

Ali Muhammad re-arrested

MARDAN (INP): Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader Ali Muhammad Khan has been re-arrested for the sixth time after being released from jail. The judge of an anti-corruption court approved the bail of PTI leader Ali Muhammad Khan today. The Anti-Corruption Establishment (ACE) arrested Khan again in another case. Khan was immediately arrested by the ACE officials at the jail gate.



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# Hajj sermon: Muslims urged to reject divisions

## Sheikh Yusuf seeks forge unity for harmonious society

MAKKAH (Agencies): Sheikh Yusuf bin Muhammad bin Saeed on Tuesday urged the Muslims to forge unity and cohesion among their ranks to reap the benefits in this world and the Hereafter, and for a prosperous and harmonious society.

Delivering the Hajj sermon at Arafat on Tuesday, the Imam said the unity and cohesion would surely lead to the salvation of the Ummah in addition to averting any discords or divisions. A diverse and mammoth gathering of Muslims from around the world was present on the occasion. "All praise belongs to Allah, the Almighty, the One who bestows abundantly. He made unity a cause for salvation, and division a cause for punishment. He, the Absolutely Perfect, commanded that our ranks be united, and our word be one, as a cohesive alliance, and made forbidden everything that leads to discords and divisions."

Quoting the verses from the Holy Quran, he reaffirmed the main articles of faith – the Oneness of Allah and the Prophethood of Muhammad (Peace Be Upon Him). The sermon highlighted the teachings of the Holy Prophet (PBUH), which emphasised unity, cooperation, and the prohibition of disputes and conflicts. It underscored the unifying role of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH), who was commanded to convey the message of Allah and bring unity among his followers.

The Imam urged the Muslims to observe Tagwa (righteousness) by obeying Allah's commands and staying within the boundaries set by Him. The sermon emphasised that diverting any aspect of worship to entities other than Allah was totally prohibited. It highlighted the significance of Tawheed (worshipping Allah alone) for guidance and salvation.

The pillars of Islam, including the five daily prayers, obligatory Zakaat (charitable contribution), fasting during Ramadan, and performing Hajj, were emphasised as crucial aspects of worship. The sermon cited the Quranic verses and the sayings of the Prophet (PBUH) to underscore their importance in the lives of Muslims.

It further stressed that linguistic, racial, and ethnic differences and divisions should not lead to any discord among Muslims. Diversity in languages and colours was a sign from Allah and an opportunity for knowledge, he added citing Quranic verses. The sermon underscored that "Islam provides preventative measures and defensive strategies to counter destructive intentions and acts of sabotage, aimed at dividing communities."

The importance of referring back to the Quran and the Sunnah during disputes was highlighted, along with the necessity of good conduct, compassion, forgiveness, and patience. The Imam urged the Muslims to strengthen social, familial, and spiritual bonds and to uphold ties of kinship. He emphasised kindness and goodness towards relatives, neighbours, and the needy while promoting cooperation in righteousness and Tagwa.

The sermon also cautioned the Muslims

against following rumours and disinformation that aimed to create divisions and disunity. The Imam concluded the sermon by reiterating the Islamic message of unity and cohesion, calling upon the Muslims to wholeheartedly embrace unity, practice tolerance, and reject divisions, while adhering to the teachings of Islam for a prosperous and harmonious society.

Hundreds of thousands of Muslim pilgrims prayed at Mount Arafat in searing heat on Tuesday at the height of an annual Haj pilgrimage held in the fierce Saudi Arabian summer. Worshippers crowded the rocky rise and surrounding area from before dawn and when the sun appeared, it revealed vast numbers of white-robed worshippers thronging the sacred site.

The ritual is the high point of the annual pilgrimage, one of the five pillars of Islam, that officials say could be the biggest on record after three years of Covid restrictions. "I'm very happy. It's a moment I have been waiting for my entire life," said Fadia Abdallah, 67, from Egypt, wearing a white abaya and sitting on the ground beneath an umbrella.

High temperatures have been a constant challenge for the pilgrims, who come from around the world, and the mercury hit 44 degrees celsius before midday on the Haj's most physically demanding day. The Haj has a tragic history of deadly stampedes and fires and as the pilgrims prayed and recited from the Holy Quran, helicopters hovered low overhead, monitoring the crowds. Tree-shaped water towers sprayed cooling showers on the visitors, and free water bottles and snacks were handed out from large trucks. Six field hospitals with more than 300 beds have been arranged in Arafat, Yasser Bair, a Saudi defence ministry official, told the state-run Al-Ekhabriya TV.

"I can't believe I'm God's guest," said Rahma, a 57-year-old Libyan housewife, fighting back tears as she spoke. The Haj is a life goal for many Muslims, who are expected to perform the pilgrimage at least once if they are financially and physically capable. It is also a big revenue-earner for Saudi Arabia, the world's biggest oil exporter which is trying to pivot its economy towards tourism and inward investment.

The pilgrims pray all day at Arafat, where Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) gave his final sermon. After sunset, they will travel the short distance to Muzdalifah, where they will sleep in the open air. On Wednesday, they will gather pebbles and hurl them at three giant concrete walls in the symbolic "stoning of the devil" ritual. Then they will return to Makkah's Grand Mosque — Islam's holiest site — for a final circumambulation of the Kaaba.

At this year's Haj, which follows the lunar calendar and is not always held in summer, a maximum age limit has also been removed, allowing thousands of elderly to attend. Heat is not the only risk at the Haj, which has seen multiple crises over the years, including militant attacks and deadly fires.

# No civilian under trial in mily courts, AGP tells SC

ISLAMABAD (PPI): Attorney General for Pakistan (AGP) Mansoor Usman Awan on Tuesday informed the Supreme Court that no civilian was being tried in military courts at the moment.

The AGP made the claim during the hearing of the petitions filed against the trial of civilians in military courts. Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Justice Umar Ata Bandial on Monday asked the AGP to reassure him that no such trial would occur as long as the case was being heard in the court. The AGP said that no trial of civilians was currently underway. But, the AGP's claim was contrary to army media wing's assertions on Monday evening.

Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) Director General (DG) Major General Ahmed Sharif Chaudhry told a media briefing that proceedings against 102 people handed over for trial were already underway. After the May 9 violent protests by the PTI workers against the arrest of party chief in Islamabad, the government announced that those protesters who damaged government buildings and army installations would be tried in military courts.

The petitions, filed by the PTI chairman, former chief justice Jawwad S

Khawaja, senior lawyer Aitzaz Ahsan, and five civil society members, including Piler Executive Director Karamat Ali, have requested the apex court to declare the trial of civilians in military court unconstitutional. On Monday, ex-CJP's lawyer Khawaja Ahmed Hussain, petitioner Aitzaz Ahsan's counsel Latif Khosa, and civil society lawyers Faisal Siddiqui and Salman Akram Raja completed their arguments.

A six-member larger bench headed by CJP Umar Ata Bandial resumed the hearing of the case. Justice Ijazul Ahsan, Justice Muneeb Akhtar, Justice Yahya Afridi, Justice Mazahir Naqvi and Justice Ayesha Malik are part of the bench.

At the outset of hearing, PTI chairman's lawyer Uzair Bhandari said that he wanted to clarify that he would argue only against the military trial of civilians. He has nothing to do with the issue of trial of army officials. The ISPR DG said in a press conference yesterday that the trial is going on. His statement contradicts the AGP's claim, Advocate Bhandari submitted.

The AGP responded that he stood by his statement that the trial of any civilian has not yet started in the military courts. He said that the representatives of the

Ministry of Defence were present in the court and verify his assertion. The CJP intervened and said the court believed what you said.

Advocate Bhandari argued that that whether a crime come under the Army Act or not is a different question. It must be determined whether there can be a trial [of a civilian] in military courts for crimes related to the forces, he added. Justice Ahsan remarked that Article 175(3) of the appointment of judges came in 1986.

"In comparison to the judicial precedents you are talking about, the circumstances and events are completely different now," he observed. Justice Munib then asked the lawyer what protection the Constitution gave civilians that military officers did not have. Advocate Bhandari submitted that the fundamental rights mentioned in the Constitution do not apply to military personnel and officers.

He also submitted that parliament could not allow civilian trials in military courts without a constitutional amendment, adding that in the 21st constitutional amendment, the principle was established that a constitutional amendment is required for trying civilians [under the Army Act].

# Imran submits reply in terror case

PESHAWAR (PPI): Chairman Tehreek-e-Insaf Imran Khan on Tuesday submitted his reply in the case number 96/23 filed against him under terrorism and various other sections.

The PTI chief said his foremost aim remained country's development and progress since the time he started cricket, laid foundation of an institution like Shaukat Khnum Memorial Hospital till his appointment as country's 22nd prime minister. He said the corrupt mafia and the political opponents threw him out of the government through a conspiracy.

He said that his political opponents soon after coming into power made Islamabad a hotbed of criminal cases against him due to their political rivalry. He said more than 150 cases registered against him by the federal and caretaker Punjab governments were proof of the conspiracy hatched by his political opponents. He said through a proper planning, false cases were filed against him in order to push him to the wall.

He said that the honorable courts while accepting his pre-arrest bail appeals in all these cases proved that all these cases were fabricated. The PTI chief said that DSP Ashfaq Rana filed a false and baseless case No. 23/96 under the terrorism and other sections as a punishment. He said that the case of the incident was registered at the time when he was in custody of NAB. He said he always opposed the politics of siege and arson. He denied any involvement in the entire incident. He said it was the reaction of the public, and the questioner never instigated them to do so.

The PTI chief said that in the above-mentioned case, police officials mentioned 20 charges in column no 3. But out of these 20 charges, he was not accused of 19 charges. He said he was accused only of one charge i.e abetment and there was no proof of it. Imran Khan said that in most cases, police themselves were complainants in cases against him and they themselves were holding investigation. He insisted that the allegations levelled in the said case were totally false and there was no truth in these fictional stories.

# Second Russian crude oil ship reaches

KARACHI (PPI): Another Russian ship carrying thousands of metric tons of crude oil docked at the Karachi Port on Tuesday morning, officials said Tuesday.

The Russian ship, named Clyde Noble, for now docked within limits of the Karachi Port. Bringing the tanker to the oil pier will begin as soon as the berthing plan is finalized. For the moment, the Russian vessel is docked at the outer anchorage. The second Russian cargo ship is reported to be carrying 55,000 metric tons of crude oil. It was earlier reported that the second cargo, under the deal between Islamabad and Moscow, was slated to arrive on June 20; however, it was delayed by a week and the Karachi Port does not have the capacity to handle huge ships.

A lack of space at the Pakistan Refinery Limited storage tanks was cited as another reason behind the delay. PRL is the first domestic refinery to obtain crude oil from Russia under the government-led deal. Pakistan received its first cargo of Russian crude oil on June 12 when a tanker carrying 45,000 tons of crude oil docked at the Karachi Port.

The government had placed the first order of 100,000 tonnes of Russian crude oil in April this year after months-long parleys between the two countries over the terms and conditions of the deal. Under this deal, Russia sent the first oil tanker carrying 100,000 metric tons of crude, which arrived at the Omani port early this month.



MAKKAH: Muslim pilgrims pray on the Mount of Mercy at the plain of Arafat during the annual Hajj pilgrimage, outside the holy city of Saudi Arabia.

# PM orders inquiry into recent Lahore flooding

## Shehbaz hopes IMF to take decision about programme's resumption in couple of days

### F.P. Report

LAHORE: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday ordered an inquiry and fix the responsibility on the officials concerned over their failure to overcome the flooding situation caused by recent rains in Lahore.

The prime minister, who chaired a meeting to review the preparedness ahead of predicted rains in North Punjab, particularly Lahore, expressed his annoyance over the failure to make timely arrangements to drain the rainwater. He instructed the provincial government and the district administration to fix the responsibility for poor water drainage, and immediately suspend the officials showing any negligence.

He said the slackness of the relevant departments made the citizens suffer. The prime minister instructed to ensure full preparedness in the wake of rains predicted in the next few days. The administration should particularly remain alert during Eid-ul-Azha and formulate an emergency plan to deal with the possible situation caused by the rains, he added.

He said the issues related to the

procurement of machinery for water drainage in the city should be resolved on an urgent basis. He also directed the relevant authorities to carry out strict monitoring of hides collection across the province to keep the proscribed outfits away from the activity.

Prime Minister Shehbaz asked the administrations to make arrangements for sanitation as well as for the disposal of offals on Eid. He said the special complaint centres and control rooms must work round the clock for public facilitation keeping in view the Eidul Azha and monsoon season. Punjab Chief Secretary Zahid Akhtar Zaman, Lahore commissioner and other senior officers attended the meeting.

Meanwhile, the Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif held a telephonic conversation with Managing Director of International Monetary Fund (IMF) Kristalina Georgieva and discussed matters relating to the IMF programme with Pakistan. During the talk, the prime minister expressed the hope that the consensus between Pakistan and the IMF on various points would lead to

the Fund's decision to resume the programme in a couple of days. In the context of her recent meeting with the prime minister in Paris, the IMF managing director acknowledged the efforts of the finance minister and his team for completing the programme.

PM Shehbaz reiterated his resolve to meet the targets of improving the country's economic situation with joint efforts. Kristalina Georgieva praised PM Shehbaz's leadership role in his efforts with respect to the IMF programme. She said the IMF wanted an improved economic situation of Pakistan.

Moreover, the Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif felicitated millions of pilgrims as well as countrymen and Muslims from across the world on the occasion of Hajj 1444 Hijri. "On the occasion of Hajj, I pray to Allah Almighty to resolve all of the economic difficulties of Pakistan and make it a cradle of peace, progress and prosperity," he wrote on Twitter. The prime minister also prayed to Allah to remove all the problems of the Muslim world, particularly those of Kashmiri and Palestinian brethren.

# Khadija Shah seeks bail

LAHORE (PPI): Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) activist Khadija Shah on Tuesday filed a bail plea in the Askari Tower attack case.

Ms Shah moved a bail plea in Lahore High Court through her lawyer Sameer Khosa. The fashion designer in her plea stated that charges of her involvement in Askari Tower attack case are 'baseless'. The case registered at Gulberg police station of arson and vandalizing Askari Tower is 'fake', the plea stated. Khadija Shah has pleaded with the court to grant her post-arrest bail in the Askari Tower attack case.

Khadija, a PTI activist and former finance minister Dr Salman Shah's daughter, is currently in jail on judicial remand in the Jinnah House attack case. The daughter of the former finance minister was granted consular access at the request of US as she is holding dual nationality.

# Asad Umar's bail extended

LAHORE (INP): A Lahore anti-terrorism court (ATC) on Tuesday extended PTI leader Asad Umar's interim bail till July 7 in the case of vandalism at Askari Tower in Lahore on May 9.

ATC Judge Ejaz Ahmad Buttar presided over the case, and the prominent member of PTI failed to appear before the court. In the meantime, the court granted Asad Amer's plea for exemption from appearing in court and extended their interim bail until July 7. It is pertinent to mention that the Gulberg police station had registered a case against him and other PTI workers for damaging public and pri-vate properties, including Askari Tower, during the May 9 protests.



# All local bodies should ensure the provision of all facilities to the public

**F.P. Report**

KARACHI: Provincial Minister for Local Government Syed Nasir Hussain Shah has directed that all local bodies, including the Sindh Solid Waste Management, should pick up garbage from the streets and neighborhoods of all province in a timely manner and deliver it safely to the collection points on all days of Eid-ul-Azha, while cleaning and sprinkling lime should also be ensured.

He said this today on presides over a meeting regarding all local bodies provision of facilities to the public on Eid-ul-Azha. The meeting was attended by Mayor Karachi Murtaza Wahab, Deputy Mayor Salman Murad, Mayors of Hyderabad, Larkana Sukkur, Coordinator of CM Sahzad Memon, Secretary LG Najam Ahmad Shah, MD Solid Waste Management Syed Imtiaz Ali Shah and all Town



Chairman of Karachi along with Directors of Solid Waste Management Board of Hyderabad, Larkana and Sukkur were present.

Meeting was informed that trenches have been prepared for burying the goods while a total of 93 collection points are being built in Karachi and complaint centers have also been set up in every district to redress public grievances. added that for safe burial of animal remains, both the landfill sites of Karachi including Gondpas and Jam

Chakro have been excavated at the GTS located at Shrafi Goth.

The meeting informed that by collecting the garbage from the streets, it will be moved to the collection points and then the landfill sights will be safely buried in the trenches dug at the designated places.

Minister LG Syed Nasir Shah while appreciating the efforts of all institutions said that according to the special directs and vision of Chairman Bilawal Bhutto, all possible efforts should

# Sabzwari distributes letters to 750 regularised employees of KPT

KARACHI (APP): Under Prime Minister's Assistance Package for employees, service of more than 750 contractual staffers of Karachi Port Trust (KPT) has been regularised.

Federal Minister for Maritime Affairs, Syed Faisal Sabzwari, on Tuesday, distributed letters to regularised KPT employees in a ceremony here that was attended by Chairman KPT Syed Syedain Raza Zaidi, trustees and leaders of CBA union and a large number of workers.

Syed Faisal Sabzwari addressing the occasion felicitated the employees and said that longstanding issues of KPT employees were resolved by the administration and years-old issues of employees including regularisation of services, adjustment of increments, issuance of bonus and other demands of employees presented in charter of demand has been fulfilled. The minister also announced a Rs 20000 Eid bonus for daily wage staffers of KPT at the occasion. Now it was the responsibility of the employees as well officers of the trust to work with a renewed zeal and dedication for the growth of KPT, he urged adding that the government was endeavouring to make KPT not



only a profit-making organisation but also an efficient entity and employees of the trust could play a pivotal role in the achievement of the objectives.

The minister highlighting the ministry's efforts for modernising the port infrastructure and attracting foreign investment said that a concession agreement has been inked with Abu Dhabi Port Group for the establishment of Karachi Gateway Terminal Limited. Pakistan would receive \$50 million as an upfront payment with 12.5% additional royalty as per the agreement which also included provisions for the development of state-of-the-art terminals, setting up a special economic zone

timely arrangements those not only secured the jobs of employees but also ensured much needed foreign investment. Later responding to media queries, the minister said that KPT does not sell any birth but enters into a concession agreement with private sector entities for operations of births and receives charges and royalties under the agreement.

It was a government-to-government agreement that was reviewed and authenticated by framework development and negotiation committees and later by the federal cabinet after fulfilment of all the necessary procedures and regulations in a transparent manner, he clarified.

Faisal Sabzwari said that the government was working with a comprehensive approach consisting of measures for revenue generation, infrastructure improvement, employee welfare and other initiatives for the development and improvement of ports.

## CCPO reviews investigation performance

LAHORE (APP): Capital City Police Officer Bilal Siddique Kamyana on Tuesday chaired a meeting at his office to review five months performance of the investigation wing related to under-investigation cases, pending road certificates, and the arrest of the accused. The meeting was attended by DIG (Investigations) Kamran Adil, SSP (Internal Accountability) Imran Kishwar, SSP (Investigations) Anosh Masood Chaudhry, Divisional SPs (Investigations), and SDPOs.

He emphasized that SDPOs who consistently exhibited poor performance would be held responsible for their actions, stressing that any form of disinterest, negligence, or laxity in official duties would not be tolerated.

He announced that a daily performance review of all SDPOs would be conducted, and the annual reports of officers with unsatisfactory performance would reflect their incompetence.

The CCPO ordered that all pending investigation cases be resolved on merit within one week.

Similarly, the completion of challans, eradicating road pendency, and improvement in recovery should not be delayed.

He emphasized that cases involving nominated suspects pending for more than a month or cases related to unidentified suspects should not linger on for more than three months.

## Rescue 1122 finalizes emergency plan

LAHORE (APP): Emergency Services Department Punjab (Rescue 1122) on Tuesday finalized the arrangements to ensure prompt response to emergencies in Punjab during Eid-ul-Adha.

Secretary ESD Dr. Rizwan Naseer directed the all-district emergency officers (DEOs) to ensure foolproof arrangements to ensure the provision of timely emergency ambulance, rescue, and fire services without any discrimination across Punjab. He also directed all DEOs that close coordination should be maintained with districts' tshils head-quarters hospitals for better management of victims of emergencies in case of any untoward situation.

He was presiding over a zoom meeting of all district emergency officers to review arrangements to provide emergency cover during holidays of Eid-ul-Adha, held at Emergency Services Headquarters here which was attended by all DEOs, and Heads of Wing of Emergency Services Department & Academy. The Provincial Monitoring Officer briefed the meeting that around 15,000 rescuers would be deployed during Eid to provide timely.

## American CG, Minister discuss new avenues

LAHORE (APP): Provincial Minister for Livestock Ibrahim Hasan Murad met with American Consul General William K Makaneole

at American Consulate General in Lahore to discuss meat export opportunities between the two countries. He said the government was keen to expand meat exports to international markets. The purpose of the meeting was to explore new avenues for strengthening bilateral trade relations

between the US and Pakistan in the livestock sector with a specific focus on meat exports. Minister Murad and Consul General Makaneole reiterated their commitment to fostering a strong trade relationship that would not only benefit the livestock industry but also contribute to the economic growth of Pakistan. American Consul General William K Makaneole appreciated the efforts of the minister in fostering the livestock industry to international markets.

دوباره ٹینڈر نوٹس

میدیکل پریٹنڈ ڈسٹرکٹ ہیڈ کوارٹر ہسپتال چترال انجی کیو ہسپتال ڈی ایچ ایچ کیو ہسپتال چترال کے سال 2023-24 کے KPPRA ریٹرن 2014 کے تحت اہل اور Authorized Dealers سے سرٹیفائیڈ رزلٹ ملے ہیں۔ جو کہ 15 جولائی 2023ء بروز بدھ 10 بجے تک پہنچانی چاہیے جو کہ اس دن 10.30 بجے پر چرٹنگلٹی پر موجود فرموں کے مجاز نمائندوں کی موجودگی میں کھولے جائیں گے۔ برطانوی پرفارمنس ٹیم کا نام بدھ اور انکا لازمی ہے۔

شرائط:-  
1۔ انجینئر کے سرواڈ 2 فیصد کے حساب سے کال ڈیپازٹ میڈیکل پریٹنڈ ڈی ایچ ایچ کیو ہسپتال چترال اور کے نام منسلک کرنا ہوگا۔  
2۔ ٹائپ رائٹر یا ہاتھ سے لکھے ٹینڈر قابل قبول نہیں ہوں گے۔  
3۔ سیکورٹیشن فرم کے پیپر پر جو کہ کھلی کے ہر کے ساتھ دستخط شدہ ہوں۔  
4۔ ٹینڈر کی تفصیل دفتر بڈا سے کسی بھی دفتری ادوات کا ریش وصول کئے جاسکتے ہیں۔  
5۔ سامان کی فراہمی 90 دن کے اندر لازمی ہے۔  
6۔ ضرورت دیگر 0.067 فیصد کی رقم کے حساب سے جواز نہ لگایا جائے گا۔  
7۔ مکمل تفصیل BSO میں درج ہے۔  
8۔ سامان F.O.R ڈسٹرکٹ ہیڈ کوارٹر ہسپتال چترال کی بنیاد پر ڈسٹر ایپا کیے فرم سے ہونا چاہیے۔  
9۔ ٹینڈر قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔  
10۔ ریزنگ 30 جون 2024 تک نافذ العمل ہوگی۔  
11۔ ٹینڈر کا طریقہ کار single stage two envelope ہوگا۔  
12۔ ٹینڈر کی تفصیل قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔  
13۔ مزید معلومات کے لئے فون نمبر 0943-412634 یا ای سی ٹیل ایمرٹس ریجین ہے۔  
14۔ سٹاٹس ٹریڈ میڈیاری اشیاء تبدیل کرنے کا پابند ہوگا۔  
15۔ مزید معلومات کے لئے فون نمبر 0943-412634 یا ای سی ٹیل ایمرٹس ریجین ہے۔  
16۔ ٹینڈر کی تفصیل پر چرٹنگلٹی کو اختیار حاصل ہوگا کہ وہ محض دو جہات کی بنیاد پر 47، KPPRA Rules 2014 کے تحت ایک یا کئی ٹینڈر مسزور کرے گا۔  
17۔ ٹینڈر کی تفصیل پر چرٹنگلٹی کو اختیار حاصل ہوگا کہ وہ محض دو جہات کی بنیاد پر 47، KPPRA Rules 2014 کے تحت ایک یا کئی ٹینڈر مسزور کرے گا۔

INF(P)1454/23

GOVERNMENT OF KHYBER PAKHTUNKHWA PUBLIC HEALTH ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT

NOTICE INVITING TENDERS




(Single Stage Single Envelop e-Bidding System)

Public Health Engineering Division Swabi Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa invites Electronic Bids from eligible firms/ contractors having specialization code CE-09 in accordance with KPPRA procurement rules 2014 on single stage single envelop procedure, contractors/firms must be registered with PEC (up to date), KPPRA and Provincial Enlistment Committee.

