

ISLAMABAD (PPI): The Islamabad High Court (IHC) Friday summoned DG Rangers and IGP in person on Monday in the Murad Akbar recovery case. Murad Akbar is the brother of former SAPM on accountability, Shahzad Akbar, who was 'picked' last week, as per the claim of the former SAPM. The plea seeking Shahzad Akbar's brother's recovery was taken up by IHC Justice Mohsin Akhtar Naqvi Kiani.

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Kissan package to be included in next budget: Shehbaz

— directs for preparing export-oriented development budget 2023-24

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Friday issued clear directions to include on priority, such projects in the upcoming development budget that help in ensuring import substitutions, expanding export volume, and bringing innovation in various sectors.

The prime minister also directed to allocate special funds in the development programme for the welfare and development of the country's youth. Chairing a meeting to review the budget proposals with respect to the Public Sector Development Programme (PSDP) 2023-24, Shehbaz Sharif said that in the upcoming budget, projects relating to higher education, professional training and job creation for the youth must be added in the programme. He also asked for the establishment of Pakistan Endowment Fund to provide higher education to the youth.

The laptop programme should also be included in the upcoming PSDP to distribute free laptops among the top performing students to equip them with modern technology skills, he added. He said through the endowment fund, the youth should be given professional and higher education besides skill-based training in IT sector. The prime minister also stressed the need to give special importance to merit and transparency while providing scholarships and education to the youth.

PM Shehbaz directed to continue the projects initiated under the Kissan Package while renewable energy projects should also be made part of the development budget. The prime minister also directed to allocate spe-

cial funds in the upcoming budget for projects to bring innovation in the energy sector.

He said all the slow ongoing projects under the PSDP that had lost their importance, should be removed from the development budget. All stakeholders of the relevant sectors and the allied parties should be consulted before including any development project in the budget and their proposals should also be considered, the prime minister directed. Earlier, the meeting was briefed in detail about the proposals for adding new projects in the upcoming fiscal year and progress on the ongoing projects.

It was informed that as per the direction of the prime minister, projects related to the agriculture sector, renewable energy, higher education for youth, professional training and job-raising schemes would be important part of the development budget. The meeting was further told that the IT sector development and export boosting projects would also be part of the development budget.

Shehbaz Sharif was informed that the Prime Minister Kissan Package and Youth Empowerment Programme, that had been included in the budget 2022-23, were yielding fruits now as over 60,000 youth were being provided internship in various government development projects whereas the production of wheat, broke the 10-year record this year. The meeting was attended by federal ministers Ishaq Dar, Khawaja Muhammad Asif, Ahsan Iqbal, Rana Sanaullah, Rana Tanvir Hussain, Advisor Ahad Khan Cheema, Special Assistants to Prime Minister Malik Ahmad Khan, Ataullah Tarrar, Jehanzeb Khan and other relevant officials.

Premier leaves for Turkiye

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Friday departed here for Turkiye on a two-day official visit to attend the inauguration of Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan on Saturday.

In the second round of elections held on May 28, President Erdogan received 52.14 percent of the votes, beating his challenger, Kemal Kilicdaroglu, who won 47.86 percent. "Leaving for Turkiye today at the invitation of my brother, H.E. President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, to attend his inauguration ceremony. I will convey our warmest greetings to the President on behalf of the government and people of Pakistan on his reelection," Prime Minister Shehbaz wrote on Twitter before emplaning for Ankara.

At the airport, Turkish Ambassador in Islamabad Dr Mehmet Pacaci saw off the prime minister. In his tweet, the prime minister said the fraternal ties between Pakistan and Turkiye were set to deepen further in line with their shared resolve and common destiny. He said the upcoming 7th Meeting of the High-Level Strategic Cooperation Council in Islamabad would provide the right avenue to take the momentum of "our strategic partnership" forward. "We have yet to unlock the potential of our multifaceted relationship and efforts are being made in that direction," the prime minister commented. During the visit, the prime minister will also interact with the Turkish investors as well as the business community.



ISLAMABAD: Turkish Ambassador to Pakistan Dr Mehmet Pacaci bidding farewell to Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif upon his departure for Turkiye on his two day official visit.

Two terrorist killed in N Waziristan

F.P. Report

RAWALPINDI: Fire exchange took place between terrorists and security forces in general area Dossali, North Waziristan District. Own troops effectively engaged the terrorists' location and sealed all possible escape routes. During the ensuing fire exchange, two terrorists were sent to hell.

Weapons and ammunition were also recovered from the killed terrorists who remained actively involved in terrorist activities against security forces and killing of innocent citizens. Sanitization of the area is being carried out to eliminate any terrorists found in the area. Locals of the area appreciated the operation and expressed their full support to eliminate the menace of terrorism from the area.

Qureshi can meet his lawyer: Court

LAHORE (INP): The Lahore High Court Rawalpindi bench has granted permission to the lawyer of Shah Mahmood Qureshi, Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) vice chairman and former foreign minister, to meet his client.

Justice Chaudhry Abdul Aziz heard the petition challenging the detention of Shah Mahmood Qureshi. During the hearing, Shah Mahmood's lawyer, Barrister Taimur Malik, appeared before the court. He requested the court to allow him to meet his client, who is currently held in Adiala Jail.

The court accepted the plea of Shah Mahmood's lawyer, granting him permission to meet his client in jail. Furthermore, the court issued notices to the Chief Secretary, Inspector General of Punjab, Chief Police Officer of Rawalpindi, Regional Police Officer, and Deputy Commissioner of Rawalpindi.

The hearing was adjourned until June 6. PTI vice chairman and former foreign minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi and party leader and former Punjab minister Musarrat Jamshed Cheema had been arrested again from outside Adiala Jail minutes after their release. Speaking to private TV channel after being released from Adiala Jail, Shah Mahmood Qureshi said that he is not quitting PTI. "I am with the party, I will stay with the party," the PTI chairman told reporter.

Zardari welcomes Jawad

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: A former member of the National Assembly formerly of PTI from NA-47, Jawad Hussain has joined the PPP after meeting the former President of Pakistan and President Pakistan Peoples Party Parliamentarians, Asif Ali Zardari.

President Zardari welcomed Jawad Hussain in the PPP who apprised the President of the situation in the former FATA and PATA.

Pervez Elahi arrested in second corruption case

F.P. Report

LAHORE: PTI Central President and former Punjab chief minister Chaudhry Pervez Elahi was again arrested after a court in Lahore disposed of a corruption case against him on Friday.

The former Punjab chief minister was now arrested in connection with another corruption case registered against him in Gujranwala, said Anti-Corruption Establishment Director General Sohail Zafar Chaththa. Sohail Chhattah they will also going into appeal over the discharge of first corruption case.

Moments earlier, a court in Lahore has disposed of the corruption case against Chaudhry Pervez Elahi for lack of evidence. Judicial Magistrate Ghulam Murtaza Virk while pronouncing the verdict declined to grant physical remand of the former CM. The court declared that the anti-corruption investigators failed to present any credible evidence against Pervez Elahi. Anti-Corruption Establishment was after Pervez Elahi for alleged corruption in awarding contracts for building roads in Lalamusa, Dhinga and Gujrat. The investigators were of the view that the contracts were awarded even before the publication of advertisements for the development projects. A cumulative loss of Rs1,229 million was detected in these projects, they added.

Earlier, the judicial magistrate reserved his verdict on the physical remand of Pervez Elahi as demanded by the ACE in a corruption case. Elahi was presented before the magistrate court today. The anti-corruption investigators sought his 14-day physical remand in the corruption case. At the outset of the hearing, the learned judge inquired of the investigators that the case mentioned collusion of government officials 'so how many government officials have been included in the investigation'. Then the court asked Elahi to come to the rostrum.

The former Punjab chief minister told the court that he had nothing to do with the case. "I'm innocent. I always insist that all processes be completed," he added. Then Judicial Magistrate Ghulam Murtaza Virk reserved his judgment on remand.

The former chief minister was brought to the court in an armoured personnel vehicle. Prosecutor informed Judicial Magistrate Ghulam Murtaza that Pervez Elahi was arrested after his bail plea was disposed of. The Anti-Corruption

Establishment with the help of police arrested Pervez Elahi outside his Zahoor Palace residence in Gulberg on Thursday evening in connection with a case involving Rs70 million corruption in development funds allocated for the Gujrat district. His arrest came after a lot of botched raids at his residences in Lahore and Gujrat.

In a statement issued yesterday, the ACE said that PTI President Elahi was "wanted" in multiple cases and his bail was dismissed by an anti-corruption court a few days ago. It further claimed that Elahi had submitted his "fake medical certificates" to the court to secure bail which was denied. Meanwhile, DG Anti-Corruption Sohail Zafar Chaththa said that Elahi would not be transferred to Gujranwala. He said that the accused would be investigated in Lahore by the ACE and he would not be handed over to the police. PTI president Chaudhry Parvez Elahi has been produced before a court in Lahore to get his remand in a corruption case.

Talking to media outside the court, the PTI leader said he was innocent and "supporter of Pakistan Army". In a message to the party workers, he asked them to stand firm and did not lose courage. A team of the anti-corruption establishment (ACE), with the help of police, on Thursday arrested the PTI president outside his residence, Zahoor Elahi Palace, over graft charges, confirmed Punjab interim information minister Amir Mir.

Mr Mir said he had been arrested for receiving kickbacks in development projects, adding that he would be shifted to the anti-corruption headquarters shortly. "The area around his house had been cordoned off for last couple of days," he added. At first, he resisted but when the police tried to break his car's driving side window, he came out of his car, he said. "Talks of human rights violations should be toned down because he is accused of corruption," he added.

"He will be treated in jails as other accused are treated," he said. The arrest came as an anti-corruption court of Lahore had, earlier, rejected Mr Elahi's bail petition in a case of alleged corruption in development projects. Mr Elahi's lawyer told the court that the former chief minister was suffering from chest pain and could not appear in court. The prosecution argued that the medical certificate submitted by Parvez Elahi's counsel in court was fake.

SC fixes JI's plea for Panama Papers hearing

ISLAMABAD (Agencies): A two-member bench of the Supreme Court will take up a petition filed by Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) Ameer Sirajul Haq on June 9 seeking an investigation against all the Pakistanis named in Panama Papers.

A bench comprising Justice Sardar Tariq Masood and Justice Amin-ud-Din Khan will hear the case — filed in August 2016 — next week. The JI chief had asked the court to investigate all the 436 Pakistanis whose names are mentioned in the Panama Papers.

In April 2016, some 200, and later on 400 more people, were figured in the Panama Papers. They included businessmen and politicians from Pakistan, including the members of Premier Nawaz Sharif's family accused of setting up offshore companies in the tax havens. Notices have been issued to Attorney General Mansoor Usman Awan and others made a party in the petition.

In its petition, Jamaat-e-Islami has prayed to the top court to direct the federation to initiate an inquiry into the Panama Leaks under Article 184(3) of the Constitution without men-

tioning the name of any politician or businessman, alleged to be involved in establishing offshore companies. The JI ameer submitted that: "A large number of persons, many of them holders of public offices, were also allegedly involved in the commission of said offences and had not mentioned in the details of their assets about their investments through offshore companies, so all such holders of public offices were liable to be disqualified from their offices and also be punished accordingly."

Instead of making any politician or businessman respondent, the petitioner chose to make the Federation of Pakistan, Ministry of Law, Ministry of Finance, Cabinet Division, and National Accountability Bureau (NAB) through its chairman as respondents. The petitioner recalled that, despite the fact that the apex court on May 16, 2016, had demanded a list of owners of the said offshore companies and the details of individuals, families, groups, companies etc, which were required by the "Commission of Inquiry", but the respondent (the

government) deliberately did not provide the list.

"It is regretted that the respondents are deliberately delaying and avoiding any proceedings of inquiry into the alleged corruption leaks ... resulting in failure of recovery of public money from abroad and hence the country is facing serious financial hardships", the JI chief submitted. The petition further says: "It seems that the respondent NAB is not initiating any action or inquiry/investigation under the provisions of NAO, 1999, despite the fact that eradication of corruption is the sole purpose of the NAB."

Since April 2016, the NAB has not taken cognisance of the matter, whereas u/s 18 of the NAO, 1999, respondent No 5 has the authority to take suo moto action against all matters of corruption and corrupt practices committed, according to the petition. "There had allegedly been matters of corruption and corrupt practices of the magnitude of trillions of Pak rupees of public money, but NAB has not initiated action/inquiry even in a single case as narrated in the media."

ISLAMABAD (PPI): An 8-year-old Afghan girl was sexually assaulted by a man in broad daylight in Shahzad Town area, police said on Friday. The suspect managed to escape even in the presence of residents. The minor victim was shifted to a hospital where the medico-legal official confirmed the rape. A case was registered against the unidentified rapist under sections 376 and 377/B of the PPC on the complaint of the victim's father.

Hours after 'going missing', Jibran 'returns home'

KARACHI (Agencies): Almost 22 hours after "going missing" lawyer turned activist Jibran Nasir returned home, the police told media on Friday. The police, while confirming the return of the human rights activist, said that they would meet the lawyer shortly.

Last night, actress Mansha Pasha, Nasir's wife, claimed that armed individuals forcefully whisked her husband away from Karachi's DHA area. In a video statement shared on social media, Pasha said that the incident occurred when they were on their way back home after having dinner late Thursday night.

A visibly shaken Pasha recounted: "My husband Jibran Nasir, who is a renowned lawyer and has done much for the country, was abducted by some people." She said their car was intercepted by approximately 15 armed men travelling in a white double-cabin vehicle.

"We were returning [home] from dinner, when a big white car intercepted us, almost causing us to crash. There were some 15 people, armed with pistols. They forcefully took away my husband." On Friday morning, Karachi police registered a "kidnapping" case of the lawyer on the Pasha's complaint.

The case was registered at the Clifton Police Station of the port city under two sections of the Pakistan Penal Code — 365 (kidnapping or abducting with intent secretly and wrongfully to confine a person) and 34 (Acts done by several persons in furtherance of common intention). Police were at first, according to Pasha, not registering the FIR. The actress said she would move the court if the law enforcers did not register the case.

In her application, she also requested immediate action be taken to ensure his swift release. The whisking away of the activist was widely condemned by people from all walks of life. A protest was also held in Karachi outside the press club for the Nasir's release.

Imran's Waseem plus also quits politics

F.P. Report

QUETTA: Former Chief Minister of Punjab and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf leader Usman Buzdar on Friday announced to quit politics, becoming the latest PTI leader to say goodbye to mainstream politics.

Addressing a hurriedly called press conference at Quetta Press Club, the former CM Punjab said we have always done the politics of virtue and encouraged it but, in the present political situation, I have decided to quit politics. "The incidents that caused colossal damage to the national facilities are condemnable," he said adding that I announce my resignation from politics forever.

About his chief minister-ship, he expressed his satisfaction and said that he had served the public for 3 years and 7 months and his conscience was clear. Condemning the violent incident of May 9, Usman Buzdar said he condemns the frenzy protestors who vandalized the civil and military installations.

Thought, I have been facing cases in different courts for 14 months. However, I stood with the

army and will continue to stand with the army and pray for the development of the country. The former CM underlined the need for national unity and urged all the stakeholders to set aside their egos and work for a better future of the country. Buzdar also called for the release of the political workers, requesting for the provision of immediate relief to them.

Ex-MPA Mian Shafi from southern Punjab leaves PTI: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) has received yet another blow from southern Punjab as former MPA Mian Shafi Muhammad announced leaving the party on Friday. "I strongly condemn the May 9 incident," Mian Shafi Muhammad said in his video statement. "I stand with Khuro Bakhtiar and Hashim Jawan Bakht," he added. It is to be noted here that the office-bearers and lawmakers of the PTI have been leaving the party since the May 9 protests.

GM Chishti quits PTI: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader Pir Ghulam Mohiuddin Chishti on Friday announced to quit his party.

Speaking to media, Mr

Chisti condemned the May 9 violence. He said, "I am ready to sacrifice my life for the sake of the country".

Ex-PTI MNA Jawad Hussain joins PPP: Ex-MNA of PTI Jawad Hussain has announced to join Pakistan People's Party. He made this announcement while addressing a news conference along with Special Assistant on Poverty Alleviation Faisal Karim Kundi and Special Assistant on Water Resources Mohammad Ali Shah Bacha Islamabad.

Jawad Hussain said PTI government could not bring any developmental project for erstwhile FATA. Speaking on the occasion, Special Assistant on Poverty Alleviation Faisal Karim Kundi said a delegation of PPP visited Radio Pakistan Peshawar. He said this is the oldest radio station of Pakistan.

He said necessary equipment and parts of vehicles were stolen from Radio Pakistan Peshawar on 9th May. He said the attack was pre-planned. The Special Assistant said PPP has a clear stance of zero tolerance against the perpetrators of 9th May incidents.

Marriyum, German envoy agree on bilateral coop

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and Germany have agreed on bilateral cooperation in the fields of film, art and culture. The agreement was reached in a meeting of German Ambassador to Pakistan Alfred Grannas with Minister for Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb, said a press release issued here on Friday.

During the meeting, a discussion was also held on a proposal for cooperation with the University of Babelsberg and the University of Television and Film Munich. Marriyum Aurangzeb apprised the German Ambassador about the Film and Culture Policy of the Government of Pakistan and the incentives

given under the policy. She said that the government was desirous of showing the beauty, culture and civilization of Pakistan to the whole world through screen tourism. Foreign filmmakers should benefit from special concessions given for filmmaking in Pakistan, she said.

The minister sought support from German institutions for technical training in film, art, and culture for Pakistani students. "Film, art and culture can be promoted by cooperation between German and Pakistani private educational institutions," she said. The minister appreciated the services of German NGOs GIZ and Hans Seidel Foundation in Pakistan.

She also expressed her gratitude for the German assistance of 18.4 million

Euros to the flood victims in Pakistan. Germany's promise to provide 84 million euros in aid to the International Conference on Climate Change was another proof of Germany's friendship with Pakistan, the minister maintained. The volume of bilateral trade is 4 billion dollars which needs to be increased, said the minister. She opined and Allama Iqbal and Goethe were common assets between the two countries and with the establishment of Iqbal-Goethe Art and Culture Center in Berlin, the people of the two countries will come closer to each other. She appreciated the German media for reporting the situation in Pakistan in an objective and impartial manner which was commendable.



Peoples Bus Service to start a new route on Lyari Expressway

F.P. Report

KARACHI: Government of Sindh has decided to start non-stop service of People's Bus Service on Lyari Expressway to ease the travel problems of the people.

In this regard, the most important meeting was held under the chairmanship of Minister of Information, Transport and Mass Transit Sindh Sharjeel Inam Memon. Secretary Transport Saleem Rajput, MD Sindh Mass Transit Authority Kamal Dayo, Additional Secretary Transport Kiran Shaikh, Member National Highway Authority Muneer Memon, DIG National Highway and Motorway Police Javed Ali Mahar, DIG Traffic Ahmed Nawaz, NRTC officials Shoaib Ahmed, Abdul Shakur Arain and others were present in the meeting. In the meeting, it was decided to start the service of People's Bus Service on Lyari Expressway to reduce the travel problems of the people.

In the meeting, National Highway Authority member Muneer Memon and DIG Highways and Motorway Police Javed Ali Mahar briefed the meeting regarding the flow of traffic on Lyari Expressway. In the meeting presided over by the Minister of Transport and Mass Transit Sharjeel Inam Memon, it was decided to conduct a survey regarding the initial running of test buses on Lyari Expressway and the start of bus service on Lyari Expressway.

Speaking at the meeting, Provincial Minister for

Cabinet meeting approves measures for employees' public welfare

LAHORE (APP): The 16th cabinet meeting, held under the chair of the caretaker Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi at his office on Friday, approved measures for welfare of employees and general public in the province.

It approved an amendment to the Punjab Civil Service Pension Rules, ensuring the immediate payment of 65 per cent pension to employees after retirement as it will continue to be paid until the complete pension documents are not prepared.

The cabinet decided to introduce an axle load management regime to prevent overloading and accidents on roads in Punjab. Heavy trailers exiting factories will be subject to regular weight checks, and those exceeding the prescribed limits will not be allowed on the roads. The Motor Vehicle Rules of 1969 were also amended by the cabinet to ensure the effective implementation of the decision. The responsibility for its execution was entrusted to the Minister for Industries SM Tanveer by the CM who also instructed all departments to expedite the resolution of promotion cases for government employees, emphasizing that no deserving government employee should be deprived of career advancement. "I am personally monitoring promotion cases of government employees," he stated.

The establishment of Paraplegic Rehabilitation Centers was approved in the meeting, special centers will be established in Multan, Taunsa, Lahore, Faisalabad, and Wah, to provide rehabilitation services for paralysed patients. Necessary medical equipment will also be provided to paraplegic patients. To combat smog, Mohsin Naqvi asked for a comprehensive plan from the secretary environment protection department for presentation in the next cabinet meeting. The cabinet also approved a grant-in-aid for the flyover project at Akbar Chowk Lahore. Additionally, the Punjab Environmental Protection (single-use plastic product) Regulations, 2023 was also approved.

The meeting approved de-notification of the Law and Parliamentary Affairs Department's Administrator General and Official Trustees in Punjab. The revenue mobilization strategy plan for the fiscal years 2023-24 to 2025-26 was approved. The decisions of the 4th meeting of the cabinet standing committee for finance and development and the 5th and 6th meetings of the cabinet standing committee for law and order were also confirmed.

Information, Transport and Mass Transit Sharjeel Inam Memon said that running the People's Bus Service on the Lyari Expressway will reduce the traffic burden on the rest of the roads and the Sindh government will provide the best travel facilities to the people.

GOVERNEMENT OF PAKISTAN

PAKISTAN PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

No.CCDB/AB/890 Dated: 30/05/2023

CORRIGENDUM

In the tender Notice No.CCDB/AB/814 Dated 17.05.2023 published in different Newspapers and displayed on PPRA website vide TS511046E vide PID (P) No.167/2023 dated 21.05.2023 the name of works and earnest money may be read as under.

S.#	Name of work	Earnest Money
1.	Construction of Solar Tubewells, Surface water tank/ pipe line and Pump Room with Boundary wall at various places of Uper and Lower Kurram District Kurram	Rs.400,000/-
2.	Construction of Solar Tubewells, e and Pump Room with Boundary wall at various places of Uper and Lower Kurram District Kurram	Rs.800,000/-
3.	Construction of Community Centre (Jirga Hall) at various places of Uper and Lower Kurram District Kurram	Rs.2,700,000/-

Other terms and condition will remain the same.

PID(P) 167-A/23

(Noor Zada Khan Wazir), Executive Engineer

Central Civil Division Pak. PWD, Bannu

MERGED AREAS EDUCATION FOUNDATION (MEF)

1st Floor, G-8 Building, Gate No.3, Khyber Road, Peshawar.

Contact: 091-9211778, Fax 091-9212347.

TENDER NOTICE

Merged Areas Education Foundation (MEF), is a public sector Autonomous Body established in 2004 mandated to promote educational activities throughout Merged Districts, invites sealed bids along with 2% bid security of the total quoted price must be accompanied with tender documents in shape of call deposit as per KPPRA procurement rules 2014 from scheduled banks in favor of Managing Director MEF from reputed bidders registered with Income Tax and Sales Tax Departments, Government of Pakistan, who are on Active Taxpayers List (ATL) of FBR, for the **Procurement of Laptops**.

S No	Description of Goods	Last Date & Time of Bid Submission	Date & Time of Bid Opening
01	Procurement of Laptops	19th June, 2023 at 11:00 AM	19th June, 2023 at 11:30 AM

Detail Bidding documents containing eligibility criteria, detailed specifications of items and other terms and conditions, can be obtained from official website of Merged Areas Education Foundation www.mef.gov.pk till closing date i.e 19th June, 2023.

The sealed bids prepared as per instruction in the SBD shall be submitted to the Deputy Director (F&A)/Assistant Director (F&A), Merged Areas Education Foundation located first floor, G-8 building, gate No 3, Khyber Road Peshawar on or before the above mentioned date and time. All the bids will be opened in the presence of bidders/their representatives who want to be present at the time of opening of bids. The bids received after due date and time will not be considered.

