the IESCO spokesperson, the power demand stood at 2,305 megawatts (MW) against the available quota of 2,075 MW. Load-management of 4 to 5 hours was being carried out on various feeders due to short-fall, it was further said. The Spokesperson said load management would be immediately reduced once situation became normal. Operation teams remained alert for addressal of any individual complaints.

11 drug peddlers netted

RAWALPINDI (APP): Rawalpindi police in an action against suspected drug peddlers conducted raids in different areas and rounded up 11 accused on recovery of over 17 kg charas. According to a police spokesman, Airport, Taxila, Rattaamral and Gujar Khan police conducted raids in their respective jurisdiction and held Abdul Basit, Kashif, Tahir, Waqar, Kashif, Sher Ali, Sher Muhammad, Qasim and a woman namely Hamida and recovered over 17 kg charas from their possession. Separate cases have been registered against all accused while further investigations are underway. City Police Officer, Rawalpindi had directed the police officers to accelerate ongoing operations against drug peddlers, bootleggers and other law-breakers, he added.

Power suspension programme

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Islamabad Electric Supply Company (IESCO) on Tuesday issued a power suspension programme for Wednesday for various areas of its region due to necessary maintenance and routine development work. According to an IESCO Spokesman, the power supply would remain suspended from 09:00 AM to 2:00 PM in F-17/1&2, Tufail Shaheed, Charah, Frash Town and Kirpa feeders in Islamabad Circle; Nogzi, Bagh Sardaran, Social Security, Industrial, Pir Wadhah, Raja abad, Nogazi, Binjal, Dhoke Choudhuria and Shams Colony feeders in Rawalpindi City Circle; River Garden I, II, III and Naval I & II feeders in Rawalpindi Cantt Circle; Domeli, Bhagwal.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Education Rana Tanveer Hussain addressing during the launching ceremony of 1st Pre-Service Teachers Training Program for Federal Directorate of Education at Federal Collage of Education H-9.

Shazia urges public to strictly follow PMD instructions on upcoming cyclonic storm

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety (PASS) Shazia Marri on Tuesday urged the public to follow instructions issued by the government of Sindh and the Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD) regarding the impending cyclonic storm. Speaking on the floor of the National Assembly (NA), the minister emphasized the gravity of the situation, as the province faces potential danger.

"The Sindh government has taken swift action by issuing warnings and evacuating a significant number of residents, with around 80,000 to 100,000 people already moved to safer locations," she said.

Moreover, she said, "The

government officials, including the CM and members of the Provincial Assembly (MPA's) and Members of National Assembly (MNA's), are actively engaged in providing assistance to affected communities."

"While Karachi may not be directly threatened, the PMD forecasts heavy showers and windstorms in the metropolis from June 13-17." To mitigate risks, the relevant authorities directed the removal of billboards from roads and issued warnings to the public to prevent any potential damages. Prayer was offered in the NA upon the minister's request, seeking safety and protection for the people in the face of this natural calamity, led by Moulana Abdul Akbar

Chitrali. Engr. Sabir Hussain Kaim Khani emphasized that various areas of the Sindh province would be impacted by the storm, urging both the Sindh and federal governments to provide comprehensive assistance to those relocated to camps. Raja Pervaez Ashraf informed members that the Pakistan armed forces were present in the affected areas and would provide assistance to the people. "The Sindh government continues its tireless efforts, working around the clock to support the affected population," he added.

The speaker echoed the importance of adhering to government instructions and warnings, urging the public to stay safe during this critical time.

Completion of Basha, Mohmand, asu to usher progress, prosperity: Minister

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Water Resources Syed Khurshed Ahmed Shah, believed that the completion of the Diamer Basha, Mohmand, and Dasu dams would contribute to achieving progress and prosperity in the country.

Taking part in a general discussion on the budget for the year 2023-24 on Tuesday, he expressed the hope that Pakistan would be able to issue loans to other countries after the completion of dams, as they would generate cheaper electricity.

However, he mentioned that insufficient funds had been allocated for the construction of these dams and suggested freezing the development funds of other projects and allocating the entire amount for dam construction. The minister emphasized that the parliament had enacted the con-

stitution and legislation for the welfare of the people.

He praised the passage of the 18th Amendment, which empowered provinces and strengthened democracy and the country's politics. He acknowledged that presenting the federal budget in the current situation was a challenging task.

The minister criticized ministers and ministries officials for not attending important sessions.

He reminded everyone that the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) had made significant sacrifices for the restoration and strengthening of democracy in the country. "Despite facing difficulties, the PPP has consistently worked to ensure the continuation of the democratic process."