S.#	NAME OF SCHEME	COST IN MILLION	BID SECURITY IN SHAPE OF CALL DEPOSIT +STAMP DUTY	Tender Fee
A.	UNDER ADP NO.220682 FOR THE YEAR 2022-23 PK-46 DISTRICT SWABI			
1	Sanitation and allied works at VC-I UC BachaiSikandari and Adj area	4.970	106300	1500
2	Sanitation and allied works at VC-II UC BachaiSikandari and Adj area	4.970	106300	1500
3	Sanitation and allied works at VC-I UC Dagai and Adj area	6.570	150700	2000
4	Sanitation and allied works at VC-II UC Dagai and Adj area	6.570	150700	2000
5	Sanitation and allied works at VC-III UC Dagai and Adj area	6.570	150700	2000
6	Sanitation and allied works at VC-I UC YarHussain East and Adj area	3.280	72300	1000
7	Sanitation and allied works at VC-II UC YarHussain East and Adj area	3.280	72300	1000
8	Sanitation and allied works at VC-III UC YarHussain East and Adj area	3.280	72300	1000
9	Sanitation and allied works at VC-I UC YarHussain West and Adj area	3.280	72300	1000
10	Sanitation and allied works at VC-II UC YarHussain West and Adj area	3.280	72300	1000
11	Sanitation and allied works at VC-III UC YarHussain West and Adj area	3.280	72300	1000
12	Sanitation and allied works at VC-I UC Sudherand Adj area	3.280	72300	1000
13	Sanitation and allied works at VC-II UC Sudherand Adj area	3.280	72300	1000
14	Sanitation and allied works at VC-III UC Sudherand Adj area	3.280	72300	1000
15	Sanitation and allied works at VC-I UC Yaqoobiand Adj area	3.280	72300	1000
16	Sanitation and allied works at VC-II UC Yaqoobiand Adj area	3.280	72300	1000
17	Sanitation and allied works at VC-III UC Yaqoobiand Adj area	3.280	72300	1000
18	Sanitation and allied works at VC-I UC SardCheenaand Adj area	3.280	72300	1000
19	Sanitation and allied works at VC-II UC SardCheenaand Adj area	3.280	72300	1000
20	Sanitation and allied works at VC-III UC SardCheenaand Adj area	3.280	72300	1000
21	Sanitation and allied works at VC-I UC Dobianand Adj area	3.280	72300	1000
22	Sanitation and allied works at VC-II UC Dobianand Adj area	3.280	72300	1000
23	Sanitation and allied works at VC-III UC Dobianand Adj area	3.280	72300	1000
24	Sanitation and allied works at VC-I UC Ismailaand Adj area	2.480	56300	750
25	Sanitation and allied works at VC-II UC Ismailaand Adj area	2.480	56300	750
26	Sanitation and allied works at VC-III UC Ismailaand Adj area	2.480	56300	750
27	Sanitation and allied works at VC-IV UC Ismailaand Adj area	2.480	56300	750
28	Sanitation and allied works at VC-I UC Jalbai and Adj area	3.280	72300	1000
29	Sanitation and allied works at VC-II UC Jalbaiand Adj area	3.280	72300	1000
30	Sanitation and allied works at VC-III UC Jalbaiand Adj area	3.280	72300	1000
31	Sanitation and allied works at VC-I UC Jalsai and Adj area	4.970	106300	1500
32	Sanitation and allied works at VC-II UC Jalsai and Adj area	4.970	106300	1500
33	Sanitation and allied works at All UC,s of PK-46 (package-I)	14.950	318700	4500
34	Sanitation and allied works at All UC,s of PK-46 (package-II)	14.950	318700	4500

Terms & Conditions:-  
1. Bidding documents including instructions to Bidder can be downloaded from Public Health Engg: Department website www.phedkp.gov.pk.  
2. Last date for submission of bidding documents 12/07/2023 11.00 AM and The tender will be opened on the same day at 12.00 P.M in presence of contractor or their representative who opt to present.  
3. The bid security & Additional security shall be submitted as per KPPRA Latest Notification.  
4. Other terms and conditions are available on PHED website or same obtained from office of the undersigned during the office hours.  
5. According to KPPRA rules the contractors must be registered with KP Revenue Authority with active status.

EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, PHE Division Swabi  
Ph: 0938-280094  
INF(P) 1441/23



PUBLIC NOTICE

The Transport and Mass Transit Department, Government of Sindh in order to facilitate the general public especially during **EID-UL-ADHA-2023**, has cancelled the Leave of all officers / officials of Provincial Transport Authority Sindh, and District Regional Transport Authority (All in Sindh).

All offices will remain open during Eid Holidays to facilitate the general public and to entertain/resolve complaints regarding **EXCESS CHARGING OF THE PUBLIC TRANSPORT FARES**. Following Officers will be available on the below mentioned mobile numbers for the redressal of the PUBLIC GRIEVANCES (if any) during the Eid-ul-Adha holidays.

S.NO	NAME	DESIGNATION	JURISDICTION	CONTACT NUMBER
01.	Mr. Ameet Narwani	Secretary Provincial Transport Authority Sindh.	Karachi Division	0333-2505146
02.	Mr. Nazar Hussain Shahani	Secretary, RTA, Karachi.	Karachi. (to assist PTA in the joint checking)	0300-2244145
03.	Mr. Saleem Memon	Secretary, DRTA, Hyderabad	Hyderabad Region	0300-8376111
04.	Ms. Fakhar-ul-Nisa	Secretary, DRTA, Thatta.	Thatta	0315-5867933
05.	Mr. Saud-ur-Rehman Jamali	Secretary, DRTA, Badin	Badin District.	0308-3036368
06.	Mr. Okash Khalid Memon	Secretary, DRTA, Mirpurkhas	Mirpurkhas District.	0333-2753260
07.	Syed Shiraz Ali Shah	Secretary, DRTA, Umerkot	Umerkot District	0346-3070001
08.	Mr. Irfan Ullah Rind	Secretary, DRTA, Mithi	Mithi District.	0345-7521224
09.	Mr. Haroon Jamali	Secretary, DRTA Shaheed Benazirabad	Shaheed Benazirabad & Sanghar Districts.	0345-2545114
10.	Mr. Waheed Ali Panhwar	Secretary, DRTA, Khairpur	Khairpur District	0344-3841647
11.	Mr. Zameer Hussain Brohi	Secretary, DRTA Naushahroferoze	Naushahroferoze District	0307-2255976
12.	Mr. Fayaz Mangi	Secretary, DRTA Sukkur & Ghotki	Sukkur and Ghotki Districts.	0300-9310031
13.	Mr. Wasim Ahmed Memon	Secretary, DRTA, Shikarpur and Jacobabad	Shikarpur, Jacobabad Districts.	0332-7404444
14.	Mr. Aijaz Surahyo	Secretary, DRTA Larkana & Dadu	Larkana and Dadu Districts.	0345-3875747

**NOTE:** In case of non-response from the field officers Mr. Abdul Kareem Memon, Deputy Secretary, Transport and Mass Transit Department, Government of Sindh, (Mobile No. 0300-9265216) may be contacted who has been nominated as Focal Person to supervise and monitor the Eid-ul-Adha Campaign 2023 initiated against violators charging exorbitant fares.

Transport & Mass Transit Department

GOVERNMENT OF SINDH

INF/KRY/2646/2023





## Governor awards Sabir Shah on his valuable literary works



### F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

Ghulam Ali has granted special award to prominent poet, prose writer and journalist Syed Sabir Shah

Sabir of his valuable literary and journalistic services, on Tuesday at Governor's House, Peshawar.

Syed Sabir Shah Sabir gifted his books to Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. He is prominent critique of Pashto literature and has written several books including prose and poetry.

The writer Syed Sabir Shah Sabir has also written several travel-logs while appreciated public participation of Governor.

Syed Sabir Shah appreciated the public spirit of the governor and suggested him to invite famous Pashto poets and organize a Pashto Mushaira.

On this occasion former provincial Minister Maulana Aman Ullah Khan, Rizwan Ullah, Imran Ullah, Syed Aimal Shah, Syed Abbas Shah Abid and Syed Aimal Shah also present.



PESHAWAR: A delegation of Sikh community meeting with Caretaker Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Muhammad Azam Khan. Caretaker Minister Barrister Feroz Jamal Shah Kakakhel also present.

## Hazara varsity okays budget for year 2023-24

PESHAWAR (APP): Senate meeting of Hazara University Manshera chaired by provincial higher education caretaker minister, Justice Retired Irshad Qaisar here Wednesday approved budget of Rs. 4283 million for the year 2023-24.

The meeting was told that Rs 800 million has been earmarked for development projects and endowment fund has also been created to improve financial matters of the varsity.

It was said that increase in pension and inflation are the reasons behind budget deficit. It was told that a 300 KW solar system has been installed to reduce electricity expenses.

Addressing the meeting, caretaker minister stressed upon university administration to improve income to gain self-dependency.

## CCP finalized security plan for Eid

PESHAWAR (APP): The Capital City Police (CCP) on Tuesday finalized a comprehensive security plan to ensure peace in the provincial capital on Eid-ul-Azha.

According to SSP Operations more than four thousand policemen would perform security duty on Eid while the public holidays and leaves of Police had also been cancelled.

Ababeel squad, city patrol and police mobile would patrol in the city to keep an eye on suspicious activities, adding that Police had tightened security on all internal and external routes of the city.

Similarly, the police would be deployed outside Eidghas and all sensitive mosques in the city.

Traffic police personnel will also be deployed to keep an eye on suspicious activities and persons.

More than 1000 traffic personnel would keep the traffic flow smooth in the city.

## University's faculty, students visit PBC

PESHAWAR (APP): Faculty members and students from various departments, including Mass Communication and Media Studies Gomal University Dera Ismail Khan visited Radio Pakistan building here on Tuesday and condemned attack on PBC and Associated Press of Pakistan (APP) offices.

The delegation led by the university's Provost Dr. Samiullah Khan, and Head of the Media Studies Department, Dr. Imran Khan, Director Student Affairs Dr. Nafaid Khan, Dr. Memoona Gul, Ata-ur-Rehman, Sajid Qayyum, Maryam Sadiq, and male and female students visited Radio Pakistan Peshawar station and APP to express unity and condemn the heinous attack that took place on May 9, 10.

The faculty members and students of Gomal University expressed their grief and sorrow upon witnessing the damaged sections of Radio Pakistan Peshawar station and APP.

During the visit to Radio Pakistan Peshawar station and APP Office, Dr. Imran Khan said that Radio Pakistan is the strong and powerful voice of the state, and the attack on it is equivalent to an attack on Pakistan. Causing harm to national institutions in the guise of protest and destruction is not permissible under any law in the world, he said.

## WSSP finalises Eid cleanliness operation plan

PESHAWAR (APP): Water and Sanitation Services Peshawar (WSSP) on Tuesday finalized the cleanliness operational plan for Eidul Azha to be carried out in 65 urban union councils of Peshawar city.

As per the plan, a total of 3,259 sanitary staff will participate in the operation to collect sacrificial animals waste from the city with the help of 683 vehicles of different sizes and transfer it to Shamshato dumping site.

The plan was finalised during a meeting chaired by Chief Executive Officer Dr. Hassan Nasir. General Manager Operations Engineer Turab Shah, Zonal Managers of all five zones, solid waste managers, and other officials were also present in the meeting.

Leaves of all management and operation staff were cancelled during Eid. All required equipment and materials have already been procured including lime, tools, equipment and chemicals for spray and fumigation at transfer stations and dumping sites.

An awareness drive has been underway as the community awareness teams have displayed banners on major roads, squares and parks for mass awareness.

The teams have also distributed pamphlets for mass awareness of how and where to dump offal.

WSSP, in collaboration with the district government, distributed biodegradable shopping bags among the masses to discourage open dumping in streets and roads. The Citizen Liaison Cell of WSSP has engaged ulema who delivered special sermons on Friday on importance of cleanliness and proper disposal of waste.

According to the plan, a 200 feet long and 90 feet deep pit has been dug at the dumping site for safe disposal of waste. A team of sanitary staff will patrol the city's roads and the road leading to the dumping site and clean waste fallen on roads.

A total of 2,897 WSSP's own sanitary staff and 362 outsourced staff will participate in the operation, of which 1,827 are sanitary workers, 756 Katta Kullis, 168 helpers and 383 drivers, 82 supervisors and 64 municipal inspectors.

Primary operations will involve 324 vehicles, while secondary operations will involve 359 vehicles.

Out of the total vehicles, 354 vehicles are WSSP-owned and 329 vehicles have been rented. The WSSP fleet consists of 157 Suzuki pickups, 39 mini dumpers, 41 bike-loaders, six small tractors, 21 large tractors, 42 compactors, nine shovels, and 37 multi-loader arm rolls. The out-

sourced fleet consists of 52 shovels, 106 dumpers, 106 tractor trolleys, and 12 excavators.

In Zone-A will have 680 employees, Zone-B will have 902, Zone-C will have 677, Zone-D will have 343 and Zone-E will have 295 sanitary staff on duty.

In addition, 199 small and large vehicles will be operated in Zone A, 132 in Zone-B, 182 in Zone-C, 75 in Zone-D, and 72 in Zone-E.

Besides, a total of 25 collection points and transfer stations have been established. These include Funland, Rang Ring Road, Northern Bypass, Sabreena Gulbahar, Ramdas Chowk, Science College Chowk, Gulshan Rahman Colony, Bahadar Kali, Dheri Baghbanan, Badshahi Road, Gulberg Road, Aqa Baba Road, Danishabad Tanki, Tajabad Graveyard, Abdera Road, Naseer Bagh, Malkana, Chalmaro Road, Warsak Road, Osmania Town, Science College, and Pindu Road.

All zonal offices have been provided with necessary tools and equipment. As many as 11 sanitary staff have been assigned duty at the dumping site to dispose.

Spraying machines and lime have also been arranged. Spraying will be carried out daily to control odor and lime will be applied on a regular basis to facilitate waste disposal.

## Health deptt for setup emergency control room

PESHAWAR (APP): The Directorate General Health Services

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on Tuesday directed district health officers and Medical superintendents of district headquarters hospitals (DHQs) across KP to set up well equipped emergency control rooms to cope with any emergency on Eid ul Azha.

The DG said that during Eid holidays the public mobility and recreational activities increase and could result in any emergency like situation including road blockage, traffic accident, injuries and medical emergencies which needs proper medical treatment.

He therefore directed the DHOs and MS DHQs to establish fully resourced emergency control rooms in their respective offices and hospitals and deploy proactive personnel to respond to any untoward situation on Eid ul Azha holiday from June 28 to July 1.

He further said that the public could also contact Deputy Director Administration DGHS KP Muhammad Qasim on cell number 0333-9299140 in case of any emergency.

## PHC restrains polls process of chairman

PESHAWAR (APP): A two-member bench of the Peshawar High Court on Tuesday issued a restraining order on the election of the chairman PCB.

The bench comprising Justice Ejaz Anwar and Justice Arshad Ali heard the petition filed by Advocate Kabir Afridi.

The petitioner said that nine out of 16 members of BOG had been allowed to elect the chairman, adding that the educational qualification of the person nominated for Chairman PCB was not meeting the required criteria. The court after hearing the arguments of the petitioners issued a restraining order and sought answers from the relevant parties.

## Media urged to educate women about DRC



PESHAWAR (APP): The speakers of an awareness session on the role of Dispute Resolution Council (DRC) and its usefulness for women on Tuesday urged media to play its imperative role in educating women especially of backward areas about DRC and getting justice in various cases.

The session was organized under the auspices of Aurat Foundation, in which Shabina Ayaz, Resident Director of Aurat Foundation along with senior Journalists Waseem Ahmad Shah, Farzana Ali, Muhammad Fahim, Imran

Bukhari, Fatima Nazish and Nasreen Jabeen participated.

Appreciating the services of DRC Shabina Ayaz said that such institutions should be encouraged for quick and easy access to justice and women should be included in these institutions.

She said that DRC members were experienced and well-reputed people in the region, but training programs for gender sensitivity of these members were indispensable.

The participating journalists of the session also mentioned the problems and difficulties being faced

by a woman to access the DRC.

They suggested inclusion of at least three women having knowledge of gender sensitive issues in the DRC at the district level so that the women's problems could be solved.

The meeting noted that among the disputes received by women in the DRC, the property and domestic disputes are the more common problems.

Apart from senior journalists, Qamar Naseem from Blue Veins and Shagufta Gul from UN Women also participated in the meeting.

## PDA prepares cleaning plan for Hayatabad, RMT

PESHAWAR (APP): Peshawar Development Authority (PDA) has prepared a special plan for cleaning in Hayatabad and Regi Model Town on Eid-ul-Azha, said a press release issued on Tuesday.

According to the plan, 400 workers will participate in the cleaning operation on

Eid-ul-Azha, while 50 vehicles and 75 drivers will pick up the offal of the sacrificial animals to shift them to the dumping site with the help of special vehicles.

In the light of the orders of Director General PDA Riaz Ali, a team of officers headed by the Director, Water and Sanitation

Services Peshawar Ashraf Qadir, Deputy Director, Abdul Qadir Afridi and Chief Inspector Ilyas Khattak will supervise the Eidul Azha cleaning operation.

According to a spokesman PDA, arrangements have also been made for doing lime and spray in different areas. He said that a 50 feet long and 60 feet wide pit has been dug at the dumping site.

He further said that offal and remains of the sacrificial animals collected from all over the city will be discarded at the dumping site. In this regard, he said additional machinery and equipment have also been delivered to the dumping site.

### PIC declared 1st category-I hospital

PESHAWAR (APP): PIC has become the first government hospital to get ISO certificate and declared first government category-I hospital of KP. The spokesperson of PIC Riffat Anjum said Tuesday that KP Healthcare Commission has issued formal license to PIC after examining various hospitals, adding that PIC was declared as the best hospital owing to all facilities including standard treatment, patient-care, emergency services, patient safety and etc.

## Knife business sharpeners shine on Eidul Azha in KP

PESHAWAR (APP): Besides the trade of sacrificial animals, the business of blacksmiths and knife sharpeners were also shined in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on the joys occasion of Eidul Azha.

Eidul Azha has brought joy for people viz a viz blacksmiths, butchers and knives sharpeners whether trained or untrained arrived to get maximum profits at Peshawar. As only a day left in Eid ul Azha celebrations, the blacksmiths and knife sharpeners of Peshawar and adjoining districts have received numerous orders to get maximum business, they were earning two times high.

Knife sharpeners and blacksmiths besides seasonal butchers whether trained or untrained, are deemed as rare commodities these days in Peshawar, who were receiving innumerable orders despite an exorbitant charges for their services.

At Firdus, Rati Bazar, Hayatabad, Gulbahar, Boards etc. in Peshawar,

special machines have been installed at various shops to sharpen knives, beef cutters, knives and meat cleavers along with selling Bar-B-Q instruments as part of an arrangements for Eid ul Azha.

The professional traders are attracting a number of customers due to their decorated handles and sharp-edged instruments.

Butchers' appliances sale including knives, cutters and stand blades etc, has also witnessed record increase. The people are also repairing their old and damaged machetes, knives and other tools needed for cutting meat.

Ordinary shopkeepers, professional and untrained blacksmiths and knife sharpeners belonging to far flung areas of KP are also being seen selling these tools in different areas including Gulbahar, Hast-nagri, Karimpura, Cantonment areas, Tehkal, Latifabad, Ghareeb Abad, Hayatabad, Board and were

earning two times high.

'I came from Wapda Town to Peshawar keeping in view of high profit here,' Mirza Khan, a knife sharpener of Pabbi Nowshera told APP. 'My sale has increased these days in Mardan where he was earning two times high,' he explained.

Rafique Ali, a blacksmith in Taru bazaar told APP that he had received a number of orders from people and butchers for preparation of different kinds of knives and sacrificial tools.

'We are waiting for Eidul Azha throughout the year and at present moment I have a very hectic schedule and was working till late night to meet received orders of customers, he said. He said this year he has witnessed a very high sale due to massive response of people and saves about Rs 5,000 per day, adding Eid also brings happiness and economic joys for people of our professions.

## PSBA condoles with Romania Dy Mission Head



### F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: Commssioner Pakistan Scouts Association Sardar waqar Shahzad advocate expressed his immense grief at the passing away of

Nicolae Goia Ambassador of Romania. While paying a condolence visit.

Inn his message he termed Mr. Nicolae Goia as his true friend & a trustworthy friend of Pakistan.

His services will be remembered forever for his contributions. The Deputy Head of Mission Eduard Preda expressed his gratitude to Sardar Waqar Advocate.





## In brief

12 prisoners released  
F.P. Report

TANK: Additional Session Judge Malik Muhammad Hasnain Khan and Senior Civil Judge Hafiz Aurenzeb visited the Sub-Jail Tank on Tuesday and released 12 prisoners' of petty cases on the spot to celebrate Eid-ul-Azha with their families. The Judges also inspected various chambers of the jail and expressed satisfaction with the security arrangements and food on the premises of the jail. They issued directives to provide healthy food and other facilities to inmates. Superintendent of the Jail Ijaz Mehsud was also present on this occasion and briefed them about the different steps taken for the welfare of prisoners.

RPO finalizes  
Eid security plan  
F.P. Report

M A L A K A N D : Regional Police Officer (RPO) Malakand Region, Nasir Mahmood Satti has finalized Eidul Azha security plan for the whole region including tourists' attractive Swat, said a press release issued here on Tuesday. Under the security plan, about 10,000 policemen have been deployed in Malakand division, while District Police Officers (DPOs) and other officers have been assigned special tasks. All DPOs and other officers have also been directed to provide all possible protection to the tourists, including the provision of facilities and deployment of tourist police squads to facilitate and guide tourists' places including Bahrain, Malam Jabba, Kumrat and Chitral. The vacations of all police officers have been cancelled as the arrival of a large number of tourists is expected for which all necessary measures have been taken in advance to provide all possible facilities including security.

Administration  
holds walk

FAISALABAD (INP): The district administration held a walk to mark 'International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking' here on Tuesday. A spokesperson for the district administration said Additional Deputy Commissioner (general) Ahmed Saeed Manj led the walk which was participated by Assistant Director Anti-Narcotics Force Salman Hundal, General Secretary Anjuman Anti-Narcotics Anwar Khan, Clinical Psychologist DHQ Dr Ghulam Mustafa Niazi and others. The participants were carrying banners and posters inscribed with different slogans against drug abuses.

Two suspected  
robbers held

FAISALABAD (INP): Police after encounter have arrested two suspected robbers from Madanpura area of Faisalabad's on Tuesday. According to Dolphin Police officials, a police party on routine patrolling on having suspicion signaled a motorcycle to stop. The bike riders despite of stopping on police caution opened fire on policemen. Police retaliated with fire and in crossfire two suspects injured. Police after a pause of firing took them into custody and shifted to a hospital for medical treatment. Police identified the suspects as Jawad and Umair who were declared robbers. Police has started further investigation after registering the case.

Terror bid foiled  
by police in Dir

## F.P. Report

LOWER DIR: Police foiled a terrorist bid and recovered five bags full of suicide jackets, explosives, hand grenades, eatables and military uniforms with Afghanistan labels, hidden at a local mountain at Shago Kas area in the jurisdiction of Timergara police



station here the other day.

Briefing local journalists at Timergara, the Lower Dir district police officer Ziaud Din, SP counter terrorism department Amjad Khan, DSP headquarters Fakhr e Alam Khan and DSP circle Syed Rahim Khan said that police conducted a search and strike operation on a tip off and recovered the arms and explosives which were dumped in the Shago Kas mountain in five different bags. The officials said the joint operation was carried out in the presence of the

bomb disposal squad.

They said that there was information about a possible terrorist bid during the Eid days in the area. The DPO Ziaud Din said five suicide jackets, 8 hand grenades, 5 walky talky sets, 9 IED fuses, 6 remote control devices, 4 small machine guns, 2 grenade fire guns, one pistol 30 bore, 16 SMG

cartridges, 180 cartridges 7.6 bore, 5 cracker grenades, 2 mobile phone sets, clothes and gloves, explosives and some medicines hidden in the bags. The officials said that some eatables were also recovered from the bags. Meanwhile the Lower Dir police also announced its security plan for Eid ul Adha during which 1600 police officials would remain on duty at mosques, sensitive places and markets to provide security to the masses and maintain

smooth traffic in the district. The district has been divided into 4 sectors and the SDPOs and the concerned SHOs led by SP investigation would monitor the arrangements in their respective circles. The Munda police meanwhile arrested five suspects including two proclaimed offenders during a search and strike operation within the last 24 hours.

**Adenzai elders:** The Adenzai elders from 25 villages on Tuesday demanded of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government to pay compensation to the real owners of the Chakdara bypass road. The demand was made during a meeting of elders held at Teso with prominent businessman Haji Ameer Naushad in the chair. Former district councilors advocate Gul Muhammad, Haroonur Rashid, Tausif Umar, Zubair Khan, Muqarab Khan, Bakht Nasim, Gul Zada and others claimed that the land occupied in the construction of Chakdara bypass road belonged to them and the government should compensate its real owners. They said the people of those 25 villages were on the same page and they would protest against the government soon after the Eid if their demand was not accepted.

Additional Sessions judge  
visits Timergara jail

## F.P. Report

TIMERGARA: In compliance with the orders of the Chief Justice of Peshawar High Court, Additional Sessions Judge Uppar dir Muhammad Inam Khan made a detailed visit to the District Jail Timergara and inspected various sections of the jail, especially the Juvenile Barrack, Women Barrack, Hospital, Langar and Store, and met the prisoners. He inquired about the problems inside the jail, but no complaint was received against the jail administration. The

judge expressed satisfaction with the cleanliness and other facilities inside the jail and praised the jail authorities.

Meanwhile, due to one day remaining in Eid-ul-Adha, there has been a rush of citizens to sell and buy animals in cattle markets in small and big cities of Lower Dir District. Due to the constant increase in the rate, inflation is also prevailing in the cattle markets of Dir Lower and the prices of animals are talking to the sky, but despite this, the people are busy in sunnah Ibrahimy with the payment of ani-

mals.