Deputy Managing Director, Merged Areas Education Foundation, Peshawar, Pakistan. Phone #: 091-9211778, 091-9211147 INF(P) 1085/23

DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF FISHERIES

2-SHAMI ROAD PESHAWAR

Ph: 091-9212096, Email: kfisheries@yahoo.com, Facebook: www.facebook.com/dgfsheriespkp, Twitter: <https://twitter.com/fisherieskp>, Website: www.fisheries.kp.gov.pk

SITUATION VACANT

Applications are invited for the following posts in the Fisheries Department Khyber Pakhtunkhwa / Merged Districts. The requisite qualification and experience is shown against each:-

S.#	Name of Post & BPS	No. of Posts	Age Limit in year	Minimum Education Qualification/ Eligibility Criteria	Domicile/ Quota
01	Head Fisheries Watcher (BPS-9)	2	18-35	At least 2nd Division Intermediate Certificate (Pre-Medical) or equivalent qualification from a recognized Board.	Khyber Pakhtunkhwa / Merged Districts
02	Fisheries Watcher (BPS-7)	20	18-32	At least 2nd class Secondary School Certificate with science from a recognized board.	Khyber Pakhtunkhwa / Merged Districts
03	Laboratory Assistant (BPS-8)	2	18-32	(a) At least 2nd class Secondary School Certificate with science from a recognized board. (b) At least one year Laboratory techniques Certificate from recognized Veterinary or Medical Institute.	Khyber Pakhtunkhwa / Merged Districts
04	Feed Mill Operator (BPS-7)	1	18-32	(a) At least 2nd class Secondary School Certificate with science from a recognized board, and (b) Trade Certificate from a recognized Technical Training Institute	Khyber Pakhtunkhwa / Merged Districts
05	Electrician (BPS-6)	2	18-32	At least Second Division Diploma of Associate Engineering (DAE) in Electrical Technology from a recognized Board of Technical Education; and	Khyber Pakhtunkhwa / Merged Districts
06	Motor Boat Operator / Boat Man (BPS-6)	2	18-32	At least 2nd class Secondary School Certificate from a recognized Board with proficiency in motor boat driving.	Khyber Pakhtunkhwa / Merged Districts

TERMS & CONDITIONS

i. General Age relaxation will be admissible as per prescribed rules of Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

ii. The candidates already in Government service may apply through proper channel and produce NOC at the time of interview.

iii. Age, Qualification & Experience will be counted from the last date of the advertisement.

iv. The reserved quotas will be observed as per rules.

v. Nos of vacancies can be increased/decreased by the competent authority.

vi. Applicants are advised to submit their application forms within 15 days from the issue of this advertisement. Applications received after due date will not be entertained.

vii. Only eligible short listed candidates will be called for written test after the complete scrutiny of application forms.

viii. Incomplete applications or application submitted with fake documents will be rejected at any stage of the recruitment process.

ix. The competent authority has right to defer or cancel the recruitment process at any stage with cogent reasons.

x. Mobile phones, weapons, calculator or any other electronic devices will not be permissible in the test centers.

xi. Interested candidates may first visit : <https://www.ats.org.pk> and apply for the post online.

xii. Candidates are liable to pay Rs: 300/- as test fee online at bank branches of HBL & Bank Al Habib as prescribed on application Form. Deposited fee is non-refundable/non-transferable.

xiii. Applicants interested to apply for more than one post are advised to submit separate applications form & deposit slips for each post.

xiv. After depositing prescribed fee, Original application form alongwith Original Deposit Slip and CNIC copy should send to the, **Manager Operations, Allied Testing Services (ATS)**, Address: House NO. 111-B Street No. 30, Sector F-10/1, Islamabad before closing date of submission of application of application form. Don't send documents/testimonials to ATS office, attested copies of testimonials/documents will, however, be provided by the candidates to qualify the screening test which is only shortlisting as and when required b the ATS or the appointing authority for scrutiny purpose. Original documents (Educational and experience shall be produced by the candidates at the time of interview.

xv. At initial stage, copies of educational documents are not required to be attached with the application form except copy of CNIC and two white background passport size photographs.

xvi. Form processing fees can be deposited in any HBL & Bank Al Habib online country wide branches. The duly filled in application form alongwith original deposit slip, should reach within 15-days through any courier service/registered post after publication of this advertisement to:- **Manager Operations, Allied Testing Services (ATS)**, Address: House No. 111-B, Street No. 30, Sector F-10/1, Islamabad for query or help dial # 051-2153577-9.

xvii. Candidates mentioning wrong Domicile / Zone in the provided application form or after shortlisting/screening while submitting verified/attested documents will be declared as "concealment of fact" and will be strictly dropped out from the induction process.

xviii. No TA/DA shall be admissible for written test/interview.

xix. Only shortlisted candidates in the written / skill test will be asked to submit their attested / verified documents / testimonials for further evaluation process on the basis of ESTA Code for recruitment by Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

NOTE: All the candidates will be informed through SMS on their Mobile for conducting of screening test/interview. Therefore, they are strictly instructed to don't change or switch off their mentioned mobile number before completion of the recruitment process.

DIRECTOR GENERAL FISHERIES, INF(P) 1102/23

KHYBER PAKHTUNKHWA PESHAWAR (Ph: 091-9212096)



NOTICE OF EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING

Notice is hereby given that an Extraordinary General Meeting of **Lucky Cement Limited** (the "Company") will be held at, and conducted from, the registered office of the Company, situated at factory premises in Pezu, District Lakki Marwat, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, including through video-link facility, on **Monday, June 26, 2023 at 12 noon**, to transact the following business:

A. SPECIAL BUSINESS

- To consider and, if thought fit, increase the authorized share capital of the Company from PKR 5,000,000,000/- (Pak Rupees Five Billion) to PKR 125,000,000,000/- (Pak Rupees One Hundred Twenty Five Billion), by creation of 12,000,000,000 (Twelve Billion) new ordinary shares of PKR 10/- (Pak Rupees Ten) each, and approve the consequential amendments to the Memorandum of Association of the Company, and in that connection to pass the following resolutions as special resolutions, with or without modification:

"RESOLVED THAT the authorized share capital of the Company be and is hereby increased from PKR 5,000,000,000/- (Pak Rupees Five Billion) to PKR 125,000,000,000/- (Pak Rupees One Hundred Twenty-Five Billion), by creation of 12,000,000,000 (Twelve Billion) new ordinary shares of PKR 10/- (Pak Rupees Ten) each.

FURTHER RESOLVED THAT, as a consequence of the said increase in the authorized share capital of the Company, the existing Clause V of the Memorandum of Association of the Company be and is hereby replaced accordingly to read as follows:

"The Authorized Capital of the Company is Rs. 125,000,000,000 /- (Pak Rupees One Hundred Twenty-Five Billion), divided into 12,500,000,000 (Twelve Billion Five Hundred Million) ordinary shares of Rs. 10/- each with rights, privileges and conditions attaching thereto as are provided by the Articles of Association of the Company for the time being, with power to increase and reduce the capital of Company and to divide the shares into several classes of ordinary shares and consolidate or sub-divide the shares and issue shares of higher or lower denomination subject to any permission required under the law."

FURTHER RESOLVED THAT Faisal Mahmood, the Company Secretary be and is hereby, authorized to do all acts, deeds and things, take any or all necessary actions to complete all legal formalities and file all necessary documents as may be necessary or incidental for the purpose of implementing the aforesaid resolutions, as well as carry out any other act or step which may be ancillary and / or incidental to do the above and necessary to fully achieve the objects of the aforesaid resolutions, including, inter alia, obtaining any approvals (if required) and carrying out any filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan or other regulatory bodies."

- To consider, and if thought fit, alter the Articles of Association of the Company in accordance with Section 38 and other applicable provisions of the Companies Act, 2017, and in that connection to pass the following resolutions as special resolutions, with or without modification:

"RESOLVED THAT Articles 110 and 111 of the existing Articles of Association of the Company be substituted to read as follows:

"110. The Board of Directors may resolve that any part of the amounts for the time being standing to the credit of any reserves, or other special accounts, or the profit and loss account, or representing premiums received on the issue of shares and standing to the credit of the share premium account, or capital reserves, or goodwill of the Company or from any acquisition / sale of interest in other undertakings, or amounts otherwise available for distribution, be capitalized and distributed amongst the Members as would be entitled thereto if the same were if distributed by way of dividend and in the same proportions on the condition that the same be not paid in cash (subject to Article 111) but be applied either in or towards paying up any amounts for the time being unpaid on any shares held by such Members respectively, or paying up in full unissued shares or debentures of the Company to be allotted and distributed credited as fully paid up to and amongst such Members in the proportion aforesaid, or partly in the one way and partly in the other.

111. Whenever such a resolution as aforesaid has been passed by the Board of Directors, the Directors shall make all appropriations and applications of the undistributed profits, reserves etc. (as the case may be) resolved to be capitalized thereby, and all allotments and issues of fully paid shares or debentures, if any, and generally shall do all acts and things required to give effect thereto, with full power to the Board of Directors to make such provisions (including by payment in cash) as they think fit for the case of shares or debentures becoming distributable in fractions and also to authorize any person(s) to enter on behalf of all the Members entitled thereto into an agreement with the Company providing for the allotment to them respectively, credited as fully paid up, of any further shares or debentures to which they may be entitled upon such capitalization, or (as the case may require) for the payment up by the Company on their behalf, by the application thereto of their respective proportions of the profits resolved to be capitalized, of the amounts or any part of the amounts remaining unpaid on their existing shares, and any agreement made under such authority shall be effective and binding on all such Members."

"FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Company Secretary be and is hereby authorized to prepare, finalize, execute and file all necessary documents, and take all necessary steps, fulfill necessary formalities and legal procedures, and to do all such acts, deeds and things for and on behalf of, and in the name of the Company, as may be necessary or required as he may think fit for, or in connection with, or incidental for, the purposes of the abovementioned resolution, as well as carry out any other act or step which may be ancillary and / or incidental to, and necessary to fully achieve the objects of the aforesaid resolution, including without limitation, filing of requisite documents with the Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan."

- Subject to the increase in the authorized share capital of the Company (as detailed above), to consider and, if thought fit, authorize the Board of Directors to capitalize the undistributed profits / reserves of the Company, and in that connection to pass the following resolutions, with or without modification:

"RESOLVED THAT, subject to approval of the increase in the authorized share capital of the Company under Agenda Item 1 above, the Board of Directors of the Company be and is hereby authorized to declare and issue bonus shares, as may be determined by the Board of Directors at its discretion, from the distributable profits / reserves and / or the capital reserves of the Company, not exceeding the quantum of the reserves / undistributed profits of the Company.

"FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Board of Directors is hereby authorized to empower necessary person(s) to take requisite steps for the implementation of the above resolution as may be deemed fit by the Board of Directors, along with ancillary and incidental matters thereto."

B. OTHER BUSINESS

- To transact any other business that may be placed before the meeting with the permission of the Chair.

The Statement of material facts under Section 134(3) of the Companies Act, 2017 pertaining to the Special Businesses to be transacted at the Extraordinary General Meeting is being sent to the Shareholders.

By Order of the Board

Faisal Mahmood
Company Secretary

Karachi: June 3, 2023

Notes:

1. Closure of Shares Transfer Books

The share transfer books of the Company shall remain closed from Monday, June 19, 2023 to Monday, June 26, 2023 (both days inclusive). Transfers received in order at our Share Registrar / Transfer Agent CDC Share Registrar Services Limited (CDCSRSL), CDC House, 99-B, Block 'B', S.M.C.H.S., Main Shahr-e-Faisal, Karachi-74400 by the close of business on Friday, June 16, 2023 shall be treated in time for the purpose of attending and voting at the Extraordinary General Meeting (EOGM).

2. Participation in the EOGM, including through proxy:

Members whose names appear in the Register of Members as of June 16, 2023, are entitled to attend and vote at the EOGM. A Member entitled to attend and vote at the EOGM is entitled to appoint a proxy to attend, speak and vote for him / her. An instrument of proxy applicable for the EOGM is being provided with the Notice sent to the Members. Proxy form may also be downloaded from the Company's website: <http://www.lucky-cement.com>. An instrument of proxy and the power of attorney or other authority (if any) under which it is signed, or a certified true copy of such power or authority duly notarized must, to be valid, be deposited through email on company.secretary@lucky-cement.com or by post at the registered address of the Company's Share Registrar, CDC Share Registrar Services Limited (CDCSRSL) not less than forty-eight (48) hours before the time of EOGM, excluding public holidays. Members are requested to submit a copy of their Computerized National Identity Card (CNIC) at the registered address to our Share Registrar, CDC Share Registrar Services Limited (CDCSRSL), CDC House, 99-B, Block 'B', S.M.C.H. Society, Karachi.

If a member appoints more than one proxy and more than one instrument of proxy is deposited by a member, all such instruments of proxy shall be rendered invalid.

3. Participation in the EOGM through video conferencing

- To attend the EOGM through video-conferencing facility, the Members are requested to register themselves by providing through email at company.secretary@lucky-cement.com at least forty-eight (48) hours before the EOGM: the Name of Member, CNIC / Folio No./, CDC IAS No., Cell No and Email Address.
- Members will be registered, after necessary verification as per the above requirement and will be provided a video-link by the Company via email.
- Only those Members will be accepted at the EOGM via video-conferencing whose names match the details shared with the Company for registration (as mentioned in point 'a' above).

4. Unclaimed shares and dividend

The shareholders who have not yet claimed their shares and/ or cash dividends, which are either kept with the shareholders themselves or returned as undelivered to the Share Registrar and Transfer Agent of the Company, are requested to make a claim for such unpaid/unclaimed dividends and/or shares with the Company.

5. E-voting and Postal Ballot

It is hereby notified that pursuant to the Companies (Postal Ballot) Regulations, 2018 and its amendments notified vide SRO 2192(1)/2022 dated December 5, 2022, members will be allowed to exercise their right to vote for the special business(es) in the EOGM, in accordance with the conditions mentioned in the aforesaid regulations. The Company shall provide its members with the following options for voting:

i) E-Voting Procedure

- Details of the e-voting facility will be shared through an e-mail with those members of the Company who have their valid CNIC numbers, cell numbers, and e-mail addresses available in the register of members of the Company within due course. Members who intend to exercise their right of vote through E-Voting shall provide their valid cell numbers and e-mail addresses on or before June 16, 2023.
- The web address, login details, will be communicated to members via email.
- Identity of the members intending to cast vote through e-Voting shall be authenticated through authentication for login.
- E-Voting lines will start from June 23, 2023, 12 a.m. and shall close on June 25, 2023 at 5 p.m. Members can cast their votes any time in this period. Once the vote on a resolution is cast by a member, he / she shall not be allowed to change it subsequently.

ii) Postal Ballot

- Members may alternatively opt for voting through postal ballot. For convenience of the members, Ballot Paper is being sent to the shareholders with EOGM Notice and the same is also available on the Company's website www.lucky-cement.com to download.
- The members shall ensure that duly filled and signed ballot paper, along with copy of Computerized National Identity Card (CNIC) should reach the Chairman of the meeting through post at 6-A Muhammad Ali Housing Society, Karachi (Attention of the Company Secretary) two days before the EOGM i.e. on June 24, 2023 before 5:00 p.m. The signature on the ballot paper shall match with the signature on CNIC. A postal ballot received after this time / date shall not be considered for voting.



MTI KTH regrets news item

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: A story was published in different dailies dated 1st June 2023 which is a misinterpretation and out of context of the letter addressed to the high ups of the Health department. The same news has created unrest amongst the civil servants and institutional employees working in medical teaching institutions Khyber Teaching Hospital.

The management of Khyber Teaching Hospital vide this rebuttal clarify the factual position with the request that the same may be published in your esteemed dailies in order to settle the unrest amongst civil servants and institutional employees.

As per the news report published on 1st June 2023 that the civil servants are being repatriated from KTH in the wake of the BoG initiative of a new grading system & uniform pay structure. In this scenario we are clarifying this statement that the civil servants are working in MTI KTH under section 16 of the MTI Act, their benefits are protected and they are pensionable, GP fund employees adjusted in their own BPS scale. The new grading pay structure doesn't apply to the civil servants and GP fund protected institutional employees.

The new grading pay structure approved by the BoG in MTI KTH Regulations 2022 applies to the CP fund institutional employees appointed vide MTI Act 2015. The service and benefits (CP Fund, gratuity, promotions etc) of such institutional employees are also protected till attaining the age of superannuation or completion of their services tenure. Furthermore; the Mechanism of posting of civil servants on deputation basis in MTI is clearly defined in the MTI Act, subjected to the request/approval made by the BOG to the department of Health. MTI KTH never deviates from the MTI law in the said function.

Child Protection Commission meeting held

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: Special Assistant to the caretaker Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on Zakat, Usher and Social Welfare, Salma Begum on Friday chaired the 30th meeting of Child Protection and Welfare Commission here at the Civil Secretariat.

The meeting bedside others was also attended by Chief Protection Officer KPCPW, Ejaz Muhammad Khan and members and officers from Law, Finance, Primary and Secondary Education, Local Government and Home Department.

Various affairs were discussed at the meeting and it was agreed upon that to enhance the activity of the Commission, appointments on Child Protection Officers, Social Case Workers, Psychologists, Office Assistants and other vacancies will be made soon.

The meeting also held a detailed discussion on the annual budget 2023-24 of CPWC. The meeting was told that in 12 districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Child Protection Units have been established under Child Protection and Welfare Act 2010.

Local industries to be developed, says Manzoor Afridi

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Minister for Excise and Taxation Haji Manzoor Khan Afridi has said that the promotion of local industries is one of the top priorities of the provincial government and in this context, investors are not only being encouraged to the maximum extent, but they are also given maximum incentives. "Sincere measures are also being taken to achieve this high goal", he added.

He was talking to a representative delegation of Peshawar's industrial community at his office, Civil Secretariat, Peshawar. The delegation apprised him of some of their problems and difficulties to which the Minister gave a patient hearing and assured support in this respect. Secretary

Excise Ehsanullah, Chief Executive KPEZDMC and senior officers of Small Industries Development Board were also present on the occasion.

Haji Manzoor Khan Afridi listened carefully to the delegation's grievances regarding taxation and assured that the provincial government will do more than it can in this regard. He said that Khyber Pakhtunkhwa has abundant natural resources as well as enormous scope for industry and trade whereas despite the distance from the sea, there are plenty of opportunities for the development of industries in this province.

The Minister said that our province is also rich in precious minerals and hard-working manpower. "There is a need for the provincial government and local investors to work together

as a team to bring the province to the stage of economic prosperity", he maintained and assured that his govt would leave no stone unturned to encourage local entrepreneurship.

The provincial minister further said that we are also trying to open all trade routes with the neighboring country Afghanistan and this will enable our investors to extend their exports to the Central Asian estates, but for this purpose, he recalled, we have to work together round the clock. The delegation thanked Haji Manzoor Khan Afridi for carefully reviewing its problems and demands and taking personal interest in its resolution. The delegation also assured of full cooperation in implementing the development policies of the provincial government.

Technical training vital for progress in industrialization

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Caretaker Minister for Technical Education and Industry and Craft Muhammad Adnan Jalil Friday emphasized on adopting a coordinated system between technical training providers and related industries.

According to the release of the workforce, the youth will get the best opportunities for employment in the private sector and directed to keep it for display in the

market, the Minister said. He said during his visit to the Center of Excellence in Technical Education established in Hayatabad, Peshawar.

Inspected and highly appreciated, they reviewed and took keen interest in the women-made garments, sewing, IT training, and training activities given to the youth in various fields. On this occasion MD Abdul Ghaffar, Chief Executive Officer of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Economic

Development and Management Company Javed Iqbal Khattak, Principal of the Center Dr. Hazrat Hussain, and other staff were also present.

Work and other inventions should be highlighted through display centers so that it can be marketed, he said, adding that the skills imparted in the institute should be tailored to the exact market needs so that these trained people can be employed abroad and in the private sector within the country.



PESHAWAR: Mayor Haji Zubair Ali listening problems of people. — F.P. photo

SCCI, Hazara university Mansehra sign MoU

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: A memorandum of understanding (MoU) was signed between Sarhad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SCCI) and Hazara University Mansehra.

In this regard, a signing ceremony was held at the chamber's house on Friday wherein SCCI acting President Ejaz Khan Afridi and Vice Chancellor, Hazara University Manshera Mohsin Nawaz signed on the MoU.

Director, Office of

Research Innovation & Commercialization (ORIC) Dr Masroor Bangash and Manager UIL Dr Zubair Alam Khan were also present during the signing event. Ejaz Khan Afridi while terming the signing MoU with Hazara University Mansehra as a milestone step toward strengthening industry-academia linkages said SCCI has started a series of MoUs with public and private sector universities.

He elaborated that the MoU aims at equipping graduates and young stu-

dents' technical skills besides completion of their academic career so that it will enable them to get instant employment opportunities in markets. The SCCI acting chief stressed the need to provide a proper platform to youth for utilization of their abilities efficiently and continue playing a role in the country's economic prosperity and progress. Vice Chancellor of the university, Mohsin Nawaz also spoke and highlighted the significance of the agreement with the SCCI.



PESHAWAR: Activists of Jamat-e-Islami holding a banner during a rally with the demand for release of Dr. Aafia. — F.P. photo

Chairman of PSC calls on Governor

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Haji Ghulam Ali has stressed the need to ensure transparency for selection of qualified candidates in various organizations.

This was stated by while speaking to Chairman Public Service Commission Sikandar Qayyum who called on him at Governor House Peshawar on Friday. The Chairman Public Service Commission presented the annual report of 2022 to the Governor. Haji Ghulam Ali lauded the overall performance of the Public Service Commission and expressed hope that it would improve its tasks further.

Workshop arranged

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR Health Department with the technical assistance of the World Health Organization (WHO) organized a two-day training workshop on dengue cases management for the doctors from High-Risk Dengue Districts, said a press release issued here on Friday.

A total of 28 doctors from 23 high-risk districts received training on dengue case management. The workshop concluded with the participation of the Secretary of Health, Mahmood Aslam Khan. He also distributed distributed certificates among the doctors who completed the training.

In his address during the closing ceremony, Secretary Health Mahmood Aslam stated that they are currently at the stage of dengue prevention and control. He expressed gratitude on behalf of the World Health Organization for organizing the training workshop. He mentioned that the primary cause of new dengue cases might be other strains of the dengue virus and advised experts to guide the public on this aspect as well. He emphasized that better training of doctors would help reduce dengue-related fatalities.

Mahmood Aslam highlighted that dengue is a treatable disease, and its mortality rate is significantly low. The occurrence of a few dengue cases is common phenomenon, and there is no need for the public to panic.

Unity a must to end country's crises: ATP

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: Chairman, Amun Taraqqi Party (ATP) Muhammad Faiq Shah has said his party doesn't believe in the politics of hatred. The party leader called for unified efforts to pull the country out from the prevailing crisis situation.

Chairing a meeting here at the party's central secretariat on Friday, Shah noted: "Today the country is on the verge of default and is facing severe economic hardships. People are facing deprivation of the basic necessities of life." He said those people who ruled over the country for several decades have failed to deliver the masses.

Shah emphasized the country needed sincere

leadership to steer the country out from the present crisis situations. He said the ruling coalition government and opposition are two sides of the same coin, saying that the incumbent rulers followed the policies of the previous governments. The country was reeling with corruption, he said, but it had no clear direction, he added.

"We can steer it out of the quagmire by joining hands," he added. He said the people were bearing the brunt of the flawed policies of the incumbent coalition government. Faiq noted that the prices of the daily use items had increased manifold. He said the purchasing power of the common man is dying rapidly.

"We have lost many precious years in non-serious issues because of which Pakistan is continuously heading toward downward", The party leader said the economy is on verge of collapse. He said everything has been put at stake for personal politics and interests. He said no one is ready to play their role to overcome the prevailing crisis.

Shah said the situation is going from bad to worse with each passing day. He urged the people to support the public welfare agenda and manifesto of new political parties rather to continuously follow the empty slogans and leaders which gained politics in inheritance.

68 bakers arrested for selling under-weight roti

F.P. Reprt

PESHAWAR: District administration Peshawar has arrested 68 bakers (nanbais) and sealed 13 tandoors during a crackdown against profiteers on Friday. The penalized bakers were selling under-weight roti.

District administration Peshawar has launched a mega crackdown against nanbais selling under-weight roti. During the operation, the officials of the district administration inspected 318 shops (tandoors) and arrested 68 bakers while 13 shops were

sealed.

