

World Refugee Day observed
F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: World Refugee Day is being observed on Tuesday, to honour the courage, strength and determination of refugees who are forced to flee their homeland under threat of persecution, conflict and violence. The day also aims to build empathy and understanding for the plight of refugees and to recognize their resilience in rebuilding their lives.

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ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif laying floral wreath at the Yadgar-e-Shuhada in Police Lines Headquarters.

KP approves over Rs462b budget for four months

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa caretaker government here on Tuesday authorized Rs462.426 billion expenditure for four months (July 1 to October 31, 2023) and announced 35 percent adhoc relief allowance for its employees BS 1 to 16 and 30 percent from BS 17 and above and 17.5percent in pension of all pensioners.

Presenting the salient features of authorized expenditure for the above four months, Adviser to the chief minister for finance and energy, Himayat Ullah Mayar here said that Rs350.041 billion was fixed as total authorized current expenditure, Rs309.498 bln for settled current expenditure, Rs40.543 bln for newly merged areas (NMA) current expenditures for the said four months.

On the development side, he said the authorized development expenditure for July 1 to October 31, 2023, is Rs112.385 billion, the settled development expenditure is Rs92.122 bln and NMA's Rs20.263 bln for the said months. As many Rs8.667 bln expenditure for the Annual Development Programme, Rs1.263 bln for FPA and Rs10.333 bln for Accelerated Implementation Program of NMAs were authorized for the said four districts. The Adviser announced 50pc increase in traveling allowance for all Provincial Government employees, 100pc increase in special conveyance allowance for disabled employees and an increase in orderly allowance from Rs14,000 per month to Rs25,000 per month.

Besides 50pc increase in deputation allowances and 100pc in secretariat performance allowance, the Adviser also announced the extension of executive allowance to officers of special duty an increase of minimum wages from Rs26,000 per month to Rs32,000pm and ration allowance of police and jails from Rs681pm to Rs1000pm respectively.

Referring about authorized expenditure for different departments for July 1 to October 31, 2023, the KP Adviser said that Rs11.653.26 million expenditure are fixed for Agriculture,

Livestock, Fisheries and Cooperatives, Rs1295.72 million for Aukaf, Religious, Hajj Department, Rs20,729.17 million for Communications and Works, Rs107,953.58 million for Education, Rs6,941.77million for Energy and Power Department, Rs3,776.15 Environment and Forests, Rs2400.59 million for Establishment and Administration Department, Rs614.02 million for Excise and Taxation, Rs14,631.68 Finance Department, Rs74,597.67 Health Department, Rs18,34.72mn for Home and Tribal Affairs Department, Rs239.59mn for Housing Department and Rs2519.09 million for industries and technical education.

Similarly, Rs368.77 million expenditures fixed for Information Department, Rs29.98 million for IPC, Rs9861.95 million for Irrigation Department, Rs1692.95 million for jails and convicts settlement, Rs294.74 million for Labour Department, Rs5,289.60mn for Law and Parliamentary Affairs, Rs20,775.01mn for P&D, Rs38,143.95 million for Police, Rs8443.30 mn for Public Health Engineering, Rs4033.57mn for Relief and Settlement, Rs13,184.04 million for Revenue, Rs2833.72mn for Sports, Culture, Rs3139.65mn for Tourism, Rs2314.26mn for Transport, Rs1000 million for investment, Rs16,600mn for debt servicing, Rs10,333.33mn for tehsil ADP, Rs36,738.88 food Department and Rs10,100 million for payment and advances.

The KP Adviser for Finance said that 10pc of the allocated funds would be released positively for ongoing projects of a sector at the start of fiscal year and the administrative department would ensure releases for completion of ongoing schemes while subsequent releases would be made on provision of utilization certificate of at least 90pc of already released fund. He announced complete ban on new schemes and no release to be made in the names of individuals with respect to umbrella schemes. Himayat Ullah said that 100pc release in salaries and utility charges besides

financial assistance to the families of deceased in Government Service would be provided.

He said that 25pc releases shall be made to all medical teaching institutions. The Adviser announced complete ban on recruitment, creation of new posts excluding completed development projects, purchase of vehicles except ambulances, earth moving machinery and fire trucks, participation in seminars on Govt funds and workshops on five stars hotels and abroad treatment on Govt expenses.

He said no appointment would be made against vacant post except by promotion and no recruitment in dying cadre. He said that all posts that vacant for three years would be abolished and CM shall constitute a cabinet committee to quarterly review the fiscal situation.

Himayat Ullah said that the caretaker Government has efficiently pursue the issues of net hydel profits, NMAs share, federal arrears, outstanding gas and energy matters with federal government. He said federal government was providing allocation to KP Govt under anti terrorism share set under NFC and Rs5bn were received under Net Hydel Profit arrears from Federal Government this year. He said that Rs3.5 billion were released for BRT project and another Rs3.5 billion would be released for it in current fiscal year. The Adviser said that no loan (overdraft) has been taken by the caretaker Government and Rs4billion deficit in current fiscal budget is expected and the budget2022-23 was likely to close on Rs815billion.

He said that minimum common economic and political agenda and concept paper for charter of economy of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa was published by the caretaker govt providing solutions to the inherited challenges. Earlier, the authorized expenditure for the said fourth months were approved by the caretaker Government Cabinet with Chief Minister Azam Khan in chair. Caretaker Finance Minister Faroz Jamal and others ministers, advisers and administrative secretaries of the relevant departments were present.

ATC issues arrest warrant for Imran

LAHORE (Agencies): An anti-terrorism court (ATC) in Lahore on Tuesday issued a non-bailable arrest warrant for Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan and other party leaders.

The non-bailable arrest warrants were also issued for PTI leaders Hammad Azhar, Mian Aslam Iqbal and others. The court issued a non-bailable arrest warrant at the request of the investigating officer.

The cases against the accused were registered in the Naseerabad and Model Town police stations of Lahore for torching the container and attacking PML-N office in the provincial capital. Dozens of cases ranging from terrorism to corruption have been registered against the deposed prime minister since being ousted from power via a no-trust motion in April last year. Other party leaders including the party chief were also booked under terrorism charges following riots sparked by the arrest of the former PM in the Al-Qadir Trust case on May 9.

Asad, Qureshi, Qaiser's bail petitions rejected

ISLAMABAD (Agencies): Dramatic scenes were witnessed in the district and sessions court in Islamabad on Tuesday as the central leaders of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) — Shah Mahmood Qureshi, Asad Qaiser and Asad Umar — slipped from the courtroom after their pleas seeking bail in cases related to the May 9 riots were dismissed.

Additional Sessions Judge Tahir Abbas Supra while pronouncing the verdict dismissed the bail petitions of the PTI leaders. As per details, Qureshi and Umar moved the court seeking bail in a case filed against them at the Tarnol Police Station in the federal capital. Qaiser, however, sought bail in a case registered against him at the Sangiani Police Station.

The PTI leaders reached the court separately. In a bid to avoid arrest and make sure of their successful escape, Qureshi and Umar heard the verdicts while standing at the doorstep of the courtroom. As soon as

the judge rejected their bail pleas, the duo hurriedly moved to the same vehicle and managed to run away from the scene. Qaiser, however, left the courtroom moments before the judge pronounced the verdict which was reserved earlier.

It is pertinent to mention here that PTI Chairman Imran Khan's arrest in the Al-Qadir Trust case on May 9 and subsequent violent protests, during which unruly supporters and workers stormed and torched state installations almost across the country, unleashed a mass exodus of leaders from the former ruling party. The nearly three-day-long protests also claimed at least 8 lives and injured dozens of others with the incumbent coalition government suspending internet services and deploying army troops to maintain law and order situation.

Following the unprecedented attacks on defence and public properties, the crackdown was launched

on the PTI to detain the suspect involved in the vandalism with the country's top civil-military leadership vowing to try rioters under relevant laws of the country including the Army Act. Hours after his release from Rawalpindi's Adiala Jail on the Islamabad High Court's (IHC) order, Umar on May 24 quitted the party positions. "Given the current situation [...].] after May 9, it is not personally possible for me to continue performing my party leadership duties," the former federal minister had said.

"I am resigning as the secretary general of PTI and as the core committee member. One of the reasons why is [...] I am outspoken and I cannot issue personal statements if I hold an office." The PTI vice chairman — who was taken into custody in the wee hours on May 11 after the police raided Gilgit-Baltistan House in Islamabad — was released on June 6 on the court's order.

Two soldiers martyred in IED blast

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: Two soldiers were martyred in IED explosion at Spinwam at North Waziristan on Tuesday.

According to ISPR, an improvised explosive device exploded in general area Spinwam, North Waziristan District on Tuesday. Resultantly, Sepoy Gul Rauf (age 29 years, resident of District Lakki Marwat) and Sepoy Abid Ullah (age 23 years, resident of District Karak) embraced shahadat.

Sanitization of the area is being carried out to eliminate any terrorists found in the area. Armed Forces of Pakistan are determined to eliminate the menace of terrorism and such sacrifices of our brave soldiers further strengthen our resolve.

Govt denotifies PCB body

LAHORE (PPI): On the completion of the tenure, the federal government on Tuesday denotified the Management Committee of the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB).

The affairs of the PCB have been handed over to the Election Commissioner appointed by the Patron of the cricket board. The Ministry of Inter-Provincial Coordination (IPC Division) has also issued the notification of dissolving the PCB Management Committee as its extended tenure stands completed on the night of 19th and 20th June.

As per the notification, all the members of the PCB Management Committee including Chairman Najam Sethi have become inactivated. So, the PCB Management Committee no longer has the authority to take any decisions, the notification said. The channel report said Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has nominated Zaka Ashraf and Mustafa Ramday for the PCB Governing Board.

FM, Greek counterpart discuss tragedy

ISLAMABAD (Agencies): Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari on Tuesday said that he had a useful telephonic conversation with his Greek counterpart Vassilis Kaskarelis and discussed the tragic boat disaster off the coast of Greece.

During a telephonic conversation, the foreign ministers discussed the tragic boat disaster off the coast of Greece, Bilawal Bhutto posted on his Twitter handle. "[We] agreed to closely work together to facilitate Pakistanis in distress and for the identification and repatriation of retrieved bodies," FM Bilawal wrote. Last week, an Italy-bound fishing trawler reportedly carrying at least 800 people — including hundreds of Pakistanis — capsized off Greece. Only 104 people are known to have survived and the chance of finding more survivors was seen as virtually nil.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif had directed authorities concerned to hold an inquiry into the human trafficking that led to the tragic incident of migrants shipwreck near Greece with several Pakistani nationals onboard. In a statement, the premier directed concerned authorities for an immediate crackdown against agents involved in the heinous crime of human trafficking and called for bringing them to justice.

The prime minister expressed his deep grief and sorrow over death of Pakistani nationals in the tragic incident that took place off the coast of Greece, PM Office Media Wing said in a press release. The prime minister also directed the officials of the Pakistan embassy in Greece to look after 12 Pakistanis rescued from the scene of disaster. He also issued orders for taking further stringent action against the elements involved in human trafficking, besides asking the law enforcement agencies for the identification of such traffickers who had been duping people to undertake such perilous steps.

Govt unveils 'Economic Revival Plan'

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: The Federal Government, in the wake of economic hardships confronting the country, Tuesday unveiled an elaborated 'Economic Revival Plan' with a view to capitalize Pakistan's untapped potential in key sectors, fast-track the development projects and facilitate investment.

The Plan was unveiled during a high-level meeting chaired by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and attended by the Chief of Army Staff (COAS), chief ministers, federal and provincial ministers, and high-level government officials, a PM Office press release said. The Economic Revival Plan envisages capitalizing Pakistan's untapped potential in key sectors of defence production, agriculture, livestock, minerals, mining, information technology and energy, through indigenous development as well as investments from friendly countries.

To fast-track the development of projects, the establishment of Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) has been undertaken to act as a 'Single Window' interface for the potential investors as well as to adopt a unified approach. The setup will shorten heretofore cumbersome and lengthy business processes through a cooperative and collaborative 'whole of the government approach' with representation of all stakeholders. It is aimed at creating horizontal-vertical synergy between the federation and provinces; facilitating timely decision making; avoiding duplication of effort; and ensuring swift project

implementation.

The high-ranking participation from federal and provincial governments, clearly manifests the national resolve to turn around the economy despite all odds. The COAS, speaking on the occasion, assured the Pakistan Army's all-out support to complement the government's efforts for Economic Revival Plan, considered fundamental to socio-economic prosperity of Pakistanis and reclaiming Pakistan's rightful stature among the comity of nations.

Prime Minister Shehbaz recalled that his government inherited an economy which was on the brink of collapse. With bold and difficult decisions, it was now being steered towards growth and development, however, there were massive challenges ahead, he added. He said export-oriented foreign direct investments held the key to economic revival and the government had, therefore, decided to adopt a holistic/whole-of-government approach which fostered partnerships within the federal and provincial governments for effective implementation and execution.

The investors would be given primacy and fast-track approvals, through a well-coordinated approach, he added. The prime minister observed that the expected investments would create jobs and livelihoods for the youth and women, and advised that the focus should be on empowering young and females to realise their full potential. "Let us resolve to work together, leave no stone unturned and be single minded in our focus and

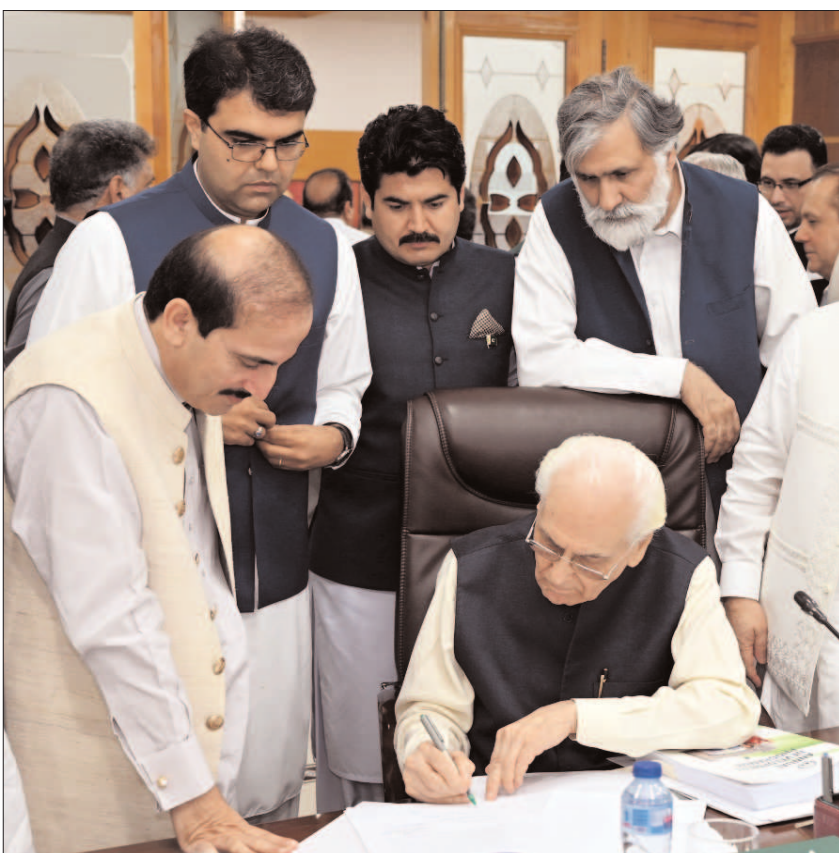
direction. We can transform the destiny of Pakistan and its people. It would, however, not happen without hard work and staying the course on the path of progress and development," he remarked. PM Shehbaz said Pakistan and Pakistanis deserved nothing less from those who had been bestowed the responsibility to administer the country by Allah Almighty and the people.

Youth entrepreneurship programmes vital to break 'economic strait-jacket': Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday stressed promoting entrepreneurship and innovation to help the country come out of financial constraints. "I have long been convinced that for Pakistan to break out of the economic straitjacket, it is vital to promote programs that aim at nurturing entrepreneurship and innovation in areas that are critical to our socio-economic development," he wrote on Twitter.

PM Sharif expressed his "unwavering faith" in the competence and capability of our talented youth to break the glass ceiling and pave the way for a prosperous future for the country. "It is always thrilling to meet our brilliant youth," he said as he mentioned yesterday's launch of PM's National Innovation Award celebrating the potential of youth to offer creative ideas that can be translated into impactful ventures. "Out of 20,000 applicants, 100 brilliant young people have been awarded a cash grant of Rs. 160 million," he said. He highlighted that the award goes up to Rs. 2 million depending upon the exceptional nature of the ideas on offer.

Erdogan phones Shehbaz
F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan telephoned Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday and expressed his deep grief over the loss of precious lives of Pakistani nationals in Greece shipwreck tragedy on June 14. On behalf of the Turkish government and people, Erdogan conveyed condolences to the Pakistani nation and to the victim families.



PESHAWAR: KP Caretaker Chief Minister Muhammad Azam Khan signing documents for four months expenditures of upcoming financial year.

ATC grants post-arrest bail to Parvez Elahi

LAHORE (INP): An anti-corruption court of Lahore on Tuesday granted post-arrest bail to President Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Parvez Elahi in the Punjab Assembly (PA) illegal recruitments' case. ATC Judge Ali Raza heard the plea and announced the verdict which was reserved earlier.

Earlier, President PML-Q Chaudhry Shujaat Hussain met Parvez Elahi at jail and invited him to say goodbye to PTI and rejoin the party. Federal minister Chaudhry Saalik Hussain accompanied the PML-Q chief during hour-long meeting at Camp Jail.

However, according to sources, the PTI President refused to quit the party. Taking to twitter after the meeting, Moonis Elahi wrote, "My father is not

allowed to meet his lawyers and my mother. Today Punjab Prisons IG took Chaudhry Shujaat Hussain and his son Chaudhry Saalik Hussain for a meeting with my father. Now they will say that they have allowed Mr Elahi to meet his family."

The court had, earlier, adjourned the hearing on the plea when the prosecution said it had challenged the decision to send Elahi to jail on judicial remand before a sessions court. When the hearing resumed, the judge asked the parties whether the matter had been resolved. Mr Elahi's lawyer Rana Intezar informed the judge that he had argued his case before the sessions judge. Judge Raza asked the investigating officer about the record of the case and he replied that it had been submitted in another

case. The judge showed his displeasure and said he would order registration of a case against the investigating officer.

He asked the prosecution to submit a written reply about the record. On it, the prosecution requested the court for adjournment and the judge granted his request. The judge, earlier, asked Rana Intezar to contest the prosecution's plea, to which the lawyer said he was not provided any record. On it the judge summoned the parties again. It may be recalled that Judicial Magistrate Ghulam Murtaza Virk on June 4 rejected the Punjab Anti-Corruption Establishment (ACE) application seeking 14-day physical remand of the former chief minister.

LDA demolishes 13 illegal properties

LAHORE (APP): Lahore Development Authority (LDA) demolished 13 illegal properties during an operation against illegal constructions and commercial use of the land in main Boulevard, Allama Iqbal Town here on Tuesday.

According to the spokesperson, on the directions of Commissioner Lahore and DG Lahore Development Authority (LDA) Muhammad Ali Randhawa, the team headed by Director Town Planning Zone II Asad uz Zaman conducted operation in main Boulevard, Allama Iqbal Town and sealed 13 illegally established shops, restaurants, food points, sheds and others illegal commercial constructions. The action was taken after serving several notices and heavy police personnel and machinery participated in the operation, the spokesperson added.

Four criminals in police uniform arrested

LAHORE (APP): Pakpattan police arrested a notorious four-member inter-district gang of criminals who used to commit heinous crimes in police uniform and deprive citizens of cash and valuables.

The arrested gangsters have been identified as Iftikhar aka Khari, who served as their ringleader, along with his accomplices namely Riaz aka Rajju, Shafique aka Sheequi and Iqbal aka Bali.

The police recovered over Rs 7.5 million worth of valuables and hard cash from them, says a handout issued here on Tuesday.

The criminal gang, known for their audacity in wearing police uniforms during their unlawful activities, wreaked havoc on unsuspecting victims for a considerable period.

Recognizing the urgency to bring these criminals to justice, DPO Pakpattan Tariq Wallayat formed a team that worked hard, besides employing the latest technology to trace the outlaws.

According to police records, this gang of criminals had been booked in 14 cases reported by the Sahiwal, Okara, and Faisalabad police. The criminals were involved in dacoities, robberies, injuring a local journalist and attempting a highway robbery. The gangsters had also snatched a car valued at over Rs 6 million from a driver on SP Road.

Very hot, humid weather forecast for Sindh

KARACHI (APP): Pakistan Meteorological Department on Tuesday predicted very hot and dry weather for most parts of the Sindh province during the next 24 hours.

The minimum and maximum temperatures were recorded in Karachi 34-36 degrees Centigrade, Hyderabad 38-40 degrees Centigrade, Sukkur 43-45 degrees Centigrade, Thatta 35-37 degrees Centigrade, Mohenjodaro 43-45 degrees Centigrade, Dadu is 46-48 degrees Centigrade, Mithi 36-38 degrees Centigrade, and in Nawabshah 42-44 degrees Centigrade.

Wall-chalking, plastic bags to be completely banned in Karachi: Mayor Karachi

KARACHI (APP): Mayor Karachi Barrister Murtaza Wahab has said that Karachi will be made a 'Clean & Green' city after removing wall-chalking and banning plastic bags in the city by ensuring strict implementation of laws.

He said this while presiding over a meeting of departmental heads after reaching the KMC head office on Tuesday.

He said that one window operation will be started to provide services and other facilities. On this occasion, Deputy Mayor Salman Abdullah Murad said that we thank the citizens of Karachi for the trust they have placed in us. Mayor Karachi Barrister Murtaza Wahab said that his first priority is to stabilize Karachi Metropolitan Corporation (KMC) financially while cleaning of drains is the topmost challenge at this time, therefore measures should be taken to deal with the rains of the monsoon season. The citizens will see a change, in the next hundred days, he added.

On this occasion, Deputy Mayor Karachi Salman Abdullah Murad and Municipal Commissioner KMC Syed Afzal Zaidi were also present.

Mayor Karachi Barrister Murtaza Wahab received a warm welcome on his arrival at the head office of KMC

with deputy mayor Salman Abdullah Murad as the officers and other employees of KMC greeted and showered with rose petals.

Barrister Murtaza Wahab said that in order to improve the basic infrastructure of the city, maintenance of roads and provision of street lights will be done on a priority basis.

KMC hospitals will be improved so that citizens can get proper medical facilities there, Mayor Karachi Barrister Murtaza Wahab added.

The Mayor of Karachi said that various projects will be started under public-private partnership for the improvement of the city so that the private sector can be included in the works of construction and development of the city.

Earlier Mayor Karachi and the deputy mayor visited the mausoleum of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah where they laid floral wreaths and offered fateha.

Talking to the media at Mazar-e-Quaid, Mayor Karachi Barrister Murtaza Wahab said that we will take everyone on board to improve the city.

People's Party has always made service to the people as its motto and construction and development works will be done in consultation with all stakeholders.

Caretaker minister Javed Akram inaugurates VCs conference

LAHORE (APP): PHEC Chairperson Prof Dr Shahid Munir highlighted the objectives of the Vice Chancellors' Leadership Conference. The provincial health minister said that the quality of universities could be further improved by utilizing administrative skills.

Caretaker Provincial Health Minister Dr Javed Akram inaugurated a four-day conference on 'Leadership and Management of Vice Chancellors' organized by Punjab Higher Education Commission at a local hotel on Tuesday.

Chairman Punjab Higher Education Commission Dr. Shahid Munir and vice chancellors of various universities attended the conference.

producing a leadership programme for doctors.

"We are trying to provide better healthcare facilities to patients coming to the government hospitals of Punjab" he added.

Chairman Punjab Higher Education Commission Prof. Dr. Shahid Munir said the purpose of vice chancellors' training was to improve the efficiency of responsibilities and administrative skills.

Ruet-e-Hilal Committee delegation calls on Governor

KARACHI (APP): A delegation of Ruet-e-Hilal Committee led by its Chairman Maulana Abdul Khair Azad called on Sindh Governor Mohammed Kamran Khan Tessori at the Governor House here on Tuesday.

The delegation included Regional Ruet-e-Hilal Committee members, the DG Ministry of Religious Affairs, the chief meteorologist, and others.

They discussed with the Governor the need for agreement on the crescent regarding important months, and other issues of mutual interest.

Governor Kamran Tessori assured Ulema of full support in all issues pertaining to moon sightings and said

the inclusion of Ulema belonging to different schools of thought as members made the Committee a dignified one.

Governor takes notice of fire incident in Korangi oil factory: Sindh Governor Mohammed Kamran Khan Tessori on Tuesday took notice of a fire incident in an oil factory in the Korangi area of the city. The Governor sought a report of the incident from Commissioner Karachi. Sindh Governor Mohammed Kamran Khan Tessori directed the officials concerned to control fire and rescue employees of the factory on an immediate basis.

Elite will be target of the masses: Sheikh Rashid

RAWALPINDI (NNI): Awami Muslim League (AML) chief Sheikh Rashid said on Tuesday now the elite class would be the target of the common man.

It's all about Pakistan and the people of Pakistan, the senior politician said through his social media account. Taking to Twitter, he said the friendly countries were advising Pakistan to adopt political stability but "we are begging China every

week". Awami Muslim League (AML) chief Sheikh Rashid said the whole nation was eagerly waiting for the Supreme Court judgement. He said people could not get a flour bag of 20kg which now costs Rs3,000.