He expressed concern over the lack of respect between institutions in the country, stating that one

institution should not disregard others. He clarified, "His party is not against any political party and does not support the arrest of political workers." The minister highlighted that the PPP had never attacked public buildings, even when their leaders had been arrested. He stated, "PPP workers prefer to stay in jail rather than work against the state." He criticized the misuse of the country's resources, stressing that they should be utilized for the betterment of citizens.

Moreover, the minister commended the government for increasing the salaries of government employees, stating that it would provide relief to the masses. He also hailed the increased allocation for the Benazir Income Support Program (BISP), which aimed to provide financial assistance to the needy.

Rs 103,375m allocated for NHA projects

ISLAMABAD (APP): Keeping in view the vision of the incumbent government for the timely completion of ongoing road infrastructure projects, Rs 103,375.614 million have been allocated for 68 ongoing road infrastructure schemes of the National Highway Authority.

According to official data, Rs. 6 billion have been allocated for land acquisition, affected properties and compensation for the Rajanpur-DG Khan section of Indus Highway (N-55) as a four-lane highway and rehabilitation of 329 km D G Khan-D I Khan section of N-55. Similarly, Rs. 6 billion have been allocated for dualization and improvement of existing Yarik-Sagu-Zhob section of N-50 including Zhob bypass.

Rs. 5.5 billion have been allocated for the dualization of the 330 km Khuzdar-Kuchlak section while Rs. 5 billion have been set aside for the construction of the Gilgit-Shandur road, and as much amount has been earmarked for the construction of the Lahore-Sialkot Motorway link via Narang Mandi to Narawal. Moreover, Rs. 5 billion have been set aside for Zhob to Kuchlak road (CPEC Western route). For dualization & improvement of Old Bannu Road Rs 5317.442, million have been allocated whereas for dualization and improvement of Pindigheb-Kohat Road, Rs 2000 million have been earmarked.

Nation's future depends on teachers' performance: Tanveer

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Education and Professional Training Rana Tanveer Hussain on Tuesday said that the future of this nation depends on the performance of teachers.

He was addressing the inaugural ceremony of the induction training program 2023 for the newly recruited 1000 teachers here at Federal Education College.

He said that we have hired 1000 new elementary, and secondary teachers and lecturers to meet the needs of the educational institutions of Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT).

Rana said that the teachers are the backbone of the education system and stressed them to play their due role in the character building of the nation.

"It is important to provide the right

training to the teachers in order to deliver their mandate" he underlined.

Federal Minister stressed that there is no room for nepotism and corruption in our children's future.

With proper training, Education Minister said that teachers can ensure the proper education of the youth.

"I hope that the newly recruited teachers will perform their duties with full honesty and integrity, Rana Tanveer Hussain remarked.

He also hoped that we can make Islamabad a role model of education for the rest of the country.

"We have to invest in human resources now. we have to fulfill our role honestly so that we can take the country on the path of success" said Rana Tanveer Hussain.

Pakistan Hajj mission staff ensuring proper delivery of luggage to pilgrims in Makkah

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Lost and Found Centre of the Pakistan Hajj Mission, Makkah has been ensuring the proper delivery of luggage to government scheme hajj pilgrims and asked pilgrims to take all necessary precautionary measures by clearly writing their passport numbers and names on their bags.

Talking to the PTV News channel on Tuesday, Incharge Lost and Found Centre said that his department had successfully

returned over 317 missing items, including bags, wheelchairs, mobile phones, and purses, to intending pilgrims under the government hajj scheme. He said Hajj pilgrims submit a detailed report about their missing items, along with their descriptions, and the identification papers of their ownership in order to receive them, adding, "within a half hour we are delivering the lost items to their owners".

He further mentioned that hajj pilgrims who have misplaced their baggage should contact the Lost and Found Centre at 0567119736 for assistance.

Replying to a question, he said a dedicated call center had also been established in Makkah to receive complaints from Pakistani pilgrims. Additional buses had been provided to facilitate pilgrims' easy and prompt movement to and from their residences and Masjid-ul-Haram, he added.

ANF foils eight bids to smuggle 268 kg drugs

RAWALPINDI (APP): Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) in their ongoing operations conducted across the country managed to foil eight bids to smuggle narcotics and recovered 268 kg of drugs, said an ANF Headquarters spokesman here on Tuesday.