The crackdown against the sellers of under-weight roti was carried out in various bazaars of the interior city, Kohat Road, Charsadda Road, Dalzak Road, Warsak Road, G.T. Road, University Road, Circular Road, Nasirbagh Road, Gulbahar, Danishabad and Hayatabad.

The officers of the district administration checked both rates and weight of roti at nanbais' shops and took action against those selling under-weight roti.

Similarly, the district administration has also

inspected filling stations and arrested the managers of three petrol pumps for lower-gauge and overcharging of consumers. During the crackdown, the officers of the district administration inspected gauges of the filling stations on G.T. Road, Ring Road, Warsak Road, Charsadda Road, Kohat Road, University Road and other localities of the district. A spokesman of the district administration has said that the purpose of the crackdown is to pass-on the benefits of the recent decline in the prices of flour and petroleum products to the common man.



PESHAWAR: A resident of Mathra, Wisal Khan addressing a press conference.

My 9 vandalism negates PTI claims of supporting democratic values, promotion of political tolerance in society

PESHAWAR (APP): Besides the negative socioeconomic and psychological effects, the May 9-10 vandalism have also negated the tall claims of PTI of supporting democratic values, reconciliation and political tolerance in society.

The ransacking of public and private properties have widened the gaps between Pakistan Tahrik e Insaaf and Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) and has split PTI into different groups. "A red line has been drawn between the supporters of democracy and attackers of the government and defence installations after May 9 vandalism and its negative effects would continue to haunt PTI for many years," said Professor Dr A H Hilali, former Chairman Political Science Department, University of Peshawar while talking to APP on Friday.

He said attacks on defense installations and statues of the defenders of Pakistan has exposed the wicked faces of the attackers and abettors, adding the entire nation stood up for

the support of the armed forces of Pakistan and have strongly condemned the assaults on the defense installations on May 9-10. He said that arrest of political leaders were not a new thing in subcontinent including in Pakistan as in the past former prime ministers Shaheed Benazir Bhutto and Muhammad Nawaz Sharif, and former President Asif Ali Zardari have faced jails with steadfastness.

He said it was unprecedented that violent protest and attacks on the Govt and defense installations were made by the horde of a political party after the arrest of Imran Khan. He said Imran Khan should seriously think about his way of politics that why founding leaders including former Governor Sindh Imran Ismail and Sindh PTI President Ali Zaidi, former Information Minister Fawad Chaudhry, former Chief Minister Perviz Khattak, ex federal minister Shereen Mazhar and many others stalwarts have separated ways from PTI. Ikhtair Wali Khan, PML-N KP

spokesman that horde of PTI workers did not spare even Radio Pakistan Peshawar's building and burnt it to ashes on May 10, thus showing no regards for culture and heritage. He said attacks on the national broadcaster and APP Offices was a deep conspiracy to silence media and deprive millions of people of education, information and infotainment.

The PML-N leader said that Radio Pakistan was not only a government institution but also served as an academy for young writers, musicians, artists, newsmen and script writers since 1935 till to-date and attack on it was tantamount an assault on our cultural heritage and media. He said its hindara and hujra programs had successfully countered malicious propaganda of the Radio Kabul after the USSR invaded Afghanistan in 1979 and highlighted problems of millions of the Afghans refugees in most effective way.

He said millions of people have listened hindara program in 1980s due to an excellent scripts, contents,

objectivity and dialogue delivery of the renowned compares, Inayatullah Gul and Taj Nabi Being voice of the nation, he said the national broadcaster was attacked in a bid to stop it from spreading the truth.

Ikhtair Wali said the violent mob had also burnt Chaghi mountains model constructed in memory of the nuclear explosions of May 28, 1998 in the premises of PBC building Peshawar, adding the enemy countries had not dared to damaged defence installations and statues of martyres the why the horde of a political party that deceived people on the name of change has done on May 9-10. Ikhtair Wali said the loot and plunders in Radio Pakistan building have exposed the wicked face of the attackers, supporters and abettors and strict action was being taken against them under the country's relevant laws.

Ikhtair Wali said that Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif despite his busy schedule visited the burnt building of Radio Pakistan

Peshawar to express solidarity with its employees while PTI Chairman has not passed a single word for condemnation after the ransacking of the national broadcaster and Jinnah House, Lahore. Program Manager, PBC, Tufail Khan said that hands written dramas of the renowned writers Muhammad Azam Azam, Humayun Huma, Samandar Khan Samandar and rare music discs of legendary pashto singers Ahmad Khan, Rafiq Shinwari, Mashooq Sultan and Khyal Muhammad were also burnt to ashes. He said various popular programs of Radio Pakistan that were digitalized on computers were lost due to burning/destruction of computers. Renowned psychiatrist and former head of psychiatry ward of Lady Reading Hospital, Professor Dr Ifthikhar Hussain said that May 9 vandalism have negatively impacted on people minds especially of youth as several patients were provided treatment in his hospital besides mental psychotherapy.

Dr Ifthikhar said that Radio

Pakistan Peshawar like catastrophic incident have an adverse effects on people's minds especially of its employees and normally takes three to six months for complete rehabilitation. He said such catastrophic incidents could be countered through shared willpower, courage and determination.

Wajid Ali Khan, former ANP Minister said that May 9 vandalism and hate politics have restricted Imran Khan's politics to Zaman Park and resignation of the PTI stalwarts including Perviz Khattak have made it crystal clear that days of Imran Niazi was over. He said that PTI has failed to deliver in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa during its nine year rule, adding Billion Trees Afforestation Project has been taken over by the NAB Khyber Pakhtunkhwa that put a question mark on PTI anti corruption slogans. He said that PTI has closed its own created Ehtesab Commission at Peshawar that exposed tall anti corruption claims of Imran Niazi.



In brief

Mughiri hold protest
F.P. Report

LARKANA: Muhammad Ali Mughiri while protesting in front of Press Club Pakho district Kamber, Shahdakt against the alleged abuses of Dur Muhammad Mangan, the brother of former IG Jail department Nusrat Mangan, by Makin Mughiri community of Ghogharu, a suburb of Kamber district. Urs Mughiri Ali Bakhsh Mughiri and others said that the brother of the former IG Jail department Dur Mohammad wants to seize our agricultural land while we have the revenue papers of the said land. A case has been registered and the police have taken away our youth and 6 buffaloes worth three lakhs after raiding. He alleged that there are always criminals sitting in the office of the influential Dar Muhammad Mangan and the said person is the property of the poor and their property. He demanded from the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court and the Chief Justice of the Sindh High Court that justice should be done to the destitute by investigating the alleged possession and kidnapping case of the said person. Dar Muhammad Mangan should be brought to justice of Law.

Two ice cream factories sealed
F.P. Report

TIMERGARA: As many as two factories have been sealed against non-standard ice cream and low weight bread of Assistant Commissioner Timergara. According to the details, on the special instructions of Deputy Commissioner Dir Payin Ifitkhar Ahmed, Assistant Commissioner Timergara Shahzad Khan inspected Timergara Bazaar. Hoarding checks gave instructions to the shopkeepers that all the shopkeepers should take special care of cleanliness and keep the price names hanging on the front of the shop and avoid hoarding. Otherwise strict legal action will be taken. Two manufacturing factories were sealed and an FIR was registered against the factory owners. Meanwhile, district Sports Officer Dir Lower Abrar Ahmed along with other sports staff visited Tehsil Playground Balambat, Odigram in light of the orders of Deputy Commissioner Dir Payin Ifitkhar Ahmed regarding the resolution of the complaint received on social media. In Odigram, someone drove a vehicle on the wet ground during the night, which has made the playground area dirty. DSO took immediate action on this matter and requested TMO Balambat Iqbal Hasan to provide some personnel to repair the ground. The sides of the ground were dug for drainage so that rainwater does not collect in the ground and the players continue to support activities.

2 killed in rival groups clash

KANDHKOT (INP): Two people were killed in armed clash between two rival groups in Ghouspur area of Kandhkot district Kashmore on Friday. Police said that armed men of two groups of Lolai community which were in old enmity traded fire. Two people identified as Sagheer Ali and Bhalu Khan were killed in cross firing. Uncertainty prevailed in the area after the dual murder. Heavy contingent of police cordoned off the area after the incidents and brought situation under control. The bodies were shifted to hospital for postmortem. Police registering a case into the incident and started raids to arrest the culprits.

Crackdown against intoxicant drugs directed

Hafiz Aziz-ur-Rehman

HAFIZABAD: Secretary District Drugs Quality Board Dr. Anam Habiba Lodhi and District Quality Drugs Controller Dr. Muhammad Owais warned medical stores owners that punitive action will be taken against those who will find involve in selling Intoxicant medicines in the district.

While talking to medical stores proprietors, they said that implementation of drugs act would be ensured and violators would be taken to task. He said that no-one would be allowed to run medical store without qualified person and in case of absence of qualified person, action would be taken under drug act.

DPO visits DBA: On the invitation of President District Bar Hafizabad Malik Waqas Raza, District Police Officer Dr. Fahad Ahmad visited Bar Room and listened problems of lawyers. He directed his subordinate officers to address grievances of lawyers immediately.

DPO said that protection of property, lives and honours of people was prime duty of police and all resources were being utilized to maintain peace in the district. He said that confidence of people on police was restored due to promote concept of community policing in the district. Lawyers should extend their cooperation for ensuring rule of law and eliminating anti-social elements and make the district abode of peace, he said.

APCA hold rally: All Pakistan Clerks Association Hafizabad arranged a rally against inflation and in favour of their demands led by District President

Nasrullah Hanjra. Participants of the rally were raising slogans in favour of Pakistan Army and demanding hundred percent increase in salaries of government employees in next fiscal year budget.

Meanwhile, Deputy Commissioner Umar Farooq Warrich inaugurated rehabilitation and carpeting work on Hafizabad-Khankhah Dogeran Motorway Interchange, on Thursday.

While talking on the occasion, he said that the Punjab government was spending more than 25 billion of rupees to execute different development projects in the district and all departments were motivated to ensure completion of ongoing development schemes at the earliest. He directed the contractor to complete lying of carpet within a week so that people of the district could get better communicational facilities.

Meanwhile, Deputy Commissioner Umar Farooq Wariach held monthly open revenue court at district complex, on Saturday. ADCR Imtiaz Ali Baig and other revenue officers were also present in the open court. DC listened grievances of people and directed the concerned officers to address problems of the people on merit.

He said that open revenue courts were being held on first day of every month on the directions of the Chief Secretary and the Chief Minister of the Punjab for resolving problems of people regarding issuance of domicile, Fard etc. under same roof. He also said that open revenue courts were providing easy approach to common people to get relief from revenue officers.

Students provided useful info on quality research

F.P. Report

CHITRAL: A session on quality research was organized by the District Youth Office (Department of Sports Tourism, Archeology, Museum and Youth Affairs Khyber Pakhtunkhwa) in collaboration with district administration of Lower Chitral Girls Degree College Danin Lower Chitral.

District Youth Officer Jabbar Ghani was chief guest on the occasion while the college's principal and Assistant Commissioner Lower Chitral Dr. Mohammad Atif Jalb and Additional Assistant Commissioner Dr. Adnan Haider Maloki delivered lectures on the subject. During the session on Quality Research, the college students were guided on different steps and aspects on far-reaching information on quality research. The main purpose of this session was to illuminate and enlighten the understanding of the students about the research and the steps involved in the research so that they could take steps to better research.

Speaking on the occasion, AC Chitral Dr. Muhammad Atif Jalb said that today's era is a period of information technology and it cannot be analyzed on assumptions or stereotypes, but today's era is a period of competition. The man who offers any analysis by more standard research will be acceptable. "Students are our bright future and we have many hopes for them," he said. He said that a lot of research on any topic has to be done for research and

then standard research, but the hard work must be rewarded they will surely have success.

Addressing the session, Dr. Adnan Haider Maloki said that now it is time that people believed in the research, today is the era of research and whoever collects relevant content in his research or will collect the relevant content or the subjects, documents, articles or articles related to this research. Working on the relevant content will prove to be a successful and standard research. He cited the example, saying that the difference between a common research and quality research is that the Quality Research every forum will believe and it is acceptable on every forum but in ordinary research that did not make much fine that could not be more acceptable.

He cited the example of foreign researchers, saying that they sometimes spend several months on a standard research and go through all stages and then come to a conclusion. He said that unfortunately in our country, the rate of education is high in terms of quantity, but the quality education rate is very low and this is because we are not researching. He explained about the exam and said that some students get good marks in the exam, but they often fail in the test because they do the rally instead of researching.

Researchers in this seminar provided very useful information and guidelines to the students by talking to high angles on quality research, its procedures, the acquisition of content and its success. The scholars said that everything based

on quality research is considering authentic as comparative on orthodox ways.

The Principal of Girls Degree College thanked the District Youth Officer, District Administration and Facilities for organizing this fruitful session at the college on such an important topic, which rightly motivated and provoked the students on investigation of this college. There was a chance to learn a lot on the way. 120 students from Degree College participated in this quality research session.

Farmers issues to be resolved

NAROWAL (INP): A meeting of District Agriculture Advisory Committee (DAAC) was held here under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner Muhammad Ashraf to review measures for solving farmers issues.

Deputy Director Agriculture (Extension), officials of livestock and irrigation department were also present in the meeting. Deputy Director Agriculture (Extension) while giving briefing said that the task force teams were working hard to resolve the issues of farmers.

He said that 216 samples of fertilizers were collected from different areas of the district. Out of which, result of 87 samples was received. He added that 24 samples were declared unfit and the department got registered cases against illegal fertilizer dealers.



QUETTA: Activists of All Pakistan Clerks Association holding a banner and placards during a rally in favour of their demands.

GKMC-MTI denies faculty allegations amidst protest

F.P. Report

SWABI: Dean/Chief Executive of Gajju Khan Medical College (GKMC-MTI), has issued a press note in response to the allegations raised by some of the basic science faculty members. The Dean/CEO firmly denies the claims made by the few faculty members and reiterates that there will be no compromise on attendance, expecting all faculty members to fulfill their duties according to the established rules.

The Dean/CEO emphatically states that the allegations against the management are baseless, emphasizing that there has been no stoppage of salary payments. All employees have received their salaries in adherence to the rules, Dean Added.

Dean further said that, to ensure smooth operations and accurate attendance records, biometric attendance machines have been installed in both the hospital and the college. Salaries are released based on the employees' biometric attendance data.

Regarding the replacement of Heads of Departments (HODs), Dean clarifies that no professor has been sacked. The decision of the HOD appointment was made in compliance with the rules of the Medical Teaching Institute Act (MTI) which stipulate that the HOD positions are reserved for officers who have opted for MTI or were hired through MTI. Consequently, the HODs of the concerned departments were replaced by MTI employees who were given additional responsibilities as HODs. It should be noted that the previous HODs are working as faculty members on their appropriate scale/rank and have not suffered any negative impact as a result.

In response to the issue of leaves, the Dean explained that the Department which has been asked to provide explanations for their absence is because a majority of the faculty members took unapproved leave on the 10th and 11th of May. During this period, according to a government notification, institutes were closed for students but not for faculty members.

PML-N flay attacks on national installations

F.P. Report

LOWER DIR: Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz (PML-N) district president Malik Farooq Iqbal has asked the party leadership to not include the PTI leadership resigning and quitting their party in the PML-N as they have been involved in instigating workers to attack state installations and national assets.

Talking to local journalists at Timergara here on Thursday, he said the party should reject all such requests and should not allow the PTI former lawmakers to join the PML-N. Terming the May 9th as a black day in the country's history, the PML-N leader said the nation would never forget it.

He said that military installations, martyrs' monuments and state properties were badly attacked and vandalized. He said the government should not for-

give those involved in destroying the very image of the state.

Residents flayed issue in drainage system: Motorists and local residents complained that most of the culverts and road-sides' drains on the Chakdara Dir main road were blocked due to which rainwater flowed on the road.

Talking to local journalists they said that thousands of vehicles bound for Lower Dir, Upper Dir and Chitral used the road daily but they faced misery in rains as the rainwater always flowed on it. They said the National Highways Authority (NHA) officials had kept silent on the matter while millions of rupees were spent on the road repair each year. The speakers demanded the NHA authorities and local administration to take notice of the matter and take appropriate measures for its solution.

16 injured as roof collapses during Khatm-e-Quran: At least sixteen people including women and children were injured when the roof of a house collapsed during a Khatm e Quran ceremony in Kharkanai area of village Ouch here on Friday.

Police said, Khatm e Quran gathering was underway at the house of Muhammad Ishaq when the roof of his dilapidated house collapsed. Sixteen people including women and children were injured in the incident.

The injured included Samreen (8), Wajeeda (2), Waleed (13), Muskan (9), Kainat (13), Shahid (14) and some local women. The local police and Rescue 1122 shifted the injured to Tehsil Headquarters Hospital Chakdara and DHQ Batkhela for treatment.

KKKUK lecturer Abdur Rauf defends PhD thesis

F.P. Report

KARAK: Khushal Khan Khattak University, Karak proudly announces the successful defense of Mr. Abdur Rauf, a dedicated and accomplished lecturer from the Department of Communication and Media Studies. Mr. Rauf has successfully completed his PhD in Media Studies from the Department of Media Studies at Islamic University, Bahawalpur.

According to a press release of the University issued Friday, the PhD defense has marked a significant milestone in Mr. Rauf's academic career. Under the guidance of his esteemed advisors, he conducted extensive research in the field of Media Studies, exploring innovative approaches to communication and media analysis.

Mr. Rauf's dissertation, titled "Media Landscape in the former FATA: The post-

merger public perspective," demonstrated his keen analytical skills, in-depth understanding of media dynamics, and a strong grasp of theoretical frameworks. His Supervisor was Prof. Dr. Abdul Wajid Khan.

Throughout his academic pursuits, Mr. Rauf has consistently exhibited a passion for research and a commitment to excellence. His exceptional ability to critically analyze media content and his insightful contributions to classroom discussions have earned him the respect and admiration of both students and faculty members at Khushal Khan Khattak University, Karak.

Dr. Muhammad Anwar, the Head of the Department of Communication and Media Studies, and other Faculty members have expressed his utmost delight and pride in Mr. Rauf's achievement.

The Vice Chancellor



Khushal Khan Khattak University, Karak Prof Dr. Sardar Khan and other academic community has extended heartfelt congratulations to Mr. Abdur Rauf on this exceptional accomplishment. His successful defense of his PhD is a testament to his perseverance, hard work, and intellectual prowess.

Saga of 'separation of powers' in Pakistan's politics

Malaika Sarwar

SEPARATION of powers has never existed in Pakistan in practice, nor has the checks and balances system prevailed in the country. Democracies all over world consider the principle of separation of powers as a tool to protect the citizens of the state from tyrannical and unrestrained powers of the rulers. Separation of powers, also known as Trias Politica, is the idea that the government must be based on "three separate branches" where power is wielded, so they can keep a check on each other.

The underlying objective of the introduction of this doctrine is to help each organ identify its constitutional limits, accept the existence and jurisdiction of other state organs, restrain its authority, keep surveillance on others so they may not transgress their authority, and not hinder their functioning. Though it is impossible to achieve absolute separation of power, some overlapping will occur especially between the legislature and executive branches. However, the separation between the judiciary and

the other two branches is very strict, as the judiciary must be independent and free from political influence.

However, in Pakistan, the concept Separation of Powers could not find its place accurately. In Pakistan, the judiciary has the power to pronounce upon the recent decision of executive and legislative power of government. Under Article 184(3) of the Constitution of Pakistan, the Supreme Court can put up by exercising Suo moto power. Conclusively, it could be interpreted that the judiciary rather than holding separation of power, are busy doing checks on the executives, involving themselves in their matters, therefore, bringing minimal benefit to Pakistani society.

'When the legislative and executive powers are united in the same person, or in the same body of magistrates, there can be no liberty. There is no liberty if the powers of judging are not separated from the legislative and executive. There would be an end to everything, if the same man or the same body were to exercise those three powers.' (Charles De Montesquieu)

It is being circulated that there are now not three but rather six powers. Those are bureaucracy, media, and external advisors. Technically, bureaucracy is part of the executive branch, but its influence spans so wide that it also includes the power of the other two branches. Bureaucracy is not just about enforcing laws, rather it also serves to make new regulations and in a way act as the legislature since that rule has the force of law and people can be punished by breaking them.

Throughout the history of Pakistan, it has been evident that former bureaucrats such as Ghulam Muhammad and Iskander Mirza have been highly involved in Political and Constitutional infrastructure. Hence although 76 years are about to pass, Pakistan's bureaucracy is nothing but the ruling class being neither responsive nor accountable for their actions and we can fairly say that the Pakistan bureaucracy believes that their work is to rule rather than to serve.

According to International Crisis Groups Report on "Reforming Civil Pakistan" (2010), 'Decades of

mismanagement, political manipulation, and corruption have rendered Pakistan's civil service incapable of providing effective governance and basic public services. In public perceptions, the country's 2.4 million civil servants are widely seen as unresponsive and corrupt, and bureaucratic procedures cumbersome and exploitative.'

Regards to Media in the central role of government is considered a bridge between the government and the people. The main goal of the media is to ensure transparency in reporting on governmental issues and to provide information to the people so they can form an opinion and be involved in holding the government accountable. Media plays an important role in narrative building and political landscape shaping. The media needs to be unbiased as it plays the main role in narrative building and public opinion.

The sixth power which we have in the external advisors. The external advisors include the advisory board and lobby group. They are hired by the government to report or advise on the issues the government does not know, as a result,

influencing legislation and its execution, or at times even arguably manipulating it. In Pakistan, we have different advisory boards such as an economic advisory council, maritime advisory committee, technical advisory committee, etc.

In this whole democratic transition, the military plays a very significant role as an additional unavoidable stakeholder. "Whereas in Pakistan, with passage of time, dependence on military increased which not only gave civilian problem but also showed the impotence of the civilian government to settle these problems. This led the military to think that it was the only institution which could lead stability to the nation" (Ayesha Siddiqua)

The first three powers check the actions of each other but the question which arises is who will check the power of the other three? Some people will say the seventh power rests with people, but from my analysis, the people are busy paying their financial debts and fulfilling their basic needs. The answer can be found in the famous quote of Montesquieu "It is necessary from the very nature of the things that power

should be a check to power".

In nutshell, since its formation, Pakistan has been facing the menace of political instability and polarization. At the root lies the problems of institutional clash, power mongering, and feudalistic structures which have constructed the political culture of the country. Therefore, power is not equally distributed amongst different branches of the nation-state. Montesquieu's separation of powers theory, if applied in letter and spirit, would create a peaceful environment for the progress and prosperity of this country.

For that, all stakeholders should collaboratively struggle for fusion of power at national level. Power must be decentralized and equally distributed amongst three pillars of country: legislative, executive and judiciary, with a system of "checks and balances" for all these branches. Consequently, the prosperous future of Pakistan lies in the "separation of powers".

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‘We need protection’: Palestinians brace for Homesh resettlement

WEST BANK (Agencies): Palestinian farmer and herder Samer Rashed Masood lost his only source of income last week. At approximately 4pm (13:00 GMT) on May 24, Israeli settlers from the previously vacated illegal outpost of Homesh, some 500m (1,640 feet) away, burned the barn he built for his sheep 15 years ago to the ground.

Over the past week, Israelis had begun to rebuild and resettle the illegal Homesh outpost, which had lain empty since 2005, after the Israeli government authorised them to do so in March. The arson attack cost 60-year-old Masood at least 100,000 shekels (\$26,848) - his 15 sheep that are nowhere to be found, the price of the barn itself, agricultural equipment, and at least 1,000 stacks of hay and food for the sheep, all of which were burned.

Sitting on the land he inherited from his father in the village of Burqa, just off the highway between Nablus and Jenin in the north of the occupied West Bank, Masood told Al Jazeera that the settlers came armed and prevented his sons from putting out the fire. "The settlers stayed on my land until the barn was completely engulfed and there was nothing left to save," said Masood, a father of three. When he arrived at the scene shortly afterward, he found at least 20 settlers on his land, along with dozens of Israeli army soldiers.

"The army prevented us from advancing and started shooting live ammunition and tear gas at us. I went up to one of the soldiers and said: 'You want to shoot me? Shoot me! I have nothing left. All of my money is gone,'" recalled Masood. The assault on Masood's property was one of dozens of attacks by Israeli settlers on Palestinians and their properties in Burqa in recent weeks and months. The village's 5,500 residents are now bracing for more attacks and demanding protection. While Palestinian Authority (PA) officials told Al Jazeera they have submitted an appeal to Israeli authorities against the resettlement of the outpost, for which there will be a court hearing on June 27, caravan apartments have already been erected at the site and Israeli authorities have paved a new road for the settlement. According to

Ghassan Daghlis, a resident of Burqa and the PA official responsible for monitoring Israeli settlement activity in the northern West Bank, at least 30 apartment units were erected overnight - a figure Al Jazeera could not independently verify.