People don't have much money to pay their utility bills, Rashid said, adding that the common man didn't have money to buy his medicine. "There is no employment

in the country as industries and factories are shutting down their production. The people will lose their temper soon due to the situation in the country," he added.

Sheikh Rashid also demanded that the coffins of those who lost their lives in boat incident in Greece should be brought home. He said people took to the street in Greece for 300 Pakistanis but here "our rulers are only issuing a statement of mourning."



LAHORE: Vendors displaying the sacrificial animals to attract the customers at Johar Town in connection with upcoming Eidul Azha.

Sharjeel announced launch of the People's Bus Service App on June 22

F.P. Report

KARACHI: Provincial Minister for Information, Transport, and Mass Transit, Sharjeel Inam Memon, announced the launch of the People's Bus Service App on June 22.

A high-level meeting of the Transport Department and NRTC officials was held in Karachi, chaired by Provincial Minister Sharjeel Inam Memon. The meeting was attended by Secretary of Transport, Saleem Rajput; Managing Director of Sindh Mass Transit Authority, Kamal Dayo; CEO of Trans Karachi, Tufail Palijo; Project Director of PSB, Sohaib Ahmed; and Operational Manager of People's Bus Service, Abdul Shakoor Arain. During the meeting, a decision was made to operate the People's Bus Service through the Intelligent Transport System and integrate it with the online system.

During the meeting, a briefing was provided regarding the features of the People's Bus Service app. It was highlighted that the app would enable citizens to easily track the location of the vehicle. Additionally, passengers will have access to online booking, route information, fare details, and other essential information. Moreover, the app will allow users to submit complaints regarding the People's Bus Service directly to the relevant authorities.

In the briefing, it was highlighted that the implementation of the Intelligent Transport System would facilitate the monitoring of vehicles. As part of the system, CCTV cameras will be installed in the



vehicles to enhance surveillance. Additionally, the vehicles will be equipped with an audio system, USB ports, Wi-Fi communication systems, and driver alarms. These features aim to enhance the overall travel experience and ensure the safety and convenience of the passengers. During the meeting, it was told that 20 green buses would be arriving in Pakistan by August 20 and would be incorporated into the People's Bus Service. It was decided to conduct additional surveys specifically aimed at initiating the People's Bus Service on the Lyari Expressway.

During the meeting, Provincial Minister Sharjeel Inam Memon emphasized the need to prioritize and address the issue of electric bus chargers. He gave clear instructions to ensure the prompt resolution of the problem related to electric bus chargers. During the meeting, Provincial Minister for

Information, Transport, and Mass Transit, Sharjeel Inam Memon, expressed his commitment to providing the public with the best, comfortable, and affordable bus service. He emphasized that this objective would be achieved under all circumstances, emphasizing the importance of prioritizing the needs and satisfaction of the public in the provision of bus services. He emphasized that the Sindh government acknowledges the hardships faced by the people during travel and expressed the intention to alleviate these difficulties.

Sharjeel Inam Memon stated that the rural areas of Karachi, Hyderabad, Larkana, Sukkur, and Mirpurkhas would be linked with urban areas through the People's Bus Service. He further mentioned that projects would be initiated to facilitate this connectivity and ensure that residents in these rural areas have access to the bus service.

MD SSWMB for increasing salaries of sanitary staff

KARACHI (APP): The Managing Director (MD) Sindh Solid Waste Management Board (SSWMB) Syed Imtiaz Ali Shah on Tuesday directed to increase in the salaries of sanitary workers, and helpers according to the minimum wages fixed by the government.

The MD SSWMB while chairing a meeting with officials of private companies and officers of South, East, Malir, Kemari,

Korangi, Central and West districts of Karachi instructed that basic problems of sanitary works should be solved on a priority basis.

He said that the wages of

sanitary workers, helpers and others should be increased at par with minimum wages fixed by the government at Rs.962 per day as it was their basic right.

He directed the concerned officers, Chinese companies and contractors to devise a strategy in this regard, implement it at the earliest and submit a report till July 03, 2023.

PUBLIC NOTICE	PUBLIC NOTICE	PUBLIC NOTICE
Application for issuance of Letter of Administration / Succession Certificate by Mr. Rafiq Ullah Khan with regards to moveable & immovable assets of deceased Mr. Abdul Khaliq Khan citizen number 1560202457225 has been received. Following are declared as legal heirs. 1.Yasmin Khan (Daughter) 2.Nargis Begum (Daughter) 3.Shaheen Bibi (Daughter) 4.Bibi Khadija (Spouse) 5.Shafiqullah Khan (Son) 6.Inayat Ullah Khan (Son) 7.Rafiq Ullah Khan (Son) On the above application the objections of public at large are invited. Any aggrieved person may approach in person the undersigned for submission of objection (if any) within fourteen (14) days after publication of this notice. INCHARGE SFU, NADRA SWAT-SFU	Application for issuance of Letter of Administration / Succession Certificate by Mr. Muhammad Sajid with regards to moveable & immovable assets of deceased Mr. Muhammad Ismail citizen number 1350343845469 has been received. Following are declared as legal heirs. 1.Bibi Tehmina (Daughter) 2.Nagina Kousar (Daughter) 3.Muhammad Sajid (Son) 4.Abid Hussain (Son) On the above application the objections of public at large are invited. Any aggrieved person may approach in person the undersigned for submission of objection (if any) within fourteen (14) days after publication of this notice. INCHARGE SFU, NADRA MANSEHRA-SFU	Application for issuance of Letter of Administration / Succession Certificate by Mr. Syed Hussain Shah (Son) 2.Syed Hussain Shah (Son) 3.Syed Amjad Hussain Shah (Son) 4.Syed Sajjad Hussain Shah (Son) 5.Syed Zia Hussainshah (Son) On the above application the objections of public at large are invited. Any aggrieved person may approach in person the undersigned for submission of objection (if any) within fourteen (14) days after publication of this notice. PID(1) 7914/22 INCHARGE SFU, NADRA MANSEHRA-SFU



KHYBER TEACHING HOSPITAL
MEDICAL TEACHING INSTITUTION PESHAWAR
TENDER NOTICE - 2023-24

Sealed tenders are invited for the services/ supplies for Khyber Teaching Hospital Peshawar. The Tender should reach to the office of the undersigned on or before **06-07-2023** at **10:00 AM** which will be opened on the same day at **10: 30 am** in presence of bidders or their representatives. The Bid security (CDR) shall be submitted from the account of the firm/bidder/contractor in favor of Hospital Director, Khyber Teaching Hospital Medical Teaching Institution Peshawar.

S.No	Name of Item	Required Bid Security (CDR)	Procurement Method
1.	CSSD Consumables	200,000	Single, Stage Single Envelope
2.	Medical Accessories	200,000	Single, Stage Single Envelope
3.	Miscellaneous Disposables	100,000	Single, Stage Single Envelope

TERMS AND CONDITIONS:-

- Only typed tender on original Company Letter Pad, sealed & signed should be submitted. The quoted Price must be typed/ printed. Hand written quoted price will not be acceptable.
- No conditional tender will be acceptable.
- A detailed list of the scope of work / BSDs required for the services and procurement of Items can be downloaded from <https://kth.edu.pk/download/tenders/>
- The bid security in the shape of Pay order (PO) will not be accepted.
- For serial No 2, pre bid meeting will be held on 23-6-23 at 10.00 AM in supply chain department.
- No document will be entertained after bid submission.
- The competent Authority has the right to reject all bids under Rule 47 of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Public Procurement Regulatory Authority (KPPRA) Procurement Rules 2014.

Hospital Director | Khyber Teaching Hospital, Peshawar, Medical Teaching Institute
Address of Bid Submission / Opening
Khyber Teaching Hospital/MTI Peshawar, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Telephone(s) : 0092-91-9224400



PAKISTAN CIVIL AVIATION AUTHORITY (PCAA)
INVITATION TO BID

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

S. No.	Description & Bid No.	Bid Fee (PKR)	Fixed Bid Security (PKR)	Bid Submission Date/Time	Bid Opening Date/Time/Place	Last date for issuance of Bidding Documents	Basis PKR (Price)
01.	Procurement of 3KVA UPS qty:15 and 06KVA UPS Qty: 05 HQCAA/1992/178/XLXN	500/-	As Mentioned in Bidding Documents	11-07-2023 1030 Hours	11-07-2023 1100 Hours (Log. Center (S) (Log. ANS Branch)	10-07-2023	F.O.R.
02.	Procurement of Up-Gradation of System Hardware & Software Pico Alcatel OMNIPICX Office Installed / Working at CATI Hyderabad (With Installation, Commissioning and Testing) HQCAA/1992/206/XLXN	1000/-	Rs. 363,760/-	11-07-2023 1100 Hours	11-07-2023 1130 Hours (Log. Center (S) (Log. ANS Branch)	10-07-2023	F.O.R.

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

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

Time period for performance of contract: Till the satisfactory completion of contract and warranty period.
PCAA reserves the right to accept/reject any or all bids due to cogent reasons which will be communicated to bidders on request. This advertisement is also available on PPRA website www.ppra.org.pk and CAA website www.caapakistan.com.pk.

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

Additional Director, Logistics (ANS),
Logistics Center (South), HQs Civil Aviation Authority,
JIAP Karachi Pakistan Tel: 021-9907-2265 Fax: 021-99242675

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IGP praises role of Tribal Journalists for development, peace

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: Praising the tribal journalists' role in peace maintenance and development in merged tribal districts, Inspector General of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Police Akhtar Hayat Khan Gandapur has said that state would not ignored the life sacrifices of 14 tribal journalists who lost their lives in the line of duty.

Inspector General of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa police Akhtar Hayat Khan Gandapur said this while speaking to a delegation of Tribal Union of Journalists (TUI) met him at his office in Peshawar on Tuesday.

The journalists' delegation, led by TUI of erstwhile Fata caretaker chairman Qazi Fazlullah Shinwari, was included of press clubs presidents and members from district Khyber, North and South Waziristan, Mohmand, Bajaur, Kurrum, Orakzai and Frontier Regions.

Akhtar Hayat Gandaur said that they were aware of the sensitivities and challenges being faced by journalists in merged districts. He said journalists were playing a key role in the

establishing healthy society.

"I am aware of the threats and risks the journalists counter in merged tribal districts. Police and other sister departments cannot ignore the journalists' importance to maintain peace and portray the soft image of Pakistan", said IG Akhtar Hayat Khan Gandapur, adding that not only in the past but still the ex-Fata journalists were performing a challenging job in their respective districts.

Gandapur said their moral and social support would be with the journalists to cop with all kind of social evils. He said they were gradually increasing the numbers of police stations in merged districts so that they could keep watch on the whole area. He said they want all displaced people could return to their respective areas in ex-Fata to bring normalcy and initiate developmental projects for them.

On the question of this correspondent, IG Khyber Pakhtunkhwa said that he knew that a large number of well educated persons were performing jobs in tribal police converted from Khasadar and levies forces.

He said they would give priority and relaxation to educated police service men in promotion process to get their high ranks in the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa police department.

"The policemen hailing from merged districts are full of talent, they are outstanding in courage, bravery and we should appreciate their sacrifices in the line of duty", IG praised. Akhtar Hayat Khan Gandapur said when he assumed charge as IG-KP he chalked out service structure mechanism for the police of merged districts executing gradually.

He said Shaheed (martyred) package for police in merged districts was initiated and they have so far handed over compensations to a number of police martyrs families in erstwhile Fata.

Regarding the closing of the several police check posts in merged districts the chief of police said they were reconsidering to reinstate some of the checkposts due to security reasons especially in district Khyber.

He said Khasadars-converted police in merged districts have completed the

initial and advanced trainings in the past two years. He said they were focusing on the traffic management issues especially in district Khyber to control the road accidents and provide the smooth traffic flow on Peshawar-Torkham road.

Akhtar Hayat Khan said they were establishing modern type of police stations in Tirah Valley where they could a vigilant eye over social evils.

Tribal Union of Journalists caretaker chairman Qazi Fazlullah Shinwari and spokesperson Ashrafuddin Pirzada discussed various problems being faced by tribal journalists with inspector general of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa police. They told the police chief to provide at least two police to each press clubs in merged districts.

Qazi Fazlullah also demanded of the IG Khyber Pakhtunkhwa to withdraw the cases allegedly lodged against journalists in merged districts.

He said police should allocate free education for the children of martyred journalists in police-run schools and colleges.



PESHAWAR: Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Haji Ghulam Ali presiding over a meeting with officials of Wapda and Sui Gas at Governor's House.

UOP constitutes committee Kashif Ullah Khalil

PESHAWAR: A committee has been constituted for submission report regarding provision of Electric Shuttle Bus Service in University Campus, Peshawar, on Tuesday.

The committee was constituted in a meeting chaired by Dr. Shaheed Hussain Seherwardi in which Treasurer University of Peshawar (UOP) Ayesha Salman, Director Administration Ishtiaq Ullah Khan, Deputy Director Admin Aimal Khan were present.

Chief Executive Pakhtunkhwa Energy Development Organization (PEDO) Shahab-u-Din along with Imran Sajjad, provost Naved Sardar and Transport Officer Zahid Khan also participated in the meeting. Provision of facilities especially transport facility for students in general and particularly for disable persons and elderly is top priority of administration.

Dr. Shaheed Hussain Seharwardi said that special seats should be reserved in Electric Shuttle Bus Services for disable and elderly people to ensure free of cost transport facility in the premises. He added that electric bus will reduce pollution in the premises and helpful in fight against climate change.

Heat wave predicted

PESHAWAR (APP): The Met Office on Tuesday predicted heat wave like conditions in southern and central parts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa till June 24 with day temperature likely to remain 03 to 05C above the normal.

However occasional dust, thunderstorm with rain, wind and thunderstorm is likely to occur over isolated places in Abbottabad, Mansehra, Battagram, Torgar, Kohistan, Shangla, Swat, Buner and Upper Dir districts in evening and night while dust raising gusty winds are likely to occur in plain areas during the period.

It said that due to rise in temperature power and water demand would increase in the coming days and farmers were advised to manage the watering of crops accordingly.

Meanwhile, the PDMA issued an alert to all district administrations to take precautionary measures to avoid loss of life, damage to crops and animals.

The maximum temperature recorded during the last 24 hours was: Peshawar 39C, Parachinar 28, Bannu 37, DI Khan 41, Mardan and Timergara 38, Chitral 37, Kohat 39, dir 34 and Malamajabba 24.

PHC to hear writs against civilian's trail in military's court on 11th July

Humayun Khan

PESHAWAR: Chief Justice Peshawar High Court Justice Musart Hilali has accepted petition for early hearing against trail of accused involved in 9th & 10th May vandalism in Military Courts and fixed for hearing on 11th July, on Tuesday.

The counsel Ali Zaman Ottomankhel advocate informed that petitioners were arrested for their alleged involvement in 9th & 10th May vandalism while imposed sections under Pakistan Army Act 1952.

PHC has been approached against trail at Military Courts under Pakistan Army Act 1952

against civilians but it is fixed for hearing on 24th August and petitioners are behind the bars uncommitted offenses while requested for early hearing, the counsel argued.

Chief Justice PHC Justice Musart Hilali accepted early hearing plea and fixed hearing on 11th July of PIT's workers to be trail in Military courts.

Meanwhile, A divisional bench of Peshawar High Court (PHC) comprised of Justice Ishtiaq Ibrahim and Justice Shakeel Ahmad ordered to submit record of cases registered against former Federal State's Minister Ali Muhammad Khan, on Tuesday.

The counsel Ali Zaman advocate argued that Ali Muhammad Khan was rearrested multiple times following release on bail and added that petitioner didn't aware regarding number and nature FIRs registered against him.

The lawyer requested for provision of FIRs record for approaching court to obtain bails and initiate proceedings in the cases before court of law while requested Peshawar High Court to grant bail in all cases.

However, PHC has ordered Advocate General to submit record of FIRs against Ali Muhammad Khan while adjourned hearing for today (Wednesday).

Health advisor applauds RMI's research excellence

PESHAWAR (APP): Advisor to Caretaker Chief Minister on Health, Dr. Riaz Anwar on Tuesday underscored the crucial role of research advancement in driving societal progress and urged universities to follow in RMI's footsteps in the realm of research.

The Minister was addressing the International Conference of Health Research (ICHR-23) organized by Rehman College of Dentistry (RCD) of Rehman Medical Institute (RMI).

The research conference has attracted participants

from domestic and international spheres, further highlighting its global impact. Over the course of the three-day conference, more than 500 accomplished researchers will present their groundbreaking research papers, fostering an environment conducive to knowledge exchange and collaboration.

The Minister commended RMI in his keynote speech, expressing his admiration, Dr. Anwar extended heartfelt appreciation to Principal Dr. Ghulam Rasool of Rahman College of Dentistry and

his dedicated team for organizing the research conference of unparalleled significance.

Principal Dr. Rasool seized the opportunity to announce that this international conference would ignite a complete transformation in the field of research.

Furthermore, he revealed the exciting news that Rahman University, poised to become Pakistan's first institution dedicated to conducting research of international standards, is on the verge of establishment.

IGFC highlight importance of education



F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: IGFC KP South Major General Haroon Hameed visited Cadet College Spinkai here on Tuesday. The IGFC was

presented with guard of honour by cadets. Later on, he was briefed by Principal Cadet College Spinkai regarding the college routine functioning.

During his address to the

cadets, IGFC highlighted the importance of education in the modern era and also emphasized upon the personality grooming. The IGFC also distributed prizes amongst the shining cadets.

Minister inspects pace of work on irrigation sector projects

PESHAWAR (APP): Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Caretaker Irrigation Minister Haji Fazl Elahi visited Warsak Left Bank System in district Khyber where he inspected the pace of work on ongoing projects and related Kabul Canal Head and the Warsak system on the right bank of Kabul River were inspected.

Chief Engineer (South) Engineer Yasin Khan, Superintending Engineer Peshawar Engineer Baatur Zaman Khan were also present along with the Provincial Irrigation Minister. Executive Engineer Peshawar Canal Division Peshawar Engineer Saifullah

Khan and Executive Engineer Warsak Canal Division Peshawar Engineer Mamreez Khan along with their staff gave a detailed briefing to the Provincial Irrigation Minister.

The Provincial Irrigation Minister appreciated the progress of work with operation/maintenance of infrastructure.

While giving instructions, he said that the good work should be continued and the quality should be given full attention so that the Irrigation Department and the public can get the benefits.

Provincial Minister for Irrigation, Haji Fazal Elahi,

while giving a briefing about the rehabilitation and reconstruction project of Warsak lift Bank Canal, was told that 78 percent of the project has been completed while the total estimated cost is 1129 million.

The current water flow from this canal is 45 cusecs which will increase to 70 cusecs after completion of the project. The Provincial Irrigation Minister was informed about the importance and usefulness of the project, the problems and challenges faced.

Provincial Irrigation Minister Haji Fazal Elahi further said that canals should provide maximum

benefit to the farmers.

Meanwhile, Provincial Irrigation Minister Haji Fazal Elahi visited the intake Head of Peshawar Canals where the flow of water was reviewed. Also, the Provincial Minister of Irrigation was informed in detail about the background and importance of Peshawar Canals.

Minister Irrigation further said that a wide area is irrigated by Peshawar Canals.

Completion of the rehabilitation and construction project of Warsak Lift Bank Canal will provide more water for irrigation of a wide area.

US academia, local Ulema join hands for interfaith harmony

PESHAWAR (APP): A delegation of US academia led by Dr Chris Gnanakan joined hands with members of the Imamia Council Peshawar on a productive dialogue on interfaith and inter-religious harmony, said a press release issued here on Tuesday.

The meeting, jointly initiated by the 'Imamia Council' and the 'Qoumi Aman Jirga,' aimed to foster understanding and cooperation among people of different faiths.

Dr Chris Gnanakan, a renowned Professor of Theology and Global Studies at Liberty University and Director of Leadership Development for Christar is known for his inspirational

approach in motivating, mobilizing people into the fields and mentoring the next generation. His presence at the meeting brought valuable insights into the role of religion and its impact on humanity.

During the dialogue, speakers from various religious schools of thought shared their perspectives on interfaith harmony, emphasizing its importance in promoting peace and understanding.

Sharing his views Allama Abid Hussain Shakiri said that interfaith harmony is a crucial element in fostering peaceful coexistence among different religious communities. It allows appreciating and sharing of values and

working together towards a better future.

Allama Syed Jameel ul Hassan Shirazi said that the essence of inter-religion harmony lies in recognizing and respecting the diversity of religious beliefs while promoting dialogue and cooperation. It is through such efforts that we can build bridges of understanding and promote a culture of peace.

Allama Syed Zaki ul Hassan said that interfaith harmony serves as a foundation for unity and mutual respect.

By engaging in meaningful dialogue and embracing diversity, we can create a society that celebrates our shared humanity.

Senior lawyer, Barrister

Hashim Raza said that in order to achieve true interfaith harmony, it is essential for us to engage in open and respectful dialogue, where we can appreciate the richness and diversity of our religious traditions.

Khalid Iqbal

Considering the complexities of human nature, many questions arise in the mind. Everyone is suffering from some confusion; some people are worried about their children's future, and some children are tired of the restrictions of their parents.

Some people stumble in search of sustenance; others suffer from mental stress. You would not see anyone here who says everything is fine, but there is a market of suspicions and complaints everywhere. Somewhere the shelling of words, some love complaints, some hatred in hearts.

Having many things in my mind, a question that I wanted an answer to in any case. I wandered around a lot in search of the answer and did a lot of thinking, and it was just a failed attempt. One day I went out for a walk to the beach, where I saw a man sitting engrossed in his solitude away from the world's sorrows. On the one hand,

there was the sound of sea waves, while on the other, there was a crowd sitting there, but this man was not paying attention to anyone but rather engrossed in his imaginary world. Seeing him, he is the most failed person in the world because smoking a cigar is not a sign of a noble person. However, human beings have a lot of curiosity, so I also thought to sit with him and discuss.

I sat next and greeted him. He looked at me with his drunken eyes and answered my greeting in a stumpy voice. Seeing his semi-crazy look, I was silent but could not hold myself and started talking to him.

I asked: what are you doing here?

He said: I am doing what the whole world is looking for.

I got surprised by his answer.

I asked: what this world was looking for? (but simultaneously, it occurred to me that it must be planning something and looking for the fish with precious

saliva and pearls in its belly).

But his answer and my thinking were as contradictory as East and West.

He said: the whole world is looking for peace.

But the truth is that I did not understand the answer, nor did I think about it, and just started asking the following questions:

I asked: don't you do any work?

He said: what will happen to work? I said: look, money will come to you.

He asked: what would happen then?

I said: having money, people will consider you a respectable person.

In return, he asked: what would happen then

I said: you will build a good house with all the facilities.

He said: after getting all these things, what will it benefit me?

I said: well, you will be very relaxed.

So, he smiled. Do you believe I am not at peace right now?

I looked at him with sur-

prise but remained silent.

He continued and said: I am very at peace; give me as much peace as you get after doing everything as you say, after succeeding in your goal. So you're not crazy when I'm so quickly relieved that I wear myself out so much that I finally get what I get from smoking a cigar by the sea.

Then I took his permission and started back home, and the question in my mind that I wanted to answer in any case was solved, and I understood that life is about finding peace and freedom from everything. However, time passed, and various events happened in front of me. There were quite organized people, and some were very bold; I do not object to anyone because every human has a unique style, but you are the master of nature. Those who organized got tired in life, but it got its fruits, and those who were bold were also successful up to their limits, but the story does not end here.

Those who were careless were punished for their carelessness and those who performed their work with diligence and dedication got good results of their hard work. There comes a time in my mind that the person sitting on the seashore comes again, but this time, I got the complete answer to my question. Although that person was at peace with ease, he did not get anything that hard-working people get. He had peace but no respect in society, a prominent name in the family, and no medal-like service to the people. The bus was just a free person; freedom is a great blessing, but you must pay a great price to achieve it. Either you will work hard and get peace and freedom along with social status, family name, and service to humanity, or else you will get freedom and peace like the person sitting on the seashore having nothing among the said stuff. Hence, in all cases, there is a price to be paid; Freedom is not free.

khalidiqbal9483727@gmail.com



PESHAWAR: Mayor Haji Zubair Ali presiding over a high lever meeting of city district administration.



In brief

Two robbers killed in Okara

OKARA (PPI): Two robbers were killed in an alleged police encounter in Okara, police said Tuesday. According to report, the police had an encounter with the robbers near head Khari Kalan in the jurisdiction of Hujra Shah Muqim police station. The encounter, the cops succeeded to overpower the two robbers. However, the two accomplices of detainees managed to flee from the crime scene while search-operation has been launched to arrest them, police said. The police says that illegal weapons and a motorcycle have also been recovered from the robbers.

Judicial officers transferred F.P. Report

HAFIZABAD: District and Session Judge (D&SJ) Hafizabad Malik Mushtaq Elahi Bingi transferred 36 judicial officials in public interest. According to Superintendent District and Session Court Hafizabad Mirza Bashir Hussain Jaral, transferred official are includes stenographers, readers, computer operators, class four etc. Stenographers Shoaib Yousaf, Zulfiqar Malik, Waqar Abbas, Usman Nazir, Bilala Arif, Kazim Abid, Waqar Ali transferred from Pindi Bhattian to Hafizabad while stenographers Muhammad Amin, Kashir Ijaz, Rana Muhammad Bilal, Muhammad Aziz, Qaisar Abbas, Kamran Khan, Waqas Anwar, Muhammad Asif Afzal and Muhammad Rizwan Hassan transferred from Hafizabad to Pindi Bhattian. Meanwhile, Special Assistant to the Prime Minister, Atta Tarar, Federal Minister for Energy Khuram Dashtghir arrived at the residence of former Parliamentary Secretary Mian Fazal Hussain Tarar in village Kolo Tarar near Hafizabad.