He informed that in an operation at Islamabad International Airport, ANF recovered 187 charras-filled capsules weighing 1372 grams from the trolley bag of a Doha-bound passenger, resident of Kurram district, going on flight no PK-287. In the second operation conducted in a deserted area of Bara Khyber, ANF recovered 10 kg charras while in another raid conducted in the Jarhoi district of Khyber, two of kg Ice drug was recovered.

The spokesman informed that ANF managed to recover 12 kg charras from the possession of two passengers including a woman resident of Qilla Saifullah, travel-

ling in a bus intercepted near Sher Shah Toll Plaza Multan.

In the fifth raid conducted at a private courier office in Sialkot, 1060 grams of suspicious material concealed in four prayer mats was recovered. The parcel was booked for Australia.

In an operation near Gulistan Colony Faisalabad, 201.6 kg charras was recovered from two vehicles while three accused residents of Mardan and Peshawar were netted during the operation. He informed that in a seventh operation conducted in a deserted area of Dalbandin, 30 kg opium concealed under stones was recovered while in an eighth operation conducted near the Pak-Afghan Border area in Chaman, two kg charras was recovered from an unattended parcel. Separate cases have been registered against the accused while further investigations are under process, he added.

Digitalization of PBM projects to enhance productivity, ensure transparency: MD PBM

ISLAMABAD (APP): Managing Director, Pakistan Bait-ul-Mal (PBM), Malik Amir Fida Paracha Tuesday said digitalization of PBM projects would enhance its productivity, cost-effectiveness and ensure transparency in its working.

"The process of digitalization of all projects of PBM is underway which would help transform the entire working of the institution as well as attract national and international donors to extend their contributions", the MD said in an exclusive interview with APP.

The MD PBM said that the institution was running a number of welfare projects, including Shelter Homes, Sweet Homes, Pakistan Thalassemia Center, Individual Financial Assistance, Women Empowerment Centers, PBM Schools, Persons with Disabilities project, Old Homes and provision of medical assistance for treatment of various diseases.

During the FY 2021-22, the PBM

has provided medical assistance to 13719 patients, educational scholarships to 5769 students, education stipends for 18375 children, benefited 5068 special persons and 10,075,716 persons through shelter homes.

The first priority of Amir Paracha, since joining this authority as MD PBM, was to attract domestic and foreign donors for which the digitalization of all the projects was the prerequisite. "The work on digitalization of all the projects was started on war footing which is instrumental to bring transparency and boost the confidence of donors", he added.

The MD said that one of the main objectives of the establishment of PBM was to cater to the needs of special people and provide them with maximum facilities. "PBM is providing assistive devices, health care facilities and technical skills to these people aiming to bring them into the mainstream", he added.

He highlighted that PBM was also

providing cochlear implant facility for hearing and speech impaired children (up to five years of age) which is an expensive treatment and cost about Rs. 19, 00,000.

"This implant can be a life changer for these children to move forward as productive citizens", he added.

He said that cochlear implant had also been included in the budget of PBM through the efforts of Federal Minister for Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety, Shazia Marri and other relevant officials of the ministries.

Responding to a question, Amir Paracha said that his one of the top priorities was also to resolve all the pending cases of cochlear implants worth around Rs. 2.5 billion.

The MD PBM said that presently, 50 Sweet Homes operating across the country were catering the needs of orphans in terms of their accommodation, education and well-being through adopting a modern welfare approach.



ISLAMABAD: A girl on the way under cover of an umbrella to protect herself from direct sunlight during a hot weather at Ghouri Town.

A group of men are seated in a large, ornate room, engaged in a formal meeting. The room features high ceilings, large windows with intricate wooden grilles, and a chandelier. A man in a white thobe and ghutra sits centrally, flanked by others. A flag is visible in the background.

Hanafi further added that the Islamic Emirate declared a general amnesty, banned the use and traffick-

“Sanctions are not a solution and could have negative impacts on the humanitarian situation in the war-torn country. Therefore, the international community should sympathize and opt for meaningful dialogue with the

Meanwhile, WFP Executive Director Carl Skau, said the UN global good agency has been working with Afghanistan for the past 60 years in different sectors, including food security, nutrition, humanitarian aid, development programs and more. WFP's goal is to attract more international aid to the people of Afghanistan, he added.

Earlier, members of the Afghanistan Society of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ASOG) criticized the lack of female doctors in medical expert exams held by the Ministry of Public Health.

"If a legal issue is mentioned, it should be solved through legal paths, the legal issues should not become politicized and the issues should not lead to political and military turmoil," said Wais Naseri, a political analyst.