"They are also building infrastructure - connecting them to electricity and water," he said. "It's very depressing to wake up and find a settlement. The return of Homesh will affect the lives of at least 34,000 Palestinians living in Burqa, Silat al-Thahr, Bazzariya, Sebastia, and all other surrounding villages," Daghlis told Al Jazeera. "It will mean more checkpoints and restrictions on Palestinians in the area, more soldiers, and the transformation of the region into a military base," he continued, adding: "We are heading towards violence." Homesh was erected in 1978 as an Israeli military base on land belonging to private Palestinian owners from Burqa and the nearby village of Silat al-Thahr. In 1980, the Israeli army handed it over to settlers to live on, as happened with many settlements across the occupied West Bank.

All Israeli settlements, including outposts, are illegal under international law. Israel, however, considers only outposts as illegal under its own laws, based on the fact that they were built by individual settlers or settler groups, and not by the government. Dozens of reports by monitoring and rights groups have shown that the Israeli government provides infrastructure, support and funding for settlers to build outposts. In addition, the Israeli government has over the past few years retroactively legalised many outposts and has passed legislation that makes it easier to do so. Homesh was the largest of four settlements between Jenin and Nablus evacuated in 2005 as part of then-Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's Disengagement Plan. It is also the most controversial, with settlers pressuring Israel to allow them to resettle it since they were evacuated. The plan by Sharon saw Israel remove more than 9,000 settlers in 17 illegal settlements located in the besieged Gaza Strip and four in the north of the occupied West Bank. Despite the 2005 evacuation of Homesh, the

Israeli army maintained a military base there, and settlers were allowed to access it and hold political and religious events and rallies that top Israeli officials attended, while the Palestinian landowners were forbidden from approaching it.

In 2007, settlers established a religious school, or yeshiva, at the outpost. The school continued to operate, and settlers were allowed to camp at the outpost but not have permanent homes. While all Israeli settlements in the occupied West Bank and East Jerusalem are considered illegal under international law, Homesh is also considered illegal under Israeli law as the Supreme Court has repeatedly ruled that the land belongs to private owners from Burqa and that the settlers cannot remain there. It is uncertain what kind of presence settlers have in Homesh now, but there have been several settler attacks coming from Homesh throughout the years that have begun to intensify over the past year. This comes amid a wider pattern of increasing Israeli settler attacks in the occupied West Bank, even more so after a Palestinian man carried out a drive-by shooting attack and killed a settler in his car near the entrance to the outpost in December. Head of the Burqa Local Council, Ziad Izz al-Din Abu Omar, told Al Jazeera that the villagers need protection.

"The resettlement of Homesh will mean complete destruction for Burqa and the surrounding villages," Abu Omar told Al Jazeera. "We do not have the capabilities to do anything. We want a clear position from our leadership. The least they could do is put officers to provide us with protection, at least at night. The officers are just sitting there in police stations - they might as well deploy them for protection so that if the settlers attack at night, people can mobilise and block them." But Shadi Abu Omar, a 38-year-old police officer in the PA and resident of Burqa, believes such a solution would come with a hefty price tag. "People here are facing organised gangs that are supported financially and provided with weapons by this fascist state. I don't think the PA has the capabilities to protect the people. The Kalashnikovs that the PA has, what are they going



to do? How will they defend?" he asked Al Jazeera.

"The only retaliation to power is power, and we do not have power. All we have at our disposal are rocks, tyres and our bare bodies. We do not have planes or tanks," he continued. On November 15, 2022, Abu Omar was viciously attacked by settlers and hospitalised when he attempted to plant an olive tree at the site of Homesh along with a group of activists. As soon as they entered the settlement, a gang of about 40 armed settlers attacked them. Shadi was beaten on the head and body with a metal pipe, leaving him in need of 35 stitches on the back of his head, and with several broken bones in his arm and back.

The PA was not meant to last this long when it was established in 1993 as an interim governing body. The intent was that it serve for five years in the lead-up to the creation of an independent Palestinian state in the 1967-occupied East Jerusalem, West Bank and Gaza Strip. The ongoing Israeli occupation, land theft and settlement building, among other

things, meant that the Palestinian state was never created. While the PA is nominally meant to still be administering parts of the occupied West Bank, it has limited control in Palestinian cities there and has a mostly administrative role. It also shares intelligence information with Israel as part of its policy of "security coordination" - openly stating that it is helping thwart attacks by Palestinians. "If I carry a Kalashnikov or an M16 and go stand at the entrance to the town, what will my fate be? Death, or your house demolished, or you will be arrested, and your wife and children will be left out on the street. I do not want that," the father of three said.

"By re-establishing Homesh, they are the ones who are returning us to the circle of violence. You are talking about 20 settlers who will dictate the fate and daily lives of tens of thousands of Palestinians," Fatma Ibrahim Ali Raad is a 64-year-old Lebanese woman who married a Palestinian man from Burqa and has lived in the village for the past 28 years. She has been living largely alone since her

husband passed away 13 years ago.

On May 24, settlers smashed three of her windows while she was out of the house. Since then, she has put screens on her windows to protect herself from further attacks. "I would be lying if I told you we are not afraid," she told Al Jazeera from her home. "They want to re-settle Homesh after 18 years. Now, whenever they feel like it, they will come down from the top of the hill to our homes with complete ease. They can be inside my house within minutes," she fretted. "If we had something to defend ourselves with, we would have defended. But we don't have anything. We need protection - just like an international force was provided for Lebanon on the borders."

The mother of six said she believes the ultimate goal of harassment by settlers and soldiers is to push Palestinians to leave. "They are paid to come ruin and burn our homes, and to eradicate us, why? Because the intention - 100 percent - is that we leave our lands and homes for them to take over."

UN warns of new threat to global food security

UNITED NATIONS (AP): Warning of a new threat to global food security, the United Nations said that Russia is limiting the number of ships allowed to pick up Ukrainian grain at Black Sea ports in its campaign to get Kyiv to open a pipeline for a key ingredient of fertilizer to get to world markets.

UN spokesman Stephane Dujarric expressed serious concern that only 33 ships departed from Ukrainian ports in May, half the number compared to April, and exports of grain and other foodstuffs totaled just 1.3 million metric tons last month, less than half the amount of the previous month. He said Russia informed the center in Istanbul coordinating the arrivals, departures and inspections of ships involved in the Black Sea Grain Initiative "of its decision to limit registrations in the port of Yuzhny as long as ammonia is not exported, and currently it's not."

Ammonia is a key ingredient for fertilizer and Moscow wants Ukraine to open a pipeline from the Russian city of Togliatti to the Ukrainian port of Odesa that it used before the war to ship ammonia to its global customers. Turkey and the UN brokered the breakthrough initiative with Russia and Ukraine last

July, opening a path for Ukrainian grain exports from three of its key Black Sea ports: Odesa, Chernomorsk and Yuzhny. In a separate memorandum, the United Nations said it would work to overcome obstacles to Russian food and fertilizer shipments, which UN trade chief Rebeca Grynspan has been trying to do for months but Moscow has criticized the lack of results.

To reinforce the failure to export its fertilizer, Russia in March unilaterally decided to renew the grain deal for 60 days instead of the 120 days outlined in the agreement. And just before its expiration, in another example of Moscow's brinkmanship, it agreed on May 17 to another two-month extension until July 17. Following Russia's Feb. 24, 2022 invasion of Ukraine, one of the world's major breadbaskets, global food prices skyrocketed, hitting poorer, developing countries especially hard. After the July agreements, food prices started to drop but Dujarric warned that "global hunger hotspots are increasing and the specter of food inflation and market volatility lurks in all countries."

Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelenskyy tweeted that the port of Yuzhny is blocked and

more than 1.5 million tons of agricultural products are waiting there for shipment to at least 10 countries including Turkey, China, Egypt and Bangladesh. He urged everyone to pressure Russia to unblock food supplies saying, "Obviously the less food is supplied to these countries, to these regions, the higher the food prices are, the more people in these countries lose from their family budgets."

Dujarric noted that in May only three ships departed from the port of Yuzhny. He said that since May 24 the number of teams inspecting ships has been reduced from three to two. This, along with the slowdown in registering ships, is creating a serious situation. The UN has put forward practical suggestions "at the strategic and operational level" and will continue to engage with Russia and Ukraine, Dujarric said. "In particular, we are looking for commitments on unconditional access of vessels to all three ports under the initiative, increased number of successful inspections completed per day and predictable registrations to avoid undue delay of vessels, exports of fertilizers, including ammonia, and the resumption of the Togliatti-Odesa ammonia pipeline," Dujarric said.

UN weather agency gets female head

BERLIN (AP): A leading Argentine meteorologist has been elected as the first female head of the United Nations weather agency. The World Meteorological Organization said Celeste Saulo received the necessary two-thirds backing from member states. Saulo has served as the director of Argentina's National Meteorological Service since 2014.

An experienced academic and researcher, she succeeds Petteri Taalas, who steps down after two terms as secretary general of the Geneva-based WMO at the end of the year. Saulo joined the WMO's executive council in 2015. The agency plays a key role coordinating international meteorological work, an issue that has become increasingly prominent due to the weather extremes resulting from climate change.

Russia says thwarts more Belgorod attacks

KYIV (Agencies): Russia's defence ministry has said it thwarted three cross-border attacks near the town of Shebekino, as it accused Ukraine of using what it said were "terrorist formations". Shebekino lies in the Belgorod region, which has been targeted in a number of attacks since May.

"Overall, the attack involved up to 70 militants, five tanks, four armoured vehicles, seven pick-up trucks and a Kamaz truck," the Russian defence ministry said, reporting at least three attempted crossings. It said it used air force and artillery to repel the attacks and killed more than 50 Ukrainian fighters. The Russian Volunteer Corps (RVC), a far-right paramilitary group of ethnic Russians that supports Ukraine, claimed to be fighting inside Russia.

"The second phase promised by the RVC's commander has begun!" it said on Telegram, referring to a previous incursion, alongside images of fighters firing weapons. Another anti-Kremlin group that calls itself the Freedom of Russia Legion also announced a plan to launch a cross-border raid. The Belgorod region saw an unprecedented two-day armed incursion last week and has come under intensified fire in the past days. Ukraine denies its military is involved in the incursions and says they are conducted by Russian volunteer fighters.

Brazil's Congress weakens ministries

BRASILIA (Agencies): Brazil's conservative-majority Congress has voted to scale back the authority of two ministries dedicated to upholding Indigenous rights and protecting the environment, following opposition from the South American nation's powerful agribusiness industry.

In a 51-9 Senate vote, Brazilian lawmakers moved to strip the Ministry of Indigenous Peoples and the Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change of some of their powers. The measure easily passed in the lower house of Congress a day earlier. Objecting to what he called "constraints on agribusiness that could harm exports", Senator Carlos Viana said during voting session that "the main points [of the caucus] have been addressed".

The vote marks a setback for left-wing Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva, who had promised to put Indigenous rights and the battle against climate change front and centre after years of neglect under his far-right predecessor, Jair Bolsonaro. Indigenous

and environmental advocates had hoped Lula's election victory last year would boost their fortunes after the tenure of Bolsonaro, whose government was blamed for record deforestation and violence against Indigenous people. But vote underscored the political staying power of the Brazilian agribusiness industry, and critics have expressed frustration over what they saw as a lacklustre effort on Lula's part to fight the cuts.

The changes block the Ministry of Indigenous Peoples from legalising the boundaries of new Indigenous territories and prevent the Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change from managing a property registry - a central tool for tracking deforestation and managing water resources. Rolling back such authorities represents a major success for Brazil's "beef caucus", which is closely aligned with the country's large cattle and agricultural industries that made up key elements of Bolsonaro's constituency. The caucus opposes the legalisation of more Indigenous lands, as well as

any measures to control deforestation. During the Bolsonaro administration, deforestation in Brazil's section of the Amazon rainforest reached dizzying new heights as agribusiness interests and illicit commercial enterprises expanded their operations into the region.

Watchdog groups say the government largely turned a blind eye, and Indigenous communities were frequently subjected to violence and abuse. Indigenous rights advocates suffered another setback as the lower house of Congress passed a bill barring the establishment of Indigenous reservations on lands where they were not present in 1988, when the current Constitution was adopted. Indigenous groups argue that the cutoff violates their rights, given that many were forced from their ancestral lands, especially during Brazil's 1964-1985 military dictatorship. In a Twitter post, the Indigenous rights group Survival International called that bill a "kiss of death for the Indigenous peoples of Brazil and their highly biodiverse territories".

Lebanon accuses five over killing

BEIRUT (Agencies): A military tribunal in Lebanon has formally accused five men of killing an Irish UN peacekeeper in December, local media and news agencies reported. A senior judicial official, speaking on condition of anonymity in line with regulations, alleged all five are linked with Lebanese group Hezbollah, The Associated Press news agency reported.

The indictment followed a half-year probe after an attack on a UN peacekeeping convoy near the town of al-Aqbiya in south Lebanon, a stronghold of Hezbollah. It included evidence from bystanders' testimonies, as well as audio recordings and video footage from surveillance cameras, the Lebanese official said. In some of the recordings of the confrontation, the gunmen reportedly could be heard telling the peacekeepers that they are from Hezbollah.

Hezbollah has denied any role in the killing, calling it an "unintentional incident" that took place solely between the town's residents and UNIFIL, the UN Interim Force in Lebanon. There was no immediate comment from Hezbollah. The shooting resulted in the death of Seán Rooney and seriously wounded Shane Kearney. The wounded peacekeeper was medically evacuated to Ireland. Two other Irish soldiers sustained light injuries. One of the five men indicted, Mohamad Ayyad, is currently in the custody of Lebanese authorities. The four others facing charges - Ali Khalifeh, Ali Salman, Hussein Salman, and Mustafa Salman - are at large.

The UN peacekeeper vehicle reportedly took a wrong turn through al-Aqbiya on their way from the base in the south to the Beirut airport. Vehicles and armed men surrounded the peacekeepers as they tried to make their way back to the main road. Initial reports said angry residents confronted the peacekeepers, but the indictment concludes that the shooting was a targeted attack. UNIFIL spokesperson Andrea Tenenti said the indictment was an "important step towards justice". "Attacks on men and women serving the cause of peace are serious crimes and can never be tolerated," Tenenti told the AP. "We look forward to justice for Private Rooney, his injured colleagues, and their families."

Japan reports warmest spring on record

TOKYO (AFP): Japan experienced its warmest spring on record this year, the national weather agency said, as greenhouse gasses and El Nino send temperatures soaring worldwide. Temperatures across March, April and May were 1.59 degrees Celsius (34.9 Fahrenheit) higher than average, the Japan Meteorological Agency said. That made it the hottest spring since the agency started taking comparable measurements in 1898. "Global warming has made such record-level temperatures more frequent, and they are expected to become even more common in the future as global warming progresses," it said. Average sea-surface temperatures for waters around Japan in the same months were tied for the third-highest recorded since 1982, the agency added. The United Nations said last month it was near-certain that 2023-2027 would be the warmest five-year period ever recorded.

This is partly due to a growing likelihood that the weather phenomenon El Nino will develop in the coming months, fuelling higher global temperatures. El Nino -- a naturally occurring climate pattern typically associated with increased heat worldwide, as well as drought in some parts of the world and heavy rains elsewhere -- last occurred in 2018-19. There is also a two-thirds chance that at least one of the next five years will see global temperatures exceed the more ambitious target set out in the Paris accords on limiting climate change, according to the UN's World Meteorological Organization (WMO). The 2015 Paris Agreement saw countries agree to cap global warming at "well below" two degrees Celsius above average levels measured between 1850 and 1900 -- and 1.5C if possible. The global mean temperature in 2022 was 1.15C above the 1850-1900 average. Much

of South and Southeast Asia has sweltered through spring heatwaves as global warming exacerbates adverse weather.

Records are being hit around the region, Shanghai logged its hottest May day in more than 100 years, shattering the previous high by a full degree. Scientists say climate change is intensifying the risk of heavy rain in Japan and elsewhere, because a warmer atmosphere holds more water. Strong rain in 2021 triggered a devastating landslide in the central resort town of Atami that killed 27 people. And in 2018, floods and landslides killed more than 200 people in western Japan during the country's annual rainy season. Japan is the current president of the G7, which this year pledged to accelerate the phase-out of planet-heating fossil fuels. However, the group of leading economies failed to agree to any new deadlines on ending polluting power sources such as coal.

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Pakistan Navy, challenges and legacy

PAKISTAN Navy ship rescued six fishermen in the open sea during a routine patrol in the Arabian Sea. According to the Pakistan Navy media wing, a Pakistan Naval ship received an emergency call from a fishing boat, which was stranded in the rough sea during fishing on Thursday. The Navy ship timely responded to the call reached the stranded boat and fixed its technical fault. Pakistan Navy medical team provided medical aid to the fishermen and helped them resume fishing.

Pakistan Navy is a highly professional, disciplined, and smartly articulated maritime force that is meticulously thwarting a several-time bigger challenger with courage and operational professionalism. Pakistan Navy has always played a commendable role in safeguarding Pakistan's Sea boundaries and protecting naval/maritime interests in a challenging geostrategic environment and volatile regional security paradigm. This small force is vigorously pursuing its professional goals together with the modernization of its operational fleet, participation in global maritime and security operations, promotion of the blue economy, along with playing an adorable role in the promotion of Pakistan's fishery sector and maintaining an all-time readiness for rescue and relief operation in the Sea, and coastal areas. Pakistan Navy has always stood up to the expectations of the nation in difficult times such as wars, floods, pandemics, earthquakes, and other calamities in the past. The young Naval officers and sailors carry out their operational duties in tough weather conditions, amid serious life risks and health hazards in challenging environments in the open sea, coastal and creeks areas.

At the same time, the Pakistan Navy is vigorously working on various initiatives to boost the country's potential in the field of blue economy which includes arranging maritime security workshops, conferences, visits and briefings to policymakers, engagement with media, intellectuals, civil society, and business community, the formulation of maritime-related curriculum, maritime awareness and publicity campaigns to harness benefits of Blue Economy. Similarly, Pakistan International Maritime Expo and Conference (PIMEC) is a magnificent initiative of the Pakistan Navy, which has gained tremendous appreciation from the relevant quarters inside the country and abroad. Pakistan Navy also controls the Joint Maritime Information Coordination Center (JMICC), a national platform that deals with all maritime-related activities and occurrences in the Pakistan Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ), Maritime terrorism, organized crimes, and piracy, manages the response to maritime emergencies and SOS calls, curbs illegal exploitation of Pakistan's EEZ as well as promotes blue economy in the country.

Pakistan's maritime territory geo-strategically lies at the helm of global power politics due to its vital sea lines of communication, while the newly constructed China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) has become a strategic hotspot in the Indian Ocean region. Currently, the Indian Ocean and the Gulf of Oman have gradually become focal points because of the rapidly changing global geostrategic environment and regional rivalries. Whilst, India's belligerence and self-professed role as the aspiring hegemon have created significant instability in the South Asian region. New Delhi's reckless militarization and unrestricted investment to transform itself into a major Naval power had caused real threats to Pakistan's territorial waters and maritime trade through the Arabian Sea.

Maritime security is an integral part of an overall comprehensive national security. Pakistan Navy has effectively dealt with all Sea-based challenges, effectively accomplished its strategic goals, and promoted a kinetic maritime legacy at the national, regional, and global levels. However, the ongoing nuclearization of the maritime domain, the introduction of Sea-based Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMDs), and increasing traditional threats had caused a great challenge for the Pak Navy that merits the expansion of the Naval fleet, hybrid training of manpower and adoption of an offensive naval doctrine that deter several times bigger Indian Navy from taking any misadventure against a relatively small but powerful adversary. The unresolved Jammu and Kashmir dispute and multiple other issues between India and Pakistan are real hazards to the regional peace while the US-China power competition has caused significant security risks for Islamabad. Although Pakistan Navy faces diverse security and environmental challenges in the contemporary world, the nation has full confidence in the tact and valor of its sea warriors, who always serve their nation 24/7 in war as well as in peace throughout history.

Diplomatic choices: Who is Russia leaning on for international support?

Dr. Diana Galeeva

PUTIN congratulated his "dear friend" Recep Tayyip Erdogan on his victory in the Turkiye presidential elections. In the recent geopolitical context, this victory is as important an event for Russia as it is for Turkiye, as under Erdogan's leadership Turkiye remains NATO's second-largest military force, but at the same time maintains friendly relations with Russia. Who else is Russia leaning on for international support, especially since the start of the Ukraine war?

In a UN General Assembly vote on Feb. 24 2022, 141 countries called for Russia's immediate withdrawal from Ukraine and supported an end to the fighting, while 34 states abstained. Some states voted against the resolution: Belarus, Syria, Eritrea, North Korea, Mali and Nicaragua showed direct support for Moscow. Countries with a particular dependence on Moscow have shown direct support, particularly Syria and Belarus. On March 15, 2023, during his official visit to Russia, Syrian President Bashar Assad openly thanked Putin for backing Syria's sovereignty and territorial integrity. In return, he

supported the Kremlin's line that Russia was fighting neo-Nazis and "old Nazis" in Ukraine. This announcement was to be expected, as Russia offered Assad's regime full support - from military backing to political leverage at the UN, for example. The acceptance of Assad by the Arab League can also be described as a Russian diplomatic victory to some extent. Belarus supported Moscow as a close ally of Russia, and has further escalated nuclear rhetoric since the start of the Ukraine war. In a recent announcement, Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenko promised nuclear weapons to any nation that joined Russia and Belarus. The country has already confirmed the transfer of Russian nuclear weapons to Belarus. The alliance with Russia has contributed to an increase in trade, but also to greater dependence on its eastern neighbor.

Being the most sanctioned country in the world has contributed to Russia's realignment toward countries with a shared anti-Western sentiment, and competitors to the Western-led world order. In this regard, Moscow relies on China and Iran. United by common "Look East" poli-

cies, in addition to defense and security, the three countries rely particularly on their economic partnerships. It is perhaps not a coincidence that the G7's newly approved sanctions produced an immediate response, in the visits of high-level Russian officials to Iran and China. Elvira Nabiullina, chief of the Bank of Russia, made a rare visit to Iran to meet the Iranian central bank chief in Tehran, to discuss bilateral trade, banking cooperation and the enlargement of currency truncations between Russia and Iran. Meanwhile, Russia's Prime Minister Mikhail Mishustin signed a set of bilateral agreements to deepen investment in trade, promote agricultural exports and boost sports cooperation. Along with de-dollarization and building alternative financial systems, the countries involved are aiming to find alternative logistical routes. For example, the International North-South Transport Corridor is crucial in linking India, Iran, Russia, Azerbaijan and other states via railways and sea, allowing Russia to rely on other states' connectivity and offering Russia a stable diplomatic platform for economic alternative routes,

such as via India and Azerbaijan. The project has boosted the strategic partnership with Iran, with a deal signed recently to finance and build the Rasht-Astara railway. This project has already been proclaimed as a competitor to the Suez Canal as a key worldwide trade route. This policy of looking east boosts bilateral links, in addition to institutional ties, which Moscow can rely on.

Russia plays a key role in the BRICS and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, and therefore also relies diplomatically on the member states of these organizations, as well as having a motivation to attract new members. The BRICS members - Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa - did not reach the point of directly participating in the war, but have lent support to Moscow. BRICS drew membership bids from 19 nations before the summit, including Algeria, Indonesia and Egypt, which would add to the countries on which Moscow can rely on diplomatically. Another crucial set of countries are those who adopt "hedging" policies. Deputy Prime Minister of Russia Marat Khusnullin hosted the organizing committee of the leading plat-

form for economic collaboration with the Islamic world, the International Economic Summit Russia-Islamic World.

KazanSummit 2023, this year. He "stressed that none of the Muslim countries imposed sanctions against Russia and did not support Western restrictions, which indicates their reliability as partners." Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky visited the Arab League summit in Saudi Arabia prior to addressing the G7 Summit, and spoke succinctly on the importance of the Arab world's position on the Ukraine conflict. The energy power of the Arab world, as partners for the OPEC+ states, and their relatively neutral position, has made it particularly crucial for Russia to rely on their neutrality. By adopting new nationalist policies to prioritize their economic interests, the OPEC+ decisions in October 2022 and April 2023 demonstrate support for Moscow.