Siraj to address JJ's workers F.P. Report

TAKHTBHAI: Jammat-e-Islami (JI) has concluded preparation for party gathering scheduled on 23rd June Mardan while central Emir Siraj-ul-Haq will address the workers to mobilize public for upcoming general elections. This was announced by JI Mardan chapter Emir Ghulam Rasool and former tehsil Nazim Muhammad Nawaz Tahir while addressing press conference at Takhtbhai press club. They argued that large number of workers will welcome JI Pakistan Emir Siraj-ul-Haq and will secure maximum seats from the district in elections. The speakers claimed that JI is only hope for Pakistanis to overcome current crisis to uphold national integrity and dignity across the world.

PFA fines eight food outlets

SARGODHA (INP): The Punjab Food Authority (PFA) on Tuesday fined to eight food outlets and three milk carrying vans over violations of the food standards in Sargodha division In the line with special directives of Director General Punjab Food Authority Raja Jhangir Anwar, food safety teams conducted raids at various shops including hotels, bakeries and food units and imposed a fine amounting to Rs 64,000 on eight food outlets over poor cleanliness arrangements, incomplete medical certificate and adulteration. Meanwhile, team inspected various vans carrying 22,000 liters milk and imposed a fine of Rs 45,000 on three milk suppliers for defilement.

DC Kohat holds E-katchery on Pakhtunkhwa Radio



Sahibzada Afridi

KOHAT: Deputy Commissioner Kohat Dr. Azmatullah Wazir held E-Katchery in Pakhtunkhwa Radio Kohat's program "Pokhtanna". He listened to the problems of people through live calls and assured them of its early resolution.

On this occasion, he while answering to questions of the callers, clarified that use of any drugs in Kohat is intolerable and its dealers and peddlers will be dealt sternly. He said that the district administration is going to launch an intelligence-based operation against the drugs dealers, peddlers and addicts in Kohat and its suburbs soon after Eid-ul-Azha adding that it will continue till its logical

end. In response to a question regarding the Service Delivery Center, the Deputy Commissioner maintained that there may be some petty problems due to lack of human resources and lack of awareness among the public on computerized system, but it will be made fully functional in line with the wishes of public.

In response to another question, he said, in order to shift the benefits of reduction in prices of Atta, the price of 120 grams of bread has been fixed at Rs.20. Referring to lethal Polio disease, he said that there has been a significant reduction in the refusal cases in Kohat that is why no case of polio has been reported since 2014. Likewise, preventive meas-

ures have also been taken for prevention of the dengue fever.

Dr. Azmat Wazir continued that the law and order situation in Kohat is excellent while measures are underway in the light of the directives of the Commissioner Kohat for improvement of cleanliness condition in the district.

On public demand, the DC Kohat announced Open Katcheries in Kohat including Togh area. He also announced monthly E-Katchery on Pakhtunkhwa Radio Kohat. Similarly, besides making the DRCs active, establishment of advisory boards in Kohat and the newly merged Tehsil Dara Adam Khel is under active consideration for mitigating the problems of the people locally, he concluded.

28 suspects arrested; arms, drugs recovered F.P. Report

D I KHAN: The district police on Tuesday claimed to have arrested 28 suspects recovering arms and ammunition during search and strike operations conducted here in different areas.

According to a police spokesman, the operation was conducted in Zarkai, Kot-Laalu and adjoining areas in the limits of Daraban police station under the leadership of SDPO Abdul Rasheed Khan along with SHO Abdul Ghaffar Khan following the directions of District Police Officer (DPO) Abdul Rauf Babar Qaisrani.

During the operation, 35 houses, four hotels, three sensitive places, two Seminaries and two bus stands were checked by the police. The police, during the checking, recovered 260 grams of hashish from accused Gul Wali son of Jan Muhammad, 245 grams of hashish from Juma Khan son of Raza Khan and 215 grams of hashish from Ramzan Khan son of Ali Khan. All these and another 13 suspects were arrested after the registration of cases against them.

Similarly, another search and strike operation was conducted in the limits of Chaudhwan police station led by SDPO Abdul Rasheed along with SHO Mukhtyar Ahmad. During this operation, 15 houses, one hotel and other places were checked by the police. The police arrested accused Saif Uddin son of Muzaffar Uddin recovering one 12-bore rifle along with 15 cartridges from him. Another 12 accused including Liaquat Ali son of Makhhan Khan, Rabnawaz son of Haqnawaz, Shakeel Akhtar son of Akhtar Jan were also arrested.

Meanwhile, a team of Gomal University Police Station led by SHO Sardar Azeem Ullah arrested the accused Sadaqat Hussain son of Khadim Hussain resident of Mandhran Kalan and recovered 785-gram hashish from his possession. Further investigations from all the arrested accused were underway, the spokesman added.

Substandard meat seized

PAKPATTAN (INP): The livestock department team thwarted a bit to supply substandard meat to Lahore and seized 10 maunds of unhealthy and substandard beef here on Tuesday.

According to the spokesperson, Veterinary Officer, Dr Syed Ali Ammar along with special branch team set up a picket in mohalla Mushtaq Nagar of tehsil Arifwala.

During the checking process, they intercepted a vehicle and recovered 10 maunds of substandard dead buffalo meat, which the accused would supply to Sahiwal and Lahore. The team arrested four accused including Ramzan, Shani, Gulzaib and Nowrez. City Arif Wala police registered a case against the accused under the Slaughter Control Act and launched investigation.

RPO suspends two policemen for torturing women

F.P. Report

MARDAN: Regional Police Officer (RPO) has suspended two policemen for torturing women beneficial of Benazir Income Support Program (BISP) after viral of video on social media, on Tuesday.

According to the details, women came to the local high school in Charsadda on Tuesday to get money under the Benazir Income Support Program. In the video, the policeman tortured the women. After the video went viral on social media, Regional Police Officer Mardan Muhammad Suleiman took immediate action and immediately suspended Constable Ayaz and Constable Muhammad Zada who tortured the women.

Issue orders to DPO Charsadda for departmental action. RPO Mardan Muhammad Suleiman said that no one will be allowed to take the law into their hands. Police are defenders of human rights. Inhumane treatment of anyone will not be tolerated.

Appellants flay unavailability of MBR at camp court: The applicants flayed unavailability Member Board of Revenue (MBR) from four long hearings as an appellate forum for redressal of revenue related dispute, on Tuesday.

According to details, as many as more than 100 appeals are enlisted for hearing before MBR in every court camp establish in every month usually for three days but they returned hopeless due to unavailability of the competent authority. The residents claimed that they are returning with different tactics sometimes announcing transfer of MBR and other times for non-availability of the authority.

An applicant Mubashir told the media personnel that he has returned without any proceedings in MBR appellate forum for consecutively for five times. He added that yesterday (on Tuesday) Reader to Commissioner Mardan has left-over appeals at MBR while announcing unavailability of appellate authority.

Another appellant named Javed Ali argued that he has approached MBR against the decision of Deputy Commissioner over land demarcation but since February no proceedings had take

place while on the other hand their dispute has reached to peak which may cause any mishap.

Although, a petitioner named Hamza Khan argued that Deputy Commissioner has initiated further proceedings over their dispute despite his appeal before MBR against the decision of competent authorities. He argued that Deputy Commissioner has challenged with MBR but DC has continued proceedings by ignoring pendency before appellate forum.

The residents requested Chief Minister, Chief Secretary and Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa to ensure presence of MBR at Mardan for appeals on revenue matters which didn't proceeds in the last four proceedings.

It is worthy to mention that names have been changed for protection and safety of appellants' rights while three days MBR camp court for redressal revenue related cases as an appellate forum and 50 cases are fixed for today (Tuesday) hearings.

BISE to launch Youth Development camps: The Board of Intermediate and Secondary education Mardan plans to launch Youth Development Camps for students regarding their career counseling. In this regard a meeting of the representatives of education sector/Board officers was held with the Chairman BISE Mardan at his office.

The Chairman briefed that BISE, Mardan intends to arrange Youth Development Camps for male and female students of Government and Private institutions within the jurisdiction of BISE, Mardan regarding their career counseling.

The camp for male students will be held from 23-07-2023 to 27-07-2023 and a separate camp for female students will be held in the month of August, 2023 at Galyat, Hazara Division. The main objective of Youth Development Camps is to provide a platform for SSC Students to focus their attention on the best career possibilities. It will enable them to move forward with confidence/clear mind and take self-reliant decisions about their academic path. All the participants appreciated the initiative of the chairman and ensured their full support in this noble cause.

Water cooler installation for school students

Nabiha Kanwal

THE purpose of this article is to outline the process and impact of a community development project focused on installing a water cooler for a school students and local vendors. The objective was to improve access to clean drinking water for students and staff at the school and vendors to promote a healthy and hygienic learning environment. To enhance community engagement and sustain a sense of collective responsibility.

Identifying the Need: Initial research and consultations with school administrators, teachers, and students were conducted to identify the need for a water cooler and determine its optimal location within the school premises but then luckily we found a place where street vendors and local public can also take advantage from this cooler along with the students and school staff.

Seeking Angel Investor Donation: Efforts were made to find an investor willing to contribute funds for the project as a donation, emphasizing the positive impact on the community and the educational environment.

Collaboration with School Administration: Close coordination was maintained with the school administration, teachers, and angel investor to ensure their involvement and support throughout the project.

Installation and Maintenance: The water cooler was sourced, purchased, and professionally installed by a reputable supplier. Examination Bed Installation for a Private Clinic in an Undeveloped Area through Industry Investment

Community development initiatives play a vital role in addressing the needs and improving the quality of life in underserved areas. The aim was to focus on the successful implementation of a project to provide an examination bed for a private clinic located in a small and underdeveloped area.

Improve healthcare services in the underserved area by providing a much-needed examination bed to the private clinic. Enhance the clinic's capacity to deliver quality healthcare to the local population. Forward community well-being and development through improved access to healthcare services.

The project facilitated access to quality healthcare

services within the underserved area, reducing the need for residents to travel long distances for medical examinations. The availability of an examination bed improved patient comfort and convenience during medical appointments, leading to a more positive healthcare experience.

Provided Wheelchair to a Hospital through Firm Donation: Community development plays a vital role in enhancing the quality of life and well-being of individuals within a society. The aim was to document a community development initiative in which a wheelchair donation was facilitated for a local hospital.

The primary objectives of the project was providing wheelchairs, aim to enable patients and visitors to navigate the hospital premises comfortably. By offering wheelchair to the hospital, aim to promote the health and well-being of patients. Improved mobility facilitates timely access to medical services, leading to better healthcare outcomes. Patients who previously faced difficulties in accessing medical services can now comfortably navigate the hospital premises with the support of the wheelchair.

Actions against unlicensed med stores

F.P. Report

TIMERGARA: District Drug Inspector Lower Dir Muhammad Salim Marwat raided medical stores along with several medical store owners to take actions against illegal drug sellers for not having a license.

Sellers should write the name and price of the medicines on the invoice and must also put the signature and seal of the medical store on the invoice, otherwise strict action will be taken against them. After checking the license of medical stores, expiry of medicines, quality, and taking legal action against two medical store owners for not having license, they also inspected 9 medical stores in Kaladog, Lal Qila Maidan, 6 medical stores.

Actions were taken against the store owners for not having a license under the Drug Act, 1976. Drug Inspector Muhammad Saleem Marwat informed the drug sellers that they should fulfill the license and other legal requirements for running medical

stores. Do not charge more than the price and sell the medicines only on doctor's prescription, otherwise strict legal action will be taken against illegal medical store owners and no concession will be made to anyone.

Transporters booked for high fares: District administration action against transporters charging excessive fare, several vehicles were challan. In the light of public complaints, on the instructions of Deputy Commissioner Dir Payan, Ifikhar Ahmed, Assistant Commissioner Timergara Shahzad Khan checked at different places in Timergara and imposed heavy fines on many drivers while making it legal against public transporters who charge more than the official rate list. While the excess fares were returned to the passengers and the drivers were fined on the spot, Assistant Commissioner Timergara Shehzad Khan said that even after the clear decrease in petroleum products, those who took high fares will not be forgiven.

Dr. Abdus Sattar Abbasi

I have just arrived at my desk after a breakfast meeting with Hidayat ur Rehman the founder of "Gwadar ko haq do" means "Give rights to Gwadar" movement and couldn't resist to start writing these lines. We were more than 20 professionals on the table and probably I was the one with maximum questions looking at his dissatisfaction about the development of Gwadar contrary to repeated claims on media by both Pakistani and Chinese officials about the advancement of fundamental facilities for indigenous people. Usually there is gap between narratives and ground realities but in this case I found lack of coordination among relevant stakeholders and a bit of mismanagement that is causing real discomfort, which needs elucidation.

I was surprised to listen that for any medical complication people of Gwadar travel to Karachi while only ambulance charges rupees fourteen thousand for the round trip besides other expenses of treatment, hospital-

ization and staying of attendants in the city coupled with the loss of income due to the absence from their fundamental source of earning i.e. fishery. If we envision making Gwadar an international city as a hub of global trade then we need to start from the building of modern infrastructure for basic facilities including health, education, sanitation and water supply. We heard so many times in media about the establishment of schools and hospitals in the city of Gwadar but the fact remains that people of Gwadar travel to Karachi as on June 17, 2023 for the treatments of fundamental nature.

Desalination of water in port cities is a common phenomenon around the world, even countries like Barbados and Algeria, let alone Australia, Germany and Israel, are operating water desalination plants quite efficiently. Conversely, in Gwadar the water desalination plant is laying abandoned which was installed with the cost of billions of rupees. Initially there wasn't any supply line to the city of Gwadar from the desalination plant and now probably there is a problem of silting at the origin; in both cases

it is sheer mismanagement and incompetence to be unable to operate the water desalination plant considering the value of providing clean drinking water to the people of Gwadar; I think those who are at the helm of affairs need to give it a top priority to ensure that water desalination plant starts working immediately and remains operational without any disruption.

To the question that why don't people of Gwadar take benefit from the commercial aspect of CPEC by exporting agriculture goods especially nuts to China to inculcate economic prosperity, he instantly replied, "Our mainstay is fishery we export fish to eight countries but we are not allowed and importantly we are not being facilitated to export fish and its by-products to China. We don't have any fish processing facility at Gwadar therefore we can't contribute to the expected economic gains through CPEC". It should be a matter of serious concern especially for those who envisioned CPEC and equally for those who are now implementing the project. It is just a simple commonsense that promoting and facilitating fishery can contribute significantly

to engage people of Gwadar; policy makers and frontline managers of CPEC need to give immediate attention to develop modern fish processing infrastructure in the city.

Probably, one of the strategic comments of the guest was, "We are dwellers of sea waters but we are not being represented in Pakistan Navy. I think those who can endure rigors of water are much suitable for jobs in the navy, but none of us is employed in Pakistan Navy". I remember a door to door campaign of Pakistan Army in entire province of Baluchistan to recruit soldiers from every tribe and corner of the province. In the same manner if Pakistan Navy can employ young children of the local fishermen that can boost ownership and confidence of inhabitants of shores throughout the sea belt of Baluchistan.

Responding to one of the questions Hidayat ur Rehman said that the urgent need of the people of Gwadar is the rehabilitation center for the narcotic addicts. He said that every family in the city is victim of narcotics, parents especially mothers are terribly frightened for the future of their children due to the

widespread prevalence of narcotics in the city and interesting thing is that those among local residents who are closely allied with the administrative setup are actually linked with the business of narcotics thus betraying the confidence of authorities while selling them their false patriotism. Instantly, number participants extended their interest to facilitate establishment of rehabilitation center for the narcotic addicts in the city of Gwadar.

Establishment of "Gwadar Desk" was announced by the hosts, Think Pakistan and Lahore Leads University, to facilitate people of Gwadar in particular and Baluchistan in general in meeting their existing economic and strategic challenges besides promoting their voice in rest of Pakistan and all possible international forums, integrating them in the national and global mainstream for the prosperity and success of relevant stakeholders.

When there was an emphasis on learning Chinese language, the guest suggested educating Chinese counterparts to learn Baluchi language to better understand people of Gwadar to eliminate the existing communication gap, because it is more

than important for Chinese companies to be aware of the sentiments of local population while operating in this part of the world. One of the participants added a hadith narrating the importance of learning languages to understand the deep-rooted dynamics of any society. It was indeed a memorable meeting with sumptuous breakfast, insightful discussions and a self-ies session at the end of the program. However, it left an impression that there is a strong need for coordination among all relevant stakeholders to appropriately implement the envisioned plan and immediately take corrective measure to stop bleeding out of such an important initiative of CPEC which promised growth and development of not only China and Pakistan but all nations across One Belt One Road initiative.

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Why CPEC is bleeding?



Philippines' most active volcano erupts

Poor villagers risk their lives in danger zone

CALBAYOG (AP): Delfina Guiwan's heart was pounding as she snuck back to her village, now abandoned and eerily quiet, in the fertile foothills of gently erupting Mayon volcano in the northeastern Philippines. When patrolling police spotted her, they warned that the village is off-limits because of the danger of a violent eruption at any time. Guiwan, 47, said she knew the risks but begged to stay a few minutes more to get her daughter's school uniform from their shack and feed her pigs.

"I'm scared. We saw lava flowing down one night and a boulder rolled down, sounding like thunder," Guiwan told The Associated Press. "I'm praying this eruption won't get worse because our livelihood is here and it's difficult to stay in the evacuation camp with few toilets for so many, and the heat. Children are getting sick there." Her village, Calbayog, lies in Mayon's northeastern foothills and is well within the 6-kilometer (3.7-mile) radius from the volcano's crater that officials have long designated a permanent danger zone, demarcated by concrete warning signs. Entry is prohibited, but thousands of poor villagers have flouted the restrictions and made it their home for generations. Lucrative businesses such as sand and gravel quarrying and sightseeing tours have also thrived openly despite the ban and the mountain's frequent eruptions - now 53 times on record since 1616. The 2,462-meter (8,007-foot) volcano is one of the Philippines' top tourism draws because of its near-perfect cone shape. But it's also the most active of the country's 24 volcanoes and could erupt violently at any time.

That includes pyroclastic flows, which are superheated gas and volcanic debris that suddenly race down slopes at great speed and incinerate everything in their path. Another threat is lahar, a muddy stream of water, volcanic ash and rocks that can move as fast as cars and engulf areas up to several kilometers (miles) away. A terrifying symbol of Mayon's deadly fury is the belfry of a 16th-century Franciscan stone church which protrudes from the ground. It's all that's left of a baroque church that was buried by lahar along with the town of Cagsawa in an 1814 eruption which killed about 1,200 people, including many who sought refuge in the church, about 13 kilometers (8 miles) from the volcano. The thousands of villagers who live within Mayon's danger zone reflect the plight of many impoverished Filipinos who are forced to live in dangerous places across the archipelago - near active volcanoes like Mayon, on landslide-prone mountainsides, along vulnerable coastlines, atop earthquake fault lines, and in low-lying villages often engulfed by flash floods, said Richard Gordon, the longtime chairman of the Philippine Red Cross and a former senator. Each year, about 20 typhoons and storms lash the Philippines,



which also lies along the Pacific "Ring of Fire," an arc of fault lines along the Pacific Ocean basin often hit by volcanic eruptions and earthquakes.

"It's really a problem of poverty," Gordon said, adding that the government should prepare a comprehensive plan to provide poor villagers with safe housing and sustainable livelihoods that would finally allow them to abandon high-risk settlements. "They go there because they have no choice," Gordon said in a telephone interview. Most residents were evacuated from Guiwan's village, Calbayog, last week when Mayon started to gently expel lava after days of unrest. Only the chirps of birds and crickets, the crowing of roosters and rustling of coconut trees in the cool breeze could be heard in the village, about 4 to 5 kilometers (2.5 to 3 miles) from the volcano. AP journalists were allowed by police to briefly join a house-to-house patrol of a Calbayog neighborhood and saw a few defiant residents still in their houses. One villager insisted to police that he had to remain because the 40 roosters he had bred for cockfights might be stolen if he left. Dance music or radio news broadcasts could be heard at two houses, and at least three others had laundry hanging on clotheslines in the sun.

At Mi-isi, another village well inside the permanent danger zone in Mayon's southeastern foothills, longtime resident Miniong Asilo laughed off warnings from authorities and volcano scientists. "I'm not scared, but outsiders will probably have a heart attack if they live here," the 54-year-old father of nine said, adding that he has lost count of the times he has witnessed Mayon's fury. Asilo and his family have survived for decades off the proceeds from his vegetable farm, piggery, coconut grove and on-and-off work as caretaker of a nearby gravel and sand quarry. "I was born here. I have not seen the fire and lava reach this village," Asilo said. As he spoke, Mayon rumbled faintly and lava flowed from its swollen crater a kilometer (more than half a mile) down a gully near the village, in what scientists have described as a "very gentle" eruption so far. But the govern-

ment isn't taking any chances. Since the volcano began expelling lava a week ago, soldiers, police and local officials have moved more than 20,000 villagers from the danger zone in forced evacuations to 28 temporary shelters, mostly schools, according to the government's disaster-response agency. With most classrooms now crammed with impoverished evacuees and their belongings, teachers have been forced to hold classes in school corridors, in chapels and under trees, Albay provincial education official Alvin Cruz said.

The crisis is an additional challenge for President Ferdinand Marcos Jr., who took office in June last year and inherited an economy battered by the coronavirus pandemic, which deepened poverty, unemployment, hunger and the country's debt. He flew to Albay to hand out food packs and reassure the evacuees of government help, but warned that Mayon's gentle eruption may drag on for months, keeping them away from their homes. The number of displaced villagers could more than double if Mayon's eruption turns violent and life-threatening, which government volcanologists say is still possible within days or weeks. That could prompt an expansion of the danger zone and the forced evacuation of many more residents. Thousands of villagers have been given homes away from Mayon in the past, but many returned to its fertile slopes because of inadequate livelihood options in government-established relocation sites, said Eddie Nunez, a resident of Bonga village, about 8 kilometers (5 miles) from Mayon's crater.

Nunez, 59, lost an uncle and cousin when they were hit by volcanic ash, steam and boulders in a sudden 1993 explosion while farming on Mayon's lower slopes. Dozens of other farmers were also killed, he said. The lack of jobs and opportunities elsewhere forces people to continue risking their lives farming vegetables and scrounging for other sources of income at the foot of the volcano, Nunez said, comparing the choice to Russian roulette. "You either get lucky or you get hit," he said.

UN envoy rejects Libya laws for polls

NEW YORK (Reuters): The United Nations envoy to Libya Abdoulaye Bathily said that proposed electoral laws had not resolved contentious issues and were not enough to allow elections. Diplomacy has for years focused on the election of a new president and parliament as key to resolving years of conflict but Libya's rival political bodies have repeatedly failed to agree on rules.

Addressing the United Nations Security Council Bathily said proposed electoral laws agreed this month by a committee drawn from Libya's two legislative bodies was "an important step forward". But he added that it was "not sufficient to resolve the most contested issues and enable successful elections", pointing to continuing disagreements among Libya's opposing factions that he said could "trigger a new crisis". Problems with the proposed laws included disputes over the eligibility of presidential candidates and a requirement to create a new interim government before any vote, he said. A requirement to hold a second round even if a candidate won more than half the votes and the cancelling of parliamentary elections if the first round of the presidential election failed were also contentious, he said.

Bathily's comments came hours after the speaker of the eastern-based parliament Aguila Saleh said the proposed laws were mostly good "and lead us to elections", adding that the UN envoy "will not be a ruler to issue instructions". Libya has had little stability or security since a 2011 NATO-backed uprising and it split in 2014 between warring eastern and western factions but there has been little major warfare since a 2020 ceasefire. However, efforts for a lasting political solution based on national elections ran aground in late 2021 when the vote was cancelled because of disputes over the rules including the role of an interim government installed earlier that year. Since then there has been a political standoff between factions that support the interim government and those including Saleh who wish to replace it, Saleh said that the parliament and the other legislative body, the High State Council, would "assume their responsibilities to form a government and a law leading to elections".

Ukrainian artillerymen praise US

NEAR KREMINNA, Ukraine (Reuters): The artillerymen of Ukraine's 67th infantry brigade are delighted with the US-supplied M119 howitzer amid an increase in military exchanges south of the Russian-held town of Kreminna. The men now stationed in Ukraine's northeast have been redeployed from positions around the devastated town of Bakhmut - encircled and locked in fierce fighting for more than nine months before it fell last month to Russian mercenaries.

The northeast, where Ukrainian troops made big, rapid gains late last year, may be somewhat less intense, but it still saw plenty of exchanges. And the level of activity has risen noticeably in recent days. Nearly 16 months after the Russian invasion, Ukraine has embarked on a counter-offensive focusing on the south and east and benefiting from supplies of US and other Western weapons. The M119 is described by military experts as a versatile, manoeuvrable and accurate weapon for light units, but with a specific, limited range of up to about 20 km (12.4 miles).

The artillerymen spent the day firing at enemy targets with the M119s, which they say they have had for seven months. And, by their account, work brilliantly in the area's grueling artillery battles. "It all happens in waves," said a gunner, aged 48, who introduced himself by his call sign, Skipper, and sported a cropped beard and cheeky grin. "I can't say that it got more intense. Still, over the last five days, we observe that they (Russian troops) became more active." Exchanges of fire, he said, had picked up on both sides where his unit was stationed.

Citing attack threat, France bans Iranian Opp rally

PARIS (Reuters): France has banned an upcoming Iranian opposition rally over the risk of an attack, according to a letter sent to the organisers and seen by Reuters, after the release of an Iranian diplomat convicted of masterminding a plot to bomb the group in 2018. The ban comes as Western powers seek to defuse tensions with Iran and a few weeks after Tehran released several Europeans from prison, including two French nationals. French President Emmanuel Macron held a 90-minute call with Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi on June 10. The Paris-based National Council of Resistance of Iran (NCRI), political arm of the People's Mujahideen Organisation of Iran (PMOI), has held frequent rallies in the French capital over the years, often attended by high profile former US, European and Arab officials critical of the Islamic Republic. In February, the NCRI attracted several thousand people to an event in central Paris, and plans its annual rally on July 1. However, given a recent spate of mass anti-government protests in Iran over the death of a 22-year-old woman while in morality police custody, a "tense context" had developed posing "very significant security risks" to NCRI gatherings, said the document, a letter from Paris police chief Laurent Nunez.

Therefore, "this meeting, organised every year since 2008, cannot be held..." read the letter, sent to the NCRI rally's organising committee. In response to an inquiry, Paris police issued a statement to Reuters confirming that they had informed the committee of the decision to ban the rally as it could "generate disturbances to public order due to the geopolitical context". Moreover, given the terrorist risk cannot be neglected, the holding of such an event would make its security but also the security of sensitive guests extremely complex," said the statement.

A senior NCRI official condemned the decision when asked about it by Reuters, before the police confirmation. "If French authorities take such a stance, it will represent a brazen disregard for democratic principles, caving in to the ruling religious tyranny's blackmail and hostage-taking," Shahin Gobadi, a member of the NCRI's Foreign Affairs Committee, said. Mahsa Amini's death in custody sparked months of nationwide protests, prompting Tehran to accuse the United States, its Western allies and

Israel of exploiting the unrest to try to destabilise the Islamic Republic.

Thousands of supportive rallies have been held around the world since her death September, although the nationwide unrest has subsided after Iranian security police clamped down on it. To dampen rising tensions, the United States has been holding talks with Iran to sketch out steps that could limit the disputed Iranian nuclear programme, release some detained US citizens and unfreeze some Iranian assets abroad, according to Iranian and Western officials. Nunez's letter put the July 1 NCRI rally in the context of the abortive plot led by Vienna-based Iranian diplomat Assadollah Assadi in October 2018 and three others. Assadi, who French officials said was running an Iranian state intelligence network and was acting on orders from Tehran, was sentenced in Belgium to a 20-year prison term in 2021. He was exchanged in May for four Europeans held in Iran.

"This attempted attack, which underlines the operational capacities for attacking the PMOI, falls into a series of violent and lethal operations in France and Europe, in the form of assassinations and kidnappings of Iranian opposition figures," the letter said, without providing details. "Partner countries have in this regard recently mentioned many planned violent attacks, potentially targeting Iranian opposition figures." Nunez also said in his letter to the NCRI that given the group's rally would attract several hundred important foreign dignitaries and PMOI members coming from overseas, "securing the event would be particularly complicated".

There have been three attacks on an NCRI building in a Paris suburb since the end of May, the letter said, and these were under investigation. Two sources close to the investigation said gunshots, petrol bombs and other incendiary devices had been used to target the building. It was unclear who was responsible. The letter said there was also an elevated risk of conflict between the NCRI and rival Iranian opposition groups at the rally, although there had been no incidents at past rallies. Tehran has long called for a crackdown on NCRI activities in Paris, Washington and the Saudi capital Riyadh. The group, whose sources of funding and support are unclear, is regularly lambasted by Iranian state media.

UN adopt treaty to protect marine life in seas

UNITED NATIONS (AP): Members of the United Nations adopted the first-ever treaty to protect marine life in the high seas, with the UN's chief hailing the historic agreement as giving the ocean "a fighting chance."

Delegates from the 193 member nations burst into applause and then stood up in a sustained standing ovation when Singapore's ambassador on ocean issues, Rena Lee, who presided over the negotiations, banged her gavel after hearing no objections to the treaty's approval.

Oceans produce most of the oxygen we breathe and absorb carbon dioxide, which makes them increasingly critical in reducing carbon emissions that fuel global warming. Yet, currently only 1% of the vast ocean areas are protected. A treaty to protect biodiversity in waters outside national boundaries, known as the high seas, covering nearly half of earth's surface, had been under discussion for more than 20 years, but efforts repeatedly stalled until March. That's when delegates to an intergovernmental conference established by the UN General Assembly agreed on a treaty which was then subject to legal scrutiny and translated into the UN's six official languages. The new treaty will be opened for signatures on Sept. 20, during the annual meeting of world leaders at the General

Assembly, and it will take effect once it is ratified by 60 countries.

The treaty will create a new body to manage conservation of ocean life and establish marine protected areas in the high seas. It also establishes ground rules for conducting environmental impact assessments for commercial activities in the oceans. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres told delegates that the adoption of the treaty comes at a critical time, with the oceans under threat on many fronts. Climate change is disrupting weather patterns and ocean currents, raising sea temperatures, "and altering marine ecosystems and the species living there," he said, and marine biodiversity "is under attack from overfishing, over-exploitation and ocean acidification."

"Over one-third of fish stocks are being harvested at unsustainable levels," the UN chief said. "And we are polluting our coastal waters with chemicals, plastics and human waste." Guterres said the treaty is vital to address these threats and he urged all countries to spare no efforts to ensure that it is signed and ratified as soon as possible, stressing that "this is critical to addressing the threats facing the ocean." The treaty also establishes principles to share "marine genetic resources" discovered by scientists in international

waters, a key demand of developing countries who insisted that the fruits of such discoveries could not be solely controlled by richer countries with money to finance expeditions to look for potentially new lucrative ingredients for medicine and cosmetics. After the treaty's approval, the Group of 77, the UN coalition of 134 mainly developing nations and China, called it "an exceedingly important day for biodiversity," praising their successful struggle to achieve benefit-sharing in the final text as well as funding to help implement the treaty when ratified.

The Alliance of Small Island States, some of whose members fear that climate change and rising seas can obliterate their countries, said they have been championing a treaty for decades, and its adoption will have far-reaching implications "on our livelihoods, cultures and economies." But Russia said it "distances itself from the consensus on the text of the agreement" which it called "unacceptable," saying it "undermines the provisions of the most important acting international agreements, including the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea." Sergey Leonidchenko, who heads the Russian Mission's legal section, told delegates the treaty "does not reach a reasonable balance between conserving and sustainably using the resources of the ocean."

Tunisia doesn't want to be Europe's border guard to slow migration

TUNIS (AP): Tunisia's president said that his country doesn't want to be Europe's border guard or a land of resettlement for migrants rejected elsewhere. President Kais Saied made the comment after meeting in Tunis with the French and German interior ministers amid an effort by European governments to work with Tunisia to prevent more deadly migration efforts across the Mediterranean.

Tunisia has become one of the main stepping-off points for migrants hoping to cross from Africa into Europe, and European officials are offering Tunisia ever-growing amounts of aid to try to slow the flow. Most of those fleeing war or misery are from sub-Saharan Africa but many are from Tunisia, which is

experiencing its worst economic crisis in a generation. The visit by the French and German interior ministers, who oversee migration policy for the biggest powers in the European Union, was the third high-level European visit to Tunisia in two weeks. It came after an overcrowded trawler capsized last week off Greece, leaving at least 80 people dead and hundreds missing as they sought to reach Italy from Libya. Saied said after the session that security crackdowns aren't enough to prevent deadly migration. He said Tunisia would not be Europe's border guard and would "not accept becoming a country of resettlement" for migrants deported from Europe. He has bristled at suggestions that

migrants refused permission to stay in Europe be sent to the last country they transited through instead of their home countries.

Blaming human smuggling networks, Saied urged more aid for development and fighting poverty. "Let us work together to dismantle them and eliminate the reasons that led to this situation," he said. French Interior Minister Gerald Darmanin announced 25 million euros in aid to buy Tunisia border policing equipment and train border guards. That comes on top of some 1 billion euros in various aid offers from the European Commission earlier this month, and new aid from Italy. Despite concerns about threats to human rights in Tunisia under Saied's increasingly auto-

cratic rule, Darmanin praised Tunisian authorities efforts to prevent migration. "We are at Tunisia's side," he said.

German Interior Minister Nancy Faeser said ahead of their joint trip: "We want to create legal migration routes in order to remove the basis for the inhumane business of smugglers. We want the human rights of refugees to be protected and the terrible deaths on the Mediterranean to stop." Tunisian authorities say they intercept thousands of people every month trying to leave in boats off the coastal city of Sfax. Over the weekend, 11 boats were intercepted carrying some 260 people, mainly from sub-Saharan Africa but also some Tunisians, said a National Guard spokesperson, Houssameddine Jbabli.

Kuwait names new Cabinet

DUBAI (AP): Kuwait formed a new government after the previous Cabinet was dissolved following the third parliamentary elections in three years amid infighting that has paralyzed the country's political system. The 15-member Cabinet was appointed by Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Nawaf Al Sabah, who in turn was reappointed to that post by his father, the emir, last week. They will join the 50 members of parliament elected earlier this month to form the National Assembly. It is the fifth Cabinet in less than a year.

Kuwait is alone among Gulf Arab countries in having a democratically elected assembly that exerts some checks on the ruling family. But in recent years, the dis-

putes between the Cabinet and parliament have left it unable to enact even basic reforms. Ten of the 15 Cabinet members, plus the prime minister, are reappointees, but there is a new defense minister, Sheikh Ahmad Al-Fahad Al-Ahmed Al-Sabah, and oil minister, Saad Al Barrak. Finance Minister Manaf Abdulaziz Al Hajri, was reinstated. He earlier replaced Abduwahab al-Rushaid, an outspoken young figure known for his criticism of the government's fiscal policies.

A general election in September had delivered a mandate for change, bringing 27 new lawmakers to the 50-member assembly. However, in March, Kuwait's Constitutional Court annulled the decree

dissolving the previous parliament and reinstated it. A few weeks later, the ruling Al Sabah family dissolved that parliament for a second time, setting up the most recent vote, in which most of the lawmakers elected in September regained their seats. The relationship between the parliament and the Cabinet will be strongly shaped by who wins the race to be speaker. That is likely to pit Marzouq al-Ghanim, the scion of an influential family and a prominent member of the country's powerful business community who was previously speaker for almost a decade, against veteran politician Ahmed al-Saadoun, who is seen as uniting those seeking change in the parliament. Al-Ghanim is a

known opponent of the prime minister and recently called him a "danger to the country."

Kuwait's political stalemate worsened after the 2020 death of its ruling emir, Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad Al Sabah, a seasoned diplomat who led the country for close to 15 years. He was succeeded by his ailing half-brother, Sheikh Nawaf Al Ahmad Al Sabah, with Crown Prince Sheikh Meshal Al Ahmed Al Jaber Al Sabah assuming day-to-day rule. Both are in their 80s, and the line of succession after them is unclear. The small Arab nation is one of the world's wealthiest, with the sixth largest oil reserves and cradle-to-grave welfare for its 1.5 million citizens.

WASHINGTON (Reuters): The United States regrets a decision by Mali's interim military authorities to ask a United Nations peacekeeping force to leave the country, the State Department said, calling for an "orderly and responsible" drawdown of the mission. Mali's Foreign Minister Abdoulaye Diop made the request during a UN Security Council meeting, citing a "crisis of confidence" between Malian authorities and the decade-long UN mission known as MINUSMA. "The United States regrets the transition government of Mali's decision to revoke its consent for MINUSMA," State Department spokesperson Matthew Miller said. "MINUSMA's drawdown must be orderly and respon-

sible, prioritizing the safety and security of peacekeepers and Malians." "We are concerned about the effects this decision will have on the security and humanitarian crises impacting the Malian people," he said in a statement. Mali has struggled to stem an Islamist insurgency that took root following an uprising in 2012. MINUSMA was deployed by the UN Security Council in 2013 to support foreign and local efforts to restore stability. Frustrations over the growing insecurity spurred two coups in 2020 and 2021, and the ruling junta has been increasingly at loggerheads with MINUSMA and other international allies, including France. The junta has burned bridges with traditional Western allies and turned to Russia for help

boosting its military capabilities. The United States "will continue to work with our partners in West Africa to help them tackle the urgent security and governance challenges they face," Miller said. "We welcome further consultations with regional leaders on additional steps to promote stability and prevent conflict." UN Security Council members had started to discuss a draft resolution to extend MINUSMA's mandate, which expires on June 30. It was unclear what would happen now. The UN special envoy to Mali, El-Ghassim Wane, said it would be "extremely challenging, if not impossible" to operate in a country without the government authorities' consent.

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Mass exodus, a national tragedy

THE nation observed a mourning day on Monday over the Greece boat disaster, in which dozens of precious lives were lost. An overloaded ferry capsized in the Mediterranean Sea off the coast of Greece on Wednesday, involving nearly 400 Pakistanis onboard, dozens of whom were killed and numerous still missing in the unfortunate event of boat swamp. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif announced the day of mourning to share the grief of the bereaved families. The national flag flew at half-mast across the country. Various bar councils and civil society members held special prayers, 'Ghaebana Namaz-e-Janaza and 'Fateha khawani in the native villages, towns, and cities of victims of the ferry disaster. The United Nations Human Rights office said in a statement that the ferry was carrying up to 750 people, at least 500 people were still missing, and dozens of people were known to have perished. A good number of women and children were among the missing persons in the 'horrific trage-dy.

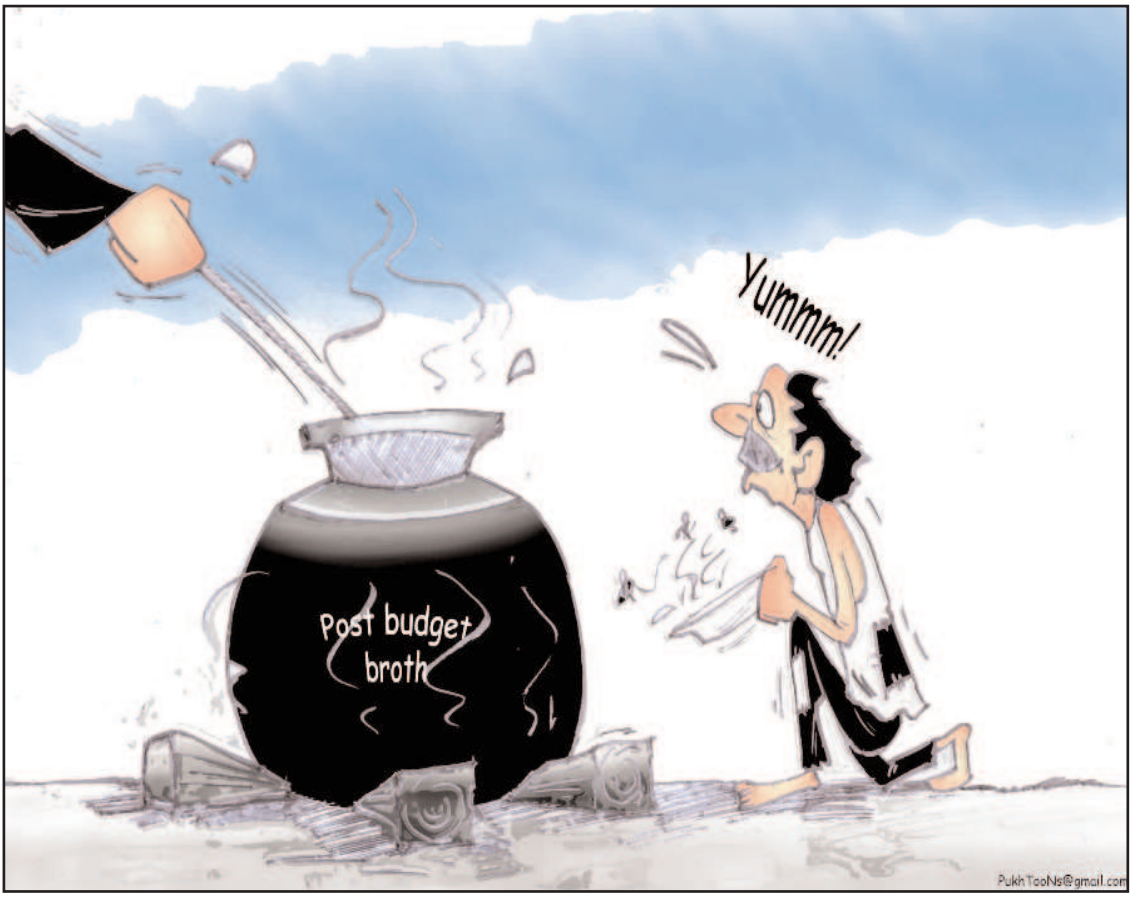
A mass exodus of the population from poor, and violence-hit nations in Asia and Africa toward prosperous Western countries is currently on the rise. This unprecedented refuge of people of diverse colors, creeds, and backgrounds has rapidly grown over the past decades and had caused unimaginable economic, administrative, and security issues for the host nations. Resultently, multiple Western nations introduced strict immigration regimes to curb the number of migrants from certain developing countries that restricted legal migration but encouraged illegal exodus from poor nations. Currently, legal migration and illegal transportation of refugees/ human trafficking and processing of migration cases are lucrative businesses across the world. Currently, Pakistan is at the top of the list of nations that face a mass exodus of young men and women, fleeing their country to comprehend their dreams of a prosperous future and a search for peaceful, just, and equitable life. That is otherwise not possible in their own country. Hence, there had been not a single tragic event of ship swamp, or detention of illegal border crossing in Europe, North America as well as Latin America, and Oceania that might not involve any Pakistani national or Pakistani expatriates. The reports suggest that nearly 400 Pakistanis were on board the unfortunate ferry that sunk in the Mediterranean Sea off the coast of Greece in recent days.

Realistically, Pakistan has become an unliveable place for a cultured and civilized community because of the ever-rising corruption of government officials, mismanagement and bad governance, low-quality living, and the unsocial ethics that exist in the society. The persistent political unrest and economic frailty along with the undying giant of terrorism had largely declined public confidence in the national leadership and people perceive their future as unsecured and uncertain in the country. Therefore, every citizen wants to exit the country to live a comfortable and prosperous life in Western democracies in Europe and North America. Ironically, all previous governments and all political groups had played a role in making up for this upheaval and rendering the country an ungovernable land. In the prevailing scenario, the business of illegal migration and human trafficking has flourished over the past years, while national institutions including the Police, the FIA, and others remained asleep during this time. After the recent ship swamp near Greece, the Prime Minister and his aides are promising stern action against the culprits while the FIA had made few arrests of alleged human traffickers in different parts of the country.

Pakistani leaders always failed to access the true nature and gravity of the problems and acted in response to tragedies throughout history. Earlier, Operation Zerb-e-Azb was launched in response to the APS massacre now another counter-terrorism operation had been initiated after the Police Lines attack in Peshawar. Currently, the government has announced a crusade against Human smugglers, however, the scope and extent of their commitment always proved to be very trivial and short-lived. Realistically, the issuance of consoling statements, observance of the day of mourning, and announcement of cash assistance all are cosmetic measures that aim at boosting the leaders' legacy and covering up the issues. There is a dire need for a public and parliamentary debate to access the true reasons behind the mass exodus from the country. The voluntary exit of the people is a matter of shame for the nation and its leaders because Pakistani youth is disappointed with its leadership and see no future in the country. The political leadership and policymakers must think about the dire economic and living conditions of the public and work for the economic development and industrial growth in the country, which improves people's lives and restore public confidence in their nation.

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Why do US sanctions fail? Because a platypus isn't a bird

Aaron Schneider

DEMOCRACY is under threat around the world. One of the most elaborate multidimensional measures of democracy, the V-Dem Institute in Sweden, notes that today, 72 percent of the world's population lives in autocracies and only 13 percent in liberal democracies, with 42 countries autocratizing - moving farther away from democracy - in the past year.

Yet, such an approach takes a snapshot of current characteristics, fails to acknowledge the different ways in which regimes became undemocratic, and generates unrealistic attempts to nudge regimes towards democracy. Some regimes do not respond because they are platypus.

In biology, phenetic classification presumes that we can look at different organisms and categorise them according to a snapshot of their characteristics: Birds have beaks; mammals lactate; reptiles can be venomous. Yet, the duck-billed platypus has a beak, lactates, and is venomous. Phenetic categorisation doesn't always work. By contrast, cladistic, or evolutionary, approaches trace the branching tree that starts with single-cell organisms and becomes contemporary birds, reptiles, and mammals. The platypus may have some characteristics of birds and reptiles, but its evolution follows the path that branched off to become mammals, so the platypus is in the mammal family. When thinking about regimes, we would be wise to trace evolutionary paths. In particular, the branching tree to consider is the left or right heritage of different governments.

Ideal-typical left governments come from revolutionary and anti-colonial histories, achieved power with promises to redistribute wealth and lift the poor, were tied to labour and other lower-class social movements, and opposed patterns of racial, ethnic, gender and other exclusions. Ideal-typical right governments trace their origins to colonial powers, achieved power with promises to support international capital and its local allies, were tied to business associations and landed elites, and supported dominant-group identities against minoritised populations.

Countries do not travel

down one or another path randomly. The history of regimes is traced by critical junctures, decision points when social forces come together to institutionalise an option down the left or right evolutionary branch. Countries that turn down the left path do so because groups of workers, peasants, women, indigenous and minoritised groups come together around anti-colonial and transformative projects. Countries that turn down the right path do so because colonial elites, domestic elites, and dominant identity groups shift to the right evolutionary branch.

Some of these governments may evolve over time and accrue similarly non-democratic features. This tempts us to characterise them as similarly undemocratic and pursue similar responses, but their split at a past critical juncture is important when thinking about how to move them away from non-democratic rule today. For example, our increasingly precise measures tell us that countries like Cuba, Nicaragua, Venezuela, Philippines are flawed or non-democracies, as was apartheid South Africa. The phenetic approach observes shared characteristics, like unfair or uncompetitive elections, constraints on civil society, and attacks on the press, and might even consider them similar in their degree of being non-democratic. Yet, approaching them with similar responses would be a mistake.

I mention apartheid South Africa intentionally, as it is the case many use to support the notion that broad sanctions and international isolation can work. Yet, broad sanctions and international isolation have done nothing to nudge Cuba towards democracy, even after more than 60 years of a brutal embargo. The US currently applies broad sanctions on more than 35 additional countries, causing dramatic humanitarian suffering but no democratisation. The reason is that apartheid South Africa traced its origins to the right evolutionary path. Sanctions isolated the regime from precisely the community that defined its evolution: Western governments and capital, domestic elites and dominant White racial groups.

By contrast, while broad sanctions destroy economies and result in unnecessary deaths in places like Cuba and Venezuela, isolation from the West has had no impact on democratisation in these countries. They may exhibit similarities to right-wing dictatorships, but their evolutionary path lies on the left branch, and policy needs to be sophisticated enough to know the difference. Non-democracies that trace their origins to the left evolutionary path can be pushed towards greater democracy if their Western benefactors cease supporting them, but not non-democracies that trace their origins to the left. For countries that trace their origins to the left evolutionary path, attempts by the US and other Western governments to isolate them play into the hands of leaders who use sanctions to burnish their anti-Western credentials, even if they have long ceased leading anti-colonial struggle. Further, they can point to Western isolation as the cause of economic collapse and suffering of the population, even if they have long ceased representing the poor.

Too often, the US is under the mistaken impression that the path to democratisation lies in shifting from the left evolutionary path to the right evolutionary path. Yet, a platypus will never evolve into a reptile. A non-democracy that traces its origins to the left evolutionary path will not democratise by switching to the right. A country that has strayed from the left evolutionary path democratises by deepening its transformative project and embracing the lower class groups that put it on the left path to begin. International solidarity can support these social forces, calling out deviations from the left evolutionary path, mobilising the core supporters who are the source of legitimacy to such governments. This bolsters truly popular movements in these countries and nudges them back towards the left evolutionary path and democracy. Unfortunately, this rarely happens for two reasons. First, part of the blame must fall on the international left, which hesitates to criticise governments that trace their origins to the left evolutionary path, even if they have

strayed. Yet, the Russian invasion of Ukraine should be a lesson - the international left needs to be sophisticated enough to criticise both the US imperial project which encircled and threatened Russia and the immediately genocidal Russian imperial project which seeks to seize territory from Ukraine.

The second part of the blame lies with the US government and foreign policy establishment, which is too fearful of left popular movements and too easily seduced by potential right-wing allies. Take Nicaragua. Once a beacon of revolutionary transformation, the Nicaraguan government has taken on the worst features of a patrimonial autocratic regime. A 2018 uprising of students, women, peasants and workers opposed attempts to constrain pension benefits and might have pushed the government back to the left and towards democracy. Yet, the movement quickly captured the imagination of the US foreign policy establishment, which saw in the protests an opportunity to shift Nicaragua onto the right evolutionary path. As a result, the Nicaraguan government responded with repression and painted the opposition as stooges of the US empire.

The US government has a role to play in pushing governments back towards democracy, but only in regimes that emerged from the right evolutionary path. To such governments, US sanctions and pressure would remove vital support and could nudge them back towards democracy. This is what happened in South Africa; the apartheid state aligned with the US suddenly lost support from its principal benefactor. A similar pressure to democratise from the US could work in other countries already on the right evolutionary path, such as Poland, Israel and the Philippines. Instead of ineffectively pressuring countries that have followed the left evolutionary path, and in the process causing grave humanitarian damage, the US should focus its democratisation efforts on places where its support plays a critical role, such as those countries that have followed the right path. A platypus cannot become a bird, but it might become more like other mammals.

Aljazeera

Russia-Iran ties are transactional - and warming fast

Emil Avdaliani

IRAN-RUSSIA relations have entered a new era of mutual cooperation. Thanks to the war in Ukraine, Moscow and Tehran's interests - whether military, economic or geopolitical - have aligned to an extent not seen for many decades. The contrast with the period before the Russian invasion of Ukraine is striking. Since Feb. 24, 2022, bilateral political meetings have multiplied. High-level delegations are constantly traveling between the two countries. On the economic front, Russian exports to Iran rose 27% last year, and Russian imports from Iran increased 10%. Both sides have agreed to scale up trade in currencies other than the US dollar, while Russia has pledged to invest an unprecedented \$40 billion in Iran's oil and gas sector. In addition, Moscow has bought a large number of Iranian military drones, which it used to attack Ukrainian cities and infrastructure, and possibly some short-range ballistic missiles. Significantly for the military capabilities of the Islamic Republic, Moscow finally allowed Tehran to purchase state-of-the-art Sukhoi Su-35 combat aircraft, as well as air defense and missile systems.

Perhaps the most important changes, however, have been in transport networks. As a result of the fighting in Ukraine, and in a bid to bypass Western sanctions, Russia has begun shifting trade routes southward. This is why Iran and Russia have ramped up work to develop the much-touted and ambitious International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC), which will stretch from the Persian Gulf to the Baltic Sea. Conceived in the early 2000s by Russia, India and Iran, the 7,200-kilometer-long project has since seen little meaningful progress. All this changed late last month, however, when Russia and Iran agreed to complete a missing railway section of the INSTC. The construction of the Astara-Rasht railroad has been delayed for decades - partly because of a lack of funds, but mostly because of the Western sanctions on Iran.

Now, the project is due to be completed by 2027 and will mostly be financed by Russia. The 170-kilometer section of railway will create an uninterrupted transport link from Iran's southern sea ports to Russia's Baltic Sea and Black Sea ports. In an ideal scenario it would take goods 18 days to travel from the Baltic Sea to India via Azerbaijan and Iran. Goods delivered via the INSTC will travel twice as fast as the alternative via the Suez Canal. While the INSTC consists of three branches, it's the western branch that is the most important because Russia and Iran's most populous provinces are located in their western areas. Time will show how effective the corridor will become, but its realization after decades of stalling

signals a new era in Iran-Russia relations.

Many seem to believe that the warming ties between Russia and Iran will result in the signing of an official alliance, cementing their joint vision and making them into true allies. In the absence of such a formal alliance, the logic goes, the Iran-Russia partnership would remain situational and less effective. Yet, what this line of thinking misses is that, amid a new, emerging world order, Eurasian states increasingly tend to avoid such alliances. For them, formal treaties are cumbersome, limiting their room for diplomatic maneuver and imposing unnecessary foreign policy and - most likely military - obligations. Eurasian states like Russia and Iran now appear to prefer a transactional approach. For them, there are no true allies - only temporary or long-term partners who are chosen according to the balance of power. Historically, this is a more durable concept than Western ideas of multilateralism and equal rights for all countries.

The Russia-led Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO) military alliance is a case in point. Even within the CSTO, which includes a mutual defense clause, Russia - as a true Eurasian state - is transactional when it comes to foreign policy and gives preference to stronger and geopolitically more important states. Take, for example, Armenia, Russia's long-time ally. Since the Armenia-Azerbaijan war in 2020, Moscow has on numerous occasions refused to side with Yerevan because Baku was simply too geographically important for the Kremlin. Not only does Azerbaijan host the western branch of the North-South corridor, but it is a key ally of Turkey (Ankara plays a critical role in Moscow's strategy to undermine Western unity). This sort of transactional approach will be the format for warming Iran-Russia ties. Yet it does not mean that their bilateral relationship is only temporary. Quite the opposite. Iran and Russia have entered a period of close alignment where shared opposition to the West far outweighs any grievances that may still be held by the political elites in either country. Given the long-lasting nature of Russia-West rivalry and the fact that the war in Ukraine does not appear likely to end soon, Iran-Russia cooperation looks set to deepen.

Moscow and Tehran could be described as allies - but in a different way to which the term is traditionally used in Western nations. They are bound together by a "Eurasian" type of bilateral bond that is not limited to Russia and Iran, but can also be seen in Russia-China, Turkey-Russia and China-Iran interactions. Eurasian states increasingly prefer non-alliances as a way to multiply foreign policy options and minimize geopolitical fixations.

The Moscow Times

More efforts to end the crisis of confidence between Saudi Arabia and Iran

Dr. Mohammed Al-Sulami

OVER the past few days, Iranian media outlets have reported that Iran has invited Saudi Arabia to join a joint naval alliance that is in the pipeline. In addition to Iran, the alliance will include Gulf states like Saudi Arabia - with the aim of protecting the Middle Eastern nations' maritime security and outlining guarantees for the safety of international navigation through new security arrangements.

The latter are likely to chiefly rely on the armies of the anticipated alliance's member states rather than extraregional military alliances stationed in the region's security sphere. Iran has reiterated its efforts to forge a trilateral maritime alliance in partnership with Russia and China. This invitation to the Kingdom comes against the backdrop of the two regional heavyweights' moving ahead with the restoration of diplomatic relations under a rapport deal

signed in Beijing. It is natural that the regional powerhouses exerting influence over regional issues and desiring to protect the region's security and stability believe in the effectiveness of collective efforts to protect the Middle Eastern security sphere. This will proceed uninterrupted as long as the countries calling for such efforts respect the principles of national sovereignty, unity, territorial integrity and good neighborliness. This is in addition to the principles of noninterference in the internal affairs of sovereign states and settling of nonextensive disputes that have been unresolved for decades in accordance with UN Security Council resolutions, as well as the signed settlement agreements.

Moreover, the anticipated alliance's member countries should abandon the destructive projects that raise concerns and suspicions about the intentions behind their involvement in collective security efforts. When all this happens, regional security

arrangements could be adopted by the region's countries. The implementation of this equation and the new security arrangements on the ground is obstructed by the consequences of the decades-long crisis of confidence between several countries of the anticipated alliance. This crisis has been created by positions and behaviors that have undermined regional peace and security. This has, in turn, inflamed disputes and exacerbated tensions in the Middle East, thereby fueling more rifts and exhausting some nation states, causing Saudi Arabia and Iran - two regional heavyweights exerting massive influence over regional issues - to be far apart, thus further complicating the crisis between them. However, this crisis has started to subside, with both countries opting to proceed with confidence-building measures since the signing of the rapport deal under which they have restored diplomatic

ties.

Iran is aware of the consequences of breaching the terms of the agreement signed with Saudi Arabia under the patronage of China. The Iranian supreme leader ordered the Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting to stop any negative coverage, disparaging comments and criticisms of the Kingdom. Nonetheless, following the agreement, some negative Iranian media content about Saudi Arabia was tracked, which constituted a breach of the principles of noninterference in the internal affairs of countries and the protection of their sovereignty. The Iranian media corporation quickly deleted this content after realizing how far it could potentially impact the measures taken at this stage. In recent weeks, it was noticed that the Iranian media outlets had reverted to their old rhetoric, heaping criticisms and insults on the Kingdom in newspapers and

news agencies affiliated with the Iranian regime, such as the Tasnim, Fars and Mehr news agencies. In fact, the resumption of criticisms of Saudi Arabia does a disservice to the confidence-building measures, as well as the dissipation of the Kingdom's misgivings about Iran's intentions and the orientation of its foreign relations. Such rhetoric will impact the Kingdom's desire to forge further partnerships and engage in future cooperation with Iran in the various security and commercial fields.

Saudi Arabia is moving ahead with the confidence-building measures, starting with the procedures formalizing the resumption of diplomatic relations, such as King Salman's invitation to Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi to visit the Kingdom and the visit by the Saudi foreign minister to the Iranian capital Tehran, which will be followed by the reopening of embassies - a step that is expected to occur in the coming days. All these meas-

ures are taken out of the Kingdom's keenness to enhance relations and look to the future with huge prospects in a way that mutually benefits the two nations. In conclusion, the continuation of interference in the internal affairs of other countries - banned not only under the deal signed in Beijing but also under all UN resolutions - runs counter to the agreement's provisions and the new guidelines set out by the Iranian supreme leader for Iranian foreign policy over the past days. This is in addition to the reiteration of former Foreign Minister Javad Zarif in a Twitter post that there are no zero-sum games in foreign policy, meaning that all parties can make gains and have their interests maintained, rather than the interests of only a certain party. Major opportunities and joint interests that require more steps to build and sustain, rather than diminish and complicate confidence, await the two countries.

Syrian, Palestinian refugees need understanding, not platitudes

Ramzy Baroud

FADI, a Syrian teenager with curly hair and an acne-covered face, miraculously survived one of the greatest migrant boat disasters in the modern history of the Mediterranean. Only 104 people have been rescued from a boat that was carrying an estimated 750 refugees when it capsized on June 13 in the open sea near the Greek coastal town of Pylos.

Scores of bodies have been pulled from the water and many more have washed ashore. Hundreds are still missing, feared dead, including many women and children who were huddled together on the lower deck of the 30-meter boat. Fadi survived. A heart-rending photo shows the young Syrian sobbing as he met his older brother, Mohammed, who had rushed to the port of Kalamata, Greece, to see him. The two brothers could not embrace, as Fadi was still trapped behind metal gates in a confinement area made for the survivors. This latest boat disaster tells a much bigger story than the one sympathetic news headlines have attempted to convey. It is a story of war, poverty, inequality and despair.

The identities of those who died at sea give us clues as to the origins of the story. They were Syrians, Palestinians, Afghans and more. These refugees were seeking safety, coveting mere survival. The sad irony is that the latest episode of this seemingly endless horror took place exactly one week before the UN was set to "celebrate" World Refugee Day, which is marked on June 20 each year. Most references to this day by the UN, UN-related organizations and international charities around the world seem to emphasize empowerment and positivity. A state-

ment by the UN Refugee Agency referred to "(honoring) refugees around the globe," and referenced World Refugee Day as celebrating "the strength and courage" of refugees. The contradictions of the discourses pertaining to refugees should be too obvious to miss. But we often do. Too many lavish dinners will be catered in the name of refugees in Western capitals and embassies around the world. Diplomats will demand action and well-paid intellectuals will enunciate the moral and ethical responsibilities of governments and civil societies. Many will clap and numerous business cards will be exchanged. But little will change.

More than 23,000 refugees drowned or went missing while trying to reach European shores between 2014 and 2022. The real number is expected to be much higher, as there are no official records of how many people embarked on these deadly journeys in the first place. "We have hundreds of records of bodies that are washed up to Mediterranean shores when we don't know of any known shipwreck," Julia Black of the International Organization for Migration told the BBC. The identity of the victims - Syrians, Palestinians, Afghans and Sudanese - should have been a major clue as to why people take such terrible risks to reach European countries, where they often still endure great hardships, including racial discrimination. However, we hardly ever confront the real culprits behind all of this: Weapons manufacturers and military interventionists, along with political meddlers who provoke

and/or exacerbate conflicts. These individuals and governments see the Middle East, Africa and the rest of the Global South as mere space for geopolitical rivalries, cheap raw materials and human and economic exploitation. But when the outcomes of such dreadful policies result in the slightest irritant to the socioeconomic fabrics of Western societies, desperate refugees become villains, to be shunned, ignored, imprisoned and deported.

In reality, the world's refugees, who are estimated to number more than 100 million, are not "celebrated," but mostly vilified. They are seen as a burden, not an opportunity to confront and fix the underlying problems, old and new, that led to their original displacement. While visiting Tunisia this month, along with far-right Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni and Dutch Prime Minister Mark Rutte, European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen was adamant about rebranding the tragedy of refugees as something else entirely. In their joint statement, the high-ranking European politicians vowed to break "the cynical business model of (smugglers)" because "it is horrible to see how they deliberately risk human lives for profit." Considering that the arms industry is one of Europe's most thriving business models, one cannot help but pause at the irony of such remarks.

No other collective experiences illustrate Western complicity like that of the Palestinian people. Thousands of them have perished while escaping for their lives from Israel's horrific wars and sieges.

They were dying in large numbers as soon as Zionist militants began the systematic ethnic cleansing of Palestine in 1947-48. Yet, even after 75 years of such suffering and pain, Western countries continue to do everything in their power to support Israel and disempower - even blame - the Palestinians. Indeed, those who are truly interested in commemorating World Refugee Day ought to fully fathom the protracted Palestinian refugee experience to truly understand where the problem lies. On a recent trip to Türkiye, I met with many Palestinian refugees, mostly from Gaza, whose families were made refugees by Israel in 1948 and again in 1967. These mostly young people are anxiously awaiting the opportunity to cross the sea to Greece, then to other European countries in search of work.

Mohammed B. told me that he had attempted to reach Greece nine times. "The last time, I was caught. I was severely beaten and left for dead in a dark forest," he said. "But I will try again." Mohammed's uncle was killed by Israel during the First Intifada. Several members of his family died due to the lack of medicine in the besieged Strip. Now, more than 30 members of the family, mostly children, live in a three-bedroom house that was bombed by Israel on two separate occasions. Mohammed and the millions like him are not the villains. They are the victims. For World Refugee Day to matter, it must address the root causes of such complex and ongoing problems. Only an honest and deep understanding can serve as a starting point for a meaningful conversation and, hopefully, meaningful action.

Reimagining global leadership: Not who but how

Marwan Bishara

OVER the past decade or so, signs that the American-dominated world order is crumbling have become increasingly more visible. The rise of China - boosted by its entry into the World Trade Organization in 2001 - has challenged the unipolarity maintained by the United States. Beijing has undoubtedly become a dominant force in the global economy, bolstering its military and strategic capabilities.

But it has not been the only power trying to assert itself in recent years. Russia under the revisionist leadership of Vladimir Putin has also sought to regain its status as a world power. To that end, the Russian president has adopted more assertive policies vis-à-vis the West and moved closer to China, especially after Xi Jinping became China's leader in 2013. Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine has accelerated the showdown over global leadership and prompted new questions over who should lead the ever more complicated international system.

Some have argued for a multipolar world system, claiming it would make it easier to manage global challenges, such as climate change, pandemics and cybercrimes. They say it is fairer, more equitable and democratic than the unipolar or bipolar world systems. Others contend that there is no one better suited to lead a fair and democratic world than the world's leading democracy, America, along with its democratic allies. After all, it remains the dominant military and economic superpower, dwarfing China, India, Russia, Japan and others in terms of its hard, smart and soft powers. Indeed, none comes even close to contesting US geopolitical clout, forward military deployments or maritime projection. The US has about 750 bases in at least 80 countries worldwide. China commands one base - in Djibouti. Similarly, there is no match for its economic dexterity and vitality, high-tech innovations and commercial successes, not to mention the unrivalled Brand America.

These claims hold much truth and may have been totally convincing back in

the 1990s when the US emerged victorious from the Cold War after the disintegration of the Soviet Union. But they no longer are. In the past two decades, America's political and economic decline has taken its toll over its global leverage and authority, and its Faustian deals with unsavvy autocrats have damaged its credibility. Strategically, US military entanglements in the Greater Middle East under the pretext of the "global war on terror" since the 9/11 attacks have greatly undermined US power projection. The disastrous war in Iraq and the long and humiliating defeat in Afghanistan showed the limits of the US military force. Strategic disengagement and retrenchments under Presidents Barack Obama's and Donald Trump's administrations made it difficult to shape events and influence leaders, who increasingly deemed the US an erratic and unreliable partner.

On the economic front, the 2008 financial crisis, which started in the US and threatened the collapse of the global financial system, has dealt a blow to its neoliberal system, pushing more countries to diversify their economic relations. It also paved the way for the rise of the G20, and the emergence of mid-size powers, which now exercise growing influence on the global stage at the expense of the US and its G7 allies. Meanwhile, Brand America suffered bigly, not least because of the advent of Trumpism in 2016, symbolising the retreat of Western liberalism and the rise of populism, corrupt and autocratic forces in the West and beyond. These trends rendered American-promoted liberalism a harder sell to the rest of the world. US President Joe Biden's declaration that "America is back" after he defeated Trump in the 2020 election was not followed by a notable resurgence of US power.

His attempts to salvage US leadership through the so-called "rules-based international system" have failed. This system has been viewed as a rigged scheme that favours the West against the rest and, in the process, bypasses inter-

national law. And yet, the alternative - a multipolar world - is not such a bright prospect as other powers step in to fill the void. Multiple world powers competing and fighting to enhance their interests and advance their influence does not necessarily add up to a better world. Rather the contrary: Diversity shaped by animosity could also lead to anarchy and chaos. That is why, as the debate over the new global leadership rages, the more important question to ask is how this new order will be led and managed. It can be either driven by strategic and ideological hostility - which would have a devastating impact on the world - or by a more pragmatic, power-sharing scheme shaped by expansive economic and commercial relations. If history is any guide, there is no hope to be had from international law or international agreements when world powers are at loggerheads. Worse, the management of global challenges would suffer. The past 30 years of unipolarity and the preceding 30 years of bipolarity may have failed miserably to bring peace and security to the world, but make no mistake, the previous 300 years of multipolarity were utterly disastrous, leading to devastating regional, colonial and imperial wars of all strands and horrors.

And so, it seems to me that despite having the advantage of a clear-eyed historical perspective, today's world powers seem as rash as their 19th and 20th century predecessors, approaching world affairs as a zero-sum game instead of a win-win gambit. In the not-so-distant past, world powers tended to be hypocritical, but today they are increasingly cynical as if it is naive to be righteous and smart to be cruel. In sum, multipolarity should not be confused with multilateralism.

A bunch of competing world powers do not make for a responsible international community. As long as international relations are driven by power and greed, not cooperation and shared creed, the world will suffer regardless of who or how many are at the top. Given the choice, the world should embrace solidarity over polarity and collaboration over hostility.

Ben Wallace is the right choice to head NATO

Richard Dannatt

AS ongoing events in Ukraine demonstrate, there is no more important issue affecting the security of Europe than a satisfactory outcome to that war. Peace and stability in Europe must be the ambition and the restoration of affordable standards of living the highly desirable consequence. While the actions of individual countries to support Ukraine now and in the future will be important, the continuing ability of Nato to give a collective voice to the West will be crucial.

Therefore, it follows that the selection of the next secretary general of Nato will have a major bearing on the future security of Europe. It is vital that the candidate selected has relevant experience, a proven track record and is an individual of international stature, capable of commanding respect from all member states.

The force confronting Nato - now and potentially in the future unless there is a dramatic Russian collapse in Ukraine - is and will be Vladimir Putin. This unconstructed KGB colonel watched in horror during the late 1980s as his beloved Soviet Union and Warsaw Pact crumbled in the face of the solidarity of Nato and the West. For many years during his leadership of the Russian Federation he has worked to destroy Nato's cohesion, challenging and testing the alliance by posing dilemmas that he hopes will bring diverse responses from member states. He has goaded the Baltic states, begging the question: would the US really go to war with Russia over Latvia or Estonia? He seized an opportunity to expand Russian influence

in Syria and the Middle East and was delighted that the West laid down red lines over the use of chemical weapons and then walked away from them. However, over Ukraine Putin has miscalculated badly and rather than divide Nato, he has been the catalyst to forge even greater cohesion within the alliance - at least for now. It is in this wider context that the reported attempt by Emmanuel Macron to obstruct the candidacy of Ben Wallace, the British Defence Secretary, is so ridiculous. The successful candidate must be the best and most qualified person to fill the appointment, and the selection process must not become a political football.

Matters of security should be of far higher priority than a narrow or mean French desire to hurt or punish the United Kingdom over Brexit. Against all the historic antagonisms between France and Britain stands the long-term commitment of both countries one to another. Has the memory of being brothers in arms twice in the 20th century already been forgotten, a memory to be sacrificed on the altar of short-term political point scoring? To be more specific, if the French president really believes that Mette Frederiksen would make a better Nato secretary general than Wallace, then he has not done his homework. Yes, she is young and successful and has been prime minister of Denmark since 2019, but her background is not in defence. Her previous appointments in the Danish government were as minister of justice and minister of employment.

Of course, as prime minister she has been exposed to international affairs, but that is rather different. Wallace, on the other hand, has personal experience of military service and has been a very successful Defence Secretary since 2019. Had Macron been at the International Commemoration of D Day in Normandy on June 6 this year, he would have witnessed the very close relationship between Wallace and Sébastien Lecornu, his own armed forces minister. Moreover, he would have heard Wallace's moving tribute to those who fought and fell for freedom in the Normandy Campaign of 1944. From his own experience of combat, Wallace asserted that the biggest obstacle to success in battle is combating one's own fear - soldiers had managed to do this on D Day and are doing so now in Ukraine on a daily basis. Here is a man who has a deep understanding of what being a leader in crisis and conflict demands. On the basis of the evidence, Wallace is a far stronger candidate than Frederiksen. Narrow prejudice must not be allowed to corrupt this appointment process. Looking ahead, the next secretary general of Nato has the immense task of leading the debate within the alliance over the future of Ukraine. Should Ukraine become a Nato member and, if so, when? How can the West establish a new relationship with Russia? Should the current counter-offensive not bring decisive results in Kyiv's favour, how can the solidarity and cohesion of Nato be maintained if this war drags on without an end in sight? For the sake of the security of Europe, we deserve the most competent candidate in that office, not a political pawn.

Endless Mediterranean deaths guaranteed unless broken system is fixed

Chris Doyle

IT is that time of year again, when wealthy Northern Europeans dust off their swimsuits and descend on the warm, sun-drenched beaches of the continent's Mediterranean shores and the decks of expensive yachts. The warmer months also see an armada of unseaworthy vessels coughing up their motley cargo of "non-people," either on to the shores of an unwelcoming European land-mass or, all too often, to the depths of those deep waters. A banner displayed at Thessaloniki port held nothing back: "Tourists, enjoy your cruise in Europe's biggest migrants cemetery."

Nothing better typifies the respective worlds of the haves and the have-nots than what the Mediterranean now signifies to different people. To some, it is a summer refuge of family fun and holidays. For others, it is a deadly body of water that separates their hell from an imagined utopia - a Mediterranean roulette of extraordinary dangers for those with little left to live for. Their worlds barely ever connect. The rich do not want anything to spoil their vacations. The desperate can only imagine what they are missing.

The latest boat sinking off the coast of Greece last Wednesday has gently pricked a few European consciences once more, at least for a few days. This disaster has killed at least 78 people, almost certainly far more. The details are harrowing. Challenging questions engulf the Greek authorities, whose narrative is being challenged. They were warned about the vessel. The Greek coast-guard was present. Did it try to tether the vessel with a rope and steer it away from Greek waters? This would not be the first time.

But it is not just the Greeks. European powers are complicit in a murderous policy, in which mass drownings are just factored in as an unfortunate consequence of the "fortress Europe" approach. The first quarter of this year saw more fatalities on the Central Mediterranean route than in any year since 2017. Many European states have cut back on search and rescue operations at sea. They enter into shoddy deals with third-party states to pass the buck onto them in an effort to prevent the boats ever leaving. They care little as to how this is done or the horrific conditions of detention these people are then forced to endure. For many, these European states have hands saturated in blood, just like the people smugglers who profit from others' misery. Safe routes for asylum seekers barely exist. As most refugees believe, if you are a blond-haired and blue-eyed Ukrainian, you get welcomed in Northern Europe. If you are a brown-skinned Muslim or a Black African, you get turned away.

What are the drivers of this? As ever, focusing on one issue is never the full story. In Lebanon, where most people want to leave, it is economic disintegration. For Syrians, who made up a large portion of the passengers caught up in last week's tragedy, the economic collapse in their country is key, but it is one disaster built on so many others. Afghans are fleeing the repression of Taliban rule. Many of the Syrians, perhaps about 70, came from the south of the country, in and around Deraa. How come? Talking to those on the ground, the picture is complex. The regime is not in full control and it came to understandings with armed

opposition groups, meaning the regime leaves certain areas alone. The security situation there is fraught with high levels of violent crime, murders and even assassinations.

This has led to Deraa becoming a magnet for outlaws. As a zone of lawlessness, it is also a center for people smugglers, who work openly there. The regime has been handing out amnesties to young men. Fearing being called into the army in six to 12 months' time, they head to Deraa having obtained passports from the regime. In other words, the regime knows exactly what is happening; that the aim of these youths is to get to Europe. The smugglers have a series of prices. For a journey all the way to Europe, they charge about \$16,000. To get to Libya, from where the refugees are told it might be cheaper to move on, it is about \$6,000. It seems the passengers each paid about \$4,500 for last week's doomed journey. With estimates of 400 to 750 passengers on board, the people smugglers must have pocketed anything from \$2 million to \$4 million. It is a lucrative business.

Another option smugglers offer to families is to pay double the fee when the refugee arrives safely in the target destination. Few can afford that. Another reason Deraa is popular with the smugglers is that many Syrians from this area have, for historic reasons, access to a large number of family members who send funds from the richer Gulf countries to pay for these trips. The smugglers also use a series of well-worn overland routes from the south of Syria to Türkiye. They have deals with Turkish border guards to let them cross the border. One source told me

that Turkish border guards shoot a few refugees to show that they are doing something - about two in every hundred, he claimed. Once in Türkiye, they fly to Libya on a Syrian passport, even though there is no stamp in their passports to show they left Syria legally. Turkish officials reportedly turn a blind eye.

The jaw-dropping determination of these refugees fleeing persecution, war and economic crisis means that, as hard as the European powers try, they cannot prevent new and even more dangerous routes being risked. It is the "we have nothing to live for" reality that these refugees face that few European politicians have even started to comprehend from their cocooned world of luxury and safety. Those considering joining this dangerous exodus know that, because Europe is embracing more and more the policies of the far right, it will only become harder to find a way in. The Syrians in Deraa are queuing up to leave, just as others are elsewhere in the south. The summer months and the soul-destroying conditions many millions face may see a bumper year for the people smugglers. With World Refugee Day falling on Tuesday, it is time to remember that refugees and asylum seekers are people; human beings. It is time to start treating them as such. The system is broken, guaranteed to lead to endless deaths. Yes, the people smugglers need stopping, but unless the bottomless wells of desperation are tackled in the conflict zones to the south, the boats will never stop coming, no matter how deadly they are. Until then, the Mediterranean will just be the world's greatest watery graveyard and bodies will wash ashore at the packed tourist beaches and harbors.

Arab News

US needs to realize the GCC game rules have changed

Baria Alamuddin

DURING my recent travel throughout the GCC, I was struck by conspicuous expressions of frustration toward the US. This is despite the manifold interconnections: a high proportion of Gulf citizens receive their higher education in the US, and there are intimate associations through travel, business, and social connections.

Speaking to seasoned Arab politicians and ordinary citizens, I noted a perception that US Middle East policy had lost its way, defined by condescending out-of-touch statements and an inability to deliver on signed agreements. The bitterly partisan state of Washington politics means that any deals may be torn up as a matter of principle whenever a different president comes into office. We are seeing a major rebalancing of this relationship as GCC states relentlessly prioritize their own strategic interests. The West is no longer in a position to simply make demands. When it has tried to, it has frequently ended up with egg on its face: regional states maintain their positions until the US makes a humiliating climb-down and comes running back, grudgingly apologizing for its capricious behavior.

Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Faisal bin Farhan, following his recent meeting with US Secretary of State Antony Blinken, asserted that Saudi Arabia did not respond to pressure when it came to human rights and other policy decisions, while adding: "We are working to find a mechanism that enables us to work together, and the partnership with Washington is still strong." After the White House's unfulfilled threats of

retaliation when the Saudi-led OPEC+ oil alliance cut production last autumn, the Kingdom implemented further cuts this month with scarcely a whimper from the West.

People can sympathize with what has occurred in Ukraine, but there is resentment about the manner in which the world is exhorted to unite in lockstep behind the West in a way that never occurred for conflicts in Palestine, Syria, Libya and Yemen. When Gulf states were hit with missile and drone strikes by Iran-made munitions, where was the readiness to reciprocate? Underneath all this, the US relationship with the GCC region continues to be built on a broad range of shared interests: the \$40 billion in Saudi-American bilateral annual trade supports about 165,000 US jobs, and tens of thousands of Americans live in the region. The Gulf states regularly hold joint military exercises with the US. Airlines Riyadh Air and Saudia have signed \$37 billion in deals to purchase 121 Boeing aircraft for their fleets.

According to the rhetoric of US officials, ties with GCC states are a top foreign policy priority. So why did it take the US more than two years to name a full-time ambassador to Riyadh? Ratification of Michael Ratney's appointment came only after the China-brokered Iran-Saudi deal appeared to catch America completely by surprise. Indeed, Blinken's latest visit is thought to have taken place only after months of efforts to reset the relationship after contacts had plunged to an absolute low. US foreign policy nowadays is defined

by a complete absence of coherent strategy. Even on core policies such as Ukraine and Taiwan, Washington has flipflopped over what kind of military assistance to send, and to what extent it's willing to risk escalating superpower tensions.

The constant telegraphing by US officials of their obsession about an Israel-Saudi normalization deal is one indicator of confused priorities - and at the worst possible time, given the increasingly far-right religious nationalist trajectory of the Netanyahu regime. Why is Joe Biden throwing around incentives and concessions for a measure that would bring no direct benefit for US citizens, aside from the prospect that Biden could possibly notch this up as a victory in the 2024 elections? Newly revealed US talks with Iran are a further symptom of these confused policies, with Tehran apparently to be rewarded for indefinitely maintaining its nuclear program at just a few days away from military breakout capacity - as if such a scenario lets us all feel safe!

Not so long ago, the US occupied a unique position as the GCC's principal strategic ally and security guarantor. Nations such as China and Russia were scarcely on the GCC's radar. The calculated upgrading of relations with Beijing, New Delhi and Moscow represents a balanced recalibration of interests, to compensate for Washington's dizzying policy U-turns and inability to sustain focus on priority issues. GCC officials have signaled their openness to looking more to European partners for arms, security and infrastructure deals, due

to a perception of greater trust and reliability. America is the net loser in all this. With Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman discussing an ambitious array of deals in Paris, and Foreign Minister Prince Faisal visiting Tehran, we are witnessing a newly assertive GCC approach in determinedly pursuing its interests around the world. By neutralizing Tehran as a strategic threat, the region can prioritize industry, education, technology and culture - putting the interests of citizens first.

The Arab world of 2023 is manifestly not that of just 10 or 20 years ago. With a powerful gust of fresh air, a new generation has swept into the corridors of power and society at large - a generation that the West has largely failed to understand or appreciate. Nowhere has transformed faster than Saudi Arabia, which has opened itself up to tourism and cultural pursuits, while embarking on an ambitious economic agenda. I am elated to see how the outlook and status of women has transformed beyond all recognition. The UAE and Qatar continue to punch above their weight on the global stage. Bahrain continues to be a radiant oasis for business, culture, and the arts. Oman has quietly become a vital conduit for negotiations and peace efforts. Kuwait has made impressive investments in renewable energy, entrepreneurship and infrastructure. American diplomats struggle to realize that this isn't the same region they engaged with in the past. The rules of the game have fundamentally changed. The region is simply waiting for Western diplomacy to catch up.



KP businessmen invited to participate in trade exhibition in Afghanistan

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: Senior diplomats of Afghan Consulate in Peshawar invited the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa businessmen to participate in a week-long 'trade exhibition', which will be held in Kabul, next month.

The invitation was given by Commercial Attaché Afghan Consulate General in Peshawar Waheedullah Himet and Second Secretary to Commercial Attaché Afghan Consulate General in Peshawar Muhammad Tahir Nafaz during a meeting with SCCI acting Ijaz Khan Afridi held at chamber's house on Tuesday.

Afghan consulate officials said after successfully

organizing at national level, the second edition of the exhibition dubbed: "Imam Abu Hanifa (RH) will organise at international level, in which besides Pakistan, Iran, Tajikistan and regional countries will be invited in the expo.

The senior diplomats elaborated the exhibition aimed at bringing closer business communities of regional countries, especially Pakistan/Khyber Pakhtunkhwa to each other, benefit from each other's experiences and give boost to the bilateral trade volume between the countries.

Ijaz Khan Afridi, acting president of the chamber on the occasion assured a complete cooperation and sup-

port for ensuring maximum participation of the business community at the planned exhibition in Afghanistan.

The SCCI's president stressed the need for joint initiatives for improving bilateral trade volume between Pakistan and Afghanistan so that would bring economic prosperity and development in the both countries, besides it would create new investment and employment opportunities.

Also, he urged Islamabad and Kabul to keep politics and trade separate and take joint steps to remove difficulties of the business community on both sides of the border.

Ijaz Afridi emphasized

promotion of Pak-Afghan bilateral trade is in dire need, he, however, said pragmatic steps need to be taken to remove hurdles, rationalizing taxes and easing policies/mechanisms.

He said mutual trade volume between Pakistan and Afghanistan was consistently dropping. He called for bringing the business community of the both countries closer to each other and taking mutual benefits from experiences.

Talking about the upcoming exhibition in Kabul, the SCCI's acting chief said facilities should be provided for foreign business delegates/traders to ensure their maximum participation in the exhibition.



LARKANA: A vendor selling fishes at Old Bus Stand Road.

Shipping activity at Port Qasim

KARACHI (APP): PQA operational activities were reported during last 24 hours, where four ships namely, EM Astoria, Navios Lapis, MSC Rania and Alexandra Kosan carrying Containers and Chemicals, berthed at Container Terminal and Engro Terminal respectively.

Meanwhile three more ships, SC Hong Kong, Jeil Crystal and Al-Areesh with Chemicals and LNG are also arrived at outer anchorage of the Port Qasim during the same period.

A total of 6 ships were engaged at PQ berths during the last 24 hours, out of them a container ship MSC Rania sailed out to sea on Tuesday morning, and three more ships, Navios Lapis, Alexandra Kosan and Santa Francesca are expected to sail on same day (today) afternoon.

A cargo Volume of 101,889 tonnes, comprising 86,623 tones imports Cargo and 15,266 tonnes export cargo, including containerized cargo carried in 2,950 Containers (2,052 TEUs Imports and 898 TEUs export) was handled at the port during last 24 hours.

There are seven ships at Outer Anchorage of Port Qasim, out of them three ships, Al-Areesh, FSM and Maud & three more ships, Maersk Hartford, MSC Madeleine and MSC Sky-II carrying LNG, LPG, Coal and Containers are expected to take berths at EETL, EVTL, PIBT and QICT on Tuesday & another containers ship 'Maersk Bostan' is due to arrive at Port Qasim on Wednesday.

PFC to seek new export opportunities

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chief Executive Officer Pakistan Furniture Council (PFC) Mian Kashif Ashfaq on Tuesday said that a high level 10 members delegation of PFC will visit Afghanistan next month to explore the export avenues of pak made furniture.

Talking to a delegation of furniture manufacturers led by Ms Nida Ejaz, he said that due to limited local production capacity and demand for a wider variety of styles, Afghanistan relies heavily on furniture imports, said a press release.

"Afghanistan imports furniture, particularly from neighboring countries like Pakistan, Iran, and China, dominates the market. These imports cater to different price ranges and design preferences", he added.

He said Afghanistan has a modest local furniture production sector said adding that the furniture industry in Afghanistan has been growing steadily in recent years, driven by factors such as increasing urbanization, rising disposable income, and the demand for modern living spaces.

Mian Kashif Ashfaq said the furniture industry in Afghanistan faces challenges such as limited local production capacity, inadequate infrastructure, import dependency, and a volatile security situation.

However, these challenges also present opportunities for investment, technological advancements, and partnerships to enhance the sector.

Stock Exchange gains 31 points

ISLAMABAD (APP): The 100-index of the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) gained 31.81 points on Tuesday, a slight positive change of 0.08 per cent, closing at 40,653.03 points against 40,621.22 points the previous day.

A total of 124,856,236 shares were traded during the day as compared to 179,780,375 shares the previous day, whereas the price of shares stood at Rs.4,031 billion against Rs.5,624 billion on the last trading day.

As many as 311 companies transacted their shares in the stock market; 106 of them recorded gains and 179 sustained losses, whereas the share price of 26 companies remained unchanged.

The three top-trading companies were K-Electric Ltd with 9,921,992 shares at Rs.1.59 per share; Worldcall Telecom with 6,986,096 shares at Rs.1.14 per share and Hascol Petrol with 6,737,000 shares at Rs.5.75 per share.

Nestle Pakistan witnessed a maximum increase of Rs.100.00 per share price, closing at

Rs.6,650.00, whereas the runner-up was Bata (Pak) with an Rs.99.57 rise in its per share price to Rs.1,835.57.

Rafhan Maize witnessed a maximum decrease of Rs.149.00 per share closing at Rs.8,350.00; followed by Mehmood Tex with Rs.79.90 decline to close at Rs.985.43.

Rupee gains 04 paisas against US Dollar in interbank

Pakistani Rupee on Tuesday gained 04 paisas against the US Dollar (USD) in the interbank trading as it closed at Rs 287.21 against the previous day's closing of Rs 287.25.

However, according to the Forex Association of Pakistan (FAP), the buying and selling rates of dollars in the open market stood at Rs 290.5 and Rs 293 respectively.

The price of the Euro went up by Rs 0.7 to close at Rs 313.98 against the last day's closing of Rs 313.91, according to the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP).

The Japanese Yen remain unchanged to close at Rs 2.02, whereas a decrease of Rs 0.87 was

witnessed in the exchange rate of the British Pound, which traded at Rs 367.20 as compared to its last day's closing of Rs 368.07.

The exchange rates of the Emirates Dirham and the Saudi Riyal depreciated by 02 paisas each to close at Rs 78.19 and Rs 76.56 respectively.

Gold prices decline by Rs.200 to Rs220,500 per tola

The per tola price of 24 karat gold decreased by Rs.200 and was sold at Rs.220,500 on Tuesday against its sale at Rs. 220,700 the previous day.

The price of 10 grams of 24 karat gold also decreased by Rs.171 to Rs189,043 from Rs. 189,214 whereas the price of 10 grams 22 karat gold went down to Rs.173,290 from Rs. 173,447, All Sindh Sarafa Jewellers Association reported.

The price of per tola silver decreased by Rs50 to Rs2,600 whereas that of ten gram silver declined by Rs42.86 to Rs2,229.08.

The price of gold in the international market remained unchanged at \$1951.

DW partners with Telenor Microfinance Bank

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: Discount World (DW) - An organization that caters more than 13 million + customer base of all the leading banks, insurance industry, pharmaceuticals, financial institutes and corporate entities of Pakistan, on Tuesday signed a memorandum of understanding with the Telenor Microfinance Bank (Easypaisa) - the first scheduled microfinance bank of Pakistan designed to operate as a fintech.

The collaboration between DW and Easypaisa is one revolutionary step forward aimed at facilitating the large consumer base

of Easypaisa customers, and this strategic alliance can be termed as one major leap forward in this direction towards strengthening the digital payment platform of Pakistan.

The MoU was signed by Mr. Sultan Richard, Chairman & CEO; Discount World, and Mr. Farhan Hassan, Head of Easypaisa, in the presence of senior officials from both organizations.

Speaking at the signing ceremony, Mr. Sultan Richard, Chairman & CEO DW, said, "We are delighted to partner with Pakistan's leading digital payment platform, and while DW remains at the forefront of

providing convenience to the customers of various institutes in Pakistan, today's strategic alliance with Easypaisa is yet another step forward in this direction. This alliance will enable to provide added benefits to the large customer base of Easypaisa."

"We are confident that this partnership will play an instrumental role to our reach and confidence in the market," added Sultan Richard. The MoU signing ceremony was followed by a networking session where the senior officials from both organizations discussed the details of collaboration and exchanged ideas for future projects.

Ahsan calls for minimizing raw material import

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari Tuesday urged the government to collaborate with the construction sector, ensuring that all raw materials are sourced in Pakistan and industry is less dependent on imports.

"By removing the difficulties faced by the construction industry, the government can not only get more revenue but also meet the annual housing requirement which is increasing with each passing year," said Bakhtawari the other day during his visit to Gulberg Islamabad, a project of Intelligence Bureau Employee's Cooperative Housing Society.

The ICCI president said the construction sector in Pakistan has performed excellent services for the last two decades by supporting the government in providing basic needs like housing to the people, it has also created sustainable employment opportunities for millions of people.

Bakhtawari along with a delegation congratulated the entire body including President Najeeb Elahi Malik, and General Secretary Naveed Malik on the victory in the State Agents Association elections of Gulberg Greens Islamabad and expressed the hope that the newly elected body will serve the interests of society and citizens.

The government cannot meet the basic housing needs of over 240 million population without the support of the private sector, he noted. He said the society has set new goals in the construction sector in Pakistan, and all the famous domestic brands are present in this society to serve the citizens.

The newly elected president of the Gulberg State Agents Association Najeeb Elhi Malik said "I am grateful to the ICCI president and the entire business community with whose support we got this victory, the trust that our people have shown in us".

Former President FPCCI

Zubair Malik said that construction will increase in the coming years due to the development of the construction sector and the increase in demand. In this way, other industries related to the construction sector will also develop.

Secretary General United Business Group Zafar Bakhtawari said that people have expressed their confidence in the body that won the State Agents Association elections.

"I hope that the newly elected body will play an active role in solving the problems of the traders in collaboration with the chamber," he said.

President of Islamabad State Agents Association Sardar Tahir Mehmood said that the construction sector plays a key role in the development and stability of the country's economy.

He said that with the development of the construction sector, 40 industries related to it will get a boost while creating ample employment opportunities.

PTA urges safe, responsible use of social media

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) has released guidelines highlighting the significance of safe and responsible use of social media due to its increasing popularity and the potential risks it poses to public convenience.

In an article titled "Principles, Responsibilities, and Ethics of Social Media," Director Muhammad Farooq emphasizes the profound impact of social media on society, both positive and negative. While these platforms offer numerous benefits such as digital literacy, access to local content, business opportunities, and instant information, they also have the capacity to undermine our social and moral values.

One of the primary concerns highlighted in the article is the challenge of addressing false, defamatory, misleading, inappropriate, and hate-inducing content, as it threatens cultural and ethical values.

Moreover, the online platforms themselves are

vulnerable to various risks. Users who are unaware of local laws and community guidelines often fall victim to financial fraud, encounter online predators, or engage in illegal activities that can lead to legal consequences.

To ensure public convenience and safety, the article stresses the importance of following the necessary guidelines for the responsible use of social media. Users are advised to exercise caution when sharing content and protect personal information.

It emphasized that while sharing information on social media may only take seconds, once uploaded, it becomes a permanent part of our digital footprint and can be exploited for negative purposes.

Law enforcement agencies can utilize illegal material to trace the original uploader, even deleted content, and initiate legal action if necessary.

Therefore, the article underscores the need to be cautious when posting or sharing personal or family

information. While nothing on the internet is entirely private, it is crucial to keep personal information confidential to prevent potential misuse. Users are encouraged to share online content only when confident it will not compromise privacy or safety.

Most social media platforms offer security features that can be adjusted according to individual needs, and users are advised to familiarize themselves with these features and regularly review privacy settings.

The article also highlights the importance of understanding and mitigating online risks such as cyberbullying, sexual harassment, scams, and phishing emails.

It recommends keeping personal profiles private and confidential, using strong passwords, and keeping antivirus software up to date. It further advises against making sensitive information, including family pictures, phone numbers, credit card images, email addresses, and date

of birth, public unless necessary.

In addition to individual responsibilities, the article addresses the role of parents in monitoring and restricting their children's online activities. It suggests the use of private parental control software to ensure appropriate levels of access and safety.

Lastly, the article emphasizes the significance of respecting other beliefs and exercising politeness, tolerance, patience, and respect when interacting with others on social media. It advises against uploading or sharing sensitive material that may disrupt the peace and security of the country. Overall, the PTA's guidelines underscore the importance of responsible social media use, aiming to protect public convenience, promote digital literacy, and preserve cultural and ethical values.

By adhering to these guidelines, users can navigate the online world safely and mitigate potential risks associated with social media platforms.

EObi achieves milestones in service of pensioners

F.P. Report

KARACHI: The Employees' Old Age Benefits Institution (EOBI) has demonstrated strong commitment for the well-being of its pensioners amidst challenging economic conditions. EOBI has increased the Minimum Pension from Rs. 8,500 to Rs. 10,000 for over 400,000 pensioners, providing much-needed relief during this period of high inflation. This has been done despite the fact that the Institution is faced with huge liabilities amounting to over Rs. 2 Trillion for which the Institution is requesting the Government to provide support to the Institution.

Despite facing a shortage of employees, EOBI has surpassed its assigned target for contribution col-

lection of Rs. 33.55 Billion for the current fiscal year, achieving remarkable results in just eleven months. The Institution has collected Rs. 36.42 Billion recording an increase of 34.81% as against 11 month collection of last year.

In comparison to the previous year's collection of around Rs. 27.019 billion in eleven months, EOBI has set a new record by achieving a contribution collection of Rs. 36.42 billion during the same period this year. This accomplishment signifies an increase of 34.81% in eleven-month contributions. Such strong outcomes can be attributed to the relentless hard work and dedication of the core Operations Divisions, along with the invaluable support of all other depart-

ments within the Institution, especially the Finance, Investment and Law Divisions.

The success of EOBI not only lies in its ability to collect record contributions since its inception but also its commitment to provide extended benefits to its primary stakeholders-the pensioners of EOBI. In current year an additional number of 39,944 pensioners received pension whereas Institution added 543,096 new insured persons

EOBI remains committed to enhancing the welfare of pensioners and will continue to strive for excellence in its services. The Institution's resolute focus on its mission ensures that pensioners receive the support they deserve, even in challenging economic circumstances.

Around 9000 retailers register under POS: FBR

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) on Tuesday said around 9000 retailers have registered under the FBR, Point of Sale System (POS), to achieve the goal of automation and digitalization in the tax process.

Director General Automation Abdul Wahid said this during the inauguration session of the 3-day workshop titled "Digitalization of Taxes in Pakistan" jointly organized by FBR and the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and Pacific (UNESCAP).

Abdul Wahid said steps are being taken to digitalize the country's tax system in collaboration with the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP).

He highlighted that the track and trace system has been fully implemented in major tax sectors including cigarettes, sugar and fertilizer, adding that in the

cement sector, the system will also be fully implemented in the coming 2 months.

Meanwhile, Member Administration and Human Resources FBR, Syed Nadeem Rizvi has appreciated the commitment and dedication of the Economic Affairs Officer of UNESCAP, Alberto Isgut for supporting FBR by identifying reverent and highly qualified resource persons to speak on different topics. He said that the transformation of the taxation process from a paper base to a digital board is very important for the documentation of Pakistan's economy.

"FBR keeping global trends as a part of the journey of digitalization by launching four key projects which included track and trace system, point of sale system, digital invoicing and data analysis, and

Synchronized Withholding Administration and Payment Software (SWAPS)", he added.

He said that FBR has established the Directorate General of Digital initiative in the drive to consolidate all the digital initiatives under one umbrella.

Syed Nadeem Rizvi said that during 3 days workshop speakers would share their experiences with participants as to how their countries practice Information and Communication Technology (ICT) tools for increasing tax revenues.

A senior official of FBR said by learning from different experiences, FBR aims to build capacity within FBR to not only effectively implement these programs but also to further improve our daily infrastructure and contribute to the sustainable economic growth and development of Pakistan.



In brief

Inter-Madrasas Games of Merged areas

PESHAWAR (APP): Inter-Madrasas Games of all religious seminaries based in Merged areas will start here at Lala Ayub Hockey Stadium on June 21 wherein more than 800 players would take part in five different Games. Director Sports Merged Area Pir Abdullah told media men that all the arrangements have been completed. Accompanied by Assistant Director Admin and Media Focal Person Awan Hussain, he said that the events include cricket, football, volleyball, tug-of-war, and Qirat competitions. The opening ceremony will be held at Lala Ayub Hockey Stadium, Qayyum Sports Complex Peshawar at 6.00 pm in the afternoon wherein all the players would be provided with daily allowance, kits, shoes and other equipment under the supervision of the concerned District Sports Officer of the merged areas. Director Sports Pir Abdullah Shah said following instructions of Secretary Sports Captain (Retd) Mushtaq Ahmed and DG Sports Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Khalid Mahmood maximum facilities would be provided to the students of Madrasas. He said Sports opportunities are being provided to Madrasah students in the merged districts, with the aim of bringing out the hidden talents of such students at the main pool of selection. He said the students of the Madrasas have more talent which is why opportunities have been given to the religious schools kids.

Pakistan football team to depart today

K A R A C H I (Monitoring Desk): Pakistan men's football team will depart for Mumbai on Tuesday evening to participate in the upcoming South Asian Football Federation (SAFF) Championship, scheduled to take place from June 21 to July 4. According to the details, the national football team will depart from Mauritius Island in the evening today to Mumbai. Upon their arrival in Mumbai, Pakistan men's football team will then fly to Bengaluru where the eight-team SAFF Championship 2023 will take place. Earlier, the Pakistan team received a two-day delay in the issuance of the Visas due to which they could not depart for Bengaluru as per schedule on Sunday. Pakistan will start their SAFF Championship campaign against arch-rivals India on June 21 before taking on Nepal and invitee Kuwait. Notably, the Pakistan football team are currently in Mauritius where they participated in the four-nation tournament. The national team failed to impress in the four-nation tournament as they remained winless in the entire competition, losing to Mauritius, Kenya and Djibouti respectively. After concluding their campaign in the four-nation tournament, the Pakistan men's football team will mark their return to the SAFF Championship after missing the last two out of the 13 editions held since 1993. The Pakistan Football Federation (PFF) could not send its men's team for the 2015 edition held in India due to the lack of funds. The national side then missed the 2021 edition as they were serving a suspension from FIFA, which was lifted last year in June. Sri Lanka will not be participating in the tournament as they are serving a suspension from the football governing body FIFA, while Afghanistan left SAFF and joined the Central Asian Football Federation.

Ashraf favorite to become new PCB chairman after Sethi pulls out of race

ISLAMABAD (AP): Zaka Ashraf is the firm favorite to become the new chairman of the Pakistan Cricket Board after Najam Sethi withdrew as a candidate on Tuesday.

Sethi was favorite to continue as chairman after he headed the interim management committee appointed by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif last December. The interim committee's mandate ends Wednesday.

The prime minister is the PCB patron and directly appoints two members to the board of governors — and one of them is elected as the chairman. Sharif appointed Ashraf and supreme court advocate Mustafa Ramday on Tuesday with Ashraf the

clear favorite to be elected the chairman.

The Pakistan Peoples Party, headed by Asif Ali Zardari, is Sharif's coalition partner in the government and in recent weeks has demanded that its candidate should be the new chairman because it holds the sports ministry portfolio.

"I don't want to be a bone of contention between Asif Zardari and Shehbaz Sharif," Sethi posted on Twitter. "Such instability and uncertainty is not good for PCB. Under the circumstances I am not a candidate for Chairmanship of PCB. Good luck to all stakeholders."

Sethi replaced Ramiz Raja last December and was given 120 days to

reinstate the sport's domestic structure under the 2014 constitution, after the 2019 board's constitution was scrapped.

Sethi led some major cricket decisions that included the appointment of Mickey Arthur as director of cricket and Grant Bradburn as national coach. Last week, former South Africa international Morne Morkel was appointed as the national team bowling coach for six months.

Sethi's proposal for hosting the Asia Cup in August was approved by the Asian Cricket Council. India refused to travel to Pakistan for political reasons so Sri Lanka will stage nine games and Pakistan four games.

Easy sailing for all top seeded in KP Junior Age Group Championship

PESHAWAR (APP): Easy sailing for all top seeded in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Junior Age Group Squash Championship being played at Qamar Zaman Squash Complex on Tuesday.

In the first round matches in the U11 category Ahmad Ali Naz beat Abdur Rehman Riaz by 3-0, Umar Ashraf beat M Luqman by 3-0, Fahad Khan beat Abdullah Khan 3-1, Aziz Ali Naz defeated M Azaan Khan by 3-2, Azaan Zaman beat Sam Poul 3-0, Anis Rafy beat Ajman Ibrahim 3-0, Arbab Fahad defeated Atif Ali Naz by 3-0, Hussain Bakshish beat Safdar Khan by 3-1, M Hammad Khan beat M Abdur Raheem by 3-1, Rayyan Zaman beat M Ayaan by 3-0, Haroon Afridi defeated M Taha Khan by 3-0, Jaseem Afridi beat M Hamza by 3-0, M Sameer beat Zulqarnain by 3-1, Ayyan Mehboob beat Abubakar by 3-1.

In the U13 Danish Sikandar defeated M Talha by 3-1, Abdul Basit beat M Hassan Khan by 3-0, M Yousaf beat Asfahan by 3-

0, Nabeel Tariq beat Awais Javed by 3-0, Hamza Gul beat Zazar Khan by 3-0, M Abubakar defeated Shahzeb by 3-1, Arman Ali overpowered Abubakar Sadiq by 3-0, M Malik beat Faizan Khan by 3-0, Azaan Kamran beat M Yahya by 3-1, M Abdullah beat Hashir Umar by 3-0, Fawad Afridi beat Zeeshan by 3-0, Hadi Gul beat Sufyan by 3-0, Abdul Kabir beat M Zimad by 3-0, M Ahmed beat Zohaib by 3-0, Hafiz Ur Rehman beat Musa by 3-0, Aliyan Gul beat Awais Jan by 3-0.

In the first round of the U15 category, Saifullah Bahadur beat Farhan, Ayaan beat Azhar Rehman by 3-0, M Bilal beat Rasheed by 3-1, Abdullah Shah beat Hamza Khan by 3-0, M Rehan beat M Habib by 3-0.

Arman Ali beat M Talha by 3-1, M Arsalan defeated Abubakar Sadiq by 3-1, Talal Rehman beat M Azaan by 3-1, M Fawad Khan beat M Yousaf by 3-0, Sanaullah beat Mahad Raheem by 3-0, Abbas Khan defeated Sanan

Gohar. In the other matches Faisal Khan beat Abdullah Khalid by 3-0, Zuhaib Hassan beat M Umar by 3-0, the score was 11-9, 11-8 and 11-6, M Mavia beat Umar Jan by 3-0, M Sudais beat Ahad Shinwari by 3-0, Abdullah Zaman beat Samad Khan by 3-0.

Result: U17 1st Rounds: Noor Khan beat Hammad Khan Khalil M Fuqran beat Hammad Khan

Shayyan Ikram beat M Ihtesham Huzaifa Jahanzeb beat Imab Ahmed

M Hammad Khalil beat Syed Husnain

Mohsin Khan beat Ozair Khan

M ishaq beat Ashar Ali M Raza beat Moiz Khan

Danish Alam beat M Hamza

Nasir Khalil beat M Owais

Hassan Farid beat M Huzaifa Adeel

Waqif beat Fahad Khan Qadeer Rehman beat M Malik

M Ali Raza beat Abdur Rehman Hamid

Raheel beat Zakriya.

Galle and Colombo to host Pakistan in two-Test series

QUETTA (PPI) for the first of the two-match Test series against Sri Lanka next month. The first Test will commence at the Galle International Cricket Stadium on 16 July and the two teams will then travel to Colombo for the second Test at the Sinhalese Sports Club from 24 till 28 July.

For what is Pakistan's first assignment in the 2023-25 cycle of the ICC World Test Championship, the Babar Azam's side will arrive in Sri Lanka on 9 July and play a two-day warm-up game on 11 and 12 July before they head south for the first Test. The venue for the warm-up fixture will be confirmed closer to time.

Pakistan last toured Sri Lanka in July 2022 and that two-match Test series resulted in 1-1. Pakistan scaled the target of 342 to

register the best run chase at the ground and win the first Test by four wickets. The hosts pounced back in the second Test to level the series with a 246-run win.

Pakistan last played a Test at the Sinhalese Sports Club, Colombo in 2014. They have played six Tests at the ground, winning one, losing one, and the other four matches ended in draw.

Itinerary of Pakistan's tour of Sri Lanka:

9 July – Pakistan land in Colombo

11 and 12 July – Warm-up game

16-20 July – First Test at Galle International Cricket Stadium

24-28 July – Second Test at Sinhalese Sports Club, Colombo

Pakistan squad: Babar Azam (c), Mohammad Rizwan (vc & wk), Aamir

Jamal, Abdullah Shafique, Abrar Ahmed, Hasan Ali, Imam-ul-Haq, Mohammad Huraire, Mohammad Nawaz, Naseem Shah, Noman Ali, Salman Ali Agha, Sarfaraz Ahmed (wk), Saud Shakeel, Shaheen Afridi and Shan Masood

Player support personnel: Rehan-ul-Haq (team manager), Grant Bradburn (head coach), Andrew Puttick (batting coach), Morne Morkel (bowling coach), Aftab Khan (fielding coach), Abdul Rehman (assistant coach), Drikus Saaiman (strength and conditioning coach), Cliffe Deacon (physiotherapist), Ahsan Iftikhar Nagi (media and digital content manager), Lt Col Usman Anwari (Retd) (security manager), Talha Ejaz (analyst) and Malang Ali (masseur).



BIRMINGHAM: Joe Root took the catch to hand Moeen Ali a wicket, England vs Australia, 1st Ashes Test 5th day.

PCB Management Committee approves BOG members

LAHORE (PPI) The Pakistan Cricket Board Management Committee met today under the Chairmanship of Mr Najam Sethi at the Gaddafi Stadium in Lahore in which it approved the composition of the Board of Governors.

The composition is as follows: Two PCB Patron nominees; Four regional representatives i.e. Peshawar, Lahore, Karachi and Rawalpindi; four department/service organisation representatives i.e. Sui Northern Gas Pipeline Limited (SNGPL), Sui Southern Gas Company (SSGC), Pakistan Water & Power Development Authority (WAPDA) and Khan Research Laboratory (KRL).

Upon the notification of the BOG members, the Management Committee shall stand dissolved and the PCB Election Commissioner shall assume the powers of the Chairman till the elections are held.

Lahore wins PM Youth Sports League volleyball

BAHAWALPUR (APP): The provincial level competitions of Men's Talent Hunt Youth Sports League Volleyball Provincial League organized by the Prime Minister Youth Program and Higher Education Commission concluded at the Islamia University of Bahawalpur.

Five teams from across Punjab participated in these competitions, including Lahore, Faisalabad, Rawalpindi, and Bahawalpur.

On the final day, the third and fourth position match was played between Sialkot and Rawalpindi, which Sialkot won.

The final match was played between Lahore and Faisalabad and after a nerve-racking competition, Lahore won the title of champion, and the Faisalabad team was declared the runner-up.

On this occasion, chief guest Dr. Saeed Ahmed Buzdar, Dean Faculty of Physical and Mathematical Sciences distributed prizes among the players.

Bangladesh beat Pakistan in Women's Emerging Teams Asia Cup 2023

ISLAMABAD (APP): Bangladesh A beat Pakistan A by six runs in the second semi-final of the ACC Women's Emerging Teams Asia Cup 2023 at the Tin Kwong Road Recreation Ground in Hong Kong on Tuesday.

Bangladesh A will take on India A in the final of the tournament scheduled tomorrow at the same venue.

Wet outfield caused a delayed start as the match was reduced to nine overs per side, according to information made available here by Pakistan

Cricket Board (PCB). Batting first, Bangladesh A managed to score 59 for seven in nine overs.

Nahida Akter top-scored for her side with a 16-ball 21, which included three fours and one six. For Pakistan, captain Fatima Sana was the pick of the bowlers with three for 10 runs from two overs. Left-arm spinner Anoosha Nasir bagged two wickets for six runs.

In turn, chasing a 60-run target, Pakistan fell short of Bangladesh's total by six runs as they scrambled to 53 for four.

Opening batter Eyman Fatima top-scored for her side with 18 off 15 deliveries, smashing two fours and a six.

Bangladesh's Rabeya Khan took two wickets for 13 runs from two overs.

Scores in brief: Bangladesh A beat Pakistan A by six runs

Bangladesh A 59-7, nine overs (Nahida Akter 21; Fatima Sana 3-10, Anoosha Nasir 2-6)

Pakistan A 53-4, nine overs (Eyman Fatima 18; Rabeya Khan 2-13)

Player of the match – Nahida Akter.

POA starts Olympic day celebrations

LAHORE (APP): Pakistan Olympic Association (POA) in collaboration with the Government College University Lahore (GCU) planted saplings in the GCU as part of the Olympic Day Celebration 2023. "Plant – Preserve – Plant" has long been a permanent feature of the POA programs to promote tree plantation drives across Pakistan, said Secretary, POA, Muhammad Khalid Mahmood.

This initiative, under the theme "Plant – Preserve – Plant," aligns with POA's commitment to combat climate change and promote environmental sustainability.

Under the guidance of Lt Gen (R) Syed Arif Hasan, President of the Pakistan Olympic Association, this event aimed to reinforce POA's commitment to promoting environmental sustainability as part of the cherished Olympic values. By planting trees, the participants symbolized their dedication to building a greener

future and their support for a healthy ecosystem, said the POA official.

Prof. Dr. Asghar Zaidi, the Vice Chancellor of GC University Lahore, expressed delight in hosting the Pakistan Olympic Association, Olympians, national heroes, and international athletes in this prestigious international event. He emphasized the significance of Olympic Day in celebrating sports, physical activities, and environmental conservation. By embracing the Olympic spirit collectively, the community can make a lasting impact and promote environmental consciousness.

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In brief

Power suspension programme

ISLAMABAD (APP): 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 IESCO Spokesman, the power supply of different feeders and grid stations would remain suspended for the period from 09:00 AM to 14:00 PM Islamabad Circle, Kaldana, Kohala, Barin Feeders, Rawalpindi City Circle, Badhana, Bagh Sardaran, Social Security, Industrial, Peer Wadhai, Rajahabad, Nogzi, Bajnyal, B-Block, 4th Road, Jami Masjid, Dhok Khaba, F-17/1 & 2, Nogzi, Feeder, Rawalpindi Cantt Circle, IST, New Rawat, Islamabad Feed Mill, Jhata Hatial, Bisali, Pind Jatla, Lab. I & II, Reliance Weaving Mill, Bhal., Jarrar Camp Feeders, Jhelum Circle, F-2 Chip Board, Boren, Industrial Feeders, Chakwal Circle, Khanpur Feeder, GSO Circle, City-II, Chirohi Feeders, from 08:00 AM to 13:00 PM, Attock Circle, Shakardara, Kamra Rural, Mansar, Gondal, Haji Shah, Hameed, Bolinwal, Haru, Ghori Feeder and surrounding areas.

8 injured in fire erupted in Legnum Tower

RAWALPINDI (APP): Eight persons including two children here on Tuesday were injured due to a fire in Legnum Tower. According to details released by the spokesperson Rescue 1122, the incident took place on the 10th floor of the tower located in DHA-2. Fire brigade and rescue personnel reached the spot and took part in rescue operations, the injured have been shifted to the hospital after first aid. The injured were identified as Kashif 29, Tachir Mehmood 20, Asia bibi 38, Sarim Mehmood 10, Sana Mehmood 6, Hammad 20, Haider Shah 23 and Zeeshan 18 who received injuries due to the fire.

103 challan tickets to transporters

RAWALPINDI (APP): City Traffic Police (CTP) has issued challan tickets to more than 103 Public Service Vehicles (PSVs) due to over-loading during a crackdown here on Tuesday. The action has been taken on the special directives of Chief Traffic Officer (CTO) Taimoor Khan against such vehicles. According to the CTO, overloading damage roads and can cause accidents including the loss of lives anytime. Special squads have been constituted on the roads to monitor public service vehicles. If found involved in over-charging, overloading and other severe violations, they are issued tickets and slapped with a heavy fine, he said. He directed the traffic police officers and personnel to take stern legal action against overloaded vehicles as per law.

Seminar to mark "World Yoga Day,"

RAWALPINDI (APP): A seminar to mark "World Yoga Day," would be held on Wednesday here at Ayub National Park. A private organization "Way of Nature Foundation" would organize the seminar for creating awareness about physical and mental health. "Way of Nature Foundation" Chairman Yogi Haider told APP that the UN had announced to celebrate World Yoga Day on June 21. He said that the foundation was working for promoting health, peace and security across Pakistan for the past 17 years. "Through this seminar, we hope to encourage people to use yoga to live in peace and harmony," he added.



ISLAMABAD: Speaker National Assembly Raja Pervez Ashraf inaugurating the Ground-Breaking Ceremony of Bagh-e-Dastoor at D-Chowk.

NA Speaker performs groundbreaking of Bagh-e-Dastoor

ISLAMABAD (APP): Speaker Raja Pervez Ashraf, in a momentous event on Tuesday, performed groundbreaking of Bagh-e-Dastoor, as part of National Assembly's ongoing golden Jubilee celebration of the Constitution of Islamic Republic of Pakistan, 1973.

The ceremony was attended by members of parliament, esteemed dignitaries, and representatives from various sectors of society. "Today's groundbreaking ceremony of Bagh-e-Dastoor is a momentous occasion for all Pakistanis. It symbolizes our unwavering dedication to the principles enshrined in our constitution, which is the bedrock of our democracy," Speaker Raja Pervez Ashraf said.

"As we celebrate the golden jubilee of the Constitution, we pay tribute to Shaheed Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, a towering figure who played a pivotal role in laying the foundation of our

democratic system. His indomitable spirit and unwavering commitment to the people's welfare continue to inspire us to this day", he remarked while speaking on the occasion.

He said that Bagh-e-Dastoor was an emblematic project designed to honor and uphold the values enshrined in the Constitution of Pakistan.

It served as a testament to the nation's commitment to democracy, justice, and the rule of law, he added.

While expressing his profound reverence for the Constitution, he emphasized on its significance as the cornerstone of a prosperous and progressive Pakistan. He highlighted the tireless efforts of the founding fathers and credited their visionary leadership in shaping the nation's destiny. The speaker expressed hope that the Capital Development Authority would complete the project with minimum

resources and in a short span as the basic infrastructure was already available and could be modified in accordance with the proposed design.

Speaker Raja Pervez Ashraf also called upon all Pakistanis to actively engage in safeguarding and promoting the values of the Constitution, fostering unity, and working towards a prosperous future for the nation. Bagh-e-Dastoor, which is planned to be constructed opposite Parliamentary Lodges at D-Chowk, will serve as a place of reflection and inspiration for citizens and future generations, reinforcing their understanding of the constitutional rights and responsibilities. It also aims to foster a sense of unity and pride in the nation's democratic heritage while highlighting the contributions of the great leaders who have shaped Pakistan's democratic journey.

Speakers calls for taking measures to legalize border trade

ISLAMABAD (APP): The speakers at a seminar titled 'Developments in Balochistan' Tuesday called for taking measures to legalize border trade in the province so that a major pie of economy would make formal.

The seminar organized by Islamabad Policy Research Institute.

Former Chief Minister Balochistan, Jam Kamal, Senator Anwar-ul-Haq Kakar, former federal minister Zubeida Jalal, MNA Danesh Kumar, MPA Sanaullah Baloch and Sarfaraz Bugti were the panelist of the seminar, said a news release.

President IPRI Amb. Raza Muhammad highlighted the need to shorten distance between the elite and the downtrodden in the province, which was ironically rich in natural resources and human dynamics, urging upon the need to sit together and

resolve differences.

Jam Kamal said that the stakeholders and common strata links must be restored in order to restore the people's confidence in the province. He said that poverty level in Balochistan was more in cost as compared to other areas of the country because there was negligible infrastructure in the province. "This leads to insurgency as deprivation is cashed by vested forces," he elucidated.

Sarfaraz Bugti said that small things could make a bigger difference, and it was time to start a new.

He said that unparalleled development was not specific to Balochistan, but making it an excuse for violence was unacceptable.

He said that there were two paradigms, one security and other development in the province.

MNA Danesh Kumar talked about the homogene-

ity of the society, adding there was no discrimination with the minorities, especially Hindu population of the province.

He demanded the government to allocate sufficient funds for Balochistan to develop the province at par with other areas of the country. Kumar proudly shared that minorities were free to practice their religion in the province.

Sanaullah Baloch said that taking into account the mega development projects were need of the hour to uplift the lives of people in the province.

Zubeida Jamal, former federal minister, pointed out that gaps that were widening in the development sectors of the province. She said that 75 percent of Baloch population was below 30 years, and it was a challenge for the government in terms of unemployment and imparting quality education.

IT Ministry showcases remarkable performance in past five years: Minister

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Information Technology and Telecommunication, Syed Amin-ul-Haque on Tuesday said that the Ministry of IT has showcased remarkable performance in the past five years, with the initiation of several projects and the continuous progress of the department, which has brought significant benefits to the nation.

During this period, various institutions under the ministry successfully implemented ICT projects of vital importance to public welfare and the country's development, providing digital services to more than 50 million individuals nationwide he said while addressing a ceremony at the National Telecommunication Corporation (NTC). The minister also spoke about the migration of NTC's exchanges to IP (Internet Protocol) from TDM (Time Division Multiplexing) and copper wires to optical fiber cables.

The contract signing ceremony for this transition took place and was attended by NTC's Director Procurement Kashif Nawaaz, and Redtone's Syed Ahsan

Abbas, along with NTC's Managing Director, Muraaj Gul.

Syed Aminul Haque said that the Ministry of Information Technology and Telecommunication is now embarking on another revolutionary project under the NTC. According to the project, the exchanges of NTC will be converted to IP (Internet Protocol) and optical fiber cables from TDM (Time Division Multiplexing) and copper wires in 26 major cities across Pakistan, including Karachi, Hyderabad, Sukkur, Larkana, Dadu, and Shikarpur, as well as other cities in Punjab, Balochistan, and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

The minister further added that this migration will make NTC networks more active, secure, and faster than before. It will significantly reduce complaints and technical issues while also minimizing operational expenses. Government institutions and departments, he said, will be provided with the best services and bandwidth in information and communication technology, along with data services.

Birth anniversary of legendary actor, author Zia Mohyeddin observed

ISLAMABAD (APP): The birth anniversary of legendary actor, orator, author and broadcaster Zia Mohyeddin was observed on Tuesday.

Mohyeddin was born in Lylallpur (now Faisalabad) on June 20, 1931.

He studied at the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art in London in the early 1950s. After theater roles in "Long Day's Journey into Night" and "Julius Caesar," Mohyeddin made his West End debut in "A Passage to India" in 1960, where he originated the role of Dr. Aziz. The actor featured in David Lean's "Lawrence of Arabia" (1962), playing the role of Arab guide Tamas.

Roles in Alexander Mackendrick's "Sammy Going South" (1963), Fred Zinnemann's "Behold a Pale Horse" (1964), Basil Dearden's "Khartoum" (1966), Ralph Thomas' "Deadlier Than the Male" (1966), Tony Richardson's "The Sailor from Gibraltar" (1967), Freddie Francis' "They Came from Beyond Space" (1967) and Peter Hall's "Work Is a Four-Letter Word" (1968) followed. Mohyeddin returned to Pakistan in the late 1960s and hosted the immensely popular television talk show, "The Zia Mohyeddin Show" on PTV.

RDA seals 100 illegal commercial properties

RAWALPINDI (APP): Rawalpindi Development Authority (RDA) on the directives of Director General Muhammad Saif Anwar Jappa here on Tuesday sealed 100 illegal commercial properties on Chakri Road, said a RDA spokesman. He informed that the Enforcement Squad of RDA while conducting an operation against illegal and unauthorized commercial buildings sealed 100 shops in Mouza Mohra Chappar, Mouza Mori Ghazan and Mouza Lakan on Chakri Road Rawalpindi.

He said the Enforcement Squad sealed two CNG stations, three schools and shops on Chakri Road. He said that the Enforcement Squad including incharge, Assistant Director Building Control, Building Inspectors and others carried out the operation against illegal commercial buildings and sealed the commercial buildings.

'Strengthening ties with Iran key to border, energy security'

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairman Senate Standing Committee on Defence, Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed on Tuesday termed close ties with the Islamic Republic of Iran as pivotal for Pakistan's border and energy security.

The Senate Standing Committee on Defence meeting chaired by Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed was convened to address important issues pertaining to national security and the well-being of the citizens, a news release said.

Senators Walid Iqbal, Hidayat Ullah, Mushtaq Ahmad Khan, Dr Zarqa Suhrawardy Taimur, Engr Rukhsana Zuberi, Palwasha Mohammad Zai Khan and Mover; ex-Senator Muhammad Zahid Khan attended the meeting.

Secretary Ministry of Defence Lt Gen (R) Hamood Uz Zaman, Additional Secretary Ministry of Defence, Major General Khurram and DG, Military Lands & Cantonments, Major General Tariq, and CEO Rawalpindi Cantonment, also participated. The meeting commenced with Fateha offered for the souls who lost their lives in the Greece boat tragedy.

The Committee extended their heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families and expressed solidarity with them during this difficult time.

Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed commended the recent meeting between Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi at the Pak-Iran border, considering it a positive step forward in strengthening ties between the two nations. He also welcomed the recent high-level visits to Iran by senior Pakistan security and diplomatic officials, which would yield positive results for peace, border security and economic connectivity.

The meeting discussed in detail the unauthorized commercial activities in Westridge, Rawalpindi Cantt.

The Director General Military Lands and Cantonments (ML&C) delivered a detailed presentation, highlighting the steps taken to address the issue.

He informed the committee that the department has been actively combating illegal activities and commercialization. However, due to a Supreme Court order issued on 5th January 2022, the ML&C has been restrained from taking action against school premises.

The DG ML&C assured the committee that once the Cantonment Board (Amendment) Act 2023 is passed by the Parliament, stringent measures, including heavy fines and property sealing, will be implemented to ensure compliance with the directions. Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed assured the petitioner that he would expedite the process in the Senate, aiming for the prompt enactment of the act to resolve the long-standing concerns of the residents. Following a comprehensive discussion, the Chair disposed of the matter, after ensuring the satisfaction of the petitioner. The Committee was also briefed on counter-terrorism operations conducted by the Pakistan Army in Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, as well as the security situation on the borders with Iran and Afghanistan. The Committee also discussed in detail the security situation on the Pak-Afghan border and expressed satisfaction over the steps taken by the government towards ensuring peace on the border. They also underlined the need for a proactive and consistent CT strategy that should focus on a pro-people approach with no quarter or compromise with any terrorist group.

US Ambassador visits to Gomal Zam dam

ISLAMABAD (INP): US Ambassador to Pakistan Donald Blome Tuesday visited the multi-purpose Gomal Zam Dam in the South Waziristan district of the Newly Merged Districts (NMDs) of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

He was accompanied by the Chairman of Water and Power Development Authority (WAPDA), Lt. General (retired) Sajjad Ghani, and the Secretary of the Agriculture Department of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Muhammad Javed Marwat, said a news release issued by the embassy.

The dam is a joint project of the governments of the United States and Pakistan that has yielded remarkable outcomes. Under the U.S.-Pakistan "Green Alliance"

framework, two countries are working together to advance water management, clean energy, and climate-smart agriculture initiatives. This single project has doubled agricultural production in the region by opening 191,000 additional acres for local farmers.

It has also controlled potential flood damage for over 30,000 households, dramatically increased Pakistan's national water storage capacity, and provided electricity for 20,000 homes. "We are immensely proud of our \$130 million collaboration with the Government of Pakistan on the Gomal Zam Multi-purpose Project, including the dam, irrigation infrastructure, and direct support to

surrounding communities," said Ambassador Blome.

Gomal Zam Dam, the third-largest water storage facility in Pakistan, after the U.S.-funded Tarbela and Mangla Dams, is a critical piece of infrastructure in Pakistan's strategy for climate change management and overall food security. With the generation of additional 17 megawatts of hydropower, the dam provides a reliable, clean energy source and empowers farmers to improve their socio-economic conditions.

The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) invested \$130 million in the dam, irrigation infrastructure, and agriculture development components.

ANF recovers over 731.615 kg drugs in 38 operations; arrests 38

RAWALPINDI (APP): Anti-Narcotics Forces (ANF) Pakistan while conducting 38 operations throughout the country against drug smugglers managed to recover 731.615 kg drugs, four kg suspected material worth US\$ 22.103 million internationally and arrested 38 accused including two women, two foreigners and impounded 14 vehicles during last week.

According to an ANF Headquarters spokesman, the seized drugs comprised 53 kg opium, 136.72 kg heroin, 521.413 kg hashish, 15.650 kg methamphetamine (Ice), 4.750 kg weed and 82 grams ecstasy tabs (140 tabs). He informed that ANF Balochistan recovered 240.75 kg drugs

and four kg suspected material in four operations while five accused were sent behind the bars. A vehicle was also impounded. The seized drugs comprised 50 kg heroin, 186 kg hashish and 4.750 kg weed.

ANF Punjab recovered 215.132 kg drugs in nine operations and arrested 12 accused including a woman besides impounding four vehicles. The seized drugs comprised 33.600 kg opium, 0.720 kg heroin and 180.812 kg hashish.

ANF KPK in 10 operations recovered 181.781 kg drugs and arrested five accused besides impounding two vehicles. The seized drugs comprised 14.400 kg opium, 84 kg heroin, 76.631 kg hashish and 6.750 kg methamphetamine (Ice).

ANF Sindh recovered 45.050 kg drugs in eight operations and arrested seven accused besides impounding three vehicles. The seized drugs comprised 39 kg hashish and 6.050 kg methamphetamine (Ice).

ANF North recovered 48.902 kg drugs in seven operations and arrested eight accused including a woman, two foreigners and also impounded four vehicles. The seized drugs comprised five kg opium, two kg heroin, 38.970 kg hashish, 2.850 kg methamphetamine (Ice) and 82 grams ecstasy tabs (140 tabs). All cases have been registered at respective ANF Police Stations under CNS Act 1997 while further investigations are under process.



ISLAMABAD: Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, Ms. Hina Rabbani Khar addressing during World Refugee day organized by the office of the United Nations for Refugees at local hotel.

Work kicks off in Wardak

WARDAK (Agencies): Construction work on a coal processing factory was officially inaugurated in Maidan Wardak on Tuesday. On this occasion a ceremony was held participated by officials of the contracted company and a number of provincial officials and elders, a statement said. Governor of Wardak Mohammad Amin Omari said that the construction work will be accelerated, as well as lots of people will be provided with job opportunities in the province.

The Frontier Post

AFGHANISTAN

Zil-Hajj 02, 1444 — Wednesday, June 21, 2023

Police recovered weapons

WARDAK (Agencies): The Police officers in Maidan-Wardak province succeeded to recover an illegal weapons depot. The weapons were recovered late on Monday night in an operation conducted by police officers from the Da Mirdad district of the province. The police officials of Maidan-Wardak in a news report says that one rifle, three Kalashnikovs, and several war types of equipment were recovered from the depot.

New polio case in Nangarhar brings total to 5 in Afghanistan in 2023

JALALABAD CITY (TOLONews): A new polio case has been reported in Nangarhar province, bringing the total number of positive cases to five in Afghanistan this year, all of them from Nangarhar.

An official within the Public Health Ministry told TOLONews that this case was reported in the Dur Baba district of Nangarhar province. TOLONews contacted the affected child, Marwa, who is age six.

Marwa is from Goroko village of Dur-Baba district of Nangarhar.

According to family members, Marwa has been vaccinated but still got affected by polio.

"No one tells us anything. We have found out here that she is affected. They took the test here," said Awal Zar, father of Marwa.

The doctors said that the increase in the number of positive polio cases is due to the lack of awareness of the families.

"Unfortunately, again a positive case of polio has been recorded in Dur Baba district of Nangarhar... the main reasons for this are cultural issues," said Nadir Afghan, a doctor.

The residents of Nangarhar meanwhile called on the relevant organizations to take immediate actions to prevent further effects of

the disease.

"The vaccination should be conducted soon in Afghanistan. This disease should be eliminated. Earlier, there was no such illness in Afghanistan before but it has increased now," said Allah Yar, a resident of Nangarhar.

"It has been five years since I had my vaccination. I have also conducted vaccination in this village very properly," said a resident of Nangarhar, who is also part of the vaccination effort.

Prior to this, one positive case was recorded in Behsood, one in Batikoot, one in Koot and another in Nazian district of Nangarhar province.

'Widespread propaganda runs against IE by UN, some world countries'

KABUL (Agencies): The Islamic Emirate strongly rejected the latest report of Richard Bennett, the special rapporteur of the United Nations Human Rights Division regarding Afghanistan, calling it baseless and propaganda.

"There is wide propaganda against the Islamic Emirate from the address of the UN and some other Western countries," said Zabullah Mujahid on his Twitter handle.

Richard Bennett's report on the situation in Afghanistan is part of this propaganda, which does not match the facts, Mujahid added.

He said that Islamic laws are applicable in Afghanistan, and objections to laws are unruly with Islam.

The spokesman Zabullah Mujahid made the statements after Richard Bennett called the ongoing situation of women and girls in Afghanistan alarming in his latest report.

Iran pledges to facilitate visas for Afghan traders

KABUL (TOLONews): The embassy of Iran in Kabul pledges to bring further facilities for Afghan traders in a bid to improve trade ties between the two neighboring countries.

The embassy said that the traders can get their visas in a short time.

"The Afghan traders can directly refer to the diplomatic missions and receive their visas for passenger and business visas, on time," said Sayed Abbas Badrifar, head of the embassies' press affairs.

The Afghan traders called for their challenges to be solved in the area of trade and transit with Iran.

Challenges are "the transaction of money to Iran and from Iran to Afghanistan and also other problems. We want the governments of Afghanistan and Iran to hold a meeting and find a good solution," said Zalmai Azimi, a trader.

"Facilitating the issuance of visas is good but many challenges still remain. There is no big trade engagement between the two sides to balance the rate of trade," said Mahbobullah Mohammadi, a trader.

Meanwhile, officials within the Afghanistan Chamber of Commerce and Investment (ACCI), said that the Afghanistan's trade rate reached more than \$1 billion annually.

"Based on the order of the Islamic Emirate leader we used local products in our departments," said Shams Rahman Sediqi, head of the Culture and Department in Parwan.

"We have a plan for exhibitions so that we can hold exhibitions in the coming years for the better growth and prosperity of businesspeople's industry and various sectors," said Raz Mohammad Yaser, head of the Industry and Commerce in Parwan.

Local and traditional foods are a part of the culture of Afghan people and each province has its own special food, which is mostly prepared on special occasions and for entertaining guests.

foods," said Raqib Akbari, an organizer.

Cultural activists said there should be support for local foods and the creation of a specific place to arrange these foods so that the citizens and tourists of the country have access to them.

"There must be a permanent exhibition or a restaurant for our local foods to introduce them to tourists," said Parwez Amin Zada, a cultural activist. "We asked the Parwan municipality to make a place for local food," said Imamuddin, a representative of shopkeepers in Parwan.

Meanwhile, local officials said that they have plans to support local products.

Local hood exhibition held in Parwan



PARWAN (TOLONews): A one-day exhibition of local foods was held in Parwan province with the aim of familiarizing people with various foods.

Organizers of the exhibition asked the acting government to make a suitable place for tourists and citizens of the country to access the local foods of Parwan province.

Among nearly 40 types of local food that have been exhibited, Charikari Soup and Shola Ghorbandi are the best known.

"Here is Charikari Soup and Shola Ghorbandi, the youth should work hard and innovate," said Noor Agha, an organizer.

"A place should be made for the progress of local

Afghan Deputy Minister meets Japanese Envoy

— discusses areas of cooperation

KABUL (Khaama Press): Taliban's Deputy Minister of Defense Mohammad Zarif Muzafar met with Japan's special representative for Afghanistan Kansuke Nagaoka and Japanese Ambassador Takashi Okada and discussed areas of cooperation.

In a statement, the National Defense Ministry said the Japanese delegation met with Mr. Muzafar and assured that Tokyo is fully committed to continuing its cooperation, mainly in providing humanitarian aid to the people of Afghanistan during these difficult times.

Further, both sides discussed strengthening and continuing friendly relations, according to the ministry.

As a friendly ally and partner, Japan has made



significant contributions towards the development of Afghanistan in the areas of education, health, construction and women empowerment over the past twenty years.

Since the return of the Taliban to power in August 2021, Japan has continuously delivered humanitarian aid to the people of Afghanistan.

While thanking Japanese

representatives for Tokyo's continuous support, Mr. Muzafar said, the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan calls on the Japanese government to help the country's education sector.

Afghan girls embittered over continued exclusion from university

KABUL (TOLONews): Female students expressed concerns about their uncertain future as they have been banned from going to universities for around six months. They called on the Islamic Emirate to reopen the universities for female students.

"The exams have begun and the boys are allowed to take their examinations and go to their universities but the girls are not allowed. Why? What is the reason?" said Khujasta, a student.

"This is a situation that has sidelined all of us. We call on the government to reopen the schools and universities as soon as possible

so that we can study," said Mariam, a student.

Hamid Karzai, the former president of Afghanistan, in a meeting with Kansuke Nagaoka, Japan's special representative for Afghanistan, discussed the current situation in Afghanistan and the region.

Karzai tweeted that in the meeting the value of education for the progress of Afghanistan was discussed and the hope was expressed that the "gates of education" would be opened immediately for girls.

"The education of girls is very important for Afghan society and it can have an important role in

the development of the country, but unfortunately, the doors of education are closed for girls," said Suraya Paikan, a women's rights activist.

Meanwhile, the Qatar Foreign Ministry said in a statement that the country's Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Lolwah Al Khater met with the special envoy of Italy for Afghanistan, Gianfranco Petruzzella, and Italian ambassador to Afghanistan, Natalia Quintavalle, and discussed ways to "strengthen cooperation in the fields of health and education."

"Qatar has a good view towards Afghanistan and wants to help with Afghanistan, thus, its lobby and visits with the world countries about Afghanistan will be beneficial particularly in female education and work of women," said Aziz Maarij, a political analyst.

The closure of universities for female students has sparked reactions both at the national and international levels.

However, the Islamic Emirate said that the closing of universities for girls is for a "temporary" period of time, but did not give clarification about the exact date of the reopening of universities for female students.

Afghan security forces rescue kidnapped Turkish engineer

KABUL (Khaama Press): Taliban's police command in Kabul said that Afghan security forces have rescued a kidnapped Turkish engineer in the 12th provincial district of capital Kabul. Kabul security chief in a news release said that the Turkish engineer was abducted on Monday, from the ninth provincial district in Kabul.

According to the news release, the foreign national was rescued through a joint operation conducted by the security forces and the Taliban's intelligence unit in provincial district nine of Kabul city. Prior to this, several similar criminal incidents took place in Kabul and other provinces resulting in the death of engineers and business people.

This increased number of kidnapping individuals is worrying for the people — therefore calling on security forces to initiate decisive actions to prevent such criminal incidents in the



heart of Kabul.

Security remains a major challenge for the de facto authorities of Afghanistan. Since the group's return to power in August 2021, ter-

rorist attacks, targeted killings and abductions continue in Kabul and other parts of the country, claiming the lives of scores of innocent individuals.

UNHCR pledge to work in Afghanistan

BALKH (Agencies): The Governor of Balkh province Hajji M. Yousuf Wafa met with the Head of the UNHCR's Representative to Afghanistan, Leonard Zulu, and his accompanying delegations in his office.

While sharing information about implemented, in progress projects and future plans of the UN agencies in the country's northern zone with Governor Wafa, Leonard Zulu said that the agency was fully committed to work in Afghanistan, according to the statement.

"The work of the UNHCR has been in progress in the field of cash assistance, construction of houses, health and education institutions in the northern zone of Afghanistan," the statement quoted the Head of UNHCR in the northern region of the country Lachine Mansowa as saying. Welcoming them, the Governor Wafa commended the cooperation of the UNHCR with the country in various sectors, the statement said.

The statement was quoting the governor Wafa as saying that after the resumption of power by the Islamic Emirate countrywide sure security has been ensured and the UN agencies without linking the humanitarian aids to the political issues should increase and continue their assistance to Afghanistan.

Assuring them with any necessary cooperation and coordination, Wafa also asked the UN agencies to cooperate with the relevant organs in the construction of roads, health facilities, education centers, and dams in the remote areas and the districts of the province, the statement added.

Afghan refugees rally in front of UN office in Bishkek

BISHKEK, Kyrgyzstan (Khaama Press): Afghan Refugees held another rally in front of the UN building in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan asking to send them to Western European countries, including USA or Canada.

The Afghan refugees in Kyrgyzstan appealed to the world community, the UN and other organizations to pay attention to their horrible situation.

Most of these refugees claimed they had been mandated refugees in the country in the last two decades with the only docu-

ment, a refugee card.

"We live in exile and without rights, without the opportunity to obtain citizenship of the country, normal access to education, medicine, the possibility of official employment. We want to have basic human rights. If Kyrgyzstan does not need us, then we see the only way out — resettle us to third countries as soon as possible," the participants in the rally said.

Afghan refugees in Bishkek, Kazakhstan, staged several demonstra-

tions in June last year close to the US Embassy and UN House buildings. They requested either given Kyrgyz citizenship or sent to another country.

Since the Taliban took control of Afghanistan in August 2021, Kyrgyzstan introduced restrictions on issuing visas to citizens of Afghanistan.

These measures were made in response to the regime change in the country and to prevent the mass inflow of refugees and unwelcome visitors from Afghanistan.



Smart glasses, canes with sensors to aid blind



JALALABAD CITY (TOLONews): A young man, Bashir Ahmad, has made "smart" glasses and canes for the blind in Nangarhar.

He said that these glasses and canes will help blind people to change their path when facing danger, and he had this idea at school and

now he has succeeded in making it.

According to Ahmad, the construction of these two devices cost nearly 3,000 Afghani, and sensors, guiding devices, bottles, and thread were used in them. "When I get 30 to 35 cm closer to the wall, these glasses notify me to change

my path," said Bashir Ahmad.

"I didn't think he would reach his goal and complete these glasses so soon," said Zubir Stanikzai, a friend of Bashir Ahmad.

"I am also encouraged, and I have also started working on a system that will be finished soon and I will share it with the viewers," said Nor Agha Nekzad, a friend of Bashir Ahmad.

Meanwhile, the head of the Information and Culture Department of Nangarhar pledged to help the innovative young man.

"We encouraged him and will introduce him to related departments to cooperate with him," said Nor Mohammad Hanif, the head of the Information and Culture Department.

China fast becoming a lucrative market for Afghan carpets

KABUL (Xinhua): China is fast becoming a lucrative market for Afghan products, including hand-made carpets, pine nuts and other goods.

Speaking to China's Xinhua news agency, one carpet weaver in Kabul, Safiullah, said he is trying to produce as many carpets as possible for the Chinese market.

"The demand for hand-woven and high-quality carpets is on a constant rise in the [Chinese] mar-

ket," Safiullah told Xinhua, suggesting that the promotion of the art of carpet weaving could help low-income families improve their living conditions.

Safiullah's impoverished family sees this as a great chance to overcome their economic hardship thanks to China, considering one of the most suitable markets for Afghan products.

Following the launch of a direct flight between

Kabul and the northwestern city of Urumqi in China, trade between the two countries is expected to increase — including the trade of carpets.

"Export of Afghan carpets to China has significantly increased, leading us to sell more carpets and thus facilitating us to hire more workers in the industry," Sayed Bilal Farooqi, a member of the Afghan Carpet Union, told Xinhua.

Afghanistan, according

to the Union of Carpet Producers and Exporters, has exported more than one million square meters of carpets to China over the past two years.

Like carpets, pine nuts have also become a major export item of Afghanistan.

The Ministry of Economy estimates that the government will earn about \$2 billion annually from pine nut exports, mainly to China, within the next few years.



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador designate to Denmark, Shoaib Sarwar, called on President Dr. Alvi at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

Bilawal, Zardari hails BB's sacrifices for democracy

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Pakistan People's Party (PPP) and Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari has reiterated his commitment, saying that his party including him will remain firmly committed to the philosophy of Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto for the supremacy of the constitution and parliament, the strengthening of democratic institutions in the country and the promotion of equality in society.

According to the statement issued by Media Cell Bilawal House, Chairman PPP paid tribute to the first elected woman Prime Minister of the Islamic world, Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto, on her 70th birth anniversary and said that Dukhtar-e-Mashriq (Daughter of the East) was a ray of light throughout her life for the nation trapped in darkness, and even today her thoughts and philosophy are a beacon of light for the country in difficult situations. He said that due to the previous regime, inflation and unemployment have become uncontrollable in the country, but to control them and eradicate poverty, the people-friendly philosophy of Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto must be followed, adding that in the past too, Pakistan had to face difficult situations many times, but the people always believed that no matter how tough the situation, "Benazir Aegi, Rozgar Laaegi" (Benazir will come, bring employment). "I assure the nation that if the people gave the mandate to our

party in the upcoming general elections, the PPP government will also create ample employment opportunities in the country, just like it was done during governments of Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto," he vowed.

Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari said that Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto was, truly, a history-making personality and a movement, adding that if the plant of democracy is growing in the country today, it is actually the fruit of the long and tireless struggle and sacrifices of Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto. He pointed out that after the martyrdom of the Quaid-e-Awam Shaheed Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto played a key role in restoration and strengthening of democracy in the country.

Chairman PPP said that the best way to pay homage to Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto is to follow her vision and philosophy and associate oneself with the struggle to complete her incomplete mission. He said that the mission of Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto is to establish the supremacy of constitution and law in Pakistan, strengthen democratic institutions, eliminate poverty from the country and create a society where tolerance, equality and harmony prevail. "The time has come for each and every one of us - the patriotic Pakistanis to put forward the 'Benazir Agenda' for the progress and development, prosperity, stability and upliftment of the country," he urged.

The most meaningful gift for Shaheed Bibi's birthday

Sharjeel Inam Memon

THE 70th birthday of Ms. Benazir Bhutto Shaheed is being celebrated today. After her martyrdom on December 27, 2007, this is the 15th birthday since her passing, which we are celebrating without her. When she left us forever, she was only 54 years old. She sacrificed her life for her country and her people. On her birthday, we can give her the gift of dedicating our lives to our land and our people as well.

45 years ago today on 21 June 1978, when it was the 25th birthday of Shaheed Ms. Benazir Bhutto, her great father Shaheed Zulfikar Ali Bhutto wrote a letter to her from Central Jail Rawalpindi. Shaheed Bibi was also in jail at that time. It was a long letter, which was published in book form under the title "My Dearest Daughter".

45 years ago today, on June 21, 1978, on the occasion of Ms. Benazir Bhutto's 25th birthday, her esteemed father Shaheed Zulfikar Ali Bhutto penned a letter to her from Central Jail Rawalpindi. Shaheed Bibi herself was also imprisoned at that time. The letter, titled "My Dearest Daughter," was of considerable length and was later published as a book.

In this heartfelt letter, Shaheed Bhutto expressed his deep emotions and contemplated the complexities of

the situation. He wrote to his dearest daughter. How can a convicted prisoner father write a letter congratulating his beautiful and intelligent daughter on her birthday when both the father and daughter are in prison? She is aware that her mother is also enduring immense pain and is actively engaged in fighting to secure her father's release."

This letter is a bigger deal than communication. How can the message of love and compassion reach from one prison to another and from one chain to another. I give you only one message, this message is the message of the coming day and the message of history, just believe in the people and work for their salvation and equality. This is the message of Almighty Allah that believe only in the people. The paradise of Allah is under the feet of your mother and the paradise of politics is under the feet of the people. What gift can I offer you from within the confines of this prison cell, where even the simple act of extending my hand is denied? I bestow upon you the gift of the collective hand of the people. What event can I arrange for you? I present you with the gift of a renowned reputation and a memorial service that resonates throughout history. You are the inheritor of the ancient Indus Valley civilization, the oldest known civilization. Play your integral role in advancing and empowering this ancient civilization to its fullest

potential.

On June 21, 1978, the esteemed Bhutto-The Great bestowed his beloved daughter upon the people, and Shaheed Bibi not only stood by the people until her demise but also made the ultimate sacrifice, giving her life to uphold her bond with the people. A few years following her father's martyrdom, Shaheed Bibi expressed in an interview with the renowned Italian journalist Oriana Fallaci, "In the realm of Pakistani politics, there are numerous trials, sorrows, and sufferings." Several individuals in my family advised me to abandon politics and seek a life of luxury in a Western country, given that I have everything. However, how could I possibly derive enjoyment from such a life when it necessitates severing ties with my country and my people?"

Then the world witnessed how Shaheed Bibi upheld this profound connection with her homeland and its people. Although she was born into a royal family, with a privileged upbringing, she possessed a compassionate and empathetic nature that couldn't bear to witness the suffering of others.

In the same letter written from the death cell, Shaheed Bhutto wrote about an incident from his dearest daughter Shaheed Bibi's childhood. Addressing his daughter, he said, "During the winter of 1957, when you were four years old, we sat on

the terrace of Al-Murtaza. The weather was very pleasant in the morning. I had a double-barreled gun in my hand, and without thinking, I shot and killed a wild parrot. You screamed when the parrot came close to the terrace and fell. You buried him in your presence. However, you continued to cry and refused to eat anything.

The girl who shed tears over the death of a bird not only battled against two military dictatorships in history but also confronted gun-wielding terrorists who were patronized by internal and external forces. Shaheed Mrs. Benazir Bhutto engaged in politics from the age of 25 until her death when she was 54, in a country like Pakistan, which was considered one of the most perilous for political involvement. By the way, this period of his 29-year political career was the most challenging for popular politicians worldwide, particularly in the developing nations. The disintegration of the Soviet Union, coupled with the weakening of both national liberation and democratic movements, had a significant impact globally.

At the same time, the era of the Cold War ended and America became the only superpower in the world, which imposed the "New World Order" on the world. In this New World Order, non-state actors, especially terrorist organizations, were framing the rules of world poli-

tics. Simultaneously, the Cold War era came to a close, and the United States emerged as the sole global superpower, asserting its dominance through the establishment of a "New World Order." Within this New World Order, non-state actors, particularly terrorist organizations, played a significant role in shaping the dynamics of world politics.

People-friendly, enlightened, and democratic forces in the third world were ruthlessly suppressed by these terrorist organizations. Many third world countries witnessed the abolition of popular leadership and their political parties. Pakistan, during this period, experienced some of the most challenging political conditions globally, primarily due to the ruling elite's involvement in the power struggles orchestrated by world powers.

Shaheed Benazir Bhutto fearlessly confronted the horrors of the longest night of oppression with unwavering courage. She not only ensured the survival of Shaheed Zulfikar Bhutto's Pakistan People's Party during the darkest period in history but also played a crucial role in restoring democracy in the country.

On October 18, 2007, as Shaheed Bibi was returning home after eight years of exile, she received warnings from the rulers of other nations and numerous well-informed individuals within her own country, advising her against returning to Pakistan due to an assassination plot. However, she

firmly declared, "I will certainly go back to Pakistan. I cannot abandon my people. I cannot bear to witness my country in such a state."

In an interview, she expressed, "We are men and women who talk about arguments, who possess ideas. We understand how to live and how to face death. History is shaped by the sacrifices of martyrs. The very essence of history is woven through the threads of revolution. We have dedicated our lives, our freedom, our youth, and our peace of mind to the cause of democracy."

Addressing her final gathering at Liaquat Bagh in Rawalpindi on December 27, 2007, she proclaimed, "We live and die alongside the people." Tragically, following this speech, she was martyred by terrorists in the midst of the gathered crowd. Thus, while holding the hands of the people, she departed from this world.

She cherished the gift bestowed upon her by her father, Shaheed Zulfikar Bhutto, on her 25th birthday, delivered through a heartfelt letter. As she celebrates her 70th birthday today, let us pledge to follow in her footsteps, firmly grasping the hand of the people and unhesitatingly making any necessary sacrifices for our country and our fellow citizens. This commitment is the most significant gift we can offer to Shaheed Bibi on her birthday.

Our commitment to health for all
Our priority is to create a healthy society

Whether it's free treatment and medicines or standard medical care,
the Government of Sindh's primary objective is to provide these facilities to the people.

For this reason, the establishment of the Sindh Institute of Advanced Endoscopy and Gastroenterology has been put into action. Since its inception, this institution has been providing the latest and standardized methods of treatment for life-threatening diseases of the liver and stomach.

The International and Advanced Endoscopic Unit has now become accessible to the general public for the first time in Pakistan's history.

Prominent features of SIAG include:

Advanced Endoscopy Unit



Intensive care unit



Colonoscopy



ERCB



In addition to these, the facility of stone extraction through modern machinery and training of young professionals as endoscopists is also provided.

The Government of Sindh is actively engaged in research, training, and finding solutions based on modern foundations in the field of healthcare for the convenience of the people.



Government of Sindh.