A photograph showing two men shaking hands across a table covered with a blue cloth. The man on the left is wearing a dark suit and tie, and the man on the right is wearing a light grey suit and a yellow tie. Behind them are two American flags and two New York State Police flags. The setting appears to be a formal press conference or signing ceremony.

have truly risen to the challenge with incredible integrity and persistence at every step along the way. It's your expertise, it's your ideas, it's your local networks that have made all the difference."

Due to data protection concerns, it refused to name the man or provide

According to the report, he has been detained for a few weeks since a far-right publication published an

Taliban seized control of

Since then, the de facto authorities have not been recognised as a legitimate government in the country, and the international community conditioned their recognition on several factors, including respecting human rights and women's rights, cutting ties with terrorist outlets, stopping drug trafficking and forming an inclusive government in the country.

Discussion



say that the primary sources of the group have been cultivation and drug trafficking during the past years. It cannot be confirmed whether the banning of poppy cultivation continues or is a temporary tactic by the Taliban.

The cancer center in Herat said that over 70 per-

"I don't have the ability to travel to Pakistan. I came here. We borrow money from someone so that we can afford the medicine,"

According to the Herat cancer center, more than 12,000 cancer patients have referred to this center over five years in the province.

agricultural products, mechanization, capacity building in the agricultural, and sharing each agriculture research," said Minister.

Afghanistan would be showcased at the expo. According to the min-

“Therefore, it is an opportunity for our industrialists, those who are

Afghanistan have a good market in Central Asia.
Economic experts mean

Despite all this, Afghan investors always complain that due to the increase in poverty and economic problems, the market for their sales inside the country is weak and they are also facing problems in exporting their products to foreign countries.



THATTA: People shifting towards safer places from the expected Cyclone hit areas of Ketī Bandar.

Hina, EU commissioners discuss ties

ISLAMABAD (APP): As part of her ongoing visit to Belgium, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Hina Rabbani Khar has held extensive meetings with two European Union Commissioners in Brussels.

The Minister of State called on the European Commissioner for Crisis Management Janecz Lenarcic to follow up on discussions pertaining to EU's flood relief activities in Pakistan. During the interaction, Minister of State thanked the EU for activating the European Civil Protection Mechanism post floods that enabled immediate assistance from EU during rehabilitation phase. The two sides agreed to explore further avenues for collaboration in disaster management and capacity building, according to a statement received here on Tuesday.

In her meeting with European Commissioner for Home Affairs Ylva Johansson, Minister of State discussed optimal utilization of the recently launched Migration and Mobility Dialogue including opportunities for legal migration of skilled labor. It was agreed to strengthen cooperation in implementation of Pakistan-EU Readmission agreement.

In her interactions at the EU Commission, the Minister of State expressed the hope that the EU would take a leadership role in dealing with emerging global challenges and non-traditional security threats including climate change, pandemics, water, energy and food security. She advocated for collaboration and cooperation for building capacity with a special focus on sustainability, green economics, agriculture and digital connectivity.

Highlighting the importance of GSP+ scheme, the Minister of State stated that Pakistan-EU trade had increased under the present regime, which has contributed significantly towards growth and poverty alleviation in Pakistan and has been a win-win for both sides. Pakistan and the EU dialogue processes are driven by the Strategic Engagement Plan, which reaffirms both sides' determination to further strengthen the long term, forward-looking and broad-based partnership for peace, development and prosperity.

Ex-Punjab minister Sahi arrested

ISLAMABAD (PPI): PTI leader and former Punjab minister Ali Afzal Sahi was arrested by police in Islamabad on Tuesday in connection with a terrorism case registered against him.

Ali Afzal Sahi was arrested from outside the Judicial Complex in the federal capital where he came to secure bail in the case registered at Golra Police Station of Islamabad.

Though the anti-terrorism court extended the interim bail of the PTI leader until July 3, but after he came out of the court, the Islamabad police arrested him in connection with other cases registered against him.

PHC grants transit bail to Ali Wazir

Humayun Khan

PESHAWAR: A divisional bench of Peshawar High Court (PHC) comprising of Justice Ijaz Anwar and Justice SM Attique Shah has granted 45 days transit bail to Member National Assembly (MNA) Ali Wazir while ordered to appear before competent court, on Tuesday.

The counsel Sher Afzal Marwat advocate informed Ali Wazir has obtained bail in five cases while 14 First Information Reports (FIRs) had registered against him across Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. The counsel argued that petitioner didn't aware regarding the content and nature FIRs registered him while requested for transit bail to appear before competent forums.