By early 2023, Russia's real GDP was 7-10 percent below what it would have been had sanctions not been applied following the invasion of Ukraine. As outlined in a statement by Deputy Prime Minister of Russia Alexander Novak, revenues from the oil and gas industry

increased by 28 percent in 2022. This was not only due to a rise in prices on the world market, but also due to an increase in oil production in Russia by 2 percent and an increase in oil exports by 7 percent, despite the imposition of sanctions. Therefore, energy deals have become crucial in making Russia's economy resilient to sanctions. To sum up, many factors have contributed to Russia's diplomatic support from different countries: Assad's Syria is paying Moscow back for the regime staying in power, Iran and China share anti-Western sentiment in efforts to challenge the existing world order. Other countries that are part of BRICS or the SCO, considering some transformations in economic and political scale, are trying to balance relations with all sides; while the Arab countries are similarly making calculations based on their national interests. Is it a diplomatic victory for Moscow? Perhaps not, as it shows instead that rather than prioritizing values as it had previously (liberal, for example), or choosing between blocs (as it was during the bipolar world of the Cold War), the world is moving toward nationalist policies as a multipolar world order takes shape.

The damage Canada's spies can do

Andrew Mitrovica

THIS is the tale of two men who risked their lives as veteran police officers to serve their country only to have their life's work and loyalty to Canada smeared by spies. Paul McNamara, a 62-year-old former Vancouver Police Department undercover officer, and Peter Merrifield, a 57-year-old Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) officer and ex-soldier, shared their stories with me because they want Canadians and, more particularly, the Canadian government, to finally hold this nation's spies accountable for the profound and lasting damage they have done.

McNamara and Merrifield - in addition to several Canadian politicians of Chinese descent - have had their allegiance to the maple leaf sullied by spies who enjoy the comfort of anonymity. They are victims of a dangerous hysteria gripping Canada over the scope and nature of Chinese interference in Canadian elections and society, ginned up by scoop-thirsty reporters and timorous spies who do not give a damn about the human costs of their sinister handiwork.

As I have written previously, that hysteria reeks of the old "yellow peril" canard that casts near blanket aspersions about the devotion to Canada of the Chinese-Canadian community.

It all began shortly after David Vigneault, the director of Canada's domestic spy agency, the Canadian Security Intelligence Service (CSIS), declared in 2018 that the spies under his command would focus on the threat China posed to the country.

Anxious to show that they were up to the pressing task, Vigneault's inept charges fixed their crosshairs on several individuals. They targeted a number of Chinese-Canadian politicians because of their ethnic background and McNamara and Merrifield because they knew, and on rare occasions met with, a former Canadian

law enforcement officer turned security consultant whom CSIS apparently considers a Chinese-paid collaborator. McNamara and Merrifield are proof that guilt by association is still standard practice at CSIS, decades after Canada's intolerant spies routed Canadians from their government jobs because of their left-wing politics or homosexuality. The miscarriage of fairness and decency visited on McNamara and Merrifield stands as a warning to the gullible politicians and reporters who treat Canada's spy service with deference and respect, rather than the swift censure and condemnation it deserves. Here are their cautionary stories.

Paul McNamara spent 26 years as a police officer in Vancouver, British Columbia. For much of that time, he played the role of a crook to ensnare crooks. He did the risky job well. So, having done his public duty, McNamara retired from the police in 2016 and joined a US firm that provided security for America's consulates and embassy in Canada. It was sensitive, high-paying work that required top-secret security clearance.

In October 2019, McNamara visited Guangzhou, China to try to buy a six-lane, 25-metre above-ground swimming pool for his young daughter, Holly, a competitive, "open-water" swimmer who, one day, hoped to represent Canada at the Olympic Games. McNamara says his bosses and the US State Department gave him the OK to go since the pool was much cheaper in China.

He did not know it at the time, but this fatherly act of generosity and love would soon be twisted into a pretext to strip him of his top-secret clearance and job and call into question his fidelity to Canada. While he was in Guangzhou, McNamara says he spoke briefly by phone to the ex-cop whom CSIS had its wary eyes on and who was a casual friend. That fateful call would have blunt repercussions.

In early November 2021, McNamara says he had to submit to a standard security clearance review that involved all Canadian and US law enforcement and national security databases, including CSIS. All the checks, apart from CSIS, were completed quickly. As part of the review, McNamara says he was interviewed at length at the US Consulate in Vancouver. Two days later, his security clearance was renewed, although the CSIS check was still not complete. On December 21, McNamara was told that his security clearance had been revoked by the State Department due to "derogatory information [that] was discovered". McNamara was stunned and bewildered. Suddenly, he was out of work. Worse, perhaps, he was now deemed a potential national security risk. McNamara went searching for answers. He says a well-placed source told him that he was let go abruptly as a result of information "sensitive in nature in relation to national security". McNamara is convinced that, all along, CSIS was behind the spurious suspicions about his phantom ties to China. He never received the results of his CSIS check.

"All roads lead back to CSIS," McNamara says. Still, in July 2022, McNamara received a letter from CSIS, saying that it had "reviewed" and made the "appropriate internal inquiries" and found that the service was "neither responsible for, or involved in" the "circumstances" you describe". McNamara doubts what CSIS says. He has good reason to be sceptical. In July 2020, Federal Court Judge Patrick Gleeson confirmed as much in a blistering decision slamming CSIS officers for repeatedly lying while asking for the court's approval to issue the service special search warrants. Gleeson scolded CSIS - to put it charitably - for "a degree of institutional disregard for - or, at

the very least, a cavalier institutional approach to - the duty of candour and regretably the rule of law". But Canada's security-intelligence infrastructure was not done with McNamara just yet.

In February 2023, McNamara says he was grilled for two hours by an RCMP officer attached to the federal police force's Integrated National Security Enforcement Teams or INSET. McNamara was accused of having been introduced to senior Chinese government officials during his trip to China in 2019 and having met with, and had his expenses paid for, by the ex-officer connected to the Chinese. He says all of that was false, too. These accusations have taken a toll on McNamara - financially and emotionally. His once secure future has been replaced with uncertainty and doubt. Given his age and the scurrilous questions surrounding his patriotism, McNamara can't find work. He has applied for more than a dozen jobs to no avail. A modest pension is his only source of income. A deep depression set in for a long while. Uncertainty turned into emptiness.

Still, McNamara is intent on clearing his name and reputation and making sure that other Canadians do not suffer the same surreal fate. "I am evidence of the damage that they [CSIS] can do," McNamara says. "I have lost faith in my country." Like McNamara, Peter Merrifield, a short, stocky firearms instructor, has devoted his life to protecting Canada and Canadians from harm not only from bad seeds, but "bad" state actors. A renowned RCMP investigator, Merrifield's impressive résumé includes keeping prime ministers and visiting foreign dignitaries safe, and weapons of mass destruction out of the arsenals of Canada's adversaries. That stellar record did not prevent Merrifield from having his higher than top-secret security clearance suspended at the

behest of CSIS officers who cannot, it seems, connect beach balls, let alone dots. Merrifield's troubles began in March 2020 when he says a pair of CSIS officers paid an unannounced visit to his home. True to form, the CSIS officers missed their mark. Merrifield wasn't home. Later, Merrifield says he met with the intelligence officers twice. They quizzed him on his contacts with the security consultant with ties to Beijing.

Merrifield says he cooperated by telling them the truth. They were friends who had, in the past, shared a beer or two and talked about stuff that most people talk about: family, work and politics. Merrifield says he reported the meetings with CSIS to his RCMP superiors and decided that it would be best to stop having any contact with his former colleague.

In October 2020, Merrifield met with a CSIS officer to have his top-secret security clearance renewed for another five years. He treated the meeting as pro forma. Merrifield was in for a disconcerting surprise. He says he was questioned for more than five and a half hours by an agitated CSIS officer who demanded to know more about his casual "relationship" with the "compromised" ex-law enforcement officer. "There was no interest in facts," Merrifield says. "She only wanted to support the CSIS theory which was not evidence; it was assumption and scattered pieces of intelligence."

CSIS asked to meet Merrifield again. He obliged. Meanwhile, Merrifield waited for word about his security clearance renewal. In July 2022, Merrifield got the shocking answer. The RCMP had suspended his "Enhanced Reliability Status" based on allegations made by CSIS. Merrifield, who had already suffered a near-fatal heart attack a few years earlier, thought he was on the cusp of another. Not only that, but he believed he was going to lose a job he loved. In a letter the RCMP

detailed CSIS's charges against him. Taken together, CSIS claimed that Merrifield had sold out Canada to China for money. Over the next nine months, Merrifield did everything in his power to prove that these accusations were untrue. He says he provided the RCMP with reams of exculpatory evidence and agreed to interview after interview, where he rebutted the disastrous allegations - one by one.

By this point, Merrifield had become aware that he was not alone in having his allegiance to Canada soiled by CSIS's flimsy web of conjecture and suspicion. Together with McNamara, Merrifield wrote to the prime minister, cabinet ministers, opposition leaders, parliamentary committees, and other oversight bodies urging them to take up their case and to hold CSIS to account. To date, they say, nobody has heeded their urgent call. On April 3, 2023, Merrifield prevailed. The RCMP's Departmental Security Branch informed him that their "review" of the CSIS-born accusations was "complete" and that his Enhanced Reliability Status had been reinstated. In other words, Peter Merrifield is not and never has been a traitor. Paul McNamara remains in limbo, struggling to understand why he was cut adrift.

Approached for comment on the pair's allegations, CSIS insisted that it "cannot disclose the identity of anyone who has applied for or renewed a clearance." "What happened to us is a drive-by smear by CSIS," Merrifield says. "And we are determined to hold the amateurs responsible for the horror we have endured to account." Merrifield is right. Canada's spies enjoy extraordinary powers. Often, in the sheltered shadows, they abuse those powers to make the innocent guilty. Shielded by limp, malleable politicians, they have never had to answer for the deep harm done. It is about time they did.

Aljazeera

Harry and Meghan want to stay silent?

Judith Woods

CAN it be true? Is it just idle gossip? Say it ain't so. Rumours are rife that the Duke and Duchess of Sussex are going to abandon Britain and freeze out the Royal family. Oh wait, they've already done that (scampers off to check). Right, so it looks as though they are doing it all over again, but this time without the mudslinging, the tell-all interviews and the general whinge-fest. This time they are going for (consults notes) what is known as Dignified Silence.

Not that they've run out of things to say, you understand, or that nobody cares much any more. No, it's because they have made learnings. Because they have moved onwards and upwards to the highest moral ground where even recreational virtue signalling can result in a nose bleed. And because henceforthwards they wish to raise their Prince and Princess in such a way that their lived

experience will be one of unblemished apple pie privacy in their humble community of gazillionaires.

Sorry, I simply can't keep a straight face. I'd much rather talk about Transylvania because I've been there and yes, there are actual bears on the streets. And wolves too. But I digress. More saliently, King Charles is using his Romanian retreat as a convenient bolthole to avoid bumping into his son, court botherer (that's the High Court this time as opposed to the "normal" Buck House one) Harry when he comes over next week to - no prizes for guessing - complain. This time about phone hacking.

Whatever. Some sources say that the couple want to leave the spotlight and turn their back on book deals, celebrity interviews and memoirs in order to concentrate on work behind the camera and prove their creative worth. Other sources (like Heinz, there are 57

varieties) disagree and are insistent there are lots more whiffy pillow cases and grubby sheets they could explosively launder en plein air if the price were right. Why, their spokesperson recently alleged the couple and Meghan's mother were involved in a "near-catastrophic car chase" instigated by "a ring of highly aggressive paparazzi" after the trio attended the Ms Foundation ceremony in New York where the Duchess was honoured. So what if the sceptical NYC cops played it down with the US equivalent of "nothing to see here"? As the late great Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II so crisply, so trenchantly observed when Meghan made allegations of racism back in 2021, "recollections may vary".

Let's not forget that around the publication of his pity-party exposé Spare, Harry ominously muttered that 400 pages had been cut

from the final manuscript and "it could have been two books, put it that way." Is there a market for more? Not from this side of the pond, I'll warrant. But he's making waves across the Atlantic, not least because the US government is due to appear in court next week to answer questions over Prince Harry's visa application, after he detailed his drug use in print. Rookie mistake but what's a prince of the realm to do when his US editors squeeze him until his pips squeak? The case has been brought by the conservative think tank the Heritage Foundation, which believes he should have been denied residency in the US if he failed to disclose his drug use and could see it revoked if he "lied".

Mildly diverting though that is, do we honestly want him back? His cameo Coronation appearance came across as somewhere between ungracious and

unnecessary. At the Firm, his old office has already been given over to Sophie, Duchess of Edinburgh who is an old-school trooper and needs somewhere to store her tartans. To be honest, the only way our Prodigal Prince could possibly worm his way back into our affections is with a grand gesture. I reckon he might swing it if he dramatically follows his father over to his 18th-century Saxon house in the village of Viscri, Romania, and swears fealty. He won't though; there's no Wi-Fi at King Charles's back-to-nature gaff for pity's sake, so how can Meghan FaceTime him constantly? I'm not sure even her Woman of Vision award will persuade the UN to lend her a satellite to track his movements.

On the plus side, if he drives (horse and carts it) two hours north to Bustaini he will definitely see a bear. My family went there for a wedding in Cantacuzino Castle a few years ago and the waiter took my husband

and assorted brothers in law for a drive to see them. Not in the forest, but in a residential cul de sac off the high street where a male bear the size of a double bed was raking open black bin bags with his terrifying claws to feed his mate and cub. By way of an extra surreal touch, a semi circle of expectant cats sat around them, waiting for the ursine feast to finish. My husband has a blurred photo to prove it, so recollections don't vary. Harry will cross swords with former Mirror editor Piers Morgan next week as his elderly father potters and paints, goes on excursions among the wildflowers and reads late into the evening. The Duke of Sussex will doubtless sweep into London and sweep out again, too angry, too prideful to acknowledge the country, the people, most importantly the family he once held dear. Let us hope he grasps the extent of his personal loss before it is too late.

The Telegraph

US should focus on economic diplomacy in the Middle East

WHILE geopolitical, military and security issues are critical pillars of foreign policy, the Biden administration could also enhance its Middle Eastern policy by putting more emphasis on economic development and relationships with its allies.

There has been a considerable amount of criticism of the Biden administration's Middle East policy by the US Congress. These criticisms are mostly anchored in security, military and geopolitical matters. For example, Senate Republican Leader Mitch McConnell in March delivered remarks on the Senate floor regarding US foreign policy, claiming that President Joe Biden's "clumsy attempts to cut and run from the Middle East have reduced our presence," adding that "letting key friendships languish erodes our partnerships." McConnell said that this has undermined confidence in the US and is a "recipe for less American influence, less national security, and a vacuum that Russia and China would be delighted to fill."

The historic China-brokered deal between Saudi Arabia and Iran that was announced in March was also seen by some experts, scholars and policy analysts as a sign of declining US influence in the Middle East. The agreement was a key development not only in terms of restoring ties between the Iranian government and Saudi Arabia, but also in reducing tensions and enhancing peace and security in the region. Improved ties between Tehran and Riyadh could have a significant impact on the region's geopolitical and economic landscapes.

There has also been criticism of the Biden administration's withdrawal from Afghanistan. Some people viewed the August 2021 withdrawal as being poorly planned, as the Taliban swiftly took over the country and military

equipment worth billions of dollars, paid for by US taxpayers, was left behind. Additionally, when it comes to the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, commonly known as the Iran nuclear deal, the Biden administration has failed to score a political victory, as several rounds of negotiations ended without any concrete progress toward a permanent resolution. But the Biden administration still has the time

to score political victories with respect to its Middle East policy if it concentrates more on economic developments.

The US has a long history of employing economic diplomacy in different parts of the world, including in Europe and Latin America, with great success. The State Department states that it places economics and market forces "at the center of US foreign policy. Economic diplomacy means both harnessing global economic forces to advance America's foreign policy and employing the tools of foreign policy to shore up our economic strength." Such a pragmatic approach and a shift toward economic growth between the US and Middle Eastern nations would likely serve the US national interest, as well as enhance peace, security and stability in the region.

China's increasing role in the Middle East is its emphasis on economic development rather than military landscapes. As Andrew Bacevich - a retired army officer, professor of international relations and history at Boston University and president of the Quincy Institute for Responsible Statecraft in Washington - has pointed out: "What is it, do we think, that China is intent on doing in the Middle East? Do we think that they will create a large network of military bases? I'm guessing no. I think they have two bases in the whole world outside of China. Are they active in terms of investment and economic development? You bet they are. Is that an arena in which we should compete? I would say yes. We want to define competition in military terms. I think that the Chinese define competition in terms of trade and investment."

China has strong trade and economic relationships with Saudi Arabia and other Middle Eastern countries beyond its oil imports. Beijing has also committed itself to a significant investment in Iran. In 2021, China and the Iranian government signed a 25-year strategic partnership deal, which is now in the early stages of implementation. In this era of globalization, economic developments appear to have become more important than military strength when it comes to promoting peace and playing a key role on the world stage.

In a nutshell, the Biden administration ought to focus more on economic developments in the Middle East, including investments in infrastructure, technological fields and renewable energy. This will not only serve the US' national interests, but also promote security, stability and peace in the region. And as the US ratchets up its economic developments in the Middle East, this will likely increase its diplomatic engagements and its role in the region as a result.



Why are Putin and ‘team Navalny’ in lockstep when it comes to decolonization?

‘FREAKS’ was how Leonid Volkov - the right-hand man of jailed opposition leader Alexei Navalny - recently described activists who demand Russia's decolonization. His description came in response to similar comments by President Vladimir Putin in which the president also lambasted those seeking greater autonomy for Russia's national republics.

It's remarkable how Putin and a representative of his main political opponent - Navalny - can see eye to eye. Both have nothing but scorn for decolonial activists. While Putin palms the movement off as a plot orchestrated by Western intelligence and bluffs about the alleged unity of the Russian people, Volkov belittles decolonial activists as a laughingstock, suggesting that their aspirations for independence only foster the regime's rhetoric about the West allegedly seeking the dismemberment of Russia. As Russia's most prominent opposition force, which aspires to represent the whole nation, Navalny's supporters love to repeat the thesis that the war in Ukraine is "Putin's war" and that the Russian people are its victims. Maria Pevchikh, the chairwoman of Navalny's Anti-Corruption Foundation (FBK) board of directors, has even equated the regime's authoritarianism with domestic abuse. According to this logic, however, Volkov and some of Navalny's supporters are guilty of victim-blaming when they accuse ethnic minority activists of provoking the regime's wrath.

In reality, Volkov expressed an opinion that is common within Russia's liberal opposition, which does not take the decolonization movement seriously and belittles it through insults. The fact is that liberals who oppose Putin continue to support Moscow's hegemony over ethnic non-Russians from the national republics. By claiming that a positive future for Russia can be achieved by simply removing Putin, the liberal opposition overlooks the imperial-colonial foundation of the Russian state. While tycoon and Putin critic Mikhail Khodorkovsky, for example, claims to support the real (rather than fictitious) federalization of Russia, he has also said that he would fight to stop the North Caucasus republics seeking independence. Of course, it's naive to think that any state, democratic or authoritarian, would permit the secession of its territories. However, this does not mean Russia's ethnic minorities should be forbidden from broaching the topic or demanding genuine representation. Rather than integrating the voices of ethnic minority activists into their wider agenda, the comparatively better-resourced liberal opposition devalues, ridicules and offends them. In doing so, they demonstrate a clear inability to abandon imperial thinking. How, then, can this opposition build a better Russia?

I believe that Russia's colonial foundation is one of the country's fundamental problems, on par with

Marika Semenenko

the corruption that FBK fights against. Yet within the mainstream opposition, calls for a future Russia to renounce its imperialism mostly fall on deaf ears. Naturally, I do not want the opposition to talk only about the imperial-colonial essence of the Russian state. But a variety of opinions is necessary in any opposition movement. And there are currently no opposition leaders truly fighting the anti-imperial cause. While there are indeed a number of ethnic minority activists, established figures in the opposition not only devalue such activists but palm them off as "radicals." It's fundamentally wrong to equate decolonial initiatives with radicalism. As with the spectrum of

The liberal opposition fears such conversations because they challenge traditional views of how a future Russia should look. And they mock activists' attempts (which may not always be successful) to discuss crucial questions of their own subjectivity. What liberals do themselves, namely criticize the regime from their own perspective, is prohibited for ethnic minority activists.

Yekaterina Kotrikadze - a journalist for popular liberal media outlet TV Rain - recently described for her viewers the Free Nations of Post-Russia Forum, an event organized by activists advocating the decolonization of Russia and complained that ethnic minority activists sit around in Europe claiming to know what the people of Russia's

I believe that Russia's colonial foundation is one of the country's fundamental problems, on par with the corruption that FBK fights against. Yet within the mainstream opposition, calls for a future Russia to renounce its imperialism mostly fall on deaf ears. Naturally, I do not want the opposition to talk only about the imperial-colonial essence of the Russian state.

opinions in the traditional liberal opposition, ethnic minority activists also hold diverse opinions on the topic of independence.

Denying ethnic minority activists a voice in fact reveals much about Russia's liberal opposition and its unwillingness to build connections. We are not talking about unification, where one leader replaces Putin and leads us all, but the ability to form horizontal relationships through a dialogue of equals. As it stands, the regime suppresses the opposition, and, in turn, the opposition suppresses the decolonial activists. Given that Russia is waging a colonial war in Ukraine, it's understandable that the Russian decolonial movement has become more prominent since the full-scale invasion began. But Putin fears decolonial activists because the movement rejects the age-old narrative on which Russian statehood is based. Everyone in Russia, from the president to primary school teachers, repeats the timeworn mantra that Russia never colonized anyone but incorporated new populations into Russia only upon these indigenous populations' request - a myth that conceals the use of considerable state violence. The ethnic minority activists are among the few trying to break through this curtain of deception. Muscovy, the Russian Empire, then the Soviet Union - in all its guises, the Russian state has waged colonial wars, submitting to its yoke the indigenous peoples of the Caucasus, Central Asia, Siberia, the Arctic and the countries of Eastern Europe. Modern Russia is attempting to do the same.

regions want. Yet the traditional opposition is no different. They also live in exile. The simple fact is that almost anyone who has criticized the Russian regime has either left the country or is in prison. Of course, the disintegration of the modern Russian empire is a dangerous prospect - it could lead to a lot of violence. Unlike classic colonial empires, such as Britain or France, oceans have never separated Russia from its colonies. The collapse of that empire, as with the collapse of the Soviet Union, would likely entail a loss of territory or a restructuring in which some regions were permitted to act with greater autonomy. There are many possibilities for how this could look in reality - but the most important thing at the moment is to engage in a discussion. Ethnic minority activists, tired of being ignored and marginalized by the traditional opposition, have adopted the motto "Nothing about us without us." The crux of the issue is how we want the regions to achieve emancipation: through violence or through dialogue. And it is strange that the liberal opposition, aspiring to lead a post-Putin Russia, fails to grasp this.

If Russia's ethnic minorities already have a sense of their own identity, then given the proper impetus, they will prevail. This is the path that Ukraine took to become the free, defiant and sovereign nation it is today. Ukraine stood up to Russia's expansionist ambitions and showed Russia is an empire that cannot come to terms with the fact that the era of empires has passed.

The Moscow Times

Saudi Arabia's Arab League presidency: Championing sustainability amid uncertainty

THE recent Arab League Summit, which was historic in bringing together the 22 member nations including Syria for the first time in more than a decade, celebrated Saudi Arabia's presidency for the year ahead.

At the summit, member states adopted the Jeddah Declaration, which emphasized the importance of sustainable development, security, stability and peace as fundamental rights for all Arab citizens. This ambitious vision requires united, collaborative efforts from all member states. Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, in his opening remarks, reassured leaders of the Arab members' commitment to peace and sustainable development, seeking to prevent the region from becoming a conflict zone.

Central to the crown prince's argument is the potential of the Arab world, given its rich cultural heritage, human capital and natural resources, to pursue sustainable development across all sectors. Successfully achieving these goals requires embracing and implementing the four dimensions of sustainability: economic, social, environmental and human. Saudi Arabia exemplifies the dedication to these dimensions due to King Salman and the crown prince's leadership. Their groundbreaking Vision 2030 plan is designed to reduce Saudi Arabia's dependence on oil, while diversifying and modernizing its economy. This transformative economic and social reform blueprint connects the nation to the world.