On the other hand livestock department Lower Dir have formed nine teams for the prevention of Congo Virus, Lumpy Skin Disease Virus and other deadly diseases, which are doing these checks by spraying animals in the cattle markets, which will continue until the third day of Eid. Director Livestock department Lower Dir Dr Dilbar Khan says that no case of Congo virus lumpy skin and dengue virus has been reported in Dir Lower so far and the livestock staff have sprayed more than 50,000 cattle so far.

Three students die in  
seminary roof collapses

## F.P. Report

BANNU: At least three students died and two others were injured when a roof of a seminary came down in the Bannu district of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province on Tuesday morning.

According to rescue officials, the roof of the seminary located near Nala

Kashupul in Bannu caved in, leaving students and teachers trapped under the debris. After being informed about the incident, rescue teams and local residents rushed to the spot and started the rescue operation.

The officials said they have pulled out the bodies of three students and two injured. The deceased and

injured have been shifted to a nearby medical facility. In a similar incident, three members of a family were killed when roof of their house had collapsed in Central Orakzai Agency yesterday. Bodies of wife of Haji Muhammad, his eight year old daughter Haleema Bibi and 10-year old son Abu Bakar were pulled out from under the debris.

Arrangements for  
Eidul Azha reviewed

LARKANA (APP): A meeting, chaired by Deputy Commissioner Larkana Rabiya Siyal, on Tuesday, reviewed the arrangements being made to improve sanitary conditions on the occasion of Eid-ul-Azha.

The meeting was attended by Mayor LMC Anwar Ali Nawaz Lohar, officials of Municipal and officials of district police, Revenue departments and Town Officers of the district, and

Officials of SSWMA to discuss measures required to be taken for timely disposal of offal and maintenance of law and order in the city and other towns of the district.

The participants of the meeting said that no cattle market would be allowed to be set up elsewhere. They said that taluka administrations in cooperation with Municipal and Town administrations would make arrangements for dis-

posal of offal as per previous practice.

The meeting decided that measures would be taken to improve transportation of offal to the 'landfill sites' and proper disposal of the waste. It was agreed that proper machinery would be provided for this purpose. It was further decided that the deputy commissioner and other officers would visit the 'land fill sites' to inspect the arrangements.



FAISALABAD: Passengers busy at GTS Bus stand to take seat at bus as they leaving to their native villages for celebrating Eidul Azha.



THARPARKAR: People fetching water for domestic use from a well.

Int'l Day  
against  
Drug abuse  
observed

## Hafiz Aziz-ur-Rehman

H A F I Z A B A D : International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking observed in Hafizabad, on Monday. In this connection, a walk and seminar held under auspices of Azmat Welfare Society Hafizabad.

Addressing the seminar, ADCG Abbas Zulqarnain said that use of narcotics is fatal habit and not only addicts persons ruined their own lives but the whole family was also indulge in gruesome circumstances. He said that it was a social issue and the whole society would have to play vital role for controlling menace of drug abuse and illicit trafficking.

He said that those people who were engaged in keeping away our new generation from use of narcotics were the Messiah of the nation and it was obligation of parents to monitoring activities of their children to save their children from bad society.

Social Welfare Officer Madam Maiada Ishtiaq, Eddi Hafizabad Abdul Jabbar Insari and Mahmood Sadiq were also addressed the seminar. Later, a walk was also take out to create awareness among people about hazards of drug abuse and drug trafficking

Kundi lauds  
ministry's  
decision  
F.P. Report

D I KHAN: Minister of State for Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety Faisal Karim Kundi on Tuesday lauded the Interior ministry's decision of setting up counters for issuing passports at several NADRA centers across the country and demanded for the same facility at Tehsil level in Dera Ismail Khan.

According to a press release issued here, the state minister paid tribute to the interior minister for providing facility of Passport in NADRA offices and termed it a people-friendly initiative. Faisal Kundi demanded that this laudable facility should also be provided to the residents of far-flung areas of Dera Ismail Khan. He said the facility of passport processing counters should be provided at NADRA centers in Tehsils Daraban, Parao, Kulachi and Paharpur. Moreover, the minister demanded of the interior ministry to establish a NADRA office in Paniala.

Criminal held,  
narcotics  
recovered

SIALKOT (INP): Police on Tuesday arrested seven accused and recovered narcotics here on Tuesday.

According to police, Police on having intelligence based operation raided different areas of Muradpur and arrested Ali Raza, Mohsin, Abdullah and recovered 4.5kg hashish, while police also apprehended Qamar Shahzad, Bilal, Salman and Mazhar Abbas with 50 liters of liquor.

Two killed in  
Katlang road mishap

## F.P. Report

MARDAN: Two persons were killed when a car plunged into a stream (nullah) and on Kalo Shah road in Katlang tehsil, the rescue-1122 officials told here on Tuesday.

The locals of area concerned told that the ill-fated car skipped into water of the nullah when the driver lost control over steering of the motor car. The rescue-1122 personnel told that they rushed to spot and shifted the victims to tehsil headquarter's hospital.

The doctors at the hospital declared the shift victims by the rescue-1122 personnel as dead. Later on, the dead persons were identified as Bilal Dad and Uzair Khan hailing from Kohi Barmool area of Katlang tehsil. The dead bodies were handed over to their family members after completing the medico-legal procedure and post-mortem.

Meanwhile, two persons including a woman and minor sustained injuries when roof of a room of house collapsed in Garikapoor area.

The rescue-1122 officials here on Tuesday told that they rushed to the spot and took the injured persons to Mardan Medical Complex hospital when they got information about the incident. The injured were identified as wife of

Mutwalab and her six-year old son.

**Health officials deny news of 18 deaths due heat wave:** District Hospital Director Doctor Tariq Mehmood denied the news of 18 deaths from heat wave being circulating the media and social media. While talking to media, Dr. Tariq Mehmood said that on 23 June 2023, a local tv channel has aired false news that 18 people have been died from heat stroke in Mardan.

The same false information also reported by other mainstream media outlets of the country. Dr. Mehmood denied the news and said that total of 24 deaths have been reported in Mardan hospitals in previous week but the reasons were different from heat stroke. "These people have been died from heart attack and some other reasons but no one has been died from heat stroke" said Mehmood. He denied all the news and said that the situation is normal and no one has been died from heat stroke Mardan till now.

**Mayor to participate in forum at Paris:** Mayor Mardan Himayat Ullah Mayar left for a visit to France at the invitation of the Global Forum for Migration and Development, he will participate in international seminars on the topics of

culture, climate and human mobility organized by the forum, Mayor Mardan United in France, Cities and Local Governments will also participate in the two-day event. On July 7 he will return back to Pakistan.

Meanwhile, Assistant Commissioner Gul Nawaz Afridi has urged the public to cooperate with TMA Takhtbhai officials to dispose of the animal remains of Eid Al-Adha. Keep it clean and tidy. Teams of TMA officials will be active on all days of Eid. On this occasion, TMO Zeeshan Jilani, TOR Rehman Sher, Inspector Muhammad Farooq was also present. They said that cleanliness is an important part of our faith. Avoid throwing animal waste in the streets during Eidul Azha DIRT and various diseases are taking place.

Provide evidence of good citizenship by sealing it in plastic bags and putting it in special garbage bins. TMA officials will take it out of the city and bury it. He said that several teams of TMA in the entire sub-division will be on duty on all days of Eid. There will be full monitoring however, public cooperation is very important. On this occasion, plastic bags were distributed among the social workers belonging to different areas.

Meeting regarding  
Eid arrangements held

NAWABSHAH (APP): In order to overview the

arrangements made for cleanliness and sanitation at and around Eid gahs, mosques, street lights, and shifting of sacrificial animals' waste outside the city, Deputy Commissioner Shehryar Gul Memon chaired a meeting at Municipal Corporation Office Nawabshah.

SSP Mehzoor Ali, Mayor Municipal Corporation Qazi Muhammad Rasheed Bhatti, Deputy Mayor Mubbashir Arain, Chairman Town Municipal Committee Old Nawabshah Muhammad Hayat Kakepoto, Vice Chairman Muhammad Yaqoob Arain, Chairman Town Municipal Committee HM Khoja Syed Atif Hussain Zaidi, Municipal Commissioner Abdul Razzaq Shaikh, XEN Hesco Deedar Channa, Deputy Director Information Ghulam Abbas Gorah, Veterinary Dr Tariq Noorani, officials of Public Health, LBOD and other related departments attended the

meeting.

Addressing the meeting DC Shehryar Gul Memon said that arrangements for cleanliness and drinking water should be made for citizens coming to Eidgah and Municipal ground for Eid prayers while sanitation arrangements should also be made for Masjids and city Reas on the occasion.

The DC said that arrangements should also be made for the shifting of remains of sacrificial animals outside the city for which cooperation be sought from newly elected UC members and committees be formed. He instructed officials of municipal institutions to set up Control Rooms to resolve the complaints of citizens regarding the shifting of animal remains.

Addressing the meeting Mayor Qazi Muhammad Rasheed Bhatti said that with the coordination of newly elected members of the Municipal Corporation, better arrangements are made for sanitation. He said

that tractor trolleys, loaders and rickshaws are arranged for shifting of animal remains from the city for which staff has been posted.

Briefing the meeting, Municipal Commissioner Abdul Razzaq Shaikh said that Eid prayers would be offered at Eidgah and Municipal ground for which arrangements are finalized. He said a plan has been formed to shift the waste of sacrificial animals under which 11 tractor trolleys and rickshaws would do lifting work from 9-30 am to 11 pm.

He said that a Control Room has been set up at Municipal Corporation to resolve the public issues. He said that arrangements are also made for the provision of drinking water for the public. SSP Mehzoor Ali informed the meeting that a security plan was formed to maintain the law and order situation in the limits of the Municipal Corporation and other towns and cities of the district on the occasion of Eid ul Azha.

Commissioner chairs meeting regarding  
construction of school, hospital

NAWABSHAH (APP): Commissioner Muhammad Abbas Baloch chaired a meeting about Public school Tando Adam, SMS Hospital Shahdadpur and Maternity Home Hospital are here on Tuesday.

DC Sanghar Muhammad Ishaque Gad, District Health Officer Dr Faiz Muhammad Mari, SMS In-charge Muhammad Moosa, Assistant Commissioner General Liaquat Loond and officials of Education Works Sanghar attended the meeting.

Addressing the meeting,

the Commissioner said that the construction work of Public-School Tando Adam building shall be completed at the earliest so that educational activities could be started that would provide better educational facilities to students of Tando Adam and its vicinity. He said that a letter is being written to authorities to resolve the issues of onward communication to the Sindh Government to resolve the issues of funds and others.

Commissioner instructed better medical treatment to

visit patients at SMS Hospital Shahdadpur. He said that hospital administration shall write a letter about issues it is facing so that steps be taken in this regard. Briefing the meeting officials of the Department of Education Works Sanghar informed that construction work of Public School Tando Adam is suspended for some time due to the paucity of funds which is required to complete the construction work while a letter was also written to higher authorities in this regard.





## Cost to remove a migrant £63,000 more than keeping in UK

LONDON (BBC): It could cost an estimated £63,000 more to send a migrant to a "safe country" such as Rwanda than to keep them in the UK, the government has said. An economic impact assessment of the Illegal Migration Bill, which is going through Parliament, found a gross cost of £169,000 to relocate an individual. But the estimated £106,000 spent on housing support if they remained in the UK would be avoided.

The government said the policy would also have a deterrent impact. The Home Office assessment said no cost would be incurred if an individual was deterred from entering the UK illegally. However, it said it was "uncertain" what level of deterrence impact the policy would have because the bill was "novel and untested". It also said the potential savings were "highly uncertain" but gave an estimated figure of between £106,000 and £165,000 per individual. The higher figure takes into the account the possibility of housing costs continuing to increase. Other additional savings beyond accommodation costs include those associated with resettling a migrant in the UK such as benefits, social housing and healthcare. The report estimates the policy would need to deter 37% of people from entering the UK illegally for there to be no cost

to the taxpayer. The bill aims to stop people crossing the Channel in small boats by preventing anyone arriving in the UK illegally from claiming asylum. Instead they would be detained and removed, either to Rwanda or another "safe country".

The total estimated cost of relocating an individual to Rwanda or another third country includes a payment to that country of around £105,000 per person, as well as £22,000 for flights and escorting the individual. The figure assumes a flight can seat 50 individuals being relocated but flights may depart with fewer people on board. Other costs include detaining individuals while they are processed. The costs are theoretical estimates rather than the actual cost of the Rwanda agreement, which is commercially sensitive. Labour said the impact assessment was "a complete joke" and the government was "totally clueless" about how much the bill would cost. "The few figures the Home Office has produced show how chaotic and unworkable their plans are," shadow home secretary Yvette Cooper said.

She added that "the true cost" may be higher as the government had not costed the possibility of people being held in "indefinite detention". Enver Soloman, chief executive of the Refugee Council, said the bill "would cause hardship,

cost billions of pounds, and do nothing to alleviate the current crisis and pressures within the asylum system". Home Secretary Suella Braverman said: "Our impact assessment shows that doing nothing is not an option. "We cannot allow a system to continue which incentivises people to risk their lives and pay people smugglers to come to this country illegally, while placing an unacceptable strain on the UK taxpayer." The UK is spending £6m a day to house asylum seekers in hotels. Last year more than 45,700 people made the dangerous journey across the Channel in small boats. Prime Minister Rishi Sunak has made stopping the crossings one of his five key priorities, with the bill central to the government's plans to achieve this aim. Rwanda is currently the only country the UK has a deal with to relocate migrants to but no flights have set off yet.

The High Court ruled in December 2022 that the scheme is legal, but that decision is facing further challenge in the courts, with a judgement due on Thursday. The Illegal Migration Bill still needs to be approved by the House of Lords, where it has faced significant opposition, and could face further legal challenge if it becomes law. Critics have argued the bill is unworkable and could breach international law.

## Dolphin moms use baby talk to call to their young

WASHINGTON (AP): You know instantly when someone is speaking to an infant or small child. It turns out that dolphin mothers also use a kind of high-pitched baby talk. A study published found that female bottlenose dolphins change their tone when addressing their calves. Researchers recorded the signature whistles of 19 mother dolphins in Florida, when accompanied by their young offspring and when swimming alone or with other adults.

The dolphin signature whistle is a unique and important signal - akin to calling out their own name. "They use these whistles to keep track of each other. They're periodically saying, 'I'm here, I'm here,'" said study co-author Laela Sayigh, a Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution marine biologist in Massachusetts. When directing the signal to their calves, the mother's whistle pitch is higher and her pitch range is greater than usual, according to the study published in the journal, Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences. "That was true for every one of the moms in the

study, all 19 of them," said biologist Peter Tyack, a study co-author from the University of St. Andrews in Scotland. Obtaining this data was no simple feat. Over more than three decades, scientists placed special microphones multiple times on the same wild dolphin mothers in Florida's Sarasota Bay to record their signature whistles. That included years when they had calves and when they didn't - dolphin calves stay with their mothers for an average of three years in Sarasota, and sometimes longer. Fathers don't play a prolonged role in parenting. "This is unprecedented, absolutely fantastic data," said Mauricio Cantor, an Oregon State University marine biologist who was not involved in the study. "This study is the result of so much research effort."

Why people, dolphins or other creatures use baby talk isn't certain, but scientists believe it may help offspring learn to pronounce novel sounds. Research dating back to the 1980s suggests that human infants may pay more attention to speech with a greater pitch range. Female rhesus mon-

keys may alter their calls to attract and hold offspring's attention. And Zebra finches elevate their pitch and slow down their songs to address chicks, perhaps making it easier to learn birdsong. For the dolphin study, the researchers focused solely on the signature call, so they don't know if dolphins also use baby talk for other exchanges - or whether it helps their offspring learn to "talk" as it seems to do with humans. "It would make sense if there are similar adaptations in bottlenose dolphins - a long lived, highly acoustic species," where calves must learn to vocalize many sounds to communicate, said Frants Jensen, a behavioral ecologist at Aarhus University and a study co-author. Another possible reason for using specific pitches is to catch the kids' attention. "It's really important for a calf to know 'Oh, Mom is talking to me now' versus just announcing her presence to someone else," added Janet Mann, a marine biologist at Georgetown University, who was not involved in the study.

## Malaria cases in Texas and Florida rised

NEW YORK (AP): The United States has seen five cases of malaria spread by mosquitos in the last two months - the first time there's been local spread in 20 years. There were four cases detected in Florida and one in Texas, according to a health alert issued by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Malaria is caused by a parasite that spreads through mosquito bites. Infected people can suffer fever, chills and flu-like illness. If it goes untreated, infected people can devel-

op severe complications and die.

The largest death toll in recent years has been seen in children in sub-Saharan Africa. Health officials are warning doctors, especially those in southern states where the weather is more friendly to the tropical mosquito that spreads malaria, to be aware of the possibility of infection. They also should think about how to access the IV drug that is the first-line treatment for severe malaria in the United States, the CDC

said.

The agency said that the people who were diagnosed received treatment and "are improving." About 2,000 US cases of malaria are diagnosed each year - the vast majority in travelers coming from countries where malaria commonly spreads. Since 1992, there've been 11 outbreaks involving malaria from mosquitoes in the US. The last one occurred in 2003 in Palm Beach County, Florida, where eight cases were reported.

## Man shot dead in 'ambush'

SYDNEY (Agencies): A man has been shot dead in Sydney's eastern Bondi district in what local media described as a "brazen daylight ambush". Police established a cordon near a car park in the Bondi Junction shopping district, a few minutes' drive from the Australian city's famed beach, after the killing on Tuesday morning. "The male driver died at the scene. He has not been formally identified but is believed to be aged in his 40s," police said.

Authorities did not name the suspect but the Sydney Morning Herald, citing police sources, said the "heavily tattooed" victim was linked to organised crime. A grey Porsche was found burned out nearby and was believed to be linked to the shooting, police said. Olivia Scanlan, a 27-year-old local actress and dancer, told the AFP news agency she was "shocked" by the shooting in the normally peaceful neighbourhood. "I have friends that come here to visit and they think, 'Wow, Australia is a dream,'" she said. "They think it is so safe and this is so different to home."

"You can walk around at night time and feel like nothing is going to happen." Despite having a population of just 26 million people, Australia is one of the world's most lucrative markets for recreational drugs, with prices well above those on the streets of Europe or North America. In 2019-2020, the last period for which data is available, some 39 tonnes of drugs were seized by police. Local motorcycle gangs have increasingly made contact with Mexican and other cartels to bring drugs into the country, according to Australian authorities.

## Colombia awards medals

BOGOTA (Agencies): Colombian President Gustavo Petro has awarded medals to Indigenous and military rescuers who took part in an operation to find four children who were lost for 40 days in the jungle after surviving a plane crash in the country's Amazon region.

The children, aged one through to 13, survived the crash that killed their mother, the pilot and another adult on May 1. The children were eventually found on June 9 by volunteers from the Indigenous Muruy people following a large and complex search operation. "More than the medals, which are symbolic... the great prize, the great reward, is called life," President Petro said at the ceremony in the capital Bogota where members of the rescue mission were given medals of the Order of Boyaca - the second highest distinction in the armed forces and the highest for civilians.

The children - Lesly, Soleiny, Tien Norie and Cristin, aged 13, nine, five and one, respectively - survived for weeks in the deep jungle thanks to skills they learned being members of one of Colombia's Indigenous communities. Petro said the children had been guided by "ancestral" knowledge and praised the collaboration with Indigenous members of the search team for "teaching all of Colombia how, being united, we can find life". "Now there is no debate about whether Western or traditional wisdom is more important," Petro said of the rescue efforts. "Together, they brought the children back."

"The military with its satellites, and the Indigenous people with their potions - including ayahuasca - and invoking the spirits of the jungle, together, found life," he added.



MOSCOW: Fighters of the Wagner Group mercenary army stand on a tank in the city of Rostov-on-Don, Russia.

## A scientist's 4-decade quest to save biggest monkey in Americas

CARATINGA, Brasil (AP): The emerald-green canopy shifts and rustles as a troop of willowy, golden-gray monkeys slides through a tropical ecosystem more threatened than the Amazon. Karen Strier started studying the biggest monkey in the Americas four decades ago, when there were just 50 of the animals left in this swath of the Atlantic forest, in southeastern Brazil's Minas Gerais state.

Strier immediately fell in love with the northern muriqui, dedicating her life to saving it and launching one of the world's longest-running primate studies. "I love everything about them; they're beautiful animals, they're graceful, they even smell good, like cinnamon," the American primatologist told The Associated Press on a recent field trip. "It was a complete and total sensory experience that appealed to my mind as a scientist, and to my mind as a person." Scientists then knew almost nothing of the species, except that it was on the verge of extinction. Rampant deforestation had dramatically reduced and fragmented its habitat, creating isolated pockets of muriquis. To Strier's surprise, the northern muriqui turned out to be radically different from large primates studied by Jane Goodall and Dian Fossey, the primatologists who made chimpanzees and mountain gorillas, respectively, globally famous emblems of conservation. Research was focusing on primates from Africa and Asia, where dominant males frequently fought one another to impose or maintain their power in highly hierarchical societies. Strier herself had spent six months studying baboons in Kenya.

"Muriquis are at the far other extreme of peacefulness," she said. In 1983, her first year of research, the biologist spent 14 months in the rain-forest observing muriquis. This slender vegetarian can measure up to 5 feet (1.5 meters) from head to tail, and weigh up to 33 pounds (15 kilograms). While muriquis can live as

long as 45 years, females can only give birth every three years, slowing down efforts to repopulate the species. She noticed that males spent a lot of time in peaceful proximity - often within arm's reach. And when there's a contest for food, water or a female, males don't fight like most other primates, but wait, avoid one another, or hug. This unusually friendly behavior has earned them the nickname "hippie monkey" among both ordinary people in the area, and scientists.

Some also refer to them as "forest gardeners," for their role as seed dispersers. They eat fruits from high trees that many other animals cannot reach, and defecate the seeds on the forest floor. Gender roles among muriquis also were unusual among large primates, Strier's initial research found. Much like bonobos, muriqui females are the same size as males, meaning they have a lot of autonomy, and in muriqui societies, females break off from the group to seek partners. "We now see a lot more variations among primates, and I think the muriquis helped open that door to understanding better some of this diversity," Strier said. Inside the 2,300-acre (950-hectare) Feliciano Miguel Abdala reserve, a privately protected area where Strier has based her research program, the northern muriqui population has grown nearly fivefold, to 232. That's about one-fifth of the critically endangered species' overall population. "There are very few (primate projects) that have run that long, continuously, and of that kind of quality in the world," said American primatologist Russell Mittermeier, chief conservation officer at Re:wild, who introduced Strier to the muriquis. Strier and her team know each of the reserve's 232 muriquis by name, and which monkey they are related to, not by tagging or marking them, but based on detailed illustrations of their facial pigments and other physical traits. After drought and a yellow fever outbreak killed 100 muriquis - about a

third of the reserve's population - in just five years, Strier has strongly advocated for the creation of forest corridors and supporting species reintro-duction projects.

In 2016, Fernanda Pedreira Tabacow, a former student and right arm of Strier's, heard that there were only two muriqui males left in a patch of forest in Ibitipoca, southwest of the Feliciano Miguel Abdala reserve. She knew that, without any intervention, they were doomed. "I thought that was the last breath of the species here," Tabacow said. To give them a chance to survive, Tabacow relocated a female into the area, but she disappeared before the animals could mate. With that experiment having failed, it was time for more drastic measures. They placed both males in a nearly 15-acre (6-hectare) enclosed area in their native forest along with three females that got lost in their searches for a partner, plus two young orphans. A year later, in 2020, the experiment bore its first fruit, with the birth of an infant muriqui. The final objective, once there are at least a dozen members in the group, is to release them into the wilderness, Tabacow says. "The information we had (from Strier's research) facilitated everything, we avoided many mistakes that could have been made," said Tabacow, who also works with Strier in the reserve. "As this project is unprecedented, we have no models to follow, but we have great knowledge about how the species behaves." Earlier this month, primatologists, environmentalists and other muriqui enthusiasts from Brazil and abroad converged on the small city of Caratinga to celebrate Strier's 40th year of uninterrupted study. She started by unthanking peers and the many students who are carrying forward her work. She also used her stage to advocate for the creation of a forest corridor linking the Feliciano Miguel Abdala reserve to another area 25 miles (40 kilometers) away, urging the Environment Ministry representative to follow suit.

## Work begins to clean up train derailment in Montana's River

HELENA, Mont. (AP): Work is underway to clean up rail cars carrying hazardous materials that fell into the Yellowstone River in southern Montana after a bridge collapsed over the weekend, officials said.

Montana Rail Link is developing a cleanup plan and is working with its unions and BNSF Railway to reroute freight trains in the area to limit disruption of the supply chain, Beth Archer, a spokesperson for the US Environmental Protection Agency, said in a joint statement issued with the Montana Department of Environmental Quality and Montana Rail Link.

Contractors and a large crane were on site to stabilize and remove cars from the river once a plan is set, officials said. Some rail cars that did not go off the tracks were removed from the area, and two cars carrying sodium hydrosulfide had their contents trans-

ferred to other cars and moved to safety, Archer said. Montana Rail Link will be responsible for all cleanup costs, CEO Joe Racicot told a news conference. Sixteen cars derailed, and 10 of them ended up in the river downstream from Yellowstone National Park.