MNA Ali Wazir has spend two years behind the bars but nothing has been establishment against him, the counsel added. In the meantime, Justice Ijaz Anwar observed that court shall grant transit bail for 14 days and ordered that petitioner appear before competent courts. However, the counsel argued that 14 days insufficient time for approaching competent premises because Ali Wazir facing charges in 9 FIRs in different areas of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and requested for increasing timeframe for transit bail.

PHC's divisional bench comprised of Justice Ijaz Anwar and Justice SM Attique Shah granted 45 days transit bail to MNA Ali Wazir while ordered to approach competent court's of law. PHC directs to submit reply for constitution of JIT on vandalism: Peshawar High Court (PHC) has ordered Chief Secretary, Inspector General of Police (IGP) and caretaker provincial government to submit reply regarding constitution of Joint Investigation Team (JIT) to ensure fair enquiry 9th& 10th May vandalism after arrest of former prime minister Imran Khan by National Accountability Bureau (NAB), on Tuesday.

During hearing Advocate General Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Amir Javeed, Additional Advocate General Danyal Asad

Chamkani and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) lawyer Shah Faisal Otmankhel advocate appeared before PHC divisional bench comprised of Justice Ishtiaq Ibrahim and Sahibzada Asadullah.

The writ petition establishment of JIT chaired by PHC's judge to enquire 9th& 10th May vandalism and place responsibility on culprits involved in the damages of public and national assets. The JIT should investigate the matter on scientific and modern grounds like Panama case and alike. JIT should also probe into burning of Radio Pakistan Peshawar Center, Chaghi monument and death of PTI's workers at Mardan, Swat and Swabi during protests while it should also inquire raids on residences of political workers which has crossed all social limits.

PTI's lawyer argued that several party's workers are missing while their families didn't inform regarding whereabouts and added that High Court is custodian of fundamental human right ensure by Constitution of Pakistan. In the meantime, Justice Ishtiaq Ibrahim observed that PHC should obtain government's point of view in this regard while adjourned further hearing and directed respondents to submit comments.

Meanwhile, PHC has disposed-of writ petition seeking omission of Pakistan Army Act 1952 Sections imposed against civilian in Mardan for 9th& 10th May vandalism on request for withdrawal to made new respondents in the case. The counsel argued that seven accused in 9th& 10th May vandalism has been handed over to military to tried under Pakistan Army Act 1952 despite 23rd constitutional amendment bars civilian trial in military court.

The counsel requested to omit Section 59 of Pakistan Army Act 1952 and section 3 of Official Secret Act 1923, however, Justice Ishtiaq Ibrahim remarked petitioner didn't made the necessary parties as respondents like Ministry Defense and Ministry of Interior while disposed-of the petition on request of withdrawal.

PAC recovered Rs1tr over past one year: Noor Alam

ISLAMABAD (INP): Chairman Public Accounts Committee (PAC) MNA Noor Alam Khan has said that during past one year, the Committee successfully recovered around one trillion rupees, with a commitment to take decisive action against individuals who have harmed the national exchequer.

Taking part in budget debate in National Assembly on Tuesday, he emphasized the committee's efforts in recovering the substantial amount, clarifying that it was a collective accomplishment, not solely his own. He emphasized that he did not witness any preferential treatment or bias among the Members of the National Assembly (MNAs) during the recovery process and functioning of PAC.

Noor Alam further declared that he draws a monthly salary of Rs. 168,000 as an MNA and an additional Rs. 20,000 as Chairman of the PAC. He said that individuals engaged in corrupt practices should face the consequences of their actions. He exposed instances of corruption amounting to billions of rupees in programs such as the Ten Billion Tree Tsunami, the BRT project in Peshawar, the health sector, and the police department. He expressed concerns about the lack of a submitted report regarding corruption complaints surrounding the Mohmand Dam project.

The Chairman PAC said he summoned the Registrar of the apex court, along with records of funding cases related to the Basha Dam, questioning the

absence of audits for the account and the failure to utilize Rs. 17 billion collected for the project. Noor Alam Khan raised a significant question about the allocation of 190 million pounds to an individual, emphasizing that this wealth belonged to Pakistan, and the national exchequer suffered as a result.

He asserted that individuals who exploit Pakistan's wealth, incite unrest, and deceive its people cannot consider themselves true Muslims. He emphasized that Pakistan was founded on Islamic principles. The Chairman also recalled the disqualification of two prime ministers based on holding Aqama and failing to write a letter. He underscored the responsibility of the apex court to protect the constitution without making changes, as that authority lies with the parliament. He called upon the judiciary to fulfill its role and acknowledged the sacrifices made by politicians in the past for the restoration of deposed judges in 2007.