Effective and efficient public policy is paramount in ensuring sustainability in Saudi Arabia and

the GCC for the benefits of the population. Firstly, effective public policy and governance can impact the economic sustainability of Saudi Arabia and the GCC. Using the agricultural sector as a case study, governments can promote sustainable practices by investing in research and development, providing financial assistance to farmers and implementing policies that support the use of renewable resources. They can also encourage the development of local food production by providing incentives to farmers, promoting the use of local produce in restaurants and cafes by promoting the farm-to-table concept, and creating a local food procurement program that supports small-scale farmers.

These measures will not only reduce the Gulf countries' dependence on food imports, but will also create employment opportunities in the agricultural sector, contributing to the country's overall economic growth. An example of economic sustainability is that Saudi Arabia has successfully built the largest grain storage capacity in the Middle East, reaching 3.5 million tons in 2023, up about 40 percent compared to 2.6 million tons in 2016. Secondly, public policy plays a crucial role in ensuring social sustainability by improving access to food for all citizens. Food security can be promoted by providing food subsidies to low-income households, implementing nutrition education programs in schools and establishing food banks that distribute food to those in need. These measures will help reduce the prevalence of hunger and malnutrition.

Dr. Turki Faisal Al-Rasheed

tion, promote social inclusion and improve the overall health of the population. For example, Saudi Arabia's Citizen Account Program is part of the government's ongoing efforts to support eligible families and shield them from the impact of global price hikes. Thirdly, environmental sustainability can be promoted by reducing food waste and promoting sustainable agriculture practices. Governments can encourage farmers to use organic farming practices, implement policies that reduce the use of pesticides and fertilizers and invest in technologies that reduce water usage. In 2018, for example, Saudi Arabia's Ministry of Environment, Water and Agriculture unveiled its organic farming action plan and allocated SR750 million (\$200 million) to support it. Additionally, governments can reduce food waste by implementing policies that encourage food producers to donate excess food to food banks and by incentivizing households to reduce food waste by composting and recycling.

Lastly, human capital development can be facilitated by public policy that is designed to enhance education and training access in the agricultural sector. Moreover, Saudi Arabia and the GCC can invest in vocational training programs that equip farmers with the necessary skills to adopt sustainable agriculture practices, promote research and development in the agriculture sector, and provide financial assistance to students pursuing degrees in agriculture-related fields. These measures will

not only improve the overall productivity of the agriculture sector but also contribute to the development of a highly skilled workforce that can drive countries' economic growth. The cooperation between the UN's International Fund for Agricultural Development and the Saudi government in a project in the Jazan region, which is promoting the production of coffee and mango crops through the training of 30,000 small-scale farmers, is one good example.

Public policy and governance frameworks can help create an efficient, effective environment for sustainable agricultural development in Saudi Arabia and the Arab world. Government initiatives, such as Saudi Vision 2030, are designed to address sustainable agricultural development challenges and promote sustainable food production. Decision-making and collaboration among national ministries, regulators and research organizations are vital for policymaking and implementation, as is stakeholder engagement. In conclusion, sustainable development is pivotal for the Arab world - a region where economic, social, environmental and human capital concerns persist. Public policy and governance are crucial in promoting security, peace and stability by endorsing sustainable practices across sectors. By enacting policies that encourage sustainable food production and distribution, governments can stimulate economic growth, social inclusion, environmental conservation and human capital development. This will, in turn, contribute to the prosperity of member states, reducing the risk of conflict.

How to end Trumpism

DURING an interview with CNN's Poppy Harlow, former FBI Director James Comey blamed Trumpism for conservative distrust toward the FBI. Comey explained that he wasn't very concerned about the agency in the long term, though, predicting that at some point the "fever" would certainly break.

His comments reflect a common misconception, namely that former President Donald Trump's ongoing support within the GOP is some sort of aberration that revolves around the person rather than the party. Instead of talking about the electoral coalition that propelled Trump into power, and which currently makes him the leading Republican nominee for reelection, the conversation continues to revolve around the former president himself. This perspective has informed much of the coverage of the Republican primaries - with ongoing discussions about whether one of the nominees will be able to bring Trumpism to an end by knocking out the top nominee.

To understand Trumpism, it is important to look at who comprises the GOP base. As Ronald Brownstein has so well documented for CNN, Trump's popularity is rooted in the rural White base of the Republican Party. And in a recent piece for The Atlantic, Brownstein examined how the Republican majority in

Julian Zelizer

the House in 2023 generally represents districts with older, non-college educated, lower-income, White voters. The reason Trumpism has been so influential is that many of the ideas it espouses mesh well with the sentiment in this electorate. The kind of conservative anti-establishment populism that Trump has promoted, which is nationalistic, nativistic, distrustful, disruptive and deeply hostile to the social and cultural changes that have taken place since the 1960s, has strong appeal with many Republican voters.

Reagan brought the kind of conservatism that in 1964 (when Lyndon B. Johnson defeated Republican Sen. Barry Goldwater of Arizona in a landslide election) was considered far too radical for the White House.

But these kinds of changes take decades to happen. They are not the result of one candidate winning or losing, nor are they some sort of short-term spell that parties go through and come out of. Changing a party requires building new kinds of electoral support with groups of people who have felt alienated or who were once part of the opposition. The change requires generations of new leadership - not one person, even a president - who gradually alter the composition of the congressional caucuses and presidential nominee slates. It demands huge investments in think tanks, magazines and journals, social media, as well as news outlets, so as to move the party discourse into new directions. As Trump himself understood, he fit well within the modern party. Although Trump was willing to go places that most of his colleagues were not - such as attempting to undermine the outcome of a presidential election - there were deep roots to what he was preaching long before he came to office. The Tea Party, comprised of far-right

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Envoy appreciates ICCI efforts for promoting Pakistan-Ethiopia ties

ISLAMABAD (APP): Ethiopian Ambassador to Pakistan Jamal Baker Abdullah appreciated the efforts of Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) President Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari for promoting bilateral relations and starting direct flights between Pakistan and Ethiopia.

The envoy during a visit of the chamber's office also presented a shield of honour to Ahsan Bakhtawari on behalf of his government for rendering "valuable services for the strengthening of relations between Pakistan and Ethiopia, especially for the improvement of trade relations", an ICCI news release said on Friday.

This year, an ICCI delegation led by its President Ahsan Bakhtawari visited Ethiopia and laid the foundation for efforts to take the relations between the two countries to new heights.

Ambassador Jamal Baker Abdullah, in his remarks on the occasion, said steps were being taken by both sides to further improve their trade relations. "We hope that Pakistan and Ethiopia will be the best trade partners in the next few years."

He said his embassy was trying for the visit of Pakistan's Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari to Ethiopia soon.

The envoy said restoration of direct flights operation between Pakistan and

Ethiopia was a great opportunity for the business community of both countries and "I hope this opportunity will be fully utilized".

The ICCI president thanked the Ethiopian government and ambassador for acknowledging his efforts to improve the relations between the two countries. "In fact, it is an honour for the entire Islamabad Chamber and the business community that our efforts have been recognized at the government level," he said, adding Ethiopia was a very important for Pakistan in Africa.

He viewed that during the last year, the relations between the two countries and the interest of their business community in

each other had increased enormously due to the efforts of the chamber.

He said Ethiopia should play its role to give the status of an observer to Pakistan in the African Union. The ICCI president said the Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA) between the two countries was necessary for increasing the volume of bilateral trade.

ICCI Vice President Engineer Azharul Islam said Ethiopia could prove to be the best market for Pakistan. He said the warm hospitality extended to the ICCI delegation during its visit to Ethiopia was commendable and "it is hoped that this warmth will translate into better business relations".

Initiatives implemented to promote IT industry: Minister

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Information Technology (IT) and Telecommunication Syed Amin ul Haque on Friday said the initiatives implemented to promote the IT sector, freelancers, and start-ups had made Pakistan a digital hub.

He said this in an address as keynote speaker in a Panel Discussion at Digital Summit, GITEX-23 Morocco in Marrakech the Historic City of Morocco, said a press release.

Syed Amin ul Haque said, "To achieve the target of Digital Pakistan his ministry is working round the clock, and it will drive entrepreneurial innovation, productivity, and economic growth." The minister said, "The Ministry of IT is working on different projects keeping 2050 in vision." "The purpose of

the conference is to inform about initiatives and various policies including Cyber Security, Freelancers Policy, and Personal Data Protection Bill."

"Pakistan is emerging as an important center of IT where wide opportunities and incentives are available for international investors," he added.

Highlighted the significance of start-ups in Pakistan, the minister said;

"It is very well said that the entrepreneur always searches for change, responds to it, and exploits it as an opportunity. Since start-ups are centers of novel innovations, they generate jobs, which implies more career opportunities." "More employment leads to a stronger economy, and a healthier economy has a direct bearing on the growth of cities where the start-ups locate."

"Pakistan is filled with talented professionals in different fields and start-ups provide them with the right platform to showcase their talent and this ultimately attracts multinational companies to invest in Pakistan." "National Incubation Center (NIC) across Pakistan are working to boost start-ups and facilitate youth to have their own businesses," he added.

SECP specifies rating requirements for investment in short-term instruments by CISS

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) has specified rating requirements for investment in short-term debt instruments by open-ended collective investment schemes (CISS) aimed at protecting unitholders' investment in various schemes launched by asset management companies (AMCs) and improving transparency and efficiency.

"The new requirements have been notified through Circular No. 9 of 2023, which is available at <https://www.secp.gov.pk/document/circular-no-9-of-2023-short-term-rating-requirements-for-ciss/?wpdmdl=47944&refesh=6479d45fa814f1685705823>," the SECP said in a news release on Friday.

The SECP said the requirements had been introduced through amendments in earlier issued Circular No. 7 of 2009 (Categorization of Open-End Collective Investment Schemes). "The amendments were made in consultation with Mutual Fund

Association of Pakistan (MUFAP), Pakistan Credit Rating Agency Limited (PACRA) and VIS Credit Rating Co. Limited (VIS)."

Through the amendments, the SECP said the credit rating of any short-term security in the portfolio of money market scheme would not be lower than A1 (A One), whereas, in the case of income schemes, the rating of any short-term security in the portfolio would not be lower than A3 (A Three).

Further, in the case of the Shariah Compliant (Islamic) Scheme, the rating of short-term instruments in the portfolio would not be lower than A2 (A Two), it said.

Likewise, in case of the Balanced Scheme, the rating of any short-term debt security in the portfolio would not be lower than A2 (A Two).

"The AMCs whose open-ended CISSs have already taken exposure in below rated short term debt instruments shall comply with the requirement within a period of six (6) months from the date of publication of the Circular."

ABAD delegation calls on Ishaq Dar at FBR



F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: A delegation of Association of Builders and Developers of Pakistan (ABAD) called on Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar at FBR, today on Budget 2023-24 proposals. SAPM on Revenue Mr.

Tariq Mehmood Pasha, Chairman RRMIC Mr. Ashfaq Yousuf Tola, Chairman FBR, and senior officers from FBR attended the meeting. The delegates from ABAD apprised the Finance Minister of the challenges being currently faced by

the construction industry and presented their proposals for the upcoming Federal Budget. The delegation also assured to support the Government in its efforts for overcoming the economic challenges and to boost the economic and business activities in the country. Finance Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar appreciated the proposals presented by the delegation and assured them that the government is taking concrete steps to overcome the economic challenges and for strengthening the economy of the country.

He further reiterated

that Government will try to provide a business-friendly budget in order to support the masses and for the economic progress and development of the country. The delegation thanked the Finance Minister for considering their budget proposals.

The delegation included Mr. Altaf Tai Chairman ABAD, Mr. Arif Yousaf Jeewa former Chairman ABAD, Mr. Khawar Munir Senior Vice Chairman ABAD, Mr. Nadeem Jeewa, Vice Chairman ABAD, Mr. Raheel Rinch Chairman South Region ABAD, Mr. Askari Agha, Mr. Sufivan Adiva.

Educational Testing & Evaluation Agency (ETEA)
NOTICE INVITING TENDERS
(NIT No. 05/2022-23 Date: 02.06.2023)
1. Educational Testing & Evaluation Agency (ETEA) invites sealed bids from contractors for provision of "Transport Service" as per Rule 31(A) framework contract for transportation of staff and exam material to test centers located at different districts/cities of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa under Single Stage Single Envelope Bidding procedure.
2. Bidder should be registered with Income Tax and relevant Sales Tax Departments of Government of Pakistan/KPRA and should be reflected on the Active Taxpayer Lists (ATL) of FBR and KPRA.
3. A complete set of Bidding Documents comprising Terms and Conditions Specification and Evaluation Criteria can be obtained from the office of the undersigned on any working day from date of publication of this invitation in the newspaper till one day prior to closing date by submission of a fee (non-refundable) of Rs. 499 through CDR or online deposit in Allied Bank Account # 001005556550010 in favor of Educational Testing & Evaluation Agency (ETEA) along with a written request/application on the letter head of the bidder.
4. Bids shall reach to the office of the undersigned on or before the 20th June, 2023 10:00 AM. Bids shall be opened on the same date at the office of the Director (Admin/Finance) ETEA at 11:00 AM in the presence of the bidders or their authorized representatives who may like to attend.
5. Bids must be accompanied by a bid security of Rs.100,000/- in shape of CDR in favour of Educational Testing & Evaluation Agency (ETEA). Bids without appropriate bid security shall be declared as non-responsive.
6. ETEA reserves the right to cancel the bidding process by assigning cogent reasons. Advertisement is available on the websites of KPRA and ETEA as well.
DEPUTY DIRECTOR PROCUREMENT
(Educational Testing & Evaluation Agency (ETEA))
Plot # 22, Street # 13, Sector E-8, Phase-VII (Near Haji Complex), Hayatabad, Peshawar KPK, www.etea.edu.pk, Phone: 091-9219049-78

INF(P) 1125-23

COURT NOTICES

In the Court of Noor ul Ain Malik Civil Judge-II, Havelian, Abbottabad, Civil Suit No. 33/1 of 2022, Date of Institution: 21-02-2023, Date of Hearing: 26-06-2023, Title of Case: Amjid Mehmood (Vs) Shehla Javed (Others), Mst. Shehla Javed Daughter of Muhammad Javed Resident of House No. 50-A Street No. 22, Temple Road Mazang Lahore. To, The service of the above named defendant is not possible through ordinary means. Therefore, he is directed through this publication notice to appear before this court in person or through attorney or through counsel on 26-06-2023 at 09:30 AM. Otherwise proceedings will be conducted in your absence. Given under my hand and seal of the court, this 24-06-2023.

In the Court of Saima Ehsan Civil Judge II/Allaqa Qazi Buner at Daggar. Case No.50/1. Institution 1/3/2023. Date of hearing. 19/6/2023. Rafiq Zada VS Wazer Zada. Notice to no 2/7/2. Haron Zada s/o Farooq Zada. 7/3. Nisar Ahmed. 5/6. Muner Ahmed sons of Tehman Zdagay resident of Bazargay thesels Gadezai district Buner. Whereas in the above mentioned case the mentioned defendants can not be served in the ordinary way, it is, therefore, proclaimed that if the said defendants will/shall not appear personally or through dually

authorized agent or pleader in the court at 8, am dated 19/6/2023 the proceeding will be taken ex-parte. Given under my hand and seal of this Court.

IN the Court of Saima Ehsan Civil Judge II/Allaqa Qazi Buner at Daggar. Case No.224/1. Institution 5/4/2022. Date of hearing. 19/6/2023. Ashtar Khan etc VS Ayoub Khan etc. Notice to no 9/2. Abdul Hamed Khan. 9/3. Abdali Khan. 9/4. Sarbali Khan sons of Gulzar Khan. 18/1. Sher Rehman 18/2. Bakht Talab Khan. 18/4. Behroz Khan. 18/6. Majid Khan sons of Shah Zaren. 32/4. Norshad. 32/6. son of Shad sons of Gul Zaren. 35/2. Sajad s/o Sherzada. 46. Mumtaz Khan s/o Mer Shad. 54. Mushatq s/o Quresh. 55. Wiqar s/o Quresh. 62. Akbar Husain. 63. Adil sons of Nazer Ahmed. 41/2. Rehmani Gul. 41/1. Mohamad Akbar sons of Khaista Gul. 44/2/1. Tariq. 44/2/3. Azam. 44/2/2. Tahir sons of Mumtaz. 51/1. Laiq Zada s/o Mst Shuaiba resident of Malakpur thesels Gadezai district Buner. Whereas in the above mentioned case the mentioned defendants can not be served in the ordinary way, it is, therefore, proclaimed that if the said defendants will/shall not appear personally or through dually authorized agent or pleader in the court at 8, am dated 19/6/2023 the proceeding will be taken ex-parte. Given under my hand and seal of this Court.

Government of Pakistan
NATIONAL DATABASE AND REGISTRATION AUTHORITY
(Regional Head Office Peshawar - Khyber Pakhtunkhwa)
RENTAL OFFICE SPACE REQUIRED
FOR NADRA Offices, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa
(Tender Notice No. 2023/Estate/2 x DAUs)
OFFICE ACCOMMODATION WILL HAVE FOLLOWING FEATURES:

- Office Accommodation should be in the vicinity of below mentioned locations:-

S No.	NADRA Registration Center	Required Covered Area
1.	Salarzai, (Tehsil Salarzai, District Bajaur)	2000-3500 sq ft
2.	Khwazakhela, (Tehsil Khwazakhela, District Swat)	
- Space measuring of total covered area as mentioned above against each NADRA Registration Center along with public and staff washrooms.
- Prominent, having independent entrance and proposed building should not be in residential area.
- Security wise viable location and easily accessible by public transport.
- Dedicated 3 Phase Electrical Meter / Connection
- Preference will be given to the building in which dedicated transformer is installed.
- Tap Water facility along with overhead tank.
- Ramp for wheel chair for disable citizens.
- Space, NOC for installation of direction board, sign board and heavy generator.
- Roof top for satellite dish antenna installation.
- Proper outer shutter / door.
- Sufficient space for maintaining the public queue & parking area.
- Tenancy for a longer period (atleast 10 years).

Note: - Interested parties / owners can purchase the bidding documents on submission of a written application at a cost of **Rs. 100/-** from below mentioned address or from concerned offices between **09:00 am - 03:00 pm** hours (except gazette holidays). The bids / proposal should be submitted duly completed in all respects by **20 Jun, 2023 at 11:00 am hours (under Single Stage-Two Envelope bidding procedure)**. The envelopes shall be clearly marked as **Technical and Financial** proposals. Technical bids / proposals will be Opened on **20 Jun, 2023 at 11:30 am hours** at NADRA Regional Head Office, EOBI Building, Plot No. 31 Sector B-1, Phase-V Hayatabad Peshawar in presence of bidders/their nominated representatives. Bid / proposals must include the following documents in addition to any other information that the bidder may find necessary:-

Technical Bid (Separate Envelope):

- Photocopy of property ownership documents, of building (recently attested by concerned department) offered on rental basis to NADRA.
- Photocopy of valid CNIC, NTN, GST & SST.
- Completion and Fitness Certificate of the building
- Undertaking on Non-judicial stamp paper of Rs. 100/- certifying that owner / building is not temporary / permanently debarred from any Government agency / authority / department (without bearing any responsibility on NADRA whatsoever in this regard).
- Pictures of the building offered for lease.
- Valid Site Plan / Map of the building duly approved from concerned authority.
- In case of absence of owner, authority letter for representative duly signed by property owner, permitting him to attend tender process.

Financial Bid (Separate Envelope):

- Owner's consent showing monthly rent & offered area of the building.
- Quoted price shall be inclusive of all taxes, except GST / SST, which shall be mentioned separately.
- No brokerage / service charges will be paid in case of real estate agent.
- Opening date / time of **Financial Proposal** will be informed to all successful bidders of General Proposal Evaluation.
- Bidding documents received after submission of due date / time mentioned above, will not be entertained.
- NADRA reserves the right to reject all bids / proposals under PPRA Rule 33 and can cancel the bidding process before acceptance of bid or proposal.
- Bid can also be rejected if owner of selected building fail to produce acceptable required / property documents.
- This advertisement is also available on PPRA website at www.ppra.org.pk

For any query contact on following address: PID(I) 7476/22

Director (Admin)
NADRA Regional Head Office, Peshawar - Khyber Pakhtunkhwa
EOBI Building, Plot No. 31 Sector B-1, Phase-V Hayatabad Peshawar | Telephone: 091-9217840

DIRECTORATE GENERAL
MINES & MINERALS, KHYBER PAKHTUNKHWA
ATTACHED DEPARTMENT NEAR JUDICIAL COMPLEX, KHYBER ROAD, PESHAWAR CANTT.
Phone: 091-9210244 - Fax No. 9211140 Website: www.kpminerals.gov.pk
AUCTION NOTICE No. # 34 (EMERALD)
Open auction for the grant of mining lease for Emerald for non-renewable period of 10 years as per Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Mines and Minerals Act, 2017 in respect of following area with call deposit & reserve price mentioned will be held in the office of the Director General Mines & Minerals Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Khyber Road Peshawar on **10/07/2023** at 10:00 AM and Last date for form submission is **04/07/2023**, in case the auction not conducted due to any reason the same will be held on next working day.

Sl. No.	File No.	Acreage and location	Call Deposit	Reserve price
01	DGMM/ST/ML(SS)Emerald (0583)/2022	208.468 acres near village Sugalai Kabal District Swat.	Rs. 15 million	Rs. 150 million

TERMS & CONDITIONS:

- Interested person, firm or company shall submit application on the prescribed Form duly accompanied with the Treasury Challan of **Rs. 10,000/- (non-refundable)** as application fee must be deposited in any branch of **Bank of Khyber**.
- The Call Deposit in favor of Director General Mines and Minerals, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa must be deposited in any branch of **Bank of Khyber** OR the amount of call deposit must be deposited in the account No. **00662008140092** Bank of Khyber Warsak Road Branch Peshawar.
- Before applying for participating in Auction proceeding, all interested parties are advised to visit the area of interest and check for mineral potential of the advertised area. After auction / award of area, any claim of the party shall not be entertained.
- The auction plan / sketch can be downloaded from the Department Official Website. www.kpminerals.gov.pk.
- Application form complete in all respect shall be submitted in the office of Director General Mines & Minerals on or before **04/07/2023** before the closing hours.
- The area will be auctioned on "as is where is" basis.
- Black listed/default person, firm or company shall not be allowed to participate in the auction.
- Eligible applicant/participant shall participate in auction in person or through their authorized representative.
- The Licensing Authority has the power to accept or reject the bid on grounds to be recorded in writing.
- The successful bidder / person shall deposit 10% of the bid amount as Security, 25% of the bid amount as 1st installment, deposit annual rent, withholding Tax, professional Tax, KPRA Tax, demarcation fee, mining lease application fee, cost of plan and other government dues on the prescribed rates within fortnight of the issuance of offer letter.
- The successful bidder / person shall also submit Application for mining lease on the prescribed form alongwith the requisite formalities.
- The successful bidder/person shall also execute a mineral agreement with the Licensing Authority or its Authorized officer as per rules.
- If the successful bidder fails to comply with the terms and conditions of offer letter within the stipulated time, his call deposit shall be forfeited in favour of government and the 2nd highest bidder shall be considered as the highest bidder subject to the condition that the difference between the 1st and 2nd highest bid is not more than 10% of the 1st highest bid.
- If the 2nd highest bidder also fails to comply with the terms and conditions of offer letter within specified time limit his call deposit shall be forfeited in favour of government.
- The lease shall be for a period of 10 years (Non-renewable) and shall take effect from the date of issuance of allotment letter.
- On issuance of the allotment letter, the lessee shall deposit the remaining bid amount as per clause (7) of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Minerals Auction Rules, 2022. In case of lessee fails to pay the bid amount in specified time limit, a fine at the rate of one percent (1%) of the due amount per month shall be imposed until all outstanding dues are cleared as per clause (8) of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Minerals Auction Rules 2022.
- All the forest areas have already been declined. However, if any forest land/area is found overlapped with the auctioned area, the same portion shall be declined.
- The lessee shall abide with the provisions of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Mines and Minerals Act, 2017 and rules as well as directions issued by the Licensing Authority or its authorized officer from time to time.
- If restraining orders are received from any Authority / Court, the auction of the said area will be held in abeyance by displaying a notice on the notice board of the Directorate.
- The interested parties may visit the Directorate General Mines and Minerals for further information on any working day before the closing date.