Six mangled cars that carried hot asphalt, three holding molten sulfur and one with scrap metal remained in the rushing water in an area surrounded by farmland near the town of Columbus, about 40 miles (about 64 kilometers) west of Billings. Two of the cars were submerged, and a dive team was deployed to gather more information, Archer said in a statement. Joni Sandoval, the EPA on-scene coordinator, told a news conference her agency has invited experts from federal and state fish and wildlife agencies to come to the site to assess how the derailment has

affected wildlife. The asphalt and sulfur solidified and sank in the cold water, officials said. Some asphalt globules were found downriver, but they are not water soluble and are not expected to impact water quality, the statement said. Water samples taken showed the materials from the derailment had not affected water quality. Shasta Steinweden of the state Department of Environmental Quality said. The tests showed no presence of petroleum and sulfur levels were consistent with upstream water samples, she said.

Results from samples taken were still pending. The cause of the collapse was under investigation. Part of the train had crossed the bridge before it failed, and some cars at the back remained on stable ground at the other end. No injuries were reported. The collapse also cut two major fiber-optic lines. Global Net said

that it had developed a temporary workaround. Company officials did not return a call seeking further information. The White House was monitoring the situation and was prepared to offer any federal help that might be needed, spokesperson Karin Jean-Pierre said. The derailment comes just over four months after a freight train derailed near East Palestine, Ohio, sparking a fire that led to evacuations and the eventual burning of hazardous materials to prevent an uncontrolled explosion. Freight railcar inspections are happening less often, union officials testified last week during a congressional hearing about the Ohio derailment. Jean-Pierre said the US Department of Transportation is looking into ways to prevent derailments. The government has been "all hands on deck," she said.

## US cautious on Russian rebellion to avoid creating an opening for Putin

WASHINGTON (AP): On the surface, the turmoil in Russia would seem like something for the US to celebrate: a powerful mercenary group engaging in a short-lived clash with Russia's military at the very moment that Ukraine is trying to gain momentum in a critical counteroffensive.

But the public response by Washington has been decidedly cautious. Officials say the US had no role in the conflict, insist this was an internal matter for Russia and decline to comment on whether it could affect the war in Ukraine. The reason: to avoid creating an opening for Russian President Vladimir Putin to seize on the rhetoric of American officials and

rally Russians by blaming his Western adversaries. Even President Joe Biden, known for straying from talking points, has stayed on script.

Biden told reporters that the United States and NATO weren't involved. Biden said he held a video call with allies over the weekend and they are all in sync in working to ensure that they give Putin "no excuse to blame this on the West" or NATO. "We made clear that we were not involved. We had nothing to do with it," Biden said. "This was part of a struggle within the Russian system." Biden and administration officials declined to give an immediate assessment of what the 22-hour uprising by the Wagner Group

might mean for Russia's war in Ukraine, for mercenary chief Yevgeny Prigozhin or for Russia itself.

"We're going to keep assessing the fallout of this weekend's events and the implications from Russia and Ukraine," Biden said. "But it's still too early to reach a definitive conclusion about where this is going." Putin, in his first public comments since the rebellion, said "Russia's enemies" had hoped the mutiny would succeed in dividing and weakening Russia, "but they miscalculated." He identified the enemies as "the neo-Nazis in Kyiv, their Western patrons and other national traitors." Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said Russia was inves-

tigating whether Western intelligence services were involved in Prigozhin's rebellion. Over the course of a tumultuous weekend in Russia, US diplomats were in contact with their counterparts in Moscow to underscore that the American government regarded the matter as a domestic affair for Russia, with the US only a bystander, State Department spokesman Matthew Miller said.

Michael McFaul, a former US ambassador to Russia, said that Putin in the past has alleged clandestine US involvement in events - including democratic uprisings in former Soviet countries, and campaigns by democracy activists inside and outside

Russia - as a way to diminish public support among Russians for those challenges to the Russian system. The US and NATO "don't want to be blamed for the appearance of trying to destabilize Putin," McFaul said. A feud between the Wagner Group leader, Yevgeny Prigozhin, and Russia's military brass that has festered throughout the war erupted into the mutiny that saw the mercenaries leave Ukraine to seize a military headquarters in a southern Russian city. They rolled for hundreds of kilometers toward Moscow, before turning around, in a deal whose terms remain uncertain. Biden's national security team briefed him as

Prigozhin's forces were on the move, the president said. He said he had directed them to "prepare for a range of scenarios" as Russia's crisis unfolded. Biden did not elaborate on the scenarios. But national security spokesman John Kirby addressed one concern raised frequently as the world watched the cracks opening in Putin's hold on power - worries that the Russian leader might take extreme action to reassert his command. Putin and his lieutenants have made repeated references to Russia's nuclear weapons since invading Ukraine 16 months ago, aiming to discourage NATO countries from increasing their support to Ukraine.



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## Army's self-accountability drive and need for conclusiveness

**R**ECENTLY, the Pakistan Army media wing has informed the nation that Pakistan Army dismissed three senior officers including a Lt General from the service while action has been taken against three Major Generals and seven Brigadiers over their alleged role in May 9 riots. As said, the Pakistan Army successfully accomplished its process of self-accountability in the light of two comprehensive inquiries that were initiated to ascertain the facts surrounding violent events that took place at various Army garrisons on May 9. According to the DG ISPR, these penalties showed that accountability in the Pakistan Army was carried out with discrimination. Military Chief Spokesman announced that the Pak Army believes that the responsible and facilitators of the May 9 tragedy will not be pardoned and the people who will create hurdles in the process will also not be tolerated and would be punished under the Constitution of Pakistan. Maj Gen Sharif said the families of martyrs and all ranks of the army are raising questions over the May 9 incidents and the desecration of martyrs' monuments during the riots.

May 9 was undoubtedly a black day in the Country's history, that has created an unremovable stain on national prestige and earned a bad name for the country. On that day, the Pakistani nation witnessed unprecedented lawlessness and vandalism by the violent protestors allegedly belonging to the Pakistan Tahreek-e-Insaf (PTI) following the arrest of the PTI Chairman Imran Khan. The violent mobs vandalized public and state properties and fearlessly attacked the Military General Headquarters (GHQ), the Corps commander's residence in Lahore, several other military installations, and desecrated martyrs' monuments in different parts of the country during the riots. In fact, those heinous acts had been condemned by every patriotic citizen, while the coalition government and Army leadership vowed to bring the miscreants to justice by trying them in the military courts under the Pakistan Army Act 1952 and other relevant laws in the constitution.

Recently, the Pakistan Army media wing has revealed that the Army has initiated two separate inquiries to ascertain its institutional security lapses and involvement/ professional slackness of Army personnel in the riots that created havoc with the Army. The Director General ISPR shared very shocking and heart-wrenching details that three senior officers, including a lieutenant-general, have been removed from their jobs, and strict disciplinary proceedings are currently underway against 15 officers, including three major generals and seven brigadiers. As said, the Pakistan Army carried out this process of self-accountability with discrimination, while numerous family members of former Senior military officers including the granddaughter and son-in-law of a four-star general were also under trial in the courts.

Realistically, thousands of retired military officers and their families and countless serving military men from all ranks fell prey to politics and compromised their allegiance and loyalty to their profession and institution. Ironically, senior military officers of General and Brigadier ranks were influenced by political sentiments and failed to differentiate between facts and fiction, truth and lies, and even they violated their oath and betrayed their institution and the country out of their political affiliation and fake ultranationalism. It is a great national loss and a serious institutional setback for a professional Army in that such immature and weak figures reached top positions, commanded thousands of soldiers, and had access to sensitive information and equipment which they surely do not deserve. This situation also raises serious questions regarding the preliminary selection, vetting process, and promotion criteria of our armed forces that failed to identify and weed out such gutless characters at an early stage. Seemingly, this was not the first case that Pakistan's military faced such an unpleasant situation among its ranks and files, that incompetent individuals got top slots and worked for their agenda and earned a bad name for the institution.

The incumbent Army Chief General Asim Munir has an accurate assessment of the events, the disillusion, and the misperception that prevails among the common military officers regarding the military's role in the governmental and political affairs, relations with political leadership and civilian bureaucracy as well as the philosophy of jihad that is the core asset of Pakistan Army and commonly our young officers and soldiers fell victims to subversions on those grounds. Historically, Islam, jihad, and patriotism are those sentiments that had often been used by the enemy forces to their advantage against Islam and Pakistan. There is an urgent need that our soldiers and military officers must be briefed about current-day hybrid war, the enemy's tactics of subversion, and propaganda, while essential reforms must be incorporated into the professional curriculum to effectively neutralized this severe challenge in the future.

### Important Notice

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



## The Hajj is where spirituality, solidarity, and science intersect

Abdirahman Mahamud

**A**S a child, when the time for the annual Hajj would approach, I would often hear the same story from my father. He would tell me about Syed Yussef, a relative of my great-grandfather who travelled to Mecca to perform the Hajj at the turn of the 20th century. At that time, the journey from our homeland in northern Kenya to Islam's holy places was an arduous one and many pilgrims did not make it back, falling victim to disease, exhaustion or attacks by bandits.

Knowing full well these dangers, Syed Yussef set out for Mecca overjoyed that he would be fulfilling his religious obligation, experiencing a journey of spiritual purification and feeling the cool marble flooring around the Holy Kaaba. It would take him four months - traveling on foot, by boat and camel - to reach the holy site. More than a century after my distant relative crossed seas and deserts to get to Mecca, I also made the journey - which took me just a few hours by plane. It was 2019, a year before the COVID-19 pandemic. I was appointed to a World Health Organization team which was dispatched to Saudi Arabia to support the Ministry of Health in health crisis preparedness and disease outbreak prevention during the Hajj season.

I was impressed by the public health measures that the Saudi authorities already had in place to keep safe the millions of people who poured in. They had made sure that pilgrims had access to clean water and sanitation facilities, food, transportation and medical care. The elderly, the sick and people with disabilities were also accommodated so they could participate fully in the Hajj. The holy sites were kept clean and there was constant monitoring for disease outbreaks. The Hajj I saw was not only a wondrous unforgettable spiritual journey for the pilgrims, but also a safe one

where people did not have to risk their lives to undertake it - as my legendary relative and many others had to in the past. And that was not only because the Saudi health ministry was doing its job well, but also because Muslims had learned from past disasters. In fact, one could argue that the Hajj has shaped global public health practices used today around the world.

As a mass gathering of people, the Hajj has had a history of public health crises. For example, in 1865, during the Hajj season, a cholera epidemic broke out, killing 15,000 of the 90,000 pilgrims that undertook it. Once the pilgrimage was over, people went back to their homes, carrying with them the deadly disease and causing various outbreaks in Africa, Asia and Europe. The total death toll from the epidemic was estimated at 200,000 people. As cholera spread to Europe, the French government was alarmed. Under its initiative, in 1866, the Ottoman authorities hosted in Istanbul the International Sanitary Conference held, which was exclusively devoted to the disease outbreak.

At the summit, which was dominated by European nations, the cholera epidemic in Europe was linked to the Hajj. The measures that were discussed focused on ways to prevent the spread towards European countries, including by closing ports to arrivals from the Arabian Peninsula and imposing maritime quarantine. However, tackling the epicentre of the outbreak in the East was hardly discussed, which was a mistake. Quarantine centres were set up in al-Tur in the Gulf of Suez, the Kamarin Island in the Red Sea, and in Izmir, Trabzon and on the Bosphorus in the Ottoman Empire. They targeted specifically Muslim pilgrims who were hoarded into camps and kept there for at least 15 days to ensure they were not carry-

ing the disease. Unsurprisingly, the quarantine stations were deeply unpopular and pilgrims resented being detained and overseen by people of another faith. The result was that many would travel longer distances so that they would not have to go through these ports and experience such humiliation.

Many Muslims avoided the quarantine despite them knowing the public health teaching of Prophet Muhammad: "If you hear of an outbreak of plague in a land, do not enter it; but if the plague breaks out in a place while you are in it, do not go out escaping from it." There would have been more compliance had Muslim communities been properly consulted and included in developing the quarantine measures, instead of being coerced. These policies were clearly designed to serve the interests of rich and powerful European nations and that provoked distrust and rejection. This is a recipe for disaster in any public health strategy.

Meanwhile, Muslims learned the lessons of the 1865 outbreak and put in place policies to prevent another one in their holy sites. In Mecca, various sanitation measures were implemented to reduce the risk of cholera, which proved successful. Outbreaks of cholera dwindled afterwards. Fast-forward to today, the public health knowledge and traditions accumulated over centuries have been embedded in Saudi Arabia's modern policies, which ensure that the Hajj is carried out in a safe manner.

When the COVID-19 pandemic broke out in the 2020, the kingdom immediately took measures to prevent the Hajj from becoming a superspreader event. The number of pilgrims was dramatically reduced to just 1,000 and the rituals were carried out under strict social distancing and

masking mandates. The COVID-19 pandemic was tough on all of us, not only physically but psychologically and socially as well. This year, we will have the first Hajj without strict pandemic measures in place, enabling more than 2.5 million Muslims to embark on this spiritual journey. This is great news. In 2019, I witnessed the impact the Hajj has on Muslims from all over the world, of all races, of all walks of life. I observed what American psychologist Abraham Maslow calls transcendence and defines as: "the very highest and most inclusive or holistic levels of human consciousness, behaving and relating, as ends rather than means, to oneself, to significant others, to human beings in general, to other species, to nature, and to the cosmos."

But with the end of the COVID-19 pandemic, we should not let our guard down. In an increasingly hotter and interconnected world, the next global public health emergency may be just around the corner; we know it is a question of when not if. That is why, we should learn from past mistakes. The cholera outbreak of 1865 demonstrates how measures that lack a public buy-in and trust can undermine efforts to curb the spread of a disease. We need to keep in mind these lessons as world leaders discuss a new pandemic accord that can help improve how pandemics are detected and responded to.

In a time of heightened mis- and dis-information, amplified by social media, reflecting on the facts and working with communities on pandemic preparedness and response will determine our success and failure. In all this, the Hajj can be a beacon of hope. It can offer not just a religious and spiritual path but also a public health one. It stands as an example where science supports transcendence, spirituality and human solidarity.

Aljazeera

## Prigozhin couldn't seal Putin's fate

Peter Pomerantsev

**Y**E V G E N Y Prigozhin's aborted insurrection against Vladimir Putin made for popcorn-gobbling viewing, full of social media twists and turns, as Russia's generous collection of war criminals challenged one another. It was tempting to just sit back and gawp as Russia's "great power" image was reduced to the photo of a tank in Rostov-on-Don seemingly stuck at the gates to the city circus. But we are not passive observers of this show: each of one of us influences its ultimate outcome.

Putin appears weaker than ever - and for a ruler who relies on projecting strength, that's a bad look. To further dull Putin's fading aura of invincibility, and to ultimately lead to a reversal of Russia's invasion of Ukraine, we need to undermine the pillars his strongman myth is based on: colonial conquest, unregulated capitalism and climate abuse. As questions are raised about his ability to rule, Putin will claim that despite the efforts of the nefarious "collective west", the Russian economy can stabilise because the world needs Russian fossil fuels; that the need of western companies to make money in Russia means it will never be truly isolated; that for all his blunders on the battlefield, he can still hold on to swathes of Ukraine and its resources, which he will dole out between the Russian system's stakeholders for whom the risk of sticking with Putin will thus still be smaller than the risk of going against him.

Rather than being a garish show unrelated to us playing out in a distant country, Putin's power is deeply connected to huge generational challenges that we vitally need to confront. First, don't normalise colonial conquest. When some in the west urge Ukraine to "negotiate" with Russia and cede territory in order to gain "peace", this is a green light for wannabe imperial powers anywhere to go forth, conquer and extract. Instead, ensure Ukraine receives all the military support it needs to liberate itself from Russian imperialism, and gains all the security guarantees necessary to prevent Russia ever invading again. Establishing a tribunal for the crime of aggression, as proposed by the lawyer Philippe Sands, would also send a signal that unprovoked invasion, whether by Russia or any other power, will not be normalised.

Second, push western companies to abandon Russia. Despite some companies leaving Russia at the start of the invasion, many more have remained, including well-known luxury brands. But there are also positive examples of civil society, workers and consumers pushing together for change. Take the case of the maker of Sweden's Absolut vodka, which ceased exporting the brand to Russia after widespread calls for a boycott. A public campaign then pressured Absolut's parent company, Pernod Ricard, to pull out of Russia entirely.

More serious than the impact of consumer brands

is the continued use of sophisticated western machinery and exports that enable manufacturing for the Russian army. Companies such as Haas Automation have been accused of continuing to ship machines and parts to Russia (the company says that no machines have been shipped from its factory to Russia since March 2022, and that it has been fully compliant with US export controls). All technology firms must be vigilant about the use of their products in crimes against humanity. From using kill switches to disable their technology, to actively tracking where their machines end up, there are numerous ways tech firms can take responsibility - and they must.

The issue here is not just with one or two companies, but with a whole ideology. For decades, Putin's crimes were enabled by business and political actors who claimed that greater economic interconnection would lead to a more peaceful Russia. Even after Russia's invasion and annexation of Crimea in 2014, German companies, especially, continued to expand their business with Russia. For decades, human rights concerns were thrown out - who needed them, when on both sides economic self-interest would ultimately dictate government policy? This thinking ignored the fact that the Russian regime interpreted this laissez-faire approach as a green light for escalating repression and aggression. The west cared only about business - why would it react to invasions? That ideology, or rather that ideological excuse for short-term greed, is bankrupt.

We need to recognise the fact that human rights, security and economic ties are deeply intertwined, and to alter our behaviour accordingly. Let's stop selling dictators the rope with which they hang people: our neighbours - and ultimately us. And if there's one base element that powers Putin's claims to invincibility, it's reliance on fossil fuels. The battle against Putin is also the battle against climate crisis. As Prof Alexander Etkind lays out in his new book, Russia Against Modernity, Putin's economy has been up to two-thirds dependent on oil and gas exports, largely to Europe, and crucially through pipelines that cross Ukraine.

Etkind argues that Putin launched his invasion in part to control this flow. Moreover, he wanted to destabilise Europe, flooding it with refugees and instilling so much chaos and fear that Europe would be forced to abandon emissions for net zero carbon emissions by 2050. As so often in the course of this war, Putin's aims have backfired. The invasion has led to a decrease in dependence on Russian energy. Putin's aura of fossil-fuelled invincibility has been shaken, but we are only part of the way there. Faster decarbonisation is the most sustainable way to not only undermine Putin, but also to limit the opportunity for future Russian leaders and other resource-rich authoritarians to wage aggressive wars.

The Guardian

## De-dollarization: Its causes and implications

Aidan Yao

**O**NE unintended consequence of growing division in global geopolitics is the emerging awareness of the concentrated risk of relying on a single currency in international transactions. This is especially apparent among some large, so-called "Global South", countries which are not allies of the United States and the West.

The desire to reduce US dollar exposure has, for example, led China to ramp up its promotion of the yuan as a global reserve currency; Russia and Saudi Arabia have denominated some of their energy trade in non-dollar currencies; and Brazil and Argentina are mulling the creation of a common currency for South America. The world may be witnessing the beginning of the end of the US dollar's dominance in the international monetary system.

To be sure, the position of the dollar is unlikely to

be replaced any time soon. The talk of the Renminbi as an immediate challenger to the dollar is exaggerated given the inertia of the dollar in international usage and the yuan is not yet fully convertible. The euro has never lived up to expectations of being a peer competitor to the dollar given the deep flaws in the currency union, while the use of the yen and sterling has dwindled over time to now accounting for only a small proportion of global trade. Hence, the chance of the US dollar being displaced by a new dominant currency is slim. Rather, it is more likely that the global monetary system will transition from a uni-polar regime -- centered on the US dollar -- to a multi-polar regime, whereby the dollar, euro, yuan and possibly some other currency alliances all play important roles. This will be the greatest change in global finance since the collapse of the Bretton Woods system, but unlike the latter, it

will likely be a more gradual process and not dictated by the US. To see why the US dollar is losing its lure as the currency of choice, one has to go back to the basics of what makes a reserve currency. Here are three important characteristics:

The first is credibility, manifested in the government of the reserve currency responsibly managing macro-economic policies and is not seen as abusing the "exorbitant privilege" of the reserve currency status. The second is the network effect, which expands as more people use it to exchange for goods and services. The larger the network, the greater the role it plays as a medium of exchange.

Finally, as a store of wealth, there needs to be large and deep capital market that enables holders of the currency to earn respective returns at given a level of risk. The current de-dol-

larisation trend is, in my view, mainly a result of the USD losing credibility. On the policy front, the US government has not been managing its fiscal positions responsibly. Public-sector debt as a share of GDP has more than doubled since the global financial crisis to over 120 percent, and is projected to top 200 percent in the coming decades. Besides the inability to curb debt addition, confidence in the US's ability to service this debt has also been challenged by the repeated debt-ceiling saga.

On the monetary side, the Fed has rarely managed its policy with the externalities of the US dollar in mind. Hence, the ebb and flow of the US monetary cycle has historically been a great amplifier of booms and busts in many emerging market economies. The great monetary experiment of the Fed in the last three years -- with extraordinary

policy easing during the pandemic and rapid tightening thereafter -- has once again taken the world on a rollercoaster ride. But perhaps the most important catalyst for the dollar's demise is the growing tendency of the US government to use it for geopolitical gains. Through sanctions, freezing of assets and exclusion from critical payment infrastructures, users of the dollar are not only required to accept US monetary and fiscal policies, but also increasingly forced to be aligned with US foreign policy too. The weaponization of the US dollar is awakening national security concerns among many Global South countries, leading to their desires to diversify currency use.

It is against this backdrop the yuan has gained recognition as a possible alternative to the US dollar. China's rise as a trusted economic partner of many emerging market countries has gained credibility for

the RMB, with the network of the currency also expanding as more countries use it to price trade. However, the absolute share of the RMB in cross-border transactions remains tiny compared to that of the US dollar. Not to mention, the currency is not yet fully convertible and capital flows in and out of China are still subject to controls.

Hence, the dollar's decline as the world's pre-eminent reserve currency is not a guarantee that the yuan will rise to fill its gap. Instead, a more likely evolution for the coming decade(s) is for the current uni-polar monetary system to be replaced by a multi-polar system, where the dollar shares the stage with multiple other currencies to reflect the new economic and political reality of the world. The journey to this new equilibrium will likely be bumpy and profoundly consequential for all.

The China Daily



# What will Ukraine do with Russian collaborators?

UKRAINIAN forces are in the midst of a counteroffensive aimed at liberating all of the country, including regions under occupation since 2014. If they are successful, they face the challenge not just of physically rebuilding decimated areas and documenting Russian war crimes, but also of how to deal with Ukrainian collaborators - people who are judged to have aided and abetted the occupation.

Kyiv's approach to collaborators was front of mind at the Ukrainian Recovery conference in London last week, as international supporters met Ukrainian government representatives and civil society. While calling for a hard line on collaborators is popular, that approach could ultimately prove shortsighted and hamper Ukraine's immediate efforts at integration and rebuilding, as well as its long-term social cohesion.

There is a law on the books already dealing with this issue. In the weeks following Russia's full-scale invasion in February 2022, the Ukrainian parliament hurriedly passed legislation to deter citizens from collaborating with the occupiers. While the law only poorly defines what qualifies as collaboration, the penalties it imposes are steep. In addition to fines, confiscation of property and bans from holding public office, potential punishment extends to life in prison when the perpetrator's actions led to serious harm or death.

The cases that have been brought under the law demonstrate the wide variation in what

may qualify as collaboration: while some of those prosecuted took on lucrative positions in Russia's occupying administration, others wearily continued their jobs providing basic services in local administration or education. The law therefore often targets the very people most needed for recovery, for example by keeping teachers who worked for Russian-administered schools from resuming their jobs. There is also the issue that the Ukrainian criminal justice system is ill-equipped to handle collaboration cases. Judges and police are already struggling to investigate the more than 90,000 war crimes that prosecutors believe Russian forces have perpetrated. Hard-to-find forensic specialists must investigate war crimes and appraisers must assess the damage to infrastructure in recovered areas in order to calibrate what compensation payments to offer residents.

In addition, these recovered areas are often economically depressed and in some cases strewn with landmines; as a result, people with the necessary skills to conduct investigations into collaboration will be disinclined to relocate. All these obstacles mean a case-by-case treatment of suspects could take decades and demand resources that are not currently available. The international community can play a constructive role in helping Ukraine manage the reintegration of communities that were subject to Russian control. Supporters could, for example, create incentives for the most

needed specialists to relocate to liberated areas, even for short stints. They can also help train local people and potential returnees to take over mediation of conflicts around accusations of collaboration, and conduct appraisal of physical damage to speed up compensation payments.

International supporters could also push for the Ukrainian parliament to amend its collaboration law to be more precise and ensure it aligns with international humanitarian law, which mandates that an occupying power must maintain essential services. That means people who provide key services in medical care, administration or education are generally permitted to continue exercising their professional duties even when occupying forces are in control. Convincing Ukrainian leaders to amend the collaboration law may not be a hard sell.

Iryna Vereshchuk, the Ukrainian minister responsible for reintegration, has cautioned against collectively branding everyone who continued working under Russian occupation as collaborators. Ukrainian officials from Crimea who have fled to Kyiv have warned that after the peninsula's anticipated liberation the collaboration law could lead to blanket prosecutions of Crimeans who have lived under occupation since 2014.

With such concerns in mind, parliament has begun debating several amendments. The liberal Holos party, for instance, filed a draft law that would exempt

combatants forcibly mobilised by Russia in occupied parts of Ukraine. With priorities having moved on to other pressing matters, however, these draft laws have been pending for months. Even if they are ultimately passed into law, they probably won't go far enough. While reforms to the collaboration law are under way, supporters can prod the Ukrainian government to apply it prudently. In particular, they can encourage an emerging trend of applying the full force of the law only to powerful perpetrators whose collaboration can be linked to tangible harm, or who coerced others into collaboration.

Mass indictments of suspected collaborators would sow suspicion between liberators and the liberated, overwhelm the judiciary and sideline a much-needed workforce.

A clearer definition of what constitutes collaboration could help people currently living under occupation make sound judgments about their options and what awaits them after liberation. This would be an important step towards welcoming people still living under occupation as valued participants in the country's future recovery. Taking a hard line on collaboration could ultimately lead to human rights violations and create conflicts that make it difficult for Ukrainian communities to heal. As supporters contemplate what Ukraine will need during the war and in its aftermath, they should not lose sight of the fact that sensitively dealing with collaboration will be a crucial ingredient to a sustainable peace.

# The next shoe to drop in Russia

David A. Andelman

FOR hours, as Friday morphed into Saturday and then into Sunday in Russia, the world seemed to be holding its collective breath, to be bracing for the next shoe to drop. Then suddenly it was over. Or was it? I think not - at all. The stunning announcement that Yevgeny Prigozhin, head of the Wagner paramilitary group, was halting what seemed to be an inevitable confrontation with the forces of Russian President Vladimir Putin - some called it a coup d'état, others a civil war - did indeed remove the prospects of a bloody battle at the gates of the Kremlin.

Prigozhin was turning his troops around from advancing to Moscow and heading (or so the Kremlin and Belarus leader Alexander Lukashenko avowed) into what appears to be exile in Belarus. Halted indeed was the immediate crisis, but not the underlying foundations that Prigozhin and Putin had laid long before. Above all there was the long-unspoken belief by many Russians who feared to make their voices heard that fundamentally, the war in Ukraine is not worth fighting or dying for - far from it. Now, that dirty little secret has had a full, if not yet complete, airing. And the consequences of that alone could be monumental. The most immediate and perhaps epiphanous moment began on Friday when Prigozhin released a stunning 30-minute video describing the invasion of Ukraine as "a racket" carried out by a corrupt elite, though he carefully avoided any direct mention of Putin. "The oligarchic clan that rules Russia needed the war," Prigozhin said. "The mentally ill scumbags decided: 'It's OK, we'll throw in a few thousand more Russian men as cannon fodder. They'll die under artillery fire, but we'll get what we want.'" Of course, it wasn't the first time Prigozhin has spoken so directly about the corruption he believes is eating away at the Russian state and military. Last month, he gave an incendiary interview to pro-Kremlin blogger Konstantin Dolgov, charging, "While the children of the elite smear themselves with cream on the Internet, ordinary people have children in battle, torn to pieces, and a mother cries over her son." Noting that the war had accom-

plished none of its objectives of disarming Ukraine, Prigozhin added, "If (the Ukrainians) had 500 tanks before, now they have 5,000. If 20,000 fighters were skillful then, now it's 400,000." Will relocation to Belarus quiet Prigozhin? That's hard to see. Now, in theory, though he is beyond the long arm of Putin's justice system, he could still be brandishing a powerful cell phone and laptop. But perhaps even more monumental was the equally unspoken but hardly invisible suggestion, now all but a reality, that the emperor really does have no clothes. Not anymore. Sure, Putin managed to avoid a violent confrontation that could unseat him. Still, he was forced to renege on his pledge made in a nationwide broadcast, while Prigozhin's forces were on the move, that those on a "path of treason" would be punished: "Those who (organized) and prepared the military mutiny, who turned weapons against their comrades-in-arms, have betrayed Russia, and will be held accountable for that." Not really - this was without question the greatest, most direct challenge to his presidency, and there have been no apparent consequences. Of course, some may not become apparent for a while. First, the Russian leader has not only Prigozhin to deal with but also thousands of soldiers who more than ever may be wondering just why they are fighting Putin's war. Prigozhin's Friday video was issued on his Telegram channel, certainly widely watched, especially among troops in the field and by millions across Russia. Many of his earlier interviews, especially with Dolgov, are equally followed. How, then, does Putin or his generals persuade the forces deployed in Ukraine that theirs is a war worth dying for? At least 10,000 appeals from Russian military forces to surrender voluntarily were received on Ukraine's "I want to live" hotline since September. Moreover, there seems little evidence that Putin will ditch any of his top generals in the immediate future despite Prigozhin's warnings that they are incompetent and losing a war they had long ago pledged to win quickly and painlessly. That would appear to hand Prigozhin too easy a victory. Indeed,

Prigozhin's Wagner Group seems to be the only force that's winning at all methodically in Ukraine these days. As he pointed out, it was his men who finally seized the strategic town of Bakhmut after weeks of fruitless fighting. But beyond the battlefield, other uncertainties may loom for Putin. He now appears to be faced with circumstances of his own making and apparently outside his control. That it was necessary for him to turn to Lukashenko, who has long served effectively as a lap-dog, to defuse a potentially mortally dangerous situation cannot go unnoticed in the circles that Putin has long relied on for support. And the fact that Putin's trusted spokesman, Dmitry Peskov, was unable to tell reporters where Prigozhin was located seems even more troubling.

Above all, the facts on the ground effectively rebut virtually everything Putin has said. Russia is not winning this war that was supposed to be over in a matter of days or weeks more than a year ago. Ukraine is only getting stronger and better armed, as Prigozhin has pointed out most directly. And the fear is spreading that Putin may no longer be the unchallenged strongman he has portrayed himself for two decades. Indeed, if it was a question of who was the more powerful, it may be argued that Putin was the one who blinked. "Sixteen months ago, Russian forces were on the doorstep of Kyiv, Ukraine, thinking they were going to take the city in a matter of days, erase the country from the map," US Secretary of State Antony Blinken told Dana Bash on CNN's "State of the Union" on Sunday. "Now they have to be focused on defending Moscow, Russia's capital, against mercenaries of Putin's own making. So this raises lots of profound questions that will be answered, I think, in the days and weeks ahead." Ultimately, the focus shifts to Ukraine and how President Volodymyr Zelensky and his generals can best capitalize on this gift that Prigozhin has suddenly bestowed on them.

Could a powerful strike from Ukraine's forces be the answer to the tough questions Prigozhin has surfaced during this extraordinary weekend? If so, it may simply be a matter of sitting back to observe how Kremlin power struggles play out.

CNN

# What Tehran's diplomacy tells us about future of Saudi-Iranian ties

Dr. Mohammed Al-Sulami

SAUDI Foreign Minister Prince Faisal bin Farhan paid a visit to Tehran on June 17. He met his Iranian counterpart as well as President Ebrahim Raisi. The visit came in response to an invitation by Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian. There are several observations that could be made about the visit and other matters related to the trajectory of Saudi-Iranian relations and the latest progress on the nuclear talks between Iran and the West.

The first observation is related to the arrival of the Saudi foreign minister at the headquarters of the Iranian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the red-carpet treatment handed out to him. Despite this hospitality, there was a problem regarding the Saudi flag, which was positioned in the wrong manner. Photos were taken both before and after the flag's position was changed. The second observation, which is more important in my viewpoint, was the venue of the press conference of the Saudi and Iranian foreign ministers after the deliberations they held at the headquarters of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Those attending the press conference were asked to wait in a hall that was named after Qassem Soleimani, with the former Quds Force commander's picture hanging on the wall. In fact, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has hosted many press conferences at this venue.

However, the status of Saudi-Iranian relations and the role Soleimani played in the region - which is one of the contentious

issues between the two countries - should have attracted the attention of the Iranian side. Therefore, the Saudi officials accompanying the foreign minister refused to hold the press conference at this venue. The conference was moved elsewhere, showing the Iranians' flexibility. But we also know that the Iranian side did not want to miss this point-scoring opportunity, which is a very negative indication. The third and final observation pertains to the press conference itself. The Iranian foreign minister spoke of what happened during the deliberations that preceded the conference, as well as the importance of normalizing relations between the Kingdom and Iran. When it was the turn of the Saudi foreign minister to speak, he read a written text about what he wanted to raise during his Tehran visit. It was a political message in the first place, which mentioned the most important issues concerning both sides, particularly for the Saudis, such as the building of confidence, noninterference in other countries' internal affairs and ensuring the region's security, stability and development. This is in addition to mentioning the importance of boosting ties between the two nations.

In my view, this marks the start of a new phase. It was an unusual press conference that broke long-established traditions. The Saudi foreign minister delivered a clear message from the Saudi side, and this is very important. I hope that Tehran grasps the essence of this message. Yet, finally, the confer-

ence lasted nearly 10 minutes and the attending journalists, who were moved from the old, disputed hall to the new one, were not given the chance to pose any questions. Let us now move onto the possible bottlenecks in Saudi Arabia-Iran relations despite the optimism. One would have expected the Iranian side to tread carefully to ensure all protocols were met. However, Iran in haste announced the name of the proposed Saudi ambassador to Tehran and at the same time circulated the name of the proposed Iranian ambassador to Riyadh. This was done without receiving official approval from both sides - a clear violation of diplomatic protocol.

It would be too simplistic to say that this was a mistake on the part of the Iranian side, given the importance of the matter, so a number of important questions arise: Why did the Iranians violate this diplomatic protocol? Is the Iranian leadership becoming overwhelmed by the pace of progress in Tehran's relations with the Kingdom, particularly the positive messages and gestures from the Saudi side? Are the hard-liners wanting to derail Saudi-Iranian relations, as ties with Riyadh conflict with their anti-Saudi rhetoric? Is there something sinister at play, with attempts to divert the recent optimism over Saudi-Iranian relations? The answer to the last question may be in the affirmative, given that Iranian media outlets recently returned to their negative campaign against the Kingdom. In addition, could it be the case that the Iranian lapse

of diplomatic protocol and continuation of media tirades against the Kingdom are linked to the meeting between the E3 (France, Germany and the UK) and Iran in the UAE to discuss the Iranian nuclear program. Or is this Iranian behavior related to the Biden administration's purported mini or interim nuclear deal offer?

The latter could explain the Iranian behavior. As I have mentioned previously, Iran's decision to sign a deal with the Kingdom is most likely to be tactical rather than strategic, with it needing economic opportunities to breathe life back into its dying economy and to end its regional and international isolation. On the other hand, the Saudi side is very sincere in its move, which is in harmony with the recent Saudi foreign policy approach. With a possible nuclear deal on the horizon, whatever its length or details, there would be no need for Iran to stick to the deal signed with the Kingdom and abide by diplomatic protocols in its words and deeds. Even though this purported nuclear deal is likely to face opposition in the US Congress, and cause issues for the Democrats leading up to the 2024 presidential election, what is missed are the negative implications for the region. Not addressing the outstanding issues - Iran's ballistic missiles program, belligerent behavior and financing and training of proxies - would be disastrous and would take the region back to square one. This is a strategic blunder that needs to be avoided. Saudi and Gulf voices need to be listened to rather than dismissed by the US, as happened in the past.

# Deepened economic Nepal-China ties under BRI

Ashok Poudel

SINCE Nepal's participation in China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) seven years ago, the bilateral ties between the two countries have evolved in multifaceted ways. Under the framework of the BRI, China's investment in major infrastructure, energy projects and industries in Nepal has grown remarkably. Just recently, Nepal inaugurated its third international airport in Pokhara, built with China's assistance. There are also talks of a cross-border railway, which, if materialized, could be a railway link traversing through some of the most spectacular Himalayan landscapes in the world.

In March 2016, Nepal and China signed a milestone Transit and Transport Agreement, which gives Nepal, otherwise reliant on Indian for third-country trade, access to four Chinese seaports and three land ports for third-country trade. Similarly, before the Covid-19 pandemic, Nepal received the highest number of Chinese tourists it had ever seen - in 2019 a record 169,543 Chinese tourists visited Nepal. Likewise, more and more Nepalese are traveling to China for a variety of purposes, further deepening people-to-people relations. Indeed, the growing engagement with China has positively impacted Nepal's development in a variety of ways. However, Nepal should do more

to deepen and leverage its ties with China, the world's second-largest economy, for its economic development. During his Nepal visit in 2019, President Xi underlined that the two sides should consolidate the political foundation of bilateral ties, and set the building of a community with a shared future as a long-term goal for the development of China-Nepal relations.

As one of the least developed countries in the world, Nepal faces the daunting task of economic development. It desperately needs to address its severe problem of youth unemployment. Each year, Nepalese youth leave the country in hordes in search of employment abroad. In its recent forecast issued by the World Bank in April, it predicted slower economic growth for Nepal this year, citing the impacts of import restrictions, monetary policy tightening, high inflation and shrinking government expenditure. If Nepal is to elevate itself from the least developed country to a developing country by 2026, it should singularly focus on its economic development and proactively seek everything that will help it grow economically. Engagement with China under the BRI should be one of Nepal's major economic development strategies. Drawing lessons from China's experience of economic development, Nepal should take

necessary measures to make itself an attractive destination for foreign investors.

This week, National Assembly Chairman Ganesh Prasad Timilsina visited China and met with China's top leaders including Zhao Leji, chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress, China's top legislature, and Wang Huning, chairman of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference. His visit, the highest-level visit from Nepal to China since then President Bidya Bhandari attended the opening ceremony of the Beijing Winter Olympics in May 2022, has revitalized Nepal-China bilateral relations in the post-pandemic landscape, fostering strengthened mutual trust between the two nations. In the near future, Nepali Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal is expected to embark on his first official visit to China since assuming office for a third time. He should seize the opportunity brought by the BRI to further deepen its economic ties with China and pave the way towards sustainable economic growth, enhanced bilateral relations and a brighter future for both nations and the entire South Asian region. Nepal should work together with China in earnest to develop robust cross-border

infrastructures, including highways and railways, in order to facilitate seamless year-round trade. This will unlock numerous opportunities in cross-border trade and beyond. Nepal could emerge as a pivotal gateway for China into the South Asian region.

China could potentially play a significant role in assisting with the modernization of Nepal's agriculture sector. Chinese farmers have effectively utilized modern tools and technologies in cultivation, and Nepalese farmers can benefit from adopting similar practices. To facilitate this, it is crucial for the Nepal government to reform its policies, making it easier for Nepali farmers to import agricultural tools and equipment from China. Furthermore, Nepal has the opportunity to draw valuable lessons from China's agricultural advancements in order to enhance its own agricultural development. China is also a technological powerhouse. With digital technologies taking precedence over our lives around the world, Nepal can and should take advantage of China's technological prowess in adopting the latest technologies and training its manpower for the future. The opportunities for cooperation are diverse and immense, and it is crucial for Nepal to demonstrate eagerness and a strong commitment to fostering collaboration with China.

FOR millennia, politicians have sought power in order to shape the future. Not today's MAGA Republicans, though. They have decided to use their House majority to try to shape, or reshape, the past. Last week, Reps. Marjorie Taylor Greene (R-Ga.) and Elise Stefanik (R-N.Y.) introduced resolutions to "expunge" former president Donald Trump's two impeachments, "as if such Articles of Impeachment had never passed the full House of Representatives." Incredibly, House Speaker Kevin McCarthy (R-Calif.) - whose job is to be the adult in the room - said Friday that he supports this initiative, which actual adults can see is ridiculous and obviously futile.

The aim appears to be to allow Trump, the likely GOP presidential nominee in next year's election, to claim that despite the events we all witnessed, he was never impeached at all. That lie can then become part of the fake historical record he sells to his supporters. Trump claims he won the 2020 election "by a lot" (he lost to Joe Biden in both the electoral and the popular votes) but had his victory "stolen" by massive voter fraud (at least 86 judges, including members of the Supreme Court, found this completely untrue). He claims "my economy" was the best in the nation's history (it wasn't). He claims he "completed" his border wall (he didn't). He claims that as president he was respected and feared across the globe (when he boasted at the United Nations that his administration "accomplished more than almost any administration in the history of our country," the assembled world leaders laughed at him). Now, if the House does what Greene

Eugene Robinson

and Stefanik propose, he will surely claim that his two impeachments simply never happened. Our collective memory must be playing tricks on us. The House of Representatives didn't really accuse him - twice - of high crimes and misdemeanors. Those hubbubs we dimly recall must have ended in unanimous resolutions praising his rugged good looks and his really big brain.

This notion of impeachment expungement is so laughable that it's easy to chuckle and guffaw past what's so serious about it. The biggest threat to our democracy, in my view, is the fact that we no longer agree on even the most basic facts. If some of us believe it's raining right now and others believe it's a sunny day, how can we possibly come to the right decision on whether to invest in umbrellas or sunscreen? Now, to flatter Trump's vanity and help him politically, Greene and Stefanik want to create a kind of alternate-universe timeline in which President Donald the Great was never really impeached - because, considering his Greatness, how could he have been? The right-wing media echo chamber will treat the expungement as legitimate, which would make the impeachments somehow illegitimate. And the nation's information gap, already a canyon, will further widen. For the record, expunging a presidential impeachment is not a thing. It has never been attempted because it makes no sense. Both of Trump's House impeachments led to trials in the Senate, as the Constitution instructs. Is the Senate supposed to pretend that those trials, which ended in acquittals, never happened? What about the pages in the Congressional Record that chronicle the impeachment proceedings?

Would they be ripped out and destroyed? Sent to Mar-a-Lago for Trump to hoard in one of his cardboard boxes, with his golf shirts and his newspaper clippings? Trump was impeached in December 2019 for abuse of power and obstruction of Congress. The key piece of evidence was a record of a phone call Trump had with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky, in which Trump appeared to condition the release of US military aid to Ukraine on an announcement by Ukrainian officials that they were investigating Biden for alleged corruption.

Greene's resolution would expunge that impeachment based on the newly revealed FBI document reporting an informant's claim of rumored corruption by Biden. Greene's terse draft does not mention that these allegations were examined by Trump's own Justice Department and judged not credible enough to investigate. Trump was impeached again in January 2021 for incitement of insurrection, based on his role in instigating the bloody MAGA attempted putsch at the Capitol earlier that month. Stefanik's resolution to expunge this second impeachment flirts with, and at times seems to accept, Trump's "big lie" about the "stolen" election. At one point, for example, Stefanik notes that Trump was the only incumbent president since Grover Cleveland to increase his vote total from his first election yet "seemingly still not [win] reelection." Those words are not seemingly but actually, and pathetically, craven. Voters should expunge this useless GOP majority. In 2024, let's elect a Congress that wants to work, not one that only wants to posture.

The Washington Post





# ‘Pakistan’s development hinges on promotion, facilitation of SMEs’

LAHORE (APP): Federal Minister for Industries and Production Makhdoom Syed Murtaza Mehmood said on Tuesday that Pakistan economic and industrial development hinged on promoting, incentivizing, financing and strengthening the SMEs, besides establishing one platform for their facilitation.

He stated this while addressing a ceremony regarding World Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) Day organized by Small and Medium Enterprises Development Authority (SMEDA) here. On this occasion, SMEDA signed six Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) with six public sector organizations including Punjab Small Industries Corporation (PSIC), Federal Tax Ombudsman (FTO), Punjab Information Technology Board (PITB), Messaliha International Center for Arbitration and Dispute Resolution (MICADR), Urban Unit Government of the Punjab and Government of Gilgit Baltistan.

The Federal Minister cited that in other countries, a company that started in the backyard grew speedily

and ultimately turned into a multi-billion global company but unfortunately in Pakistan, it was very hard for SMEs to survive. He added that the world had done a lot regarding SMEs and also micro businesses but Pakistan had not done enough as there was a lot it could have done. The SMEs in Pakistan faced too many issues especially regarding finances as there were too many bottle necks and hurdles in the bureaucracy and government, he said and mentioned that as federal minister, his focus was to get rid of these bottle necks and facilitate SMEs, which could also turned into a multi-national companies and ‘this is our vision and focus.’

He was of the view that government should not be intervening and interfering but it should be facilitating, incentivizing and focusing on making policies. “I am very lucky to have a best SMEDA team and we worked together. Today, we have signed MoUs with public sector organizations,” he maintained.

The Federal Minister also appreciated the very important incentives introduced with regards to sin-

gle window operation like MoU was signed between Punjab government and SMEDA. “I think, more has to be done when I see different organizations working on Pakistan’s single window; they all are working on single window but actually there is no one platform for the single window. So I had a meeting with SMEDA team and asked them that we have to get in touch with all government organizations working on the single window and there should be a one platform wherein an entrepreneur can come and get registered and facilitated regarding taxation, financing and other incentives, and it should also be helped to get finance. Now, I am happy to sign MoUs with Punjab government but I would also ask SMEDA to sign MoUs with Pakistan’s single window and other provinces,” he maintained.

In Pakistan, he said, SMEs did not grow while the large scale industry was given all the incentives, finances and subsidies by the government and the commercial banks also preferred the large-scale industry as it was easier for them to deal with a single big

company rather than dealing with 100 small companies. Government and large industries get major borrowings from banks while SMEs were unable to grow due to no or low provision of financing by the banks.

The Minister believed that Pakistan was enriched with resources and potential to progress speedily but unfortunately, it had to depend on huge imports even for food security therefore reforms in every sector were indispensable to bring the country at par with developed economies.

He also stressed the need to focus on value-addition that would prove to be a catalyst for export and economy. He also advised the SMEDA to work out viable plans for incentivizing and promoting the value-addition sector that would definitely enhance substantially the country’s exports revenues, adding that IT sector of Pakistan also had the potential to grow and earn foreign exchange reserves.

He also appreciated SMEDA teams for signing MoUs and said that government also approved the SMEDA’s budget proposals as well.



LAHORE: Federal Minister of Industries & Production Syed Murtaza Mehmood witnessing signing ceremony of MoU between SMEDA & Strategic Partners.

## Shipping activity at Port Qasim

KARACHI (APP): Four ships namely, OOCL Le Havre, MSC Mundra, Lana and Milaha Ras Laffan carrying Containers and LNG, berthed at Qasim International Container Terminal and Pakistan Gas Terminal respectively.

Meanwhile four more ships, MSC Letizia, Maersk Columbus Yankul Silver and Al-Maha with Containers, Palm oil and LPG also arrived at outer anchorage of the Port Qasim during the last 24 hours.

A total of 09 ships were engaged at PQA berths during the last 24 hours, out of them four ships, MSC Mundra, Sadah Silver, Bochem Pegasos and Opera sailed out to sea on Tuesday morning on Tuesday and two more ships, Lana and Star Bovarius are expected to sail on today.

Cargo throughput of 160,017 tonnes, comprising 117,850 tones imports Cargo and 42,167 tonnes export cargo, including containerized cargo carried in 3,646 Containers (1,809 TEUs Imports and 1,837 TEUs export) was handled at the port during last 24 hours.

There are nine ships at Outer Anchorage of Port Qasim, out of them three ships, Silver Dubai, Gas Athena and Maersk Columbus & two more ships, MSC Agamemnon and SC Brilliant carrying Palm oil, LPG, Containers and Chemicals are expected to take berths at LCT, EVTL, QICT and MW-1 on today.

## Gold prices decrease by Rs1,100

ISLAMABAD (APP): The per tola price of 24 karat gold decreased by Rs1,100 and was sold at Rs214,200 on Tuesday against its sale at Rs215,300 the previous day.

The price of 10 grams of 24 karat gold also decreased by Rs943 to Rs183,642 from Rs184,585 whereas the price of 10 grams 22 karat gold went down to Rs168,338 from Rs169,203. All Sindh Sarafa Jewellers Association reported.

The price of per tola and ten gram silver remained constant at Rs2,550 and Rs2,186.21 respectively.

The price of gold in the international market decreased by \$9 to \$1922 from \$1931, the association reported.

## PACRA reaffirms credit rating

ISLAMABAD (APP): The PACRA has maintained the long-term and short-term entity ratings of Pakistan Microfinance Investment Company (PMIC) at ‘AA’ (Double A) and ‘A1+’ (A One Plus) respectively.

The rating reflects a strong equity base, well-conceived business plans and strong ownership structure, a news release said.

The ratings denote a very low expectation of credit risk emanating from a very strong capacity for timely payment of financial commitments which is not significantly vulnerable to foreseeable events.

PMIC, incorporated in 2016, is licensed to carry out investment finance services as a NBFC under the NBFC Rules, 2003 and NBFC Regulations 2008.

## Stock Exchange stays bullish

ISLAMABAD (APP): The 100-index of the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) continued with bullish trend, gaining 15.59 points on Tuesday, a slight positive change of 0.04 per cent, closing at 41,452.69 points against 41,437.10 points the previous day.

A total of 234,748,468 shares were traded during the day as compared to 226,821,151 shares the previous day, whereas the price of shares stood at Rs.7,476 billion against Rs. 7,010 billion on the last trading day.

As many as 308 companies transacted their shares in the stock market; 137 of them recorded gains and 156 sustained losses, whereas the share price of 15 companies remained unchanged.

The three top-trading companies were Bankislami Pak with 17,426,502

shares at Rs.17.76 per share; WorldCall Telecom with 11,679,503 shares at Rs.1.09 per share and Oil and Gas Dev. with 10,932,081 shares at Rs.78.00 per share.

Rafhan Maize witnessed a maximum increase of Rs.50.00 per share price, closing at Rs.8,400.00, whereas the runner-up was Mehmood Tex. XB with an Rs.36.25 rise in its per share price to Rs.650.00.

Bhanero Tex witnessed a maximum decrease of Rs.51.67 per share closing at Rs.948.33; followed by Mari Petroleum with Rs.20.41 decline to close at Rs.1,514.64.

**Rupee gains 71 paises against US Dollar in interbank**

Pakistani Rupee on Tuesday gained 71 paises against the US Dollar (USD) in the interbank trading as it closed at

Rs285.99 against the previous day’s closing of Rs 286.70.

However, according to the Forex Association of Pakistan (FAP), the buying and selling rates of dollars in the open market stood at Rs 287.5 and Rs 290 respectively.

The price of the Euro went up by 71 paises to close at Rs 312.93 against the last day’s closing of Rs 312.22, according to SBP.

The Japanese Yen lost one paise to close at Rs 1.99, whereas a decrease of Rs 1.05 was witnessed in the exchange rate of the British Pound, which traded at Rs 364.13 as compared to its last day’s closing of Rs 365.18.

The exchange rates of the Emirates Dirham and the Saudi Riyal decreased by 19 paises each to close at Rs 77.86 and Rs 76.25 respectively.

## Poultry output targets fixed at 2.363m tons

ISLAMABAD (APP): The government has set a target to produce about 2.363 million tons of poultry during fiscal year 2023-24 in order to fulfill the domestic requirements of poultry meat and other value added products.

The poultry output during the 11 months of current fiscal year (2022-23) was recorded at 2.160 million metric tons as compared to its fixed targets, where as about 5.809 million tons of meat also produced in order to fulfill the local requirements of the commodity as well as for exporting to exploit existing potential of halal meat in global markets.

Domestic output of meat in 11 months of last year was (2021-22) was recorded

at 5.5 million tons as the government had set to produce about 5.5 million tons of meat during the year 2022-23, said an official in the Ministry of National Food Security and Research.

Talking to APP here on Tuesday, he said that beef production targets for period under review were fixed at 2.630 million metric tons and mutton at 817,000 tons, adding that during out going fiscal year the local production of beef was recorded at 2.55 million tons as against the set targets of 2.54 million tons, where as for 799,000 metric tons of mutton also produced as compared the set targets of 799,000 metric tons.

He further informed that agriculture sector was

envisaged to grow by 3.9% in the Annual Plan 2022-23 given a strong crop sector performance of the previous year.

However, he said that during the period from June-August 2022, torrential rains and flash flooding led to an unprecedented disaster in various parts of the country and as per Post-Disaster Need Assessment (PDNA), agriculture sector suffered the greatest damage and loss of around \$13 billion.

Agriculture sector is expected to grow by 3.5% in 2023-24 with expected contributions of important crops 3%, other crops 3.5%, cotton ginning 7.2%, livestock 3.6%, forestry 3% and fishing 3% respectively, he added.

## China’s CB adds liquidity via reverse repos

ISLAMABAD (APP): China’s central bank continued to inject funds into the financial system through open market operations Tuesday.

The People’s Bank of China said it conducted 219 billion yuan of seven-day reverse repos at an interest rate of 1.9 percent.

The move aims to keep stable liquidity in the banking system at the end of the first half of this year, the central bank said.

A reverse repo is a process in which the central bank purchases securities from commercial banks through bidding, with an

agreement to sell them back in the future.

**Chinese yuan weakens to 7.2098 against USD Tuesday**

The central parity rate of the Chinese currency renminbi, or the yuan, weakened 42 pips to 7.2098 against the US dollar Tuesday, according to the China Foreign Exchange Trade System.

In China’s spot foreign exchange market, the yuan is allowed to rise or fall by 2 percent from the central parity rate each trading day.

The central parity rate of the yuan against the US dollar is based on a weight-

ed average of prices offered by market makers before the opening of the interbank market each business day.

**Hong Kong’s Hang Seng Index closes 1.88 pct higher**

Hong Kong’s stock market ended higher on Tuesday with the benchmark Hang Seng Index up 1.88 percent to close at 19,148.13 points.

The Hang Seng China Enterprises Index rose 2.08 percent to end at 6,504.62 points, and the Hang Seng Tech Index gained 2.57 percent to close at 3,972.17 points.

## Kenya’s CB hikes interest rate to contain inflation

NAIROBI (APP): The Central Bank of Kenya (CBK) on Monday tightened the country’s monetary policy by raising the interest rate by 1 percent citing sustained increased inflation.

Kamau Thugge, the CBK governor and the chairman of the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC), said the bank had increased the rate from 9.5 percent to 10.5 percent to “anchor inflation expectations.”

“The committee noted

that the sustained inflationary pressures, the increased risks to the inflation outlook, the elevated global risks, and their potential impact on the domestic economy.

The MPC thus concluded that there was scope for further tightening of the monetary policy,” Thugge said in a statement issued in Nairobi, the capital of Kenya.

He said his committee will monitor the impact of the policy measures as well

as the developments in the global and domestic economy and stands ready to take further necessary action.

Kenya’s overall inflation increased to 8 percent in May from 7.9 percent in April, driven by fuel, food, and non-food items.

“Overall inflation is expected to remain elevated in the near term mainly due to recent increase in electricity prices, the removal of fuel prices and associated second-round effects,” Thugge said.

## Sarsabz Fertilizers shines bright at Pakistan Digital Awards 2023



F.P. Report

LAHORE: Sarsabz Fertilizers has once again emerged triumphant at the highly acclaimed Pakistan Digital Awards 2023. The company has secured three prestigious awards which is the highest number for any company this year.

The Pakistan Digital Awards, known for recognizing excellence in digital marketing and innovation bestowed the awards of “Best Social Media Influencer Communication for Salam Kissan”, “Best Web Series of the Year for Sarsabz Kahani” and “Best Innovative App for Sarsabz

Asaan”.

This year’s success at the Pakistan Digital Awards further solidifies Sarsabz Fertilizers’ reputation as a trailblazer in the digital realm. The company’s iconic campaign, ‘Salam Kissan’ which has consistently been recognized and celebrated since 2020 continues to captivate audiences and industry experts alike. The campaign has already secured four awards to date (Best Digital Campaign 2020, Best Digital Campaign on Tiktok 2021, and Best Digital Campaign on Snack Video 2022) showcasing its enduring impact and effective-

tiveness.

The award for “Best Social Media Influencer Communication” for Salam Kissan acknowledges the campaign’s ability to leverage social media platforms and effectively engage with the target audience while the recognition of “Best Web Series of the Year” for Sarsabz Kahani highlights the company’s commitment to storytelling and digital content creation. The web series, with its engaging narrative and informative content, has not only entertained but also educated viewers about the agricultural industry and the vital role played by Sarsabz Fertilizers.

Additionally, the accolade for the “Best Innovative Mobile App” for Sarsabz Asaan reflects the company’s dedication to technological advancements and user-friendly solutions. It’s an innovative mobile app that provides comprehensive solutions to our customers, since its

launch Sarsabz has achieved a remarkable milestone of accumulating PKR 100 billion+ in sales through this app.

Rabel Sadozai, the Director of Sales and Marketing at Fatima Fertilizer said, “We are honored to receive these awards at the Pakistan Digital Awards 2023. This recognition underscores our relentless pursuit of excellence and our commitment to innovation in the digital landscape and we are grateful to our dedicated team and valued stakeholders for their unwavering support.”

Sarsabz Fertilizers remains at the forefront of the industry; consistently delivering impactful digital campaigns and embracing cutting-edge technologies. The company’s continuous success at the Pakistan Digital Awards is a testament to its visionary leadership, creative prowess and steadfast dedication to serving the agricultural community.

## US, China, UK remained top 3 destinations of Pakistani exports

ISLAMABAD (APP): The US remained the top export destination of Pakistani products during the eleven months of the current fiscal year (2022-23), followed by China and the UK.

Total exports to the US during July-May (2022-23) were recorded at US\$ 5481.385 million as opposed the exports of US\$ 6162.991 million during July- May (2021-22), showing a decline of 11.05 percent, according to the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP).

This was followed by China, wherein Pakistan exported goods worth US\$ 1891.949 million compared to the exports of US\$

2544.418 million last year, showing a decrease of 25.64 percent.

UK was the third top export destination, where Pakistan exported goods worth US\$ 1806.385 million during the months under review against the exports of US\$ 2011.859 million during last year, showing a decline of 10.21 percent, SBP data revealed.

Among other countries, Pakistani exports to Germany stood at US\$ 1488.461 million against US\$ 1574.850 million last year, showing a decrease of 5.48 percent while the exports to UAE were recorded at US\$ 1341.359 million opposed US\$

1632.907 million last year.

During July- May (2022-23), the exports to Holland were recorded at US\$ 1324.959 million against US\$ 1341.035 million whereas the exports to Afghanistan stood at US\$ 478.342 million against US\$494.8585 million.

Pakistan’s exports to Italy were recorded at US\$ 1052.847 million against the exports of US\$ 966.186 million while the exports to Spain were recorded at US\$ 1270.231 million against US\$ 1043.231 million last year.

Whereas, the exports to Bangladesh stood at US\$ 709.049 million against US\$ 783.574 million.

Similarly, the exports to France during the period under review were recorded at US\$ 530.213 million against US\$ 473.127 million while the exports to Saudi Arabia stood at US\$ 457.113 million against US\$ 376.485 million.

Pakistan’s exports to Turkiye were recorded at US\$ 296.618 million during the current year compared to US\$ 298.437 million last year whereas the exports to Canada stood at US\$ 362.744 million against US\$ 379.928 million, and Australia stood at US\$ 279.629 million during the current year against US\$ 268.041 million during last year.

## Ruble drops, stocks mostly retreat after aborted uprising in Russia

NEW YORK (AFP/APP): The ruble reached a 14-month low against the dollar on Monday while US and European markets mostly retreated after a short-lived mutiny in Russia stoked concerns about the nuclear-armed country’s stability.

While the advance by the Wagner mercenary force led by Yevgeny Prigozhin was called off before it reached Moscow, analysts said the rebellion showed President Vladimir Putin’s grip on power was more fragile than previously thought.

While there was unease on trading floors, European stocks closed with small

gains and losses, and Wall Street indices finished a choppy session lower, with large tech shares tumbling.

Asian markets also finished lower. The ruble hit 85.37 to the dollar -- a level last seen in April 2022 shortly after Moscow’s invasion of Ukraine -- but the Russian currency recovered slightly later.

Moscow made an effort on Monday to portray a return to business as usual, and Putin praised industry for overcoming “severe external challenges” in a video speech to a youth engineering forum.

Equity markets in Europe and the United

States took the weekend’s attempted mutiny in Russia in stride. “If there is concern about how events in Russia might play out the view appears to be let’s worry about it when and if it happens, rather than worry about what might happen,” said CMC Markets analyst Michael Hewson.

“Markets have been taking a ‘tread carefully’ approach at the start of the week, said Tim Waterer, chief market analyst at KCM Trade.

Prior to Prigozhin’s revolt, traders worried about slowing growth in major economies and the prospect of further interest

rate hikes by Western central banks battling high inflation.

Events in Russia have added “another layer of uncertainty to the equation,” Waterer said.

Investors were keeping tabs on comments from Federal Reserve officials, hoping for clarity on their monetary policy plans after boss Jerome Powell last week warned interest rates would likely keep rising.

A survey Monday showed German business sentiment fell more than expected in June, as clouds gathered over Europe’s largest economy, also in recession.





## In brief

## Man Utd expect record revenue

LONDON (Agencies): Manchester United on Tuesday projected record annual revenue of up to £640 million (\$815 million) in its financial year to the end of June even as a distracting takeover saga rumbles on. United's owners, the Glazer family, are weighing up offers for the club from Qatari banker Sheikh Jassim Bin Hamad Al Thani and British billionaire Jim Ratcliffe, the founder of chemicals firm Ineos. The Glazers first indicated they could sell by initiating a strategic review in November but the bidding process has dragged on. Reports have suggested Sheikh Jassim's bid, which is for 100 percent of the club, is now the most likely to be accepted. Sources close to the Qatari bid have indicated their eagerness to close the deal, with the summer transfer window now open. Supporters staged fresh protests against the Glazers at Old Trafford on Tuesday as the club launched its kit for next season. Revenue guidance for the current financial year was raised to a figure of between £630 million and £640 million in the third-quarter financial results for the period ending March 31, 2023, which were released on Tuesday. The club posted record revenues of £627 million in 2018/19. The current figures are driven by record match attendance and match-day revenues. Ticket sales for the 2022/23 season surpassed the previous record set in 2016/17, with 2.4 million sold. Global memberships also hit 360,000, which United said was the largest paid membership programme in world sport. Revenue for the third quarter was up 11 percent on the same period last year. Broadcasting revenue was slightly down on the corresponding period due to the club being in the Europa League rather than the Champions League, but was partially offset by the club's performance in domestic cup competitions.

## Racism 'entrenched' in English cricket

LONDON (Agencies): England cricket chiefs have promised to "reset" the game after an independent report on Tuesday said not enough had been done to tackle institutional racism and sexism in the game. The England and Wales Cricket Board set up the Independent Commission for Equity in Cricket in 2021 to look at issues of diversity, inclusion and equity following a racism scandal. Pakistan-born bowler Azeem Rafiq went public with allegations of racism and bullying in September 2020, related to his two spells at English county Yorkshire. Of the more than 4,000 individuals interviewed for the ICEC report, 50 percent described experiencing discrimination in the previous five years, with the figures substantially higher for people from ethnically diverse communities. Women were often treated as "second-class citizens", the report found, also stating that not enough had been done to address class barriers, with private schools dominating the pathway into cricket. "Our findings are unequivocal," said ICEC chair Cindy Butts. "Racism, class-based discrimination, elitism and sexism are widespread and deep-rooted. "The game must face up to the fact that it's not banter or just a few bad apples. Discrimination is both overt and baked into the structures and processes within cricket."

## World Cup Qualifier: Scotland lose by 82 runs against Sri Lanka



**BULAWAYO:** Maheesh Theekshana celebrates with teammates after dismissing Jack Jarvis by lbw during the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup Qualifier.

BULAWAYO (Agencies): Scotland sustained their first defeat of the World Cup Qualifier as Sri Lanka won by 82 runs in Bulawayo.

With both sides already through to the Super Six stage, Chris Greaves took four wickets during Sri Lanka's innings of 245 all out, Pathum Nissanka top scoring on 75.

The Scots lost half their wickets early on and despite Greaves' 56 not out, they were all out for 163 in reply. Scotland next face West Indies on Saturday (08:00 BST). Sri Lanka meet the Netherlands 24 hours earlier.

In the Super Six, Scotland will meet the top three teams from Group A, which also includes hosts Zimbabwe and the Dutch.

Results against fellow Group B teams Sri Lanka and Oman are carried forward, meaning the Scots have one win and one loss so far. Ultimately, the top two teams progress to the World Cup in India later this year.

Scotland captain Richie Berrington opted to field first having won the toss, and was rewarded early on, as his side made inroads. Chris Sole took the wickets of Dimuth Karunaratne for seven and Kusal Mendis for one, but Sri Lanka, led by Nissanka, rebuilt.

The Sri Lankan opener would have been targeting a hundred, but was dismissed short of that milestone, caught by Tomas Mackintosh off the bowling of Mark Watt.

Matthew Cross caught Charith Asalanka for 63 off Watt's bowling and Greaves took three quick wickets as Dhananjaya de Silva was bowled for 23, and Dasun Shanaka and Wanindu Hasaranga were caught by Sole.

Kasun Rajitha went lbw as Watt took his third wicket, and another Sole catch gave Greaves a fourth scalp as Lahiru went for five - Sri Lanka losing their final six wickets for 42 runs.

In the Scottish innings, Brandon McMullen, who scored an imperious 136 against Oman on Sunday, was bowled for just five by Maheesh Theekshana after Cross fell cheaply to Lahiru Kumara. From there, Scotland collapsed, slipping to 100-8 with Chris

McBride (29) the only member of the top-order to show any resistance.

Theekshana took 3-41, and Wanindu Hasaranga 2-42, as Sri Lanka's spinners caused havoc on a slow, turning pitch. Greaves counter-attacked with a 41-ball 56 not out, and the ninth-wicket partnership of 55 between Greaves and Sole took Scotland past 150, but Sole and Alasdair Evans were run out in quick succession to leave Scotland well beaten.

Scotland 'need to come back strong'

Afterwards Berrington told Sky Sports: "We got a couple of wickets early on and maybe didn't capitalise on that. "It was a fantastic effort in the last 15 [overs] to bowl them out for under 250. We knew we had to be smart with our fields. We were up with the rate the whole way through. "It's obviously disappointing to fall short, but we've just seen the value of having wickets in hand. "We just need to look to come back strong for the next game."

## Paul Stirling's 162 helps Ireland beat United Arab Emirates

BULAWAYO (Agencies): Paul Stirling's outstanding 162 helped Ireland beat the United Arab Emirates by 138 runs in their final World Cup Qualifier Group B game in Bulawayo.

Stirling smashed 15 fours and eight sixes on

his way to his mammoth total, with Andrew Balbirnie (66) and Harry Tector (57) helping Ireland to 349-4.

Stirling's second-wicket partnership with Balbirnie yielded 184 runs. Waseem Muhammad's 45 gave UAE hope but wickets fell regularly thereafter as they were all out for 211.

Ireland's interest in the qualifying tournament had already ended after defeats by Oman, Scotland and Sri Lanka in their opening three fixtures. They finished second bottom of Group B, thereby missing out on the Super Sixes.

After McBride's dismissal for 24 in the ninth over left Ireland 41-1, opener Stirling and Balbirnie's impressive second-wicket stand was accumulated in just two balls short of 30 overs.

Tector's contribution was another significant one and Lorcan Tucker (19) and George Dockrell (15) were undefeated come the conclusion of their side's 50 overs. Sanchit Sharma was the pick of the UAE bowlers with figures of 3-46.

Skipper Muhammad led by example with his quickfire knock of 45 off just 32 balls but there was a lack of support from the remainder of the batting line-up, bar 44 from Sharma and 39 from Basil Hameed.

Josh Little, Andy McBrine, Dockrell and Curtis Campher took two wickets apiece.



## Aashish Chaudhary strikes as Nepal edge Pakistan in SAFF C'ship

BANGALORE: Aashish Chaudhary struck late and powered Nepal to a narrow 1-0 victory over Pakistan in the ongoing South Asian Football Federation (SAFF) Championship on Tuesday.

In the dead rubber Group A clash of the SAFF C'ship since both sides were already out of the race to qualify for the semi-final, Pakistan locked horns with Nepal in a bid to taste their maiden triumph in the tournament.

The two sides, however, put on an enthralling contest and made several attempts of scoring the opener.

Pakistan had the best opportunity to fire the opener in the 21st minute when Pakistan captain Hassan Bashir was fouled which resulted in a free-kick for Pakistan.

Otis Khan took the spot kick just outside the Nepal box but Syed Abdul Shah headed it over the crossbar. Nepal had their best chance in the dying minutes of the first half as a brilliant build-up lifted them to finally breach the Pakistan defence.

Bimal Gharti Magar got the ball inside Pakistan's penalty area and had only Pakistan goalkeeper Yousaf Ijaz Butt to beat but failed. The two sides went into the break with the scoreboard still intact at nil.

Following the break, both sides looked more determined and Pakistan also benefitted from fresh legs courtesy of triple substitution in the 63rd minute.

But it was Nepal who made lethal attempts to fire a late winner and they succeeded just 10 minutes before the conclusion of the regulation time.

Laken Lambu set up a perfect chance for the substitute Aashish Chaudhary, who fired a low strike to put Nepal into the lead. Nepal's defence then managed to keep the blank sheet until the regulation time and a four-minute extra time as Pakistan succumbed to their third consecutive defeat in the SAFF Championship.

Earlier in the tournament, Pakistan suffered a 0-4 defeat against India and Kuwait respectively. Following their dismal show in the SAFF Championship, the green shirts finished at the bottom of the Group A standings.

## Pakistan to play India at Ahmedabad in WC

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan will play sub-continental rivals India in Ahmedabad on 15 October and Bangladesh in Kolkata on 31 October, as per the schedule of the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup 2023 announced on Tuesday in Mumbai.

Pakistan will begin their campaign in Hyderabad against the two qualifiers while they will take on defending champions England in their last league match on 12 November. The tournament runs from 5 October to 19 November.

Ten teams feature in what will be the biggest Cricket World Cup ever, across 10 venues, with the Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad hosting the tournament opener and the final.

The other venues are Bengaluru, Chennai, Delhi, Dharamsala, Hyderabad, Kolkata, Lucknow, Mumbai and Pune. Guwahati and Thiruvananthapuram join Hyderabad in hosting the practice games.

Eight teams have qualified for the 46-day event through the Cricket World Cup Super League while the final two spots will be taken by the finalists of the ICC Cricket World Cup Qualifier taking place in Zimbabwe.

The tournament retains the round-robin format of last time with all teams playing against each other for a total of 45 league matches. There are six day matches in the tournament, which will start at 10h30 local time. All other matches, including the knockouts, will be day-night fixtures starting at 14h00.

The top four teams will qualify for the semi-finals to be played in Mumbai on 15 November and in Kolkata on 16 November. The semi-finals and the final will have reserve days.

Pakistan's fixtures at World Cup (day-night matches unless indicated otherwise):

6 October – vs Qualifier 1, Hyderabad  
12 October – vs Qualifier 2, Hyderabad  
15 October – vs India, Ahmedabad  
20 October – vs Australia, Bengaluru  
23 October – vs Afghanistan, Chennai  
27 October – vs South Africa, Chennai  
31 October – vs Bangladesh, Kolkata  
4 November – vs New Zealand, Bengaluru (day match)  
12 November – vs England, Kolkata.

## ICC World Cup 2023 Wasim Akram makes big prediction about Pakistan

KARACHI (Monitoring Desk): After the schedule for ICC Men's Cricket World Cup 2023 was announced, Pakistan's veteran cricketer Wasim Akram bucked up the Men in Green for putting up a good show during the mega event due this year in India.

Pakistan will open their World Cup campaign on October 6 in a match against Qualifier 1 in Hyderabad.

Lauding Pakistan captain Babar Azam in a conversation with ICC, the former skipper said that the home side was led by one of the "modern-day greats".

"We have a good side...a very good one-day side and are led by one of the modern-day greats in Babar Azam."

"As long as they are fit and as long as they play according to the plan, they will have a chance of doing well in that World

Cup because it is played in our type of conditions in India on the sub-continent.

"I think he can [get better] as he is the best player we have."

"The whole country follows him, everything he does. He gets people into the stadium and it doesn't matter whether it is T20, one-dayers or Test cricket and, in my opinion, he has the most beautiful cover drive in the world."

It must be noted that the ICC announced the schedule for the World Cup 2023 earlier today. 10 teams will fight for the elusive title across 10 venues from October 5 to November 19, with the Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad hosting the tournament opener and the final.

The tournament will be played in the round-robin format with all teams

playing against each other for a total of 45 league matches.

The top four teams will qualify for the semifinals, which will be held in Mumbai on November 15 and in Kolkata on November 16. The semi-finals and the final will have reserve days.

"We are delighted to release the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup 2023 schedule which is always a huge occasion ahead of any global event," ICC Chief Executive, Geoff Allardice, said.

"Hundreds of millions of fans around the world will be part of what we hope will be the greatest ever Men's Cricket World Cup and we know in India the teams will enjoy a unique electric atmosphere concluding with the winners lifting the trophy in the biggest cricket stadium in the world in Ahmedabad."

## Pak athletes return home with total 80 medals in Special Olympic World Games



KARACHI (APP): The Pakistan squad returned home Tuesday after participating in the Special Olympic World Games held in Berlin, Germany from June 17 to 25, winning a total of 80 medals with 11 gold, 29 silver and 40 bronze.

Upon their arrival at Karachi, Lahore and Islamabad airports, the officials of Special Olympics Pakistan and the relatives and fans of the athletes warmly wel-

comed them. The players and officials were garlanded and showered with rose petals.

The gold medals winner athletes including Saifullah Solangi, Usman Qamar, Umair Kayani, Faiza Nasir, Naheen Khan, Muhammad Luqman, Zainab Ali Raza and national athlete Sana, the torchbearer of the opening ceremony of the World Games, said that they had gone to Berlin with the spirit of winning

for Pakistan.

Winning medals in Berlin is a great honour for us. Our hard work, training of coaches, patronage of Special Olympics Pakistan and the prayers of the whole nation we have achieved this success, they said.

The Head of the Delegation of the national team and the Chairperson of Special Olympics Pakistan, Ronak Lakhani said I thank Allah for the excellent performance of our athletes in

the World Games.

For this event, our preparations were going on for the last four years. The role of their unified partners and especially the coaches has been the most important in their success, with their tireless work and excellent training, the players have reached this point today. I also congratulate the parents of the players who have helped the children.

SOP Advisor Yasmin Haider said that the World Games was the biggest event in the world in terms of special athletes and volunteers, in which the best teams of the world participated, but the enthusiasm of our athletes was visible.

As the representatives of Pakistan in Berlin, they not only impressed the athletes of all the countries participating in the Games with their message of love and peace, but they also impressed especially the organizing committee of the World Games.

We will take all possible steps to continue this journey of success in the future as well.



## Promising Huzaifa wins tennis title in USA

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan's tennis sensation Huzaifa Abdul Rehman continues to impress at the international level as he has clinched the Smackdown Sarasota men's singles title in Florida, USA on late Monday.

According to information received here, the 20-year-old Huzaifa topped USA's Maximilian Mroz 6-1, 6-4 in the final to win the title. In the semifinal, top seed Huzaifa had ward off challenge from USA's H. Menon 6-3, 6-4.

"This victory is very good for my confidence and building momentum for the ITF Futures tournaments. My goal is to play as many tournaments as I can on the tour and try to do my best every time," Huzaifa told APP on phone while sharing on what he is going to do next to get even higher results.



**LONDON:** Novak Djokovic of Serbia practises ahead of The Championships Wimbledon 2023.

## Punjab Golf Association embarks on series of golf camps

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Golf Association (PGA) has embarked on golf activity whereby a series of golf camps will be activated for young golfers.

This vision was conceived by President, PGA, Lt Gen Abdul Aziz and the PGA Executive Committee Members and now the execution phase started at the Punjab Golf Association Golf academy at Lahore Garrison Greens Golf Club here on Tuesday.

In the first phase 31 students stand selected after golf trials and these picked ones will undergo training sessions steered and overseen by six capable coaches. Students have been organized into three groups with two coaches to oversee each group.

As for the students they are divided into Category A representing the ones who have already acquired good golf playing skills and need refinement while Category B comprises of Boys with intermediate skills and entail blooming and blossoming.

And there is Category C comprising of girls with good and intermediate golfing skills. Fourteen students fall in category A, six in Category B and nine girls in Category C.

Training Sessions will include training on the driving range, training on the golf course and also there is the Simulator Training. To augment knowledge of golf rules, Golf Rules Classes will be an essential feature.

At the launch of the PGA Summer Camp by Kashif Bhatti, General Manager of PGA, it was spelled out that aim of this exercise is to promote sports culture and to attract youngsters to this wonderful game.

The best boys and girls will undergo extensive advanced training to be groomed into players who can perform on the international fronts. Other incentives are in place and these include honorarium for golfers under training and cash prizes for those who emerge as top performers in a two days tournament to be held in early August, when the training concludes.

The Summer Camp launching was attended by Haroon Shafiq, Hamid Asadullah, Minaa Zainab and many parents.

This elite program aims at creating immense interest in golf and luring the talented ones to this game and inspiring them to achieve recognition as champions as they develop and mature into players of class.

Training program on the driving range and golf course will mainly consist of such elements as technique, personality development, mental strength, physique and knowledge of equipment. The training ladder is expected to be learner friendly and the young ones are going to really get allured and magnetized.





## In brief

### IRSA releases 356,100 cusecs water

ISLAMABAD (APP): Indus River System Authority (IRSA) on Tuesday released 356,100 cusecs of water from various rim stations with an inflow of 565,900 cusecs. According to the data released by IRSA, the water level in River Indus at Tarbela Dam was 1487.26 feet and was 89.26 feet higher than its dead level of 1,398 feet. Water inflow and outflow in the dam were recorded as 284,200 cusecs and 150,900 cusecs respectively. The water level in River Jhelum at Mangla Dam was 1169.95 feet, which was 119.95 feet higher than its dead level of 1,050 feet. The inflow and outflow of water was recorded at 86,500 cusecs and 10,000 cusecs respectively. The release of water at Kalabagh, Taunsa, Guddu and Sukkur was recorded as 212,900, 169,300, 100,900 and 36,400 cusecs respectively. Similarly, from River Kabul, a total of 89,400 cusecs of water were released at Nowshera and 80,400 cusecs were released from River Chenab at Marala.

### ANF seizes 679.645 kg drugs

RAWALPINDI (APP): The Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) Pakistan seized 679.645 kg drugs and 4,800 kg suspected drugs worth US\$ 17.189 million internationally, arrested 50 accused including four women, and a foreigner and impounded 15 vehicles while conducting 45 counter-narcotics operations throughout the country last week. According to an ANF Headquarters spokesman, the seized drugs comprised 218.360 kg opium, 27,047 kg heroin, 405.289 kg hashish, 260 grams cocaine, 28.204 kg methamphetamine (Ice), 60 grams ecstasy tabs (140 Tabs) and 425 grams ketamine. ANF Balochistan recovered 44,160 kg of drugs and 4,800 kg of suspected drugs in four operations while arresting four accused involved in drug smuggling. The seized drugs comprised 1.160 kg opium and 43 kg Hashish. ANF Punjab recovered 176.299 Kg of Drugs in 10 operations, arrested 13 accused including two women and impounded three vehicles. The seized drugs comprised 105.600 kg opium, 20,517 kg heroin, 49,313 kg hashish, 260 grams cocaine and 609 g r a m s Methamphetamine (Ice). ANF KPK recovered 31,732 kg of drugs in 12 operations, arrested four accused including a foreigner and impounded a vehicle.

### CTP striving to regulate traffic load

RAWALPINDI (APP): City Traffic Police (CTP) Rawalpindi on the directives of City Traffic Officer (CTO) Rawalpindi Taimoor Khan is striving hard to regulate traffic load on Soan Bridge. According to Senior Traffic Officer (STO), Muneer Ahmed Hashmi, one side of Soan Bridge was closed to traffic due to landslides while all the traffic arrangements were completed to regulate traffic load in the circle. Muneer Ahmad informed that senior traffic police officers were present at the spot and supervising all the arrangements finalized by the CTP to ease the traffic load. Traffic was flowing normally in the area as two-way traffic was currently being operated on the other side of the bridge to save the citizens from trouble, the STO said. Traffic going from Kutichery Chowk to Rawat and Rawat to Jhelum Road was being operated in a single line, he added. In case of heavy load, traffic going to Kutichery would be diverted to alternative routes, the STO said and informed that arrangements had also been completed to place diversions.



ISLAMABAD: Minister of State, chairman for Prime Minister Task Force on Gandhara Tourism, Dr. Ramesh Kumar Vankwani addressing a press conference at PID.

## HEC develops Undergraduate Education Policy

ISLAMABAD (PPI): Higher Education Commission (HEC) has developed the Undergraduate Education Policy (UEP) 2020, which provides the framework for enhancing the quality of new programmes leading to Bachelor of Studies (BS) degrees and Associate Degree (AD) in Affiliated Colleges and Universities, which is now being implemented.

The revised four and two-years degrees are common in the private sector and even large public sector universities but implementing in all public Higher Education institutions (HEIs) and Affiliated Colleges (ACs) across the country is a daunting task. This is where the Higher Education Development in Pakistan (HEDP) project is assisting HEC.

HEDP is a five-year project (2019/20 – 2023/24) being implemented by HEC

to expand its key higher education priorities. It aims to support research excellence in strategic sectors of the economy, improve teaching and learning, and strengthen governance in higher education.

The activity is led by the Post-Secondary Education Reform Unit (PERU) team of the HEDP project responsible for the execution and rollout of Undergraduate Education Policy (UEP), in close coordination with HEC and the Higher Education Departments (HEDs) of the provincial governments.

During the rollout of the UEP, it is important to gauge the impact on learning outcomes via an assessment study. The study aims to assess the improvement in learnings due to the newly implemented programmes under the UEP. For this purpose, PERU has already tested the tool for this study it now needs to

be expanded upon. The findings of the study will contribute to achieving a key Project Development Objective (PDO). This study will be an indicator of progress in improved teaching and learning in Affiliated Colleges.

The project has engaged an international expert Mr. Salvador Malo Alvarez to support this study. Mr. Salvador is a Mexican national with extensive experience in higher education policy and reform in Latin America. He has been Director General (DG) at Mexico's Ministry of Education, Mexican Centre for the Assessment of HE and Council for the Assessment and Certification of Competencies. His team has developed an international test of assessing cognitive learning skills rather than rote learning of content. In his recent visit to Pakistan, he guided the HEDP team to improve the methodology assessment of study.

### Control Room established in CDA

ISLAMABAD (APP): The administration of the Capital Development Authority (CDA) has established the Control Room in the Authority's headquarters to provide the best facilities to public without interruption during the Eid-ul-Azha holidays.

According to the CDA officials, the relevant staff will be present from June 28 to July 2 during the Eid-ul-Azha holidays. The staff of DMA Directorates including Water Supply, MPO, Street Lights, M&RM, Roads, Environment (East and West), City Sewerage Division will perform their duties in the control room established as per the details. In this regard, duties have also been distributed among the staff so that all possible facilities can be provided to the citizens even during the Eid-ul-Azha holidays. Citizens can also register their complaints at 9252962 and 9253016 at the control room set up at CDA headquarters.

## Post census survey to commence from July 8

ISLAMABAD (NNI): The Census Monitoring Committee (CMC) has decided to start Post Enumeration Survey from 8th July, 2023 for validating the provisional data collected during the country's first-ever digital census.

According to details, the decision was taken during 16th Meeting of Census Monitoring Committee (CMC), chaired by Minister of Planning, Development and Special Initiatives, Ahsan Iqbal.

It was decided to conduct enumeration in three (3) districts of Kohistan that are remaining and snow-bound areas of KP, AJ&K and GB from 8th July, 2023.

The meeting was attended by all members of Census Monitoring Committee including Federal Minister for Information Technology (IT) Syed Amin ul Haque.

During the meeting, it was also decided to conduct enumeration in three (3) districts of Kohistan that are remaining and snow bound areas of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP), Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) and Gilgit Baltistan (GB) from 8th July, 2023.

Meanwhile, Ahsan Iqbal directed that the Post Enumeration Survey has to be completed within 15 days with due diligence for increasing credibility of the exercise.

Further, he requested all Chief Secretaries to direct CDOs/DCs/ACs to provide completion certificates of Field Enumeration of 7th Population and Housing Census, 2023 by 15th July, 2023.

The meeting also approved the work plan, methodology and sample design for conducting Post Enumeration Survey

by using the Stratified Sampling Technique.

It was further decided in meeting that for Post Enumeration Survey NADRA will ensure provision of software by today for testing purpose.

Chief Census Commissioner, Dr Naeem uz Zafar presented strategy and mechanism of Post Enumeration Survey devised according to guidelines of Council of Common Interest (CCI).

Post Enumeration Survey is another step to gain the confidence and acceptability of stakeholders on the process of Digital Census and is part of the plan approved by CCI for the first ever digital Census.

The planning minister also directed to provide the allocated budget to all stakeholders proportionally to avoid any inconvenience in conduct of PES.

## All amendments to constitution sans two-thirds majority illegal: Sheikh Rashid

RAWALPINDI (NNI): Awami Muslim League (AML) chief and former interior minister Sheikh Rashid Ahmed said on Tuesday lowering of disqualification period for those politicians who were born incompetent did not matter.

In a series of tweets, the AML chief said politicians were taking chartered flights to Dubai nowadays. They would take every decision in Dubai, including installing a caretaker setup, Nawaz Sharif's return to Pakistan and holding general elections in the country.

He said they did not obey law, constitution, judiciary and bench. They were afraid of public bench (voters).

Rashid said all amendments made in constitution were illegal as these required two-thirds majority. He further said Aug 12 was the red line and no one knew what would happened afterwards. He said rulers were unhappy over his twitter messages.

Rashid felicitated the Muslims on the auspicious occasion of Eidul Azha.

He further said the families and properties of ruling elite were in Dubai and London. They considered themselves safe there. "They take all important decisions during their meetings abroad because they are afraid of agencies and institutions which may record their activities in Pakistan," he said.

## PM&DC Executive Committee takes action against the embezzlements of erstwhile PMC

### F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: The Executive Committee of Pakistan Medical & Dental Council has investigated /exposed major embezzlements of the erstwhile (PMC).

They gathered the evidence, proof, and all other necessary documents after scrutinizing the Committee has decided to hold the responsible parties accountable and implement measures to prevent future incidents. The Executive committee has decided to refer the matter to the third party for audit and investigation. They decided to bring all the Culprits to face consequences.

The PMDC Committee has investigated many irregularities in payments made in the previous tenure by the erstwhile (PMC) amounting Crores of Rupees which includes payments made to a Private Consortium before the signing of the agreements, nebulous payments for IT equipment, software, etc.

The Committee recently investigated anomalies in payments made in the previous tenure (PMC) in conducting MDCAT-22 amounting Rs. 409.32 million of Rupees which includes payments made to a Private Consortium of around 122 million, a day before the signing of the agreements. The erstwhile PMC made an agreement of Rs: 409.32 million on 17th of August, 2022 out of which an advance payment of Rs: 122. 78 million i.e. 30% was paid on 6th of August-2022 before execution of agreement a Consortium for conduction of MDCAT Examination-22. Astonishingly the payment was made

to the Private consortium and the taxes were paid through another company. The company to whom this big amount was paid was not even registered with FBR nor with SECP as a consortium. It did not fall under the definition of Government Entity and the agreement made was in clear violation of PPRA Rules.

After detailed scrutiny the Committee found another scam of erstwhile (PMC) by violating in the procurement of Network IT Equipment's i.e. Servers, Switches, Controllers, Access Points and Firewall etc and has severely violated the PPRA Rules. The installed Software License in Servers and the tender documents were completely different. Moreover, items delivered in erstwhile PMC were mismatched with Bill of Quantities (BOQ's) published in Tender document for the captioned procurement.

Shockingly, anomalies were also found in the procurement of Miscellaneous Equipment's i.e., Cameras, NVR, UPS, and Cables etc. By violating PPRA rules and all the procurements were done to give financial favors to their blue-eyed company. While talking to the Council

Executive Committee,(responsible body for financial and administrative affairs of PM&DC) while highlighting the scams previous Council , ensured to bring the culprits to face consequences.

They emphasized that the PM&DC Council is combination of best eminent members from all over the country with highest reputations as doctors, professors, Surgeon gen-

eral, legal experts, auditor, health Secretaries of all provinces. After assuming the charge, the Council has started working devotedly for betterment medical and dental profession and working tirelessly to make PM&DC more efficient as a regulator as well as a facilitator. The Council has taken up all the matters and affairs of PMDC on priority as per rules and law.

They added after making all necessary arrangements of transition from PMC to PMDC the first priority of the Council is to achieve the Accreditation of WFME so that our doctor and students may not face any problem internationally.

They showed concerned that as PM&DC has highlighted the scams previous regime, a group of vested interest has started a media campaign merely to undermine and malign PM&DC whose preamble are not even correct neither near to truth. PM&DC refutes all such information shared and published. The culprit vested group is trying to delay in achieving the PM&DC objectives and just to malign the working of the current Council. These malafide intentions of this vested group may create hurdles in creating liaison between the international medical communities and relations with WFME. They very confidently said that PM&DC is conducting MDCAT 2023 examination first time in the history on time without wasting students precious time through public sector medical /dental universities from all provinces to stream line the gaps that were previously emerged by the erstwhile PMC.

## 1282 constables, SPU jawans pass out from Sihala Training College

RAWALPINDI (APP): A passing out ceremony of 809 recruit constables and 473 Special Protection Unit (SPU) Jawans was held here on Tuesday at Police College Sihala.

Additional Inspector General of Police (IGP) Training Punjab Mohammad Tariq Chohan was the chief guest at the passing out parade. DIG, Commandant Police College, Sihala Rawalpindi, Ashfaq Ahmed Khan also attended the ceremony.

809 recruit constables and 473 SPU jawans received their basic training in the course. Additional IGP Training Punjab Muhammad Tariq Chohan inspected the parade. Addressing the participants, the IGP Training said, "It is

an honor for me to be the chief guest in the passing out parade of recruit constables." He also congratulated all the trainee officials, their parents and relatives. The management of Police College Sihala deserves congratulations for playing a practical role in the completion of this course, he added.

He asked the constables and jawans to perform professional work with the same spirit exhibited during the training. The police department plays an important role in maintaining law and order and controlling crime in the country, the Additional IGP said adding, recruit constables are the hallmark of the institution. The role of constables is key in improving 'thana' culture, he said adding, they should

make all-out efforts to provide relief to the citizens.

The IGP said that the prevention of crime and the protection of the lives and properties of the citizens is the responsibility of the police. On the occasion, DIG Commandant Police College Sihala Rawalpindi Ashfaq Ahmed Khan said Police College Sihala is the largest training institution of Pakistan which was established in 1959 and so far more than 100,000 officials and officers of law enforcement agencies have received training.

Police College Sihala has the distinction of training the senior ranks as well as the basic rank of police recruit constables who are the face of the department, he added.

## Journalists vow to become voice of Kashmiris

ISLAMABAD (APP): Senior Kashmiri journalists here on Wednesday vowed to become voice of Kashmiris at a time when media in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) was totally choked by Indian government and was not allowed to report ground realities.

Speaking at a conference, while pointing out various shortcomings in structuring appropriate narratives on Kashmir, particularly after August 5, 2019, they desired the national media to play proactive role in highlighting Kashmir issue keeping in view the changing global realities and trends.

The conference titled "Pleading the case of Kashmir in Changing Global Realities: Challenges and Opportunities" was organized by Institute of Dialogue, Development and Diplomatic Studies (IDDDS) in collaboration with Riphah International University (RIU). The conference was aimed at bringing the Kashmir issue in limelight keeping in view the changing regional and global situations.

Speaking on the occasion, Director Riphah Institute of Public Policy, Dr. Rashid Aftab highlighted the need for adapting new trends to make media coverage of Kashmir productive. He said the institute would continue to organize such conference and seminars to formulate comprehensive strategies to promote cause of Kashmir. On the occasion, Executive Director, IDDDS, Dr. Waleed Rasool said the dynamics of Kashmir changed in post 5th August 2019 when India took the uni-

lateral action to scrap special status of IIOJK and divided the whole state in two separate union territories under direct control of New Delhi.

He said, media in IIOJK was the first casualty of this onslaught adding foreign media was left with no option but to leave Kashmir whereas the local media was put under total censorship. He said, it was now responsibility of national media of Pakistan to work proactively to highlight Kashmir issue. Speaking on the occasion, columnist and faculty member, Riphah International University, Awais Wasi, who was moderating the conference, said suggestions put forward by journalists in this conference would be properly documented and forwarded to concerned quarters for decisions and policy making.

He highlighted the importance of capacity-building of journalists to help them work more effectively in their domains and make their coverage more comprehensive and dynamic.

Speaking on the occasion, Senior Journalist, Dr. Ashaf said that the national media could not build narrative properly after August 5, 2019 and urged Kashmiri journalists to fulfill their responsibility and play their role in highlighting Kashmir issue internationally. He said, media should be proactive in such sensitive matters. Senior Journalists, Abid Abbasi highlighted the importance of media policy, saying that there was not any such policy available particularly to deal with August 5, 2019 issue.



ISLAMABAD: Vendors displaying sacrificial animals to attract the customers in connection with upcoming Eid ul Adha at Sacrificial animal Market.



No intention to join warlords

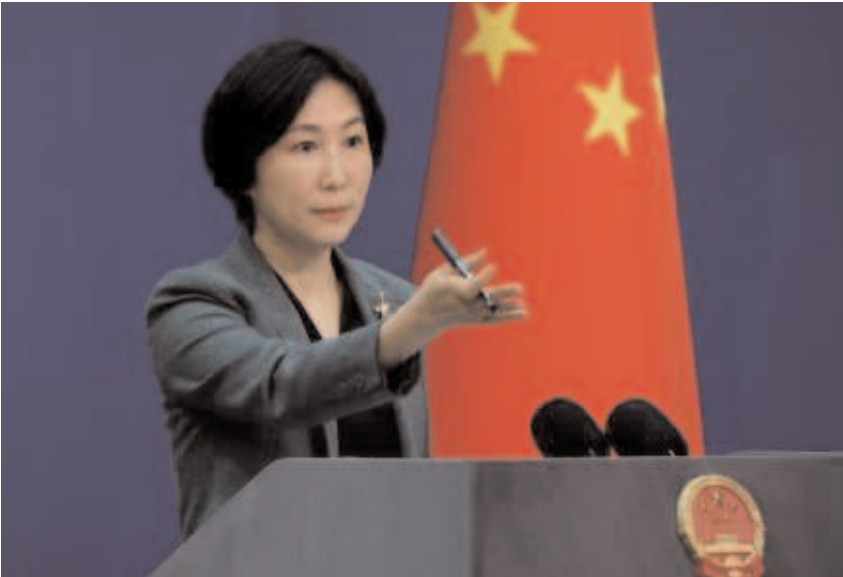
KABUL (Pajhwok): Former President Ashraf Ghani in his Eid message says the Afghan nation reserves the right to ask the warlords why they have wasted the golden opportunities and filled their pockets and bank accounts. In his Eid-ul-Adha message shared on his Facebook page, Ghani stressed: "Here, I would like to say clearly that I'm not ready to take a step with the warlords in the political filed of Afghanistan."

AWCC opens new center

JALALABAD CITY (Agencies): AWCC opened another customer services center in Jalalabad city, the capital of Nangarhar province. AWCC officials say the company is committed to providing quality telecommunication and internet services in all parts of this province. According to them, many areas in the eastern provinces of the country are covered by telecommunication and internet services of this network, adding that they plan to cover all parts of Nangarhar this year.

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

Beijing expects  
Kabul to take  
more solid steps



KABUL (TOLONews): Speaking at a press conference, the Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Mao Ning on Tuesday said that Beijing hopes the Afghan interim government will take more solid steps in the direction that serves the interests of the Afghan people and meets the expectations of the international community, "so as to gain more understanding, trust and support from the rest of the world."

Ning said that since the "Afghan interim government was formed, it has been committed to the peaceful reconstruction and independent development of Afghanistan and actively engaged in exchanges and cooperation with other countries."

"A series of measures have been taken to grow the

about the Afghan interim government's governance approach," she said. "We hope that the Afghan interim government will take more solid steps in the direction that serves the interests of the Afghan people and meets the expectations of the international community, so as to gain more understanding, trust and support from the rest of the world."

Ning said that since the "Afghan interim government was formed, it has been committed to the peaceful reconstruction and independent development of Afghanistan and actively engaged in exchanges and cooperation with other countries."

"A series of measures have been taken to grow the

economy, eliminate corruption, ban drug cultivation and improve people's well-being and public order, which has seen effective results," she said.

The international community has repeatedly voiced concerns about the violation of human rights and women's right to work and education, the need to form an inclusive government, and the presence of terrorist groups in Afghanistan.

However, the Islamic Emirate denied the presence of terrorist groups in the country, saying that the rights of women are ensured within an Islamic structure and that formation of the government is an internal issue for Afghanistan.

Educated but  
unemployed  
youth say  
they will  
need to leave  
country

KABUL (TOLONews): Youth say they are concerned about the lack of work in the country and called on the Islamic Emirate to provide jobs.

Fardin, 26, graduated from the law and political sciences faculty; he said that unemployment has frustrated him and if this situation continues, he will inevitably leave his homeland and take the path of immigration.

"I studied for 16 years and nobody thinks about us, if the situation continues like this and nobody hears us, we are obliged to leave the country," said Fardin, an unemployed youth.

"I studied for 16 years but now i am jobless because there are no job opportunities in Afghanistan," said Mer Kamal, an unemployed youth.

"Youth leave the country because they are facing economic challenges and they don't have motivation for their future," said Janat Fahim Chakari, political analyst.

Meanwhile, the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs said that efforts are ongoing to provide work for youth in various fields.

"Most of our youths are busy in Qosh Tipa and some of them have work in mines and many of them work in transferring gas and oil from Pakistan, Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan," said Sharfuddin Sharf, head of the office of the Minister of Social Work and Labor.

The Ministry of Economy said that they have large economic projects to reduce poverty in the country.

"The Ministry of Economy will pay serious attention to investment in infrastructure and development of small and medium industries, support of domestic production and strengthening of the private sector..." said Abdul Rahman Habib, spokesman of the ministry.

Earlier, the International Committee of the Red Cross said in a report that the number of unemployed people in Afghanistan has increased dramatically in the last two years.

‘Over 1,000 Afghan civilians  
killed since Taliban takeover’

KABUL (Al Jazeera): The United Nations says it has recorded a significant number of civilians killed and wounded in attacks in Afghanistan since the Taliban takeover – despite a stark reduction in casualties compared with previous years of war and armed conflicts.

In a report released on Tuesday, the UN's mission to Afghanistan (UNAMA) said 1,095 civilians were killed and 2,679 wounded between August 15, 2021, and May this year.

The majority of deaths – just over 700 – were caused by improvised explosive devices, including suicide bombings in public places such as mosques, education centres and markets.

Though armed fighting has fallen dramatically since the Taliban took over

as the NATO-backed military collapsed, security challenges remain, particularly from ISIL (ISIS), the UN report said.

The Taliban was responsible for the majority of attacks, according to the UNAMA, which also noted that the deadliness of attacks had escalated despite fewer violent incidents.

"UNAMA's figures highlight not only the ongoing civilian harm resulting from such attacks, but an increase in the lethality of suicide attacks since 15 August 2021, with a smaller number of attacks causing a greater number of civilian casualties," said the report.

More than 1,700 casualties, including injuries, were attributed to explosive attacks claimed by ISIL, according to UNAMA.

The ruling Taliban says it is focused on securing the country and has carried out several raids against ISIL cells in recent months.

In response to the UN report, the Taliban-run foreign ministry said Afghanistan had faced security challenges during the war for decades before its government, known as the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan, took over and the situation had improved.

"Security forces of the Islamic Emirate oblige themselves to ensure security of the citizens and take timely action on uprooting the safe havens of the terrorists," it said.

The UN report also noted that the attacks were carried out amid a nationwide financial and economic crisis. With a sharp drop in donor funding since the

takeover, Afghans are struggling to get access to "medical, financial and psychosocial support" under the current Taliban-led government, the report said.

Despite initial promises in 2021 of a more moderate administration, the Taliban enforced harsh rules after seizing the country. It banned girls' education after the sixth grade and barred Afghan women from public life and most work, including for non-governmental organisations and the UN.

The measures harked back to the previous Taliban rule of Afghanistan in the late 1990s, when it also imposed its strict interpretation of Islamic laws.

The Taliban administration has not been officially recognised by the UN and the international community.

Iran proposes formation of joint  
team to address water rights issues

KABUL (Khaama Press): The Iranian interior minister has suggested creating a joint commission between Iran and Afghanistan to resolve the dispute over water rights between the two countries by carefully observing water levels in the Helmand River in southern Afghanistan.

Ahmad Vahidi, Iran's interior minister, said that the purpose of this joint team would be to ascertain Iran's rights and to verify the Taliban's claims of water shortage.

"The establishment of a joint committee to evaluate one of the dams named in the treaty was the key matter," he said.

Earlier, the Taliban authorities claimed that there was not enough water in the Kajaki Dam in Afghanistan due to drought in the country, and even if there were water, it would not reach Iran.

Earlier, Iran accused the Taliban of breaking the 1973 water pact by stopping water flow to the province of Sistan and Baluchistan, which borders southern Afghanistan. This sparked a deterioration in the relations between the Taliban and Iran.



Afghanistan must annually deliver 850 million cubic metres of water from the Helmand River to Iran in accordance with the

1973 agreement. Iran has charged Afghanistan with breaking the agreement, but Kabul denies the charge.

Relations between the two neighbours have been hampered for years by disputes over the Helmand water rights issues.

Residents of Mazar-e-Sharif  
demand security during Eid

MAZAR-E-SHARIF (TOLONews): Residents of Mazar-e-Sharif, the center of Balkh province, asked security forces to properly ensure security at recreational places and mosques during the days of Eid.

They said that they wish to enjoy Eid without any fear. "We ask the security forces of the Islamic Emirate to ensure the security of the mosques during the days of Eid," said Abdul Hossein, a resident

of Mazar-e-Sharif.

"We are on the eve of Eid al-Adha. We ask the security forces to ensure the security of the mosques and recreational areas so that people can celebrate Eid without fear," Ahmad Shakib, another resident of Mazar-e-Sharif, told TOLONews.

Meanwhile, Balkh Security Command officials pledged better security during the nights and days of Eid.

"We reassure the people

of Balkh province, especially Mazar-e-Sharif, that our security forces are fully prepared to provide security during the days and nights of Eid," said Mohammad Asif Waziri, the spokesperson for the Balkh Security Command.

Since the Islamic Emirate came to power, the city of Mazar-e-Sharif witnessed several security incidents with fatalities, including the death of the governor of Balkh.

Residents criticize lack of control on prices



HERAT CITY (Pajhwok): As Eid-ul-Adha draws near, residents of western Herat province have started visiting markets to purchase goods they need to celebrate the religious festival.

Although markets are not as vibrant as they were in previous years, some residents of the province criticize the lack of control over

commodity prices in the province ahead of Eid-ul-Adha.

Haji Abdul Rauf, a resident of Shahrstan area, told Pajhwok Afghan News that

every year, the prices of dried fruits were dramatically increased ahead of Eid because there was no check on them by relevant institutions.

He asked the municipality of Herat to fully control the prices of dried fruits and other necessary goods.

He said: "With the arrival of Eidul Adha, every seller demands the price according to his will and sells fruits to people at a high price and the municipality is not aware of this."

Sediqullah, another resident, also said fruits prices were intentionally increased during Eid days and the government should pay serious attention to this phenomenon.

According to him, the economic situation of the

people has deteriorated in recent years and people cannot afford inflation.

Speaking to Pajhwok, Abdul Azim, a fruit seller in Chaharsoye of Herat city, said that fruit sales would increase these days in the previous years, but this year their sales had decreased.

He hoped the government would create employment opportunities to boost people's economy.

Nasir Armal, a spokesman for the Herat municipality, disputed people's views in this regard and said up to five teams of the administration were tasked with controlling the prices.

Armal said everyone violating the municipality's price lists would be dealt with legally.

Traffic accidents: 178 people killed in past 3 months

KABUL (Pajhwok): About 178 people have been killed and 1,233 others injured in traffic accidents in 27 provinces of the country in the past three months, according to Pajhwok Afghan News reports.

More than half of the total casualties from traffic accidents happened in Ghazni, Kandahar, and Nangarhar provinces while nearly half of the total casualties occurred during the first three days of Eid-ul-Fitr. Men casualties were 11 times higher compared to children and women casualties.

The number of dead and injured people may be higher because casualties' figures in this report are obtained from 106 traffic accidents which Pajhwok Afghan News has reported.

More than half of the

total casualties occurred in three provinces

A large number of people were killed in traffic accidents in Sar-i-Pul, Baghlan, and Faryab provinces of Afghanistan while a large number were injured in Ghazni, Kandahar, and Nangarhar provinces.

According to Pajhwok Afghan News reports four people killed and 351 injured in Ghazni traffic accidents, in Kandahar six people killed and 311 injured, in Nangarhar six people killed, 164 injured, in Faryab 16 people killed, 49 injured, in Paktia six killed and 40 injured, in Baghlan 17 people killed and 39 injured, in Bamyán six killed 33 injured, in Zabul nine people killed and 31 injured, in Laghman two killed 30

injured, in Parwan three killed three killed and 28 injured and Maidan Wardak four people killed and 24 injured, in Jawzjan 23 people injured, in Badakhshan 14 killed and 19 injured, in Logar six killed and 15 injured, in Nuristan five killed and 14 injured, Daikundi eight killed and 14 injured, Balkh 13 killed and 14 injured, in Takhar two killed and 11 injured, in Badghis five killed and nine injured, in Kapesa six killed and nine injured, in Helmand two killed and seven injured, in Ghor five injured, in Farah five killed and four injured, in Kunduz one killed two injured, in Kabul seven killed, two injured, in Khost one killed two injured in Sar-i-Pul 24 killed and one injured.

Eid-ul-Fitr accidents:

According to Pajhwok reports 213 people were killed and injured on the first day of Edi, 230 people on the second day of Eid and 216 people on the third day of Eid.

Ezzatullah, a driver in Kabul, said traffic accidents and fatalities go up in Kabul during Eid because people travel from one place to another to celebrate Edi and meet families and friends. Sometimes individuals who are not drivers by profession drive the car.

He said: "In Eid-ul-Fitr we were five friends and went to Ghazni, Kandahar, Helmad and Herat provinces, it was a long drive and every one of us drove the car and others controlled the driver not to increase the speed."

Traffic accidents victims: Men casualties are 11 times higher compared to women and children

According to reports 1,295 men, 56 women and 39 children suffered casualties in traffic accidents in the past three months. The gender of 21 persons could not be ascertained in the report.

According to Safi men travel the most compared to women and children.

Abdul Wadoud Khirkhwa, the Traffic Department Policy and Plan Department head, did not comment about the traffic accidents and casualties in the past three months but earlier he told Pajhwok Afghan News that over 335 traffic accident had happened nationwide in which 185 people were killed and

409 others injured. Women and children were among the casualties.

Referring to the surge of traffic accidents during Eid he said that Traffic Department adopted strategy regarding precautionary measures and accidents control while taking in consideration the situation during the last Eid.

He said most traffic accidents happened on highways.

He linked surge in traffic accidents on highways with recklessness of drivers, dilapidated condition of road and added in urban areas these accidents took place due to increase in the number of vehicles, thin roads, lack of parking and congestion caused by vendors as well as reckless driving Referring to the highway accidents he said

that some destinations are long and the drivers use hashish and opium to avoid sleepiness and this also result in the accidents.

"In order to prevent the use of drugs, 15 years ago, we prepared a guideline to prevent illegal drivers, and we sent it to the Ministry of Transportation, especially in the Department of Land Transportation. This guideline should be made available to all passenger and freight drivers, but unfortunately, it didn't work," he said.

Mohammad Nabi Afghan, deputy head of the Afghanistan Transportation Companies Council, There are many accidents happening on the highways and the main reason was the dilapidated condition of the roads like the areas in the southwest

where the problems are so many.

He said the Islamic Emirate was told to give roads rehabilitation priority and seek private-sector consultation in this regard.

Afghan acknowledged the use of drug by some drivers during driving and said it was due to the lengthy destination and urged two drivers were needed for driving during the night hours.

Najibullah, who driver a bus on the Kabul-Kandahar highway for the past 12 years, said the dilapidated condition of the road and recklessness of the driver was main reason behind traffic accidents. He rejected the use of hashish by the drivers and said. During unstable condition, nobody could driver a vehicle for a lengthy destination.



# Trump heard discussing secret documents on tape

WASHINGTON (Agencies): Former US president Donald Trump can be heard discussing secret documents he had apparently held on to and acknowledging he had not declassified them, in an audio recording aired by CNN. The two-minute recording comes from an interview Trump gave at his Bedminster, New Jersey, golf club in July 2021 for people working on a memoir by his former chief of staff Mark Meadows.

Parts of a transcript of the recording were cited as evidence in special counsel Jack Smith's 49-page indictment of Trump on charges he had mishandled classified documents after leaving office. The audio file played by CNN late on Monday, and also obtained by ABC and CBS, includes a moment when Trump seems to indicate he is holding a secret Pentagon document with plans to attack Iran.

"These are the papers," Trump says in the recording, a quote that was not included in the indictment.

He also refers to something as "highly confidential" and "this is secret information" as he seems to be showing something to the others in the room. "This was done by the military and given to me," Trump continues, before noting that the document remained classified. "You see, as president I could have declassified it. Now I can't, you know," he says.

"Now we have a problem," one of his staff responds. "Isn't that interesting? It's so cool," Trump says, and the recording ends with him calling for someone to bring in some Cokes. Trump earlier this month pleaded not guilty on 37 counts of wilfully mishandling US government secrets and conspiring to prevent their return, becoming the first US president to face criminal charges.

The Department of Justice (DoJ) accuses Trump — who is vying to win back the White House next year — of violating the Espionage Act and other laws when he

removed classified documents upon leaving office and failed to give them up to the National Archives. In its indictment, the DoJ described evidence including an audio recording from a July 2021 meeting that Trump, who was no longer president, had with an author, a publisher and two of his staff — none of whom had a US security clearance — in which Trump showed them what he called a "secret" and "highly confidential" document.

The pugnacious 77-year-old billionaire is accused of wilfully hoarding dozens of classified documents he took unlawfully to his beachfront mansion in Florida, refusing to return them and conspiring to obstruct investigators seeking their recovery. Trump is also accused of sharing sensitive US secrets with people who had no security clearance. His criminal trial is tentatively scheduled to begin on August 14, but his legal team is likely to get the preliminary date pushed back by months.

## Six killed as car plunges into ditch in Kohistan

F.P. Report

KOHISTAN: At least six people were killed and four others injured when a vehicle in Lower Kohistan fell into a ditch on Tuesday.

The tragic incident occurred when an ill-fated vehicle heading to Kolai-Palas from Bisham lost control and plunged into a ditch. The accident resulted in the loss of six lives, while four individuals sustained injuries, rescue officials said. Soon after the incident, the rescue teams rushed to the site and shifted the injured to Tehsil Hospital in Patan for further medical treatment.

Furthermore, the police have launched an investigation into the incident and are trying to determine the cause of the accident. As per the initial police report, the accident occurred due to overspeeding. Meanwhile, the KP caretaker chief minister took notice of the accident and ordered concerned authorities to ensure medical facilities to the injured. KP governor also expressed his grief over the incident and directed authorities to provide a detailed report on the incident.

## CJP orders search of Imran Riaz

ISLAMABAD (INP): Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Umar Ata Bandial ordered the AGP to search the senior journalist Imran Riaz Khan. As per details, while hearing the proceeding on civilian trials in military courts the CJP to the Attorney General of Pakistan (AGP) to search and then recover him.

He made these remarks as the six-member bench of the Supreme Court Tuesday resumed hearing pleas against trials of civilians in the military courts. The bench headed by Chief Justice Umar Ata Bandial comprises of Justice Ijazul Ahsan, Justice Munib Akhtar, Justice Yahya Afridi, Justice Mazahir Ali Akbar Naqvi, and Justice Ayisha Malik. During the hearing, the CJP asked the AGP Imran Riaz Khan is missing, and is in your custody.

In his response, he told the CJP that he is not in custody but the federal government is fully cooperating in this matter. The CJP said that he received a letter that he is not doing anything regarding the Imran Riaz Khan case but such a measure spread fear among the public.

## 5 additional judges of BHC take oath

QUETTA (INP): Chief Justice of Balochistan High Court Justice Naem Akhtar Afghan on Tuesday administered the oath to the five additional judges of the Balochistan High Court in a ceremony.

The swearing-in ceremony was held in the Balochistan High Court, and Judge of the Supreme Court of Pakistan Justice Jamal Khan Mandukhel specially participated in the ceremony. While judges of Balochistan High Court and subordinate courts, former judges and lawyers were also present in large numbers.

The permanent Additional Judges included Justice Iqbal Ahmed Kasi, Justice Shaukat Ali Rukhshani, Justice Gul Hasan Tareen, Justice Mohammad Amir Nawaz Rana and Justice Sardar Ahmed Halimi. After these judges become permanent, the total number of permanent judges in Balochistan High Court will be thirteen.

## Post census survey from July 8

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Census Monitoring Committee (CMC) has decided to start Post Enumeration Survey from 8th July, 2023 for validating the provisional data collected during the country's first-ever digital census.

According to details, the decision was taken during 16th Meeting of Census Monitoring Committee (CMC), chaired by Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives, Ahsan Iqbal. It decided to conduct enumeration in three (3) districts of Kohistan that are remaining and snow-bound areas of KP, AJ&K and GB from 8th July, 2023.



LAHORE: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif chairing a meeting in connection with the pre-monsoon rains during Eid days in Punjab.

# Israeli, Palestinian ministers discuss violence

WEST BANK (Agencies): Israeli Defence Minister Yoav Gallant and a senior Palestinian official discussed violence in the occupied West Bank on Tuesday, with Gallant's office saying he offered reassurance about Israel's intention to crack down on Jewish settler riots.

Both the phone call and the announcement that it took place were unusual for Israel's religious-nationalist government and followed mounting expressions of US concern about the situation in the West Bank, among areas where Palestinians, with foreign backing, seek statehood.

The United Nations Security Council on Tuesday "called on all parties to refrain from unilateral actions that further inflame tensions" and urged restraint to reduce tension and prevent further escalation. During a council meeting on Tuesday, Deputy US Ambassador to

the UN Robert Wood said Washington would work with Israel and the Palestinian Authority to lower tensions and restore trust in a bid to create conditions to bring them back to talks.

"We call on all parties to refrain from unilateral actions, including settlement activity, evictions, and the demolition of Palestinian homes, terrorism, and incitement to violence, all of which serve to only further inflame the situation," Wood said. A gun attack that killed four Israeli civilians outside a West Bank settlement sparked days of violent incursions into Palestinian villages and towns by groups of Jewish settlers. Twelve suspects have been arrested in the latter incidents, Israeli police said.

"Israel views with gravity the violence inflicted upon Palestinian civilians in recent days by extremist elements", Gallant's office

quoted him as telling Hussein Al-Sheikh, an official in the umbrella Palestine Liberation Organisation. "Israel would exact the full penalty of the law from the rioters," Gallant added, according to the statement. There was no immediate comment from Al-Sheikh's office. Israeli forces, which intensified raids against Palestinian over the last 15 months, will continue to operate "anywhere required", Gallant said, while describing a calming of the West Bank as his common interest with Al-Sheikh.

Israeli President Isaac Herzog, whose role is largely ceremonial, also spoke with Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas on Tuesday for the occasion of Eidul Azha, a statement from Herzog's office said. Herzog "underlined his unequivocal denouncement of the recent assault on innocent Palestinians by extremists".

## Nation to celebrate Eidul Azha tomorrow

ISLAMABAD (INP): The nation will celebrate Eidul-Azha on Thursday with religious fervor to commemorate the great sacrifice of Hazrat Ibrahim and Hazrat Ismael (AS). The day will dawn with special prayers in mosques for well-being of Ummah and progress, prosperity and security of the country.

Eid prayers' congregations will be held at mosques, Eidgahs and open places in all cities, towns and villages. Ulama, in their Eid sermons, will highlight the significance of the philosophy of great sacrifice rendered by Hazrat Ibrahim and Hazrat Ismail (AS).

People will offer sacrifice of animals to follow the Sunnah of Hazrat Ibrahim (AS). Federal and Provincial governments have chalked out an elaborate security arrangement across the country to ward off untoward incidents. Civic authorities of different cities and towns have also made special arrangements for disposal of offal and other solid wastes during the Eid days. Radio Pakistan, Pakistan Television and private media will air special programs in connection with Eid-ul-Azha while newspapers will publish special supplements highlighting the importance of Eid-ul-Azha and sacrifice of the animals.

## Ex-minister Gondal quits PTI

LAHORE (INP): Former federal minister, Nazir Muhammad Gondal from Mandi Bahauddin on Tuesday announced to quit Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) over May 9 riots. In a statement, Nazir Muhammad Gondal strongly condemned the May 9 violent protests that were triggered after the PTI chairman's arrest.

I do not believe in the politics of clashes with the state institutions, he added. Gondal said that May 9 violent protests have "shaken the nation", and hoped that the public would soon emerge stronger from this crisis. It is worth mentioned here that Gondal joined PTI on June 6, 2017.

Several PTI leaders, ticketholders, former lawmakers have quit the party after the May 9 violence. Recently, former Punjab home minister Col. (retired) Hashim Dogar and other former Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) lawmakers announced leaving the party over May 9 violence, wherein military installations including Corps Commander House came under attack. While talking with media persons, the former Punjab minister had said that it was difficult for him and his friends to go along with 'PTI's narrative' as "we have decided to party our ways with the party".

## Ji, PTI chairmen attend session

KARACHI (INP): Karachi Mayor Murtaza Wahab has chaired a session to review arrangements for Eidul Azha which was also attended by the town chairmen of Ji and PTI.

Mayor Murtaza Wahab said that they want to work with all stakeholders to provide relief to the Karachi people.

# At UN, Pakistan calls for protecting Kashmiris

UNITED NATIONS (INP): Pakistan has urged the advocates of the concept of 'responsibility to protect', or R2P, to apply it to safeguard the oppressed people of occupied Palestine and Indian-occupied Jammu and Kashmir.

Ambassador Aamir Khan, deputy permanent representative of Pakistan to the UN, told the UN General Assembly on Monday, "Apart from its abuse, the concept of R2P has also led to the criticism that some powerful states have failed to invoke R2P by showing hesitancy either in condemning the massive human rights violations committed by so-called 'strategic allies' or by holding them accountable in the Security Council".

Speaking in a debate on the responsibility to protect and the prevention of genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity, the Pakistani envoy said for more than 7 decades, India has, denied the right of self-determination to the Kashmiri people, in violation of multiple resolutions

of the Security Council prescribing a free and fair plebiscite India, he said, had deployed 900,000 troops, resorted to extrajudicial killings; forced abductions; collective punishments; and the incarceration of the entire political leadership of the All Parties Hurriyat Conference (APHC). To this end, he said, Pakistan has circulated a dossier with the evidence of 3,432 war crimes committed by India's officials in Jammu and Kashmir, while adding that Muslims' persecution has become a "routine norm" for India.

On Saturday, during a visit of Indian Home Minister Amit Shah to Jammu and Kashmir, Ambassador Aamir Khan said that Indian Army personnel stormed into a mosque in Pulwama district of south Kashmir while Muslims were offering prayers and forced Muslims to chant "Jai Shri Ram" against their will. Noticing this dangerous trend, Professor Gregory Stanton, the founder of Genocide Watch, has

warned that a genocide of Muslims could very well happen in India, it was pointed out.

"The International community, especially the advocates of R2P concept must carefully analyze the devastating human rights situation that is transpiring in India as well as the occupied territory of Jammu and Kashmir," the Pakistani envoy said. Aamir Khan said under the terms of R2P concept, the international community was expected to protect those in danger, but its selective application -- driven by double standards and geopolitical considerations, undermines its credibility as a genuine humanitarian doctrine.

It is worth mentioning here that rests upon three pillars: the responsibility of each State to protect its populations; the responsibility of the international community to assist States in protecting their populations; and the responsibility of the international community to protect when a State is manifestly failing to protect its populations.

# Qureshi's bail extended in Jinnah House attack case

LAHORE (PPI) An anti-terrorism court in Punjab capital extended bail of PTI Vice President Shah Mahmood Qureshi in three cases, including the Jinnah House arson. ATC Judge Ejaz Ahmed Buttar heard the petition filed by the former foreign minister to seek extension in his bail. The PTI leader also appeared before the court to mark his attendance.

The judge has extended his bail till July 7 in the three cases registered at Sarwar Road, Gulberg, Racecourse police stations. Talking to media outside the court, Mr Qureshi said the government's deal with the International Monetary

Fund (IMF) would expose soon. He said there was wide difference between the original budget presented in the parliament and the document approved later.

He said planning was being made to come into power instead of ending the miseries of public. He said Finance Minister Ishaq Dar had to bow to the IMF's demands. The former minister said the PPP and PML-N were holding meetings in Dubai only to come into power, adding that Maryam Nawaz and Bilawal Bhutto were candidates for the prime minister's slot.

**Yasmin Rashid sent to jail on judicial remand in riots case:** An anti-terror-

ism court in Lahore sent Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader Yasmin Rashid to jail on 15-day judicial remand in a case related to May 9 riots. The PTI leader appeared virtually before the court where the police sought physical remand of the former provincial health minister.

The court dismissed police's request and handed over Rashid to police on 15-day judicial remand. The Lahore police had registered case against the PTI leader for allegedly setting vehicles on fire on May 9, the day PTI chairman was arrested from premises of Islamabad High Court (IHC).

# Pakistani int'l civil servant receives highest honour

ISLAMABAD (APP): Representative of the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) to Lao People's Democratic Republic Nasar Hayat on Monday received a Cross-of-Friendship Medal from the Lao government, for his contributions to the country's development.

The medal is the highest civil award of the Lao government that can be conferred on a foreign national, according to a press release. The award marks the completion of Nasar Hayat's four-and-half-year tenure as a UNFAO Representative in Lao PDR, where he headed the FAO programme focused on the development of the agriculture sector, food security and disaster resilience in the country.

Laos, which borders Thailand, China, Cambodia

and Vietnam, and has a population of 7 million, is one of the least developed countries in the world. The award was presented by Phoxay Khaykhamphouthoune, Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs, on behalf of the Prime Minister of Lao PDR.

The ceremony was also attended by senior Lao officials from various ministries including the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, the Ministry of Planning and Investment, and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, along with the officials of the UN agencies. In his speech at the ceremony, he expressed his gratitude to the Government of Lao PDR for the honour.

"I am proud that through FAO's support, the sector of agriculture has been recognized as a key driver of economic growth in Laos. I

am also pleased to have played a significant role in helping Lao communities to adapt to climate change," he remarked. Prior to his tenure as FAO Representative in Lao PDR, Hayat served as Assistant FAO Representative in Pakistan.

He started his career in 1995 as a Pakistani Civil Servant. His tenure with the Government of Pakistan included terms as Protocol Officer and then Section Officer in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Pakistan as well as Pakistan's Deputy High Commissioner to Maldives. Nasar Hayat also worked at the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), at the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and at the Asian Development Bank in Pakistan.

# Some legal hurdles in military courts: Asif

ISLAMABAD (INP): Defence Minister Khawaja Asif on Tuesday noted that there were some legal hurdles in prosecuting civilians in military courts, but added that the government would be able to remove the same.

Replying to various questions regarding the May 9 mayhem and its consequences during an interview to a private TV channel, the defence minister passed these remarks as he

praised the military for moving ahead with the accountability process and taking actions against the responsible persons. Khawaja Asif also said that blocking social media platforms was always an option and the government exercise the powers whenever required. His comments were in reference to the government stance that the PTI used social media as a tool to incite hatred and violence against the state

institutions in the country.

The same argument was repeated by the defence minister who said use of social media platforms was instrumental in inciting people to resort to violence, leading to the attacks on military installations and other state assets on May 9. Khawaja Asif argued that the social media platforms were regulated in China and even in the developing world like Europe.

# US acknowledges Pak's counter terrorism steps

WASHINGTON (Agencies): US State Department spokesperson Matthew Miller while briefing the newsmen in Washington said that the United States acknowledges Pakistan's counter terrorism measures.

He said that the people of Pakistan have suffered tremendously from terrorist attacks over the years and added that US remains committed to

working with Pakistan to address the shared threat posed by terrorist groups throughout the region. Matthew Miller said that the US recognizes that Pakistan has taken some important steps to counter terrorist groups in line with the completion of its Financial Action Task Force (FATF) actions plans.

"We commend both Pakistan and India for continuing to uphold the

ceasefire along the line of control (LoC)," he said. We want Pakistan to continue to take steps to permanently disband all terrorist groups and the US is in constant contact with the Pakistani authorities in this regard, he said. He said that US will continue to work with Pakistan to counter mutual terrorist threats, as we discussed during our March 2023 counter terrorism dialogue.