MNA Noor Alam highlighted the imprisonment and death sentences imposed on political leaders in the past, while emphasizing that certain individuals still hold unwarranted favoritism toward a particular person. He lamented the backlog of thousands of pending cases in the courts, which disproportionately affects the underprivileged. He expressed dissatisfaction with the lack of interest shown by treasury lawmakers during the ongoing budget session, highlighting the absence of the

Minister for Finance, State Minister for Finance, and Minister for Planning Development. He pointed out that the entourage of these cabinet members could be seen outside the parliament, emphasizing the need for the relevant ministers to be present in the house during the budget session.

The Chairman PAC highlighted that previous Finance Ministers, namely Hammad Azahar, Shaukat Tareen, and Miftah Ismail, voiced criticisms against the previous governments when presenting the budget in the National Assembly during their respective tenures. He expressed concern that agriculturalists did not receive any notable incentives or special provisions, while the owners of fertilizer companies seemed to be the primary beneficiaries. He stressed the importance of addressing the lives of vendors, as the majority of the population, around 70 percent, resides in rural areas where initiatives are lacking for their uplift.

Furthermore, Noor Alam Khan highlighted the persistent issues of gas and electricity load-shedding in the country, resulting in significant suffering for the people. He noted the provision of free electricity to WAPDA employees, while laborers receive meager wages despite their contributions. He stressed the importance of tackling issues of inflation as well as load-shedding and to improve performance. The Chairman PAC also highlighted the announcement of incentives for overseas Pakistanis.

Quake shakes Islamabad, Lahore, other cities

LAHORE (PPI): A strong earthquake measuring 5.2 on Richter scale jolted many cities in Pakistan including Islamabad, Rawalpindi, and Lahore on Tuesday.

The quake hit Islamabad, Lahore, Gilgit Baltistan region, Sheikhupura, Shakkargarh, Wazirabad, Jhelum, Kharian, Hafizabad, Swat, Abbottabad, Haripur and many Azad Kashmir cities including Neelum Valley and Bagh, and other areas, causing panic among the citizens and villagers. The earthquake's epicenter was near Gandoh Bhalessa in Indian-occupied Kashmir and its depth was 18kms. It struck at 1:03pm according to Pakistan time. The people came out of their homes amid scare.

Meanwhile, in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir, the tremors were felt in Bagh, DhirKot, and Muzaffarabad areas. The earthquake scared school children. People in shops rushed out. It was scary. This was more intense than the tremors last week. Earthquake tremors were felt in Delhi and parts of North India at around. The quake also jolted some New Delhi.

On 7 June 2023, an earthquake measuring 4.2 on the Richter scale hit Khuzdar and adjoining areas. The National Seismic Monitoring Centre (NSMC) had confirmed that tremors were felt in Khuzdar and other surrounding areas. The depth of the earthquake was 10 kilometers and its epicenter was some 35km away from Khuzdar in the north. On 09 June 2023, an earthquake tremors had been felt in the Swat district of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and nearby areas. Seismological Centre said the magnitude of the earthquake was recorded at 4.4 on the Richter scale, the depth was 124 km underground, and the epicenter was in the border region of Pakistan, Afghanistan, and Tajikistan.

On 22 March 2023, an earthquake of 6.8 magnitudes shook parts of Pakistan on Tuesday, killing nine people, including two women, and injuring over 160 others as well as causing many buildings to collapse. Nine of the confirmed deaths were reported in the valley region of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

Court releases 36 TLP activists

KARACHI (PPI): A local court Tuesday released 36 activists of Tehreek-e-Labbaik Pakistan (TLP) in a case related to vandalizing public properties during a protest.

Anti-Terrorism Court Judge Ijaz Ahmad Buttari announced the judgement. The court declared that the prosecution failed to prove allegations against the TLP members. The TLP activists were accused of vandalizing and torching the public property during their protest.

A case was registered against them in the Shahdara police station in 2021. Lawyer Mohsin Raza and Isri Chaudhry advocate presented arguments on behalf of the accused. Yesterday, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif directed Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah to hold talks with Tehreek-e-Labbaik Pakistan. Informed sources said that the prime minister has directed the interior minister to listen to the legitimate demands of the TLP.

A committee led by the interior minister would hold talks with the TLP on the issue of latter's agitation movement in Punjab. The Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) had banned the TLP when the former was in power. A notification in this regard was issued on April 15 where it was said the TLP was banned under the Anti-Terrorism Act of 1997.