Assistant Director (Coordination), Secretary Auction Committee
Directorate General Mines & Minerals Khyber Pakhtunkhwa
INF(P) 1121/23

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER (CENTER)
PUBLIC HEALTH ENGG; DEPTT: KHYBER PAKHTUNKHWA, PESHAWAR
PH#091-9217528, E-mail: centrephepd@gmail.com, Plot#40, Sector-B-II, Phase-V, Hayatabad, Peshawar
ADVERTISEMENT

Public Health Engineering Department, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa needs online applications of eligible candidates of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa for the following regular posts as per prescribed requirement/qualifications.

S. No	Position	Requirements/qualification	Nos. of Posts	Zonal Allocation	Age Limit
1	Tracer (BPS-07)	(a) Matric from recognized Board (b) 6-9 months survey course from recognized Board of Technical education	10	a) Zone-1 =2 b) Zone-2 =2 c) Zone-3 =2 d) Zone-4 =2 e) Zone-5 =1 f) Zone-6 =1	18-30
2	Draftsman (BPS-12)	(a) 2nd Division Secondary School Certificate from a Recognized Board; and (b) Two Years duration Certificate course in Civil Draftsmanship from a Recognized Board of Technical Education.	04	a) Zone-1 =1 b) Zone-2 =1 c) Zone-3 =1 d) Zone-4 =1	18-30
3	Sub Engineers (BPS-12)	Diploma of Associate Engineering (Civil) from a recognized Technical board.	24	a) Zone-1 =4 b) Zone-2 =4 c) Zone-3 =4 d) Zone-4 =4 e) Zone-5 =3 f) Zone-6 =3	18-30
4	Sub Engineers (BPS-12)	Diploma of Associate Engineering (Civil) from a recognized Technical board.	15	Women Quota only	18-30

TERMS & CONDITIONS.

- Candidates will be provisionally allowed to appear in the ETEA screening test. However detailed scrutiny will be carried out by the appointing authority and if any candidate is found ineligible in any respect at any stage of the recruitment process, he/she will be disqualified by the Appointing Authority. 2. Interview calls letter will be issued to short listed candidates only. 3. Short listing will be based on ESTA Code. 4. Candidates should be eligible in all respects by the last date of receipt of the applications. 5. Incomplete applications and applications received after due dates will not be entertained. 6. Relaxation of age will be admissible as per existing Govt. Rules. 7. The candidates working in Government / Semi-Government bodies should apply through proper channel. 8. Candidates intending to apply for more than one post shall apply separately for each post with separate fee. 9. Competent Authority reserves the right to increase/decrease the number of vacancies or cancel/reject any application without assigning any reason. 10. No TA/DA will be admissible for test/interview. 11. In case of foreign degree, equivalent certificates from HEC must be provided. 12. Errors/Omissions in number of posts are subject to rectification.

HOW TO APPLY:

- Interested candidates may first visit www.etea.edu.pk and apply for the posts online. 2. After successful submission of online application, a prescribed online deposit slip (having token number, Project code & candidates personal information) will be generated. 3. Take a printout of the generated deposit slip & deposit the prescribed test fee (nonrefundable) in any branch of UBL Bank at UBL OMNI agent Easypaisa app or agent. 4. After successful fee submission, please keep the original deposit slip (candidate copy) having bank desired stamp with yourself and do not share it with anyone else. 5. After online apply, don't send documents/testimonials to ETEA office, copies of testimonials/documents will however, be provided by the candidates who qualify the screening test, as and when required by ETEA or the Appointing Authority for scrutiny purposes. 6. Availability of online Application Form on www.etea.edu.pk on 12-06-2023. 7. Last date for submission of online Application is 30-06-2023. 8. Candidates will be informed through SMS by ETEA to download and Print their Roll No. Slips from www.etea.edu.pk. Candidates are directed to do not give ported/converted mobile number. 9. Test Date, Time & Venue will be mentioned on Roll No. Slip. 10. No separate Call Letter will be issued to candidates for screening test through postal/courier means.

NOTE /IMPORTANT

- Please keep your documents and passport size scanned picture (soft copy) with you at the time of online applies.
- Read the instructions thoroughly before filling the online application form.
- ETEA shall verify deposited fee at any stage. If your payment is not verified, your candidature shall be rejected.
- Fee deposited on someone else CNIC shall not be verified.
- Unclaimed qualification will not be accepted.
- Keep the bank printed receipt safe with yourself and do not share it with anyone else.
- Applications of all those candidates who do not give correct information while filling the online application form, will not be rejected only, but would be proceeded against and strict action shall be taken against them.

INF(P) 1040 / 23
Chief Engineer (Center)
Public Health Engg; Department, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa



In brief

Smith turns out to be Babar, Afridi's admirer

LAHORE (Web Desk): Australian cricketer Steve Smith turned out to be an admirer of Pakistan skipper Babar Azam and pacer Shaheen Shah Afridi ahead of the bilateral tournament. The Team Green will travel to Australia later this year to participate in the Benaud-Qadir Trophy. The three Tests, which are part of the third World Test Championship cycle, will be played at Melbourne, Perth, and Sydney in December and January. Mr Smith admired the Pakistani players in a video shared by the Cricket Australia (CA) on Twitter. Talking about skills of the Pakistan's captain, he said: "Babar Azam is a wonderful player. The last few years he's got better and better. He's someone we have to look out for. He's dangerous, he makes big scores and he usually does it at a pretty good pace as well". Regarding Afridi, Smith said: "Shaheen Shah Afridi, he came out here last series. Since then, he's got better and better. The ability to swing it back is obviously a big key for him so he's certainly one we'll have to look out for this year".

An advances to Thailand Open

BANGKOK (AFP): Badminton women's singles world number two An Se-young on Friday booked a semi-finals berth against a formidable Carolina Marin in the Thailand Open. The 21-year-old South Korean young gun – who won the All England Open in March – polished off China's Han Yue in straight sets 21-16, 21-18 at the Huamark indoor stadium in Bangkok. "I'm so happy," An told reporters, adding that the match had been difficult because of a strong court drift and slippery floor. Spaniard Marin – the Rio Olympic gold medalist – outshone Canada's Michelle Li 21-19, 21-12 to storm into the semis. Ranked sixth in the world, Marin in recent years faced an epic road to recovery from a devastating knee injury that ruled her out of the Tokyo Olympics and denied her the chance to defend her title. Local hope Pompeaw Chochuwong struggled to find consistency against Chinese powerhouse He Bingjiao, going down 10-21, 19-21. Fifth-ranked He will meet Mia Blichfeldt from Denmark on Saturday after she bulldozed Singapore's Yeo Jia Min 21-11, 21-9 in 34 minutes. In the men's singles draw, Hong Kong's Lee Cheuk Yiu came from nine points down in the second to seal a nail-biting 21-19, 23-21 victory against Malaysia's Ng Tze Yong. Frenchman Toma Junior Popov will face Lee on Saturday after he beat India's Kiran George 21-16, 21-17 in a tightly fought contest. India's Lakshya Sen – who claimed a Commonwealth gold medal last year – swiftly disposed of Leong Jun Hao from Malaysia 21-19, 21-11. Sen will meet world number five Kunlavut Vitidsarn, who delighted Thai fans with a thrilling come-from-behind 18-21, 21-14, 21-11 win over China's 13th-ranked Lu Guang Zu.

Ronaldo 'happy' in Saudi Arabia

RIYADH (INP): Cristiano Ronaldo conceded he did not expect to finish the season empty-handed at Al Nassr but the Portuguese forward says he is happy in Saudi Arabia and hopes other big-name players will follow him to the league for the next campaign. Ronaldo signed a 2-1/2 year contract estimated by media to be worth more than 200 million euros (\$220.16 million) with Al Nassr, making his debut in January.



PARIS: Elina Svitolina of Ukraine celebrates a point against Anna Blinkova in the Women's Singles Third Round match on Day Six of the 2023 French Open.

French Open 2023

Djokovic battles past Davidovich Fokina, Andrey Rublev out

PARIS (Agencies): Novak Djokovic successfully navigated a tricky encounter with Alejandro Davidovich Fokina to continue his quest for a record 23rd men's Grand Slam singles title at the French Open.

The animated Serb, seeded third, beat the Spaniard 7-6 (7-4) 7-6 (7-5) 6-2. He will face Polish 13th seed Hubert Hurkacz or Peru's Juan Pablo Varillas in the fourth round.

Earlier, seventh seed Andrey Rublev was knocked out after letting slip a two-set lead against Lorenzo Sonego.

Italian Sonego won a five-set thriller 5-7 0-6 6-3 7-6 (7-5) 6-3 on the Roland Garros clay. It was a shock defeat for Russia's world number seven Rublev, who has reached the quarter-finals in his last three Grand Slam appearances.

World number 48 Sonego will play 11th seed Karen Khachanov next.

After losing the first two sets, Sonego started playing more aggressively and pulled back the third set before winning a tie-break

in the fourth to force a decider. He broke Rublev's serve to go 5-4 up and serve for the match, sealing it when the Russian volleyed into the net on Sonego's first match point.

The victory is Sonego's first against a top-10 player at a Grand Slam, while it is the first time Rublev has been defeated after being 2-0 up. Earlier on Friday, Russia's Khachanov came through his third-round match in four sets, beating Australian Thanasi Kokkinakis 6-4 6-1 3-6 7-6 (7-5).

Jessica Pegula beaten in straight sets by Elise Mertens: Jessica Pegula became the highest-ranked women's player to exit the 2023 French Open to date as she was emphatically beaten by Elise Mertens.

American third seed Pegula, a quarter-finalist in Paris last year, struggled in a 6-1 6-3 defeat. Belgian 28th seed Mertens will face Russian Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova in the fourth round.

Pegula's time at Roland Garros is not over as she is

through to the women's doubles second round with Coco Gauff. The pair reached the final in 2022, and the semi-finals at the Australian Open earlier this year.

Pegula, whose preparations for the French Open were derailed by food poisoning, was the 21st seed to exit the women's singles inside six days of action.

Friday proved a much easier day for Belarusian world number two Aryna Sabalenka, however, as she comfortably defeated Russian Kamilla Rakhimova 6-2 6-2.

Sabalenka, crowned Australian Open champion in January, will take on Sloane Stephens in the fourth round, after the American beat Yulia Putintseva 6-3 3-6 6-2.

Ninth seed Daria Kasatkina also progressed, making light work of American Peyton Stearns in a 6-0 6-1 win. The Russian will face Ukraine's Elina Svitolina next, after she came from behind to defeat Anna Blinkova – also of Russia – 2-6 6-2 7-5.

KP showed outstanding performance in National Games, Syed Aqil Shah

Shahid Khan Afridi

PESHAWAR: President Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Olympic Association Syed Aqil Shah has said that Khyber Pakhtunkhwa showed outstanding performance in the history of National Games that held recently in Baluchistan.

Talking to Media persons he said athletes had made us all proud by showing performance beyond expectations, middle winners would be awarded with cash prize and a function will be held in their honor at chief minister house. Syed Aqil Shah said that "Had fund been provided on time to Olympic Association, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa would have been on the top among the provinces."

He said organizing games was not the responsibility of the Directorate of Sports, Olympic association has to organize the games. "Football Federation was not present at the 34th National Games, so the football event should have been played" he said and congratulated the two girl players of Sindh for winning the gold medal in swimming and said that these girls played an important role in taking their province one step top of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Describing the circumstances, he told that despite less expectation Khyber



Pakhtunkhwa won 49 medals in which most were individual medals.

We had a squad of 437 and defeated players from Baluchistan and Punjab, KP secured 7th position because of swimming, otherwise it would have been at the sixth position. He further said that inter-provincial games will be played in Peshawar, for which preparations were under way, Chief Minister had assured cooperation in this regard.

he said it is also very important to equip Lala Ayub Hockey Stadium with international facilities, inquiry should be conducted in laying a sub-standard Astro turf. He said that inquiry committee has been formed for fact finding of low performance of different associations in national games, committee consisting of Zulfiqar Butt, Haji

Amjad, Ilyas Afridi and Sara Khan. Many players were issued accreditation cards without permission of KP Olympic.

He said that training camp should have been started six months before the Games, Pakistan Olympic Association should change the tabulation method. He said that had there been inter district games, then KP performance would have been better, departments first should take NOC from the province then player should be offered employment.

He said that Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Olympic Association has the right to compete in sports and it should get shooting range, velodrome for cycling, two swimming pools, hot water facility and more sports gymnasiums should be constructed in Peshawar.

Javeria Khan, Noreen Yaqoob, Saima Malik lead Challengers to final

E.P. Report

KARACHI: Half-century from Javeria Khan and three-fifties by Noreen Yaqoob and Saima Malik led Challengers to a thrilling seven-run win over Dynamites at the State Bank Stadium on Friday.

This was Challengers' second successive win in the one-day phase of the Pakistan Cup Women's Cricket Tournament and the first defeat for table toppers Dynamites.

The win means both Challengers and Dynamites will meet again in the final of the tournament on Sunday, 4 June at the same venue which will be live-streamed on PCB's YouTube channel.

After being put into bat, Omaira Sohail-led Challengers managed 160 for seven in 45 overs. Experienced right-handed opening batter Javeria Khan top-scored with 83 off 126 balls, hitting six boundaries. The only notable partnership in the innings came from Javeria



and Fareeha Mehmood (29, 50b, 2x4s) as the two added 75 runs for the fifth wicket.

For Dynamites, Nashra Sundhu bagged two wickets for 25 from nine overs.

In turn, Dynamites opening pair Khadija Chishti (15, 37b, 1x4) and captain Sidra Amin (36, 53b, 7x4s) provided a 43-run start to the innings. After the departure of Khadija, Aima Saleem soon followed Khadija – both batters were dismissed by left-arm spinner Saima as Dynamites

were 48 for two in 14.2 overs. At that moment of the match, experienced all-rounder Aliya Riaz joined Sidra Amin in the middle and both knitted 26 runs for the third wicket.

After the departure of Sidra, Aliya held one end intact, but at the other end, the batters continued to return back to the hut as Dynamites lost the remaining seven wickets for 79 runs and were bowled out for 153 in 40.3 overs.

Aliya put up a fight with

61 off 76 deliveries, hitting four fours and three sixes.

For the winning team, Saima and off-spinner Noreen bagged three wickets apiece. Another off-spinner Omaira took two wickets for 28.

At the conclusion of the round matches of the one-day phase, Dynamites topped the table with three wins from four matches. Challengers ended up taking the second spot with two wins from four outings, while Muneeba Ali-led Blasters ended at the third spot with one win from four matches.

Scores in brief:
Challengers beat Dynamites by seven runs
Challengers 160-7, 45 overs (Javeria Khan 83, Fareeha Mehmood 29; Nashra Sundhu 2-25)
Dynamites 153 all out, 40.3 overs (Aliya Riaz 61, Sidra Amin 36; Noreen Yaqoob 3-21, Saima Malik 3-29, Omaira Sohail 2-28)
Player of the match – Javeria Khan (Challengers).

WSF World Jr Squash C'ships teams announced

ISLAMABAD (APP): Young squash stars from 33 national federations would descend on Melbourne, Australia, for next month's WSF World Junior Championships from July 18 to 29, following the confirmation of squads.

Athletes from all over the world would compete in the WSF World Junior Championships, which will take place at Melbourne Sports Centres (MSAC) and include junior men's and women's individual championships, as well as the junior women's team championship, said a press release.

Across the two individual events and the women's team event, there have been 245 entries.

Hosts Australia, winners of three women's world junior team championships, as well as boasting five individual winners (three women and two men) would be hoping for a repeat of the last time they hosted the event, in Sydney 1995, when Rachael Grinham, Emma Major, Kate Major and Narelle Tippet lifted the women's team trophy.

Standing in their way would be formidable opponents, though, with likely top seeds Egypt winners of the last seven women's junior team championships, which have not been held since 2019 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

In the individuals, the North African nation would be hoping to reclaim the men's title, with Netherlands' Rowan Damming ending a run of three consecutive wins for Egypt last year in France, while Amina Orfi will look to secure an 11th consecutive championship for her country by defending her women's individual title.

Elsewhere, Scotland return to the team event for the first time since 2005.

The Competing National Federations, 2023 WSF World Junior Squash Championships-Men's Individual Championship: Australia, Canada, Chinese Taipei, Colombia, Ecuador, Egypt, England, France, Germany, Hong Kong, China, India, Ireland, Japan, Kuwait, Lithuania, Macau-China.

Women's Individual Championship: Australia, Canada, Chinese Taipei, Egypt, England, France, Germany, Hong Kong, China, India, Ireland, Japan, Korea, Macau-China, Malaysia, Malta, New Zealand.

Women's Team Championship: Australia, Canada, Chinese Taipei, Egypt, England, Hong Kong, China, India, Ireland, Malaysia, New Zealand, Scotland, Singapore, South Africa, USA.

Quaid-e-Azam National C'ship 2023 kicks off

ISLAMABAD (APP): The 1st Quaid-e-Azam National Championship 2023 kicked off here at the Mushaf Squash Complex on Friday.

Pakistan Squash Federation (PSF) was organizing the Quaid-e-Azam National Championship which includes 13 age categories. The Senior Men, Senior Women, Boys U-19 and Girls U-19 events would be organized as PSF National Championship with US\$ 1,000. A large number of players from across the country have entered their Names to test their skills.

In the first round matches of the championship played, 1st Round (Men Senior Satellite Event), Farhan Zaman beat Abdul Waqar 11/7, 11/3, 11/5 18 min, Arbab Aizaz beat Anas Khan 11/9, 11/7, 11/9 20 min, Faraz beat Asher butt 3-0 11/6, 11/1, 11/3 16 min, Waqar Mehboob beat Fahad Sharif 11/7, 11/6, 11/4 15 min, Shahab Khan

beat Ibrahim Mohib 11/7, 8/11, 11/9, 11/4 29 min, Mutaahir Ali beat Waqas 11/8, 11/7, 11/7 25 min, Khoshal Riaz beat Abdullah Nadeem 7/11, 11/9, 11/8, 11/6 22 min, Shayan W/O against Zeeshan Malik, Komail Tariq beat Noor Zaman 11/7,11/9,9/11,9/11 20 min, Khaqan Malik beat Nawab Shah 11/6,11/8,11/3 22 min, Varun Asif beat M v f a r h a n 11/8,6/11,3/11,11/7,11/3 42 min, Abdullah Nawaz beat Jawad Ali Khan 11/7,11/3,11/8 15 min, M Ahammad beat Bilal Zakir 11/7,12/10,11/5, 24 min, Usman Nadeem beat M Junaid Khan 11/7,11/8,12/10 20 min, Yasin Khatak beat M Baber 11/5,8/11,11/5,11/3, 31 min, Mehmood Mehboob beat Cavish Farukh 11/8,11/8,12/14,11/6 29 min.

In the first Round (Women Satellite Event), Umm e Kulsoom beat Naheed Faiz 11/1,11/2,11/5

15 min, Amna Malik beat Zymal Khan 11/5,11/3,11/4 16 min, Noor ul Ain beat Anusha 11/1,11/1,11/1 6 min, Maryam Malik beat Sahar Noor 11/1,11/1,11/0 10 min, Amna Fayyaz W/O against Rida Hussain, Saima Shoukat beat Sehrish Ali 11/5,11/6,10/12,11/9 20 min, Kainat Amir beat Tayyaba 11/4,11/8,11/6 12 min, Sadia Gul beat Zarlish Saifdar 11/1,11/4,11/3 13 min, Mehwish Ali beat Mashal Khan 11/4,11/2,11/2 11 min, Anum Mustafa beat Wajeeha Altaf 11/1, 11/0,11/5 12 min, Rushna Mehboob beat Zohra Abdullah 11/7,11/2,11/6 15 min, Luiza Aftab beat Mahnoor Ali 4/11,11/4,11/7,16/14 33 min, Komal Khan beat Sunzil Saifdar 11/3,11/5,11/4 12 min, Noor Ul Huda, Sana Bahdur and Zaynab Khan got a bye in the first round.

In 1st Round Women 35+, Amina beat Asma 11/2, 11/3, 11/1 12 min.

Zadran stars in Afghanistan's six-wicket win in first Sri Lanka ODI



H A M B A N T O T A (Agencies): Afghanistan opener Ibrahim Zadran starred with run-a-ball 98 in his team's six-wicket win against hosts Sri Lanka in the first of three one-day internationals on Friday.

Zadran and Rahmat Shah (55) top scored to steer the visitors to 269-4 in the 47th over after they won the toss and chose to field first in Hambantota.

Earlier Charith Asalanka top-scored with 91 to help Sri Lanka reach a below-par 268 all out after a shaky start pushed them to 84-3 inside 20 overs.

The 21-year-old Zadran was dismissed by Kasun Rajitha, who was Sri Lanka's most effective bowler on the day, and finished with 2-49 in his 10 over spell. Zadran raced to his half-century in just 35 balls and hit 11 fours and two sixes in his innings.

Both his sixes came against rookie pacer Matheesha Pathirana, who recently made a name for himself with noteworthy performances for the latest

IPL winners Chennai Super Kings. Wayward Pathirana finished with 1-66 in 8.5 overs of his debut ODI.

Zadran and Shah anchored the Afghan innings after other opener Rahmanullah Gurbaz fell for 14 in the sixth over. Mohammad Nabi (27) and Najibullah Zadran (7) remained unbeaten at the end to steer Afghanistan to victory. Sri Lanka's Lahiru Kumara took 1-21 in 4.3 overs as other Sri Lanka bowlers failed to make a dent. Zadran said it was "very tough to get out" close to his fourth century and praised his bowlers for "a very good job" to restrict Sri Lanka below 300.

"I wanted to finish the game and get a hundred but that's how it goes in cricket," he said after the game. "A target of 269 was a good score, but not that challenging. The ball was coming on to that bat and we just wanted to finish things off," he added.

Earlier, a 99-run stand between Asalanka and Dhananjaya de Silva for

the fifth wicket rescued the hosts. De Silva made 51 before being bowled by Nabi. Left-arm seamer Fazalhaq Farooqi (2-58) claimed the wickets of Dimuth Karunaratne and Kusal Mendis in his opening spell, and then Fareed Ahmad and Mujeeb ur Rahman made further inroads.

After the dismissal of De Silva, captain Dasun Shanaka added 32 runs for the sixth wicket with Asalanka, but bowler Noor Ahmad accounted for the skipper with a well-disguised googly. Dushan Hemantha backed up Asalanka well in a 48-run stand for the seventh wicket. He made 22.

Asalanka scored his 91 off 95 balls with 12 fours, before being run out in the last over. Sri Lanka will use the series as preparation for World Cup qualifiers this month in Zimbabwe.

Afghanistan are already through to the sport's show-piece event this year in India and will be testing their combinations.



In brief

IRSA releases 169,500 cusecs water

ISLAMABAD (APP): Indus River System Authority (IRSA) on Friday released 169,500 cusecs water from various rim stations with inflow of 198,600 cusecs. According to the data released by IRSA, water level in River Indus at Tarbela Dam was 1426.15 feet and was 28.15 feet higher than its dead level of 1,398 feet. Water inflow and outflow in the dam was recorded as 61,300 cusecs and 60,000 cusecs respectively. The water level in River Jhelum at Mangla Dam was 1128.20 feet, which was 78.20 feet higher than its dead level of 1,050 feet. The inflow and outflow of water was recorded 62,800 cusecs and 35,000 cusecs respectively. The release of water at Kalabagh, Taunsa, Guddu and Sukkur was recorded as 96,200, 81,900, 55,200 and 16,100 cusecs respectively. Similarly, from River Kabul, a total of 36,400 cusecs of water released at Nowshera and 21,600 cusecs released from River Chenab at Marala.

Power suspension programme

ISLAMABAD (APP): Islamabad Electric Supply Company (IESCO) on Friday issued a 2-day power suspension programme for Saturday and Sunday for various areas of its region due to necessary maintenance and routine development work. According to an IESCO Spokesman, the power supply of different feeders and grid stations would remain suspended for the period on Saturday From 09:00 AM to 02:00 PM, Khanna Road, River Garden 1 & 2, Swan Garden 2, Navel 1 & 2 Feeders. From 06:00 AM to 05:00 PM Birut Gala, Durbar Mai Toti, Khoi Rata City, Churohi Express, Dana Bhal, Churohi Dongi, Sri, City, Karijala, Jandrot Dabsi, Datot, Majajan, City-II, Charohi Feeders. On Sunday From 09:00 AM to 02:00 PM Park View, Pindi Board, Jail Park-1, Car Chowk, Mahboob Shaheed feeders and suburbs.

Summer vocational camp

RAWALPINDI (APP): Commissioner Rawalpindi Division, Liaquat Ali Chatha here on Friday inaugurated the summer vocational skills training camp in the Divisional Public School (DPS), Principal DPS, Muhammad Yasin Mirza, teachers and students were present on this occasion. The Commissioner while addressing the participants, said that skill and technical education were the need of the time. The students instead of wasting their precious time during summer vacations, should learn skills that would help eliminate unemployment, he said adding, vocational education leads to employment opportunities. In developed countries, the children are taught skills during vacations, the Commissioner said. The Commissioner said that the roles of teachers and parents were very important in motivating the students towards technical education, adding, good intentions are needed along with the vision. He said that today's skilled student was the guarantee of tomorrow's prosperous Pakistan. The children, who would successfully complete the program, would be awarded a scholarship of Rs 5000 each, the Commissioner added.



ISLAMABAD: A delegation of Lawyers from Punjab Bar Council called on Federal Minister for Law and Justice Senator Azam Nazir Tarar.

PPP supports extension in FATA/PATA tax exemption period: Kundi

ISLAMABAD (APP): Special Assistant to the Prime Minister (SAPM) on Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety, Faisal Karim Kundi Friday advocated the Pakistan People's Party (PPP) stance of supporting extension in the FATA/PATA tax exemption period considering the prevailing economic situation.

"PPP has a very clear stance with the government, federal cabinet and Finance Minister as a coalition partner to support the demand of the people of former Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA) and Provincially Administered Tribal Areas (PATA) for extension in the tax exemption period", he said. Speaking during a press conference along with PPP Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Provincial President, Syed Muhammad Ali Shah Bacha, the SAPM said that tax exemption was given to FATA/PATA at the time of merger with Khyber Pakhtunkhwa keeping in view the economic situation, which is extendable.

Faisal Kundi said that the PPP delegation, under the leadership of the provincial president, has visited the Radio Pakistan

building in Peshawar which was attacked and burnt by the PTI workers.

He condemned the workers of PTI who ransacked and set on fire the public and private properties including Radio Pakistan's building and stolen computers, electronic appliances, furniture, sound system, vehicles engines and other expensive items. He said that attack on the government and defense installations was a preplanned conspiracy by the PTI and demanded strict legal action against the miscreants involved in all such activities.

Faisal Kundi said that those who sold the gate of Radio Pakistan building for Rs. 9,00,000 were saying that they entered into politics against the thieves and dacoits". Commenting on the prevailing situation when PTI leaders are quitting party and from positions, Faisal Kundi said that may be people will see an advertisement from PTI soon seeking leaders.

Faisal Kundi said that a number of PTI leaders including the prominent ones have contacted PPP to join the party however the

PPP will welcome those who pursued politics of morality and obeyed the constitutional values. While "Entry is closed for those violating these basic principles of politics", he said. Speaking on the occasion, Minister of State for Water Resources, Syed Muhammad Ali Shah Bacha congratulated Malik Jawad Hussain for joining PPP and said that PPP had always given respect to its workers and we all will serve this country together.

The state minister hoped that the government would grant extension in the tax exemption for FATA/PATA which was granted in the year 2018 at the time of merger of these areas into Khyber Pakhtunkhwa through executive orders.

He criticized the former PTI government for bad governance and unprecedented corruption in the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa during its last around ten years tenure. Faisal Kundi congratulated former MNA, Malik Jawad Hussain, NA 47 Orakzai Agency on joining PPP, on the behalf of the President PPP, Asif Ali Zardari, Chairman PPP Bilawal Bhutto Zardari and other party members.

Pirzada rejects Western media reports about HR abuses against May 9 miscreants

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Human Rights Riaz Hussain Pirzada on Friday took exception to the Western media reports about human rights violations with regard to the arrests of miscreants involved in the May 9 mayhem. The minister, in a statement, said that like every civilized country in the world, action against the May 9 culprits was a legal requirement and also a matter of national security for Pakistan.

He said that on May 9, the "PTI [Pakistan

Tehreek-e-Insaf] goons attacked national and private properties, sensitive military installations and state symbols; set ambulances on fire after unloading patients, and burnt schools, hospitals and memorials of the martyrs". "For the desecration of the monuments and burning of the Jinnah House, and Radio Pakistan and its rare historical heritage, these goons are under investigation and will be punished according to the law of land," he stated.

The minister said such a crime was unpardonable

not only in Pakistan but across the globe, citing the elements involved in the attacks on Capitol Hill in the United States and the London riots were punished which was not termed human rights violations by the Western media.

He said without knowing the position of Pakistan and the relevant ministry, the news, articles, and analysis appearing in the Western media under an organized campaign were "unprofessional, one-sided, contrary to the facts, and biased".

International Day of innocent children victims of aggression to be marked on June 4

ISLAMABAD (APP): International Day of Innocent Children Victims of Aggression will be marked on June 4 (Sunday) across the globe including Pakistan, purpose of the day is to acknowledge the pain suffered by children throughout the world who are the victims of physical, mental and emotional abuse.

This day affirms the UN's commitment to protect the rights of children.

The International Day of Innocent Children Victims of Aggression celebrates the millions of individuals and organizations working to protect and preserve the rights of children. For example, the Global Movement for Children, with leadership from Nelson Mandela and Graca Machel, is an inspiring force for change that involves ordinary people and families worldwide. The "Say Yes for Children" campaign, endorsed by more than 94 million people, calls for 10 positive actions to be taken to improve the lives of children.

This day is a time for individuals and organizations all over the world to become aware of the impact of monstrosity of abuse, in all its forms, against children. It is also a time when organizations and indi-

viduals learn from or take part in awareness campaigns centered on protecting children's rights.

On 19 August 1982, at its emergency special session on the question of Palestine, the General Assembly, appalled at the great number of innocent Palestinian and Lebanese children victims of Israel's acts of aggression, decided to commemorate June 4 of each year as the International Day of Innocent Children Victims of Aggression. According to the United Nations in China, the statistics of child abuse include:

More than two million children killed in conflict in the last two decades.

About 10 million child refugees cared for by the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR).

In the Latin America and in the Caribbean region about 80 thousand children die annually from violence that breaks out within the family. Child abuse is now in the spotlight of global attention and the UN is working hard to help protect children around the world. One key factor is the process of international negotiation and action centered around the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Ministry of climate change playing its vital role

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: Ministry of climate change playing its vital role in mitigating environmental and climatic challenges throughout the country, in this regard MOCC has deployed its Three Monitoring teams to carry out monitoring of different plantation activities in AJ&K as previously in the valley. All the teams are professionally and technically strong carrying out the forest monitoring activities and interventions according to international set standards.

These teams are significantly contributing part in the course correction and capacity building of the field staff of the AJ&K forest department which shows the good gesture to produce best results in achieving set goals for the FY 2022-23 of the TBTP project. This cohesiveness and constructive monitoring will definitely lead in good progress, officials and staff say. Furthermore, the officials and staff of the AJ&K Forest department appreciated the monitoring protocols and procedures of the TBTP Teams.

Those organising press conferences will turn next election into selection: Rashid

RAWALPINDI (NNI): Awami Muslim League chief and former federal interior minister Sheikh Rashid Ahmed has said those who organise press conferences by twisting arms will turn the next election into a selection.

In a tweet on Friday, he suggested that the Islamabad Press Club should be declared a sub-jail for those holding press conferences to make it easy for journalists. The world would not accept next elections nor would anyone help Pakistan financially, he said. Sheikh Rashid suggested to put the constitution and law in the cold storage until the government finished all its cases and the fugitive criminals were there.

"The PDM has no idea of the disgrace and infamy [it is getting]," he added. The former minister predicted a PML-N faceoff with the PPP which will benefit the latter. He said the (Supreme Court) Practice and Procedure Bill had been sent back to the assembly just as it was passed with fanfare.

'Latest technology adoption needed in agriculture sector'

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Planning, Development, and Special Initiatives Professor Ahsan Iqbal on Friday stressed the need for adopting the latest techniques and technology in the agriculture sector to boost the economy.

Chairing a meeting on the government's key initiative "Agricultural Revolution 2.0," the minister highlighted the importance of increased production of crops, saying a revolution in this sector was needed to meet future challenges, said a press release issued here. He said, "Agriculture is the backbone of the national economy."

He said prompt measures were being taken to prevent the agriculture sector from the negative impacts of climate change, besides promoting research and introducing modern technology for getting better production.

The minister said the country had immense potential to further progress in the agriculture sector for which research was being promoted to increase the productivity of crops.

Ahsan Iqbal said there bright prospects for exporting agricultural commodities and livestock to China and Middle East countries. "New projects are being launched to promote research and modern technology," he added. Under the Agriculture Revolution 2.0 initiative, he said the government had planned to achieve self-sufficiency in the agriculture sector and promote exports of its products. "We have to generate billions of dollars in exports from the agricultural sector." Currently, he said, Pakistan was importing agricultural commodities worth \$10 billion annually.

Talha vows to continue struggle for release of Dr. Aafia Siddiqui

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony Senator Muhammad Talha Mahmood on Friday affirmed his unwavering commitment to secure the safe release of Dr. Aafia Siddiqui.

Dr. Siddiqui, a Pakistani scientist, has been serving an 86-year sentence in the United States (US) since her conviction by a federal court in New York in 2010 on charges of attempted murder and other offenses.

Currently receiving treatment in a federal medical prison in Texas, Dr. Siddiqui benefits from specialized medical and mental health facilities available to women inmates. Speaking to this premier news agency, Senator Talha revealed that in 2008, he had successfully met with Dr. Siddiqui at the Phantom Detention Centre in Dallas after fulfilling all necessary protocols. During their encounter, he engaged in a detailed discussion with her adding that at that time, it was a fresh incident and she sustained three bullet injuries. Since then, Dr. Siddiqui's sister, Dr. Fowzia Siddiqui, and mother, Ismat Siddiqui, had maintained consistent contact with him, he mentioned.

Highlighting his priori-

ties, Senator Talha emphasized his initial focus on locating Dr. Siddiqui's missing children and fighting the case in the US court, in a parallel way to efforts for her release. Notably, her children, Ahmed and Maryam, were discovered in Afghanistan under distressing conditions, he added.

To secure Dr. Siddiqui's freedom, the minister orchestrated protest demonstrations, pursued diplomatic channels through the foreign affairs and interior ministries, and successfully garnered unanimous support for resolutions in legislative forums, including the National Assembly and Senate. Disclosing a long-standing alignment between himself and Dr. Siddiqui's family, Senator Talha revealed that over the past 15 years, they had approached the situation with mutual understanding. Regrettably, due to pressing official commitments as the minister for religious affairs, he could not personally visit Dr. Siddiqui during the most recent trip to the US, despite planning to do so alongside her sister, Dr. Fowzia, he added.

Senator Talha, expressing his dissatisfaction with the treatment of Dr. Siddiqui's

case in the past, maintained that she could be absolved of all fabricated charges if her case was persistently and efficiently pursued.

He highlighted the significance of the newly appointed human rights lawyer, Clive Stafford Smith, who is advocating for her release based on Dr. Siddiqui's mental health condition. He firmly asserted that a patient in an unsound mental state should not be detained in prison under any law.

He, expressing disappointment over missed opportunities in the past, revealed that there were instances when Dr. Siddiqui's release from the US prison seemed possible, particularly during negotiations surrounding the releases of Dr. Shakil Afridi and Raymond Davis, as demanded by the US government.

Senator Talha, reiterating his ultimate goal of securing Dr. Siddiqui's release from US custody, emphasized that he had consistently provided genuine advice to Dr. Fowzia regarding the matter, reflecting his unwavering determination to see Dr. Siddiqui freed.

Call for collective responsibility to prioritize mental health, avoid suicide

ISLAMABAD (APP): Experts at a workshop stressed the need for collective responsibility and determination to prioritize mental health as a fundamental human rights concern.

Over 700,000 people worldwide take their own life each year by suicide, according to statistics reported by the World Health Organization (WHO).

These figures were shared by Dr Fayaz Amir, a mental health expert during a workshop held at the University of Chitral the other day in collaboration with the Ministry of Human Rights and the Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP). The consultative workshop brought together representatives from various organizations and departments to address the critical issue of mental health in our society. Dr Fayaz Amir delivered a comprehensive presentation on the causes of suicide. Another mental health expert Dr Amir presented the findings of a study conducted by Peshawar University, which reported 176 cases of suicide in Chitral between 2013 and 2019.

Zahid Rehan Niazi, Regional Director of the Ministry of Human Rights in Peshawar, provided an overview of the aims and objectives of the workshop, highlighting the importance of raising

awareness and formulating effective strategies to protect mental health as a fundamental human right. Nasar Khan, a lecturer at the Department of Sociology, University of Chitral, conducted another technical session focusing on the role of academia in preventing suicide.

He shed light on the responsibilities of educational institutions and shared insights on how academia can contribute to suicide prevention efforts.

Addressing the social aspects of suicide, Niaz A. Niazi, a prominent human rights activist from Chitral, presented various suggestions aimed at preventing suicide among youth.

He highlighted that while mental disorders can contribute to suicidal tendencies, there are several social issues that act as triggers. The religious perspective on suicide was presented by Fazal Maula, District Khateeb of Chitral, and Khaliq U Zaman, Khateeb Shahi Masjid Chitral.

They underscored that suicide is strictly prohibited in Islam and provided insights into Islamic teachings and principles related to mental well-being. Ibad Ur Reham, representing the Ismaili Tariqa and Religious board, presented solutions from an Islamic standpoint to address the underlying causes of suicide.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Overseas Pakistani & Human Resource Development Sajid Hussain Turi chairing a performance review meeting of WWF at Ministry of Overseas.

Fourth poliovirus case reported

BEHSUD (Agenices): The Ministry of Public Health (MoPH) in a press release announced that a new polio case in Behsud district of Nangarhar province was reported, bringing the total number of polio cases to four in the county in 2023. The case is a 48-month-old male child who had the onset of paralysis on 16 May 2023. As per the findings of health ministry, Nangarhar and the entire eastern parts of the country are facing a significant polio threat due to previous instances of environmental polio cases.

Congo fever kills a Physician

KABUL (Agenices): Taliban's head of the public health department in northern Jawzjan province said that a doctor died and five other healthcare employees were infected with Crimean-Congo Hemorrhagic Fever (CCHF). The provincial officials in northern Afghanistan have said that healthcare employees got infected with CCHF, also known as "Congo Fever" while coming in contact with infected patients.

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

EU-Central Asia
leaders meeting held



KABUL (TOLONews): The Heads of State of Central Asia and the President of the European Council met in Kyrgyzstan and participants discussed the situation in Afghanistan in addition to exchanging views on general issues of security, connectivity, climate, digital, and critical raw material, according to the joint press release.

According to the joint press release, the participants articulated common concern over the deteriorating situation in Afghanistan and reaffirmed their commitment to see Afghanistan develop into a secure, peaceful, stable, prosperous country. "In this regard, they recognized the efforts of the international community to assist the people of

Afghanistan in a principled manner and in accordance with international law and universally recognized norms and principles, despite difficult circumstances," the press release said.

Participants called on the international community to step up humanitarian assistance to the people of Afghanistan and noted the key role of the UN in providing humanitarian assistance to Afghanistan in a principled manner.

They underlined the importance of the establishment of an inclusive and representative government and the importance of promotion of and respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms of all Afghans citizens, in particular women, girls and ethnic groups, the press release said.

"In this respect, they noted the importance of the EU - Central Asia dialogue on Afghanistan, including the outcomes of the fourth meeting of the EU and Central Asia Special Representatives and Special Envoys for Afghanistan held on 25-26 May in Ashgabat," it said.

The Islamic Emirate has yet to react to the statement, but prior to the summit spokesman Zabiullah Mujahid told TOLONews that Kabul expects such meetings to discuss the relations of the interim government with the international community.

"The meetings that are being held in these countries should focus on improving relations with

Afghanistan. However the internal issues of Afghanistan, that belong to the Afghans, should not be mentioned by other countries," Mujahid said.

"The concerns of the world and regional countries causes gatherings. This is a step forward to save the people of Afghanistan from the current crisis, to rescue the people of Afghanistan from poverty," said Wais Naseri, political analyst.

On May 26, An EU-Central Asia meeting on Afghanistan was organized by EU Special Representative for Central Asia Terhi Hakala and EU special envoy for Afghanistan Tomas Niklasson and hosted by the Turkmenistan Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

UN to hold meeting on
Afghanistan later this month

KABUL (Agenices): Lana Nusseibeh, Permanent Representative of the United Arab Emirates to the United Nations, said that the UN is planning a meeting on the situation in Afghanistan on June 21.

"We have this month a regular meeting on the situation in Afghanistan scheduled for the 21st of June which will be informed by the Secretary General's recent latest report on the situation," she said. Speaking to reporters in New York, she said that the UN Security Council is going to keep focus on Afghanistan, in particular the position that the council expressed on women's rights.

"We are going to keep our focus on Afghanistan. In particular, the position that the council expressed on women's rights in Afghanistan was unequiv-



ocal," Nusseibeh said.

Meanwhile, the Islamic Emirate said that custody of the Afghan seat in the UN should be given to the interim Afghan government. "This is the right of the people of Afghanistan,

to have a seat in the UN, so that the people of Afghanistan can be represented there, and the Afghans can defend their rights," Mujahid said.

"It is the responsibility of the interim government to

take advantage of this part of the society in the workforce, I mean, the women," said Suraya Paikan, a women's rights activist. On May 2, UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres hosted a meeting on Afghanistan in Doha.

Army corps commander visits
Nimroz border checkpoints

NIMROZ (Agenices): The Ministry of National Defense of the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan (IEA) says that Alhaji Mullah Sharafuddin Taqi, the commander of the 215 Azam Army Corps, traveled to Nimroz province on Wednesday, at the head of a delegation and visited the 3rd and 5th border checkpoints located on the border with Iran.

The defense ministry said in a statement that the commander met with Nimroz officials, including the provincial police chief, and discussed the need to improve coordination between the forces and border protection.

Referring to the recent cross-border skirmish with Iran, the commander of the 215 Azam Army Corps said: "The Islamic Emirate



considers border protection its responsibility and is committed to establishing diplomatic relations with

neighboring countries." However, he called the forces the defenders of borders, territorial integrity

and independence of the country and promised to cooperate in solving their problems.

Islamic Emirate participates in Intl
union of railways meeting in Turkey

KABUL (TOLONews): The technical meeting of the Middle East section of the International Union of Railways was held in Türkiye with the presence of representatives of the Islamic Emirate.

Abdul Sami Durrani, spokesman of the Afghanistan Railway Authority, said that in this meeting the member countries pledged to cooperate with Afghanistan in the development of railways. "In the meeting, member countries pledged to cooperate with Afghanistan in the development of railways, regional connections, and employee training," said Abdul Sami Durrani.



Meanwhile, the Chamber of Commerce and Investment said that the expansion of railways will reduce the cost of transporting commercial goods in the country.

"If this is done, we can get 2-2.5 billion dollars

annually from this transit of Central Asian and South Asian countries," said Khanjan Alokozai, a member of the ACCI.

Some traders said the expansion of the railway will be beneficial for the growth of the country's

exports. "Railways are one of the most essential elements for our country's exports, increasing exports and finally bringing our products to international markets..." said Mahboob Ullah Mohammadi, a trader.

Currently, Afghanistan is connected to Iran, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan by railway, and it is expected to be connected with Pakistan with the implementation of the Afghanistan-Trans railway project.

30 Afghan students off to
Kazakhstan to continue their studies

KABUL (Agenices): The Ministry of Higher Education said on Thursday that 30 Afghan students will soon leave for Kazakhstan where they will continue their studies in bachelor's, master's and doctoral degrees.

At a meeting with the students held at the Ministry of Higher Education, Mufti Mohammad Tahir Ahmad, the deputy minister of student affairs, expressed his gratitude to Kazakhstan for awarding scholarships to Afghans and emphasized the need to strengthen relations with the countries in the scientific and academic sectors.

Ahmad said the students were ambassadors of their country and stated that: "Besides preserving your religious and national values, you must also respect the laws and culture of the



host country. Pay more attention to your learning and knowledge."

He added that: "The eyes of hope of the people and the system are fixed on you, so that after acquiring science and knowledge, you will play your part in the development of your country." Dr. Nazar Mohammad Irfan, the head of foreign rela-

tions and scholarship regulation of the Ministry of Higher Education, also addressed the students and said Kazakhstan was among the countries that stood by the people of Afghanistan in difficult times and continued their cooperation in various sectors, especially higher education. He also asked the students to make the

most of this opportunity and build their country with their own hands.

Mohammad Ashraf Ghairat, the academic vice president of Kabul University, spoke about the value of science and knowledge and the objectives of the Ministry of Higher Education in the area of education and training of young staff from the perspective of the holy religion of Islam and religious beliefs, and asked the students to make the basis and focus of all their activities on "Islamic belief".

According to the ministry, 256 people took part in a scholarship selection exam, and 30 students were chosen. They will pursue bachelor's, master's and doctoral degrees in the fields of economics, computer science, law, physics, biology and chemistry.

Profile: Child laborers work in
brick factory to support families

KABUL (TOLONews): Children in Kabul due to economic challenges facing their families are working in brick factories.

The children asked the Islamic Emirate to address the economic problems of their families and provide an education for them.

"In other countries, children are studying but here we cannot, so we call on the government to provide an education for us," said Roshan, a child laborer working in the factory.

"Our future is destroyed. we are all children working here in this brick factory,"

said Feroz, a child laborer working in the factory.

Sujad, 11, is working in a brick factory in the Deh Sabz district of Kabul and said that because of economic challenges he has to work with his father.

"My father is sick, and we work here morning

until night, we call on the government to help us," said Sujad. "We call on the government to allow girls to study and to become doctors," said Zarena, sister of Sujad. "My father is sick and cannot support our family, and we ask the Islamic Emirate to provide education for us so we can serve our country," said Merwis, a brother of Sujad.

Meanwhile, the Ministry of Economics said that efforts are underway to provide an education for children with the cooperation of foreign organizations.

"We are trying to provide education with the cooperation of foreign organizations so they can have an important role in the progress of their country," said Abdul Latif Nazari, deputy of the Ministry of Economy. The United Nations reported that 28 million people in Afghanistan need help and among them, 6 million are faced with famine.



Enemy Forces Cannot Sour
Iran-Afghanistan Ties: Iranian FM

KABUL (Agenices): The Iranian Foreign Minister said that any attempt by adversary forces to sour relations between Iran and

Afghanistan could be overcome by the countries' shared history and culture.

Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir

Abdollahian, in an interview with IRIB, talked about the recent skirmishes between the Taliban and Iranian border guards,

which resulted in casualties on both sides.

He stressed strengthening cooperation and establishing markets along the nearly 900 km border to enhance the two countries' security.

He also said Iran would pursue its water rights from the Helmand River through legal and political means.

In the recent skirmishes between the security forces of both sides, one Taliban force was killed, and several others were injured. In contrast, two Iranian guards were killed, and several others were wounded.

The Taliban authorities reiterated that they are committed to the 1973 treaty regarding water rights from the Helmand River, while Iran accused them of not considering Iran's water rights from the river.



Govt approves Rs 1,100b development budget for next fiscal year: Ahsan

E.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Professor Ahsan Iqbal on Friday said the government had approved Rs 1,100 billion development budget for the upcoming fiscal year aimed at achieving the required goals of economic growth.

Addressing a news conference here, he said out of the total budget, Rs 950 billion would be utilized under the Public Sector Development Programme (PSDP 2023-24) and Rs 150 billion under the public-private partnership to execute different development schemes. Initially, he said, the Finance Ministry had proposed Rs 700 billion for the PSDP 2023-24 which were extremely insufficient. "So we made a written request to Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif to increase the amount of development budget to achieve the economic growth, and the PM has approved Rs 1,100 billion development budget."

In 2018, the minister said, he had presented a development budget of Rs 1,000 billion, and when the incumbent government