The PTI government had decided to ban the TLP after countrywide protests by the religious party. Clashes between the police and TLP workers were reported during those protests. In its application to the interior secretary, the TLP had said it was a political party registered with the Election Commission of Pakistan, and not a terrorist group.

Simultaneously holding of elections in interest of country

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Law and Justice Senator Azam Nazeer Tarar on Tuesday said that holding of general elections at the same time was in the interest of the country. The minister expressed these views while addressing the PILDAT Forum on 'How Prepared is the ECP to hold Free and Fair General Election.'

Senator Azam Nazeer Tarar in his address offered the government's perspective on the upcoming general election, outlining key elements of the Elections Act 2017. He emphasized the role of the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) in setting the election date, underscoring its legal authority. Acknowledging the financial constraints the ECP faced in the past year, Senator Tarar stated, "Our ECP is a strengthened institution."

He said that these constraints were no longer the case. He assured the attendees that the government was committed to closing its tenure along with the National Assembly within the constitutional framework, as bound by law. Senator Azam Nazeer Tarar lauded the ECP's proactive approach to ensuring free and fair elections. Special Secretary ECP, Zafar Iqbal, provided a comprehensive update on the progress made against the ECP's third strategic plan (2019-2023). He said that the ECP had achieved 90% of implementation of its Strategic Plan and it was ready to hold free and fair general election in 2023. He announced that the ECP was fully prepared to hold a free and fair general election, signaling its readiness to fulfill its vital role in the democratic process.

He underscores the ECP's commitment to ensuring a credible electoral process and the tireless work it had undertaken towards this end. Former Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister Fawad Hasan Fawad highlighted that the ECP required support and cooperation of the entire democratic society, citizens and parties to discharge its constitutional responsibility of holding free, fair and credible elections. He said that census data was an important component of the election

process since it served as the foundation for constituency delimitation and representation. The difficulties encountered by smaller provinces in accepting census findings point to the necessity for increased openness and engagement throughout the census process, he added.

He said that the ECP should work closely with the census office to guarantee that the data obtained was accurate and approved by all stakeholders. The results of the census were also critical in order to avoid interrupting the election calendar, he added. President of PILDAT Ahmed Bilal Mehboob gave an overview of the Status of the Implementation of ECP's 3rd Strategic Plan (2019-2023). He emphasized the consistent effort by the ECP to strategize and improve their processes over the past 15 years. He also highlighted the government's role in facilitating the ECP's work and how it impacts the electoral process. The ECP had exhibited a noteworthy dedication to strategic planning during the last 15 years, he added.

He said that the ECP's commitment to refining its procedures and adjusting to changing conditions was shown by the development of a strategic plan every five years. Successful strategic plan execution requires collaboration with a diverse variety of stakeholders, including political parties, civil society, the media, and voters themselves, he added. Senator Syed Ali Zafar of the PTI in his comments emphasized that the General Election must be held latest by October 2023 and that the ECP had a critical role in safeguarding the democratic process. "It would be very surprising and shocking if a commission said we don't want to hold elections," he added, emphasizing the ECP's constitutional obligation to hold elections. Senator Azam Nazeer Tarar, Federal Minister for Law and Justice, Zafar Iqbal, Special Secretary of the ECP, Fawad Hasan Fawad, Former Special Secretary to the Prime Minister, Senator Syed Ali Zafar, Mohsin Shahnawaz Ranjha, Senator Taj Haider, Senator Kamran Murtaza and Muhammad Abubakar addressed the seminar.

Alvi condoles with families members of martyred troops

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi on Tuesday condoled with the bereaved family members of the Pakistan Army soldiers who embraced martyrdom for the country. He paid tribute to the martyrs for sacrificing their lives for the sake of the country's security.

He called over the telephone, the family members of martyred Sepoy Inayatullah and Hasmain Ishtiaq, who embraced martyrdom in Sangwan, Balochistan on June 1, and expressed sympathies with them. He also hailed the martyrs' patriotism and bravery. The president also phoned the father of Lance Naek Meraj Uddin who was martyred in North Waziristan on June 3.

Besides, he called the father of Naek Zaheer Abbas who embraced martyrdom in Mir Ali on June 4, and expressed his heartfelt condolence to him. The president also extend his sympathies to the bereaved family members of Havaldar Muhammad Anwar and Naeb Subedar Ghulam Murtaza who were martyred in Jani Khel on June 4.

President Alvi also contacted the family members of Lance Naek Sabir who embraced martyrdom in South Waziristan on June 5.

Paying tributes to the services and sacrifices of the martyrs for their country, President Alvi thanked the families of the martyrs on behalf of the nation. He also prayed to Almighty Allah for the elevation of ranks of the departed souls in paradise.

Meanwhile, the President Dr Arif Alvi has upheld the orders of the Federal Ombudsman for Protection Against Harassment of Women at Workplace (FOSPAP) directing the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Islamabad to restore the possession of the 10-marla property to an elderly lady, whose property had been allegedly occupied by land grabbers in Bara Kahu area of Islamabad.

The President gave these directions while deciding upon a representation filed by Malik Abdul Majeed and others against the orders of FOSPAP. As per details, Mst Munawar Bibi (complainant) had filed a complaint before FOSPAP under the Enforcement of Women's Property Rights Act, 2020 stating that Malik Abdul Majeed and Jawad Shoukat (petitioners) belonged to a "qabza mafia" and had illegally taken possession of her plot by erecting boundary wall around it. FOSPAP passed the orders in her favour and directed DC Islamabad to restore

possession of the complainant.

The petitioners preferred a review petition which was rejected on the ground that it had been proved that Mst Munawar Bibi was the owner of the property and it was transferred in her name through the registered sale deed in 1979 and its entry had also been made in the revenue records. FOSPAP had directed the SHO of Bara Kahu Police Station to take steps to restore possession, take assistance from Patwari Halqa on the spot, and use all legal means in connection with the restoration of the plot to the complainant. The petitioners, then, filed a representation before the President stating that they were the owners of the plot and the land of the complainant was entirely different from theirs, but FOSPAP had failed to appreciate this fact.

The President rejected the representation of the petitioners on the ground that representation had been filed after a delay of one month and twenty-five days when it should have been filed within 30 days of the receipt of the order. He observed that since the petitioners had not averred anything about the date of the receipt of the orders, thus, the representation was hit by the bar of the limitation.

Biparjoy barrels

(Continued from Page 1)

spokesperson added.

In another tweet, she said that the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) was coordinating with different stakeholders. She again advised the public to take advisories seriously, adding that evacuations were mandatory for "two union councils each from Badin and Thatta, including Ketī Bunder". She also shared a list of helplines citizens could reach out to.

Separately, Karachi's Defence Housing Authority (DHA) recommended voluntary evacuation for citizens residing in Darakhshan, Seaview and Emaar. DHA Spokesperson Farrukh Rizvi said arrangements had been made to relocate the area's residents — particularly from Seaview and Darakhshan — to army guest houses in Karachi and clubs within the locality. "If the number increases, we will move the people to Malir Cantonment," he said, adding that relief camps had also been set up at schools, colleges and universities in DHA. A list of these camps was being prepared and would soon be shared with the people through the authority's social media pages, the

He further stated that currently the focus was on voluntary evacuations and citizens could reach out to the authority at its helpline 1092. On the situation of roads in the locality, Rizvi said all routes where construction was under way, such as Khayaban-i-Itehad, Saba Avenue and Khayaban-i-Shahbaz, had been blocked from both ends. "Diversion markings have been placed on the routes." Separately, state broadcaster Radio Pakistan quoted Dastagir as saying that some power plants "may go offline during the cyclone".

"It is dangerous to operate power plants during high-velocity winds," he said during a ceremony in Islamabad. Dastagir noted that high winds were expected in the south-eastern parts of Pakistan due to Biparjoy, adding that the storm was also preventing liquefied natural gas (LNG) ships from docking at the port. Power utility K-Electric also urged citizens to remain indoors. "Beware of rain and stormy conditions. High winds caused by Cyclone Biparjoy can cause downed power lines," it said on Twitter.

Meanwhile, the Minister of Information, Transport, and Mass Transit, Sharjeel

Inam Memon, has emphasized the importance of exercising caution as the primary preventive measure against the Biparjoy cyclone.

He said that upon receiving information about the cyclone, the Sindh Chief Minister Murad Ali Shah promptly visited the areas expected to be affected. During his speech in the Sindh Assembly, Sharjeel Inam Memon advised the residents of Karachi to refrain from leaving their homes unnecessarily. He assured that efforts are underway to relocate people to safer areas, particularly those residing in coastal regions.

Sharjeel Inam Memon stressed the need for vigilance in Karachi, as there is a possibility of a cloud burst. He advised against visiting the beach for recreational purposes and urged the public to cooperate with the government. He mentioned that Sindh Chief Minister Murad Ali Shah has instructed all relevant institutions to remain alert in response to the cyclone. Sharjeel Inam Memon highlighted the responsibility of all Assembly members to address the people's concerns and work towards resolving any arising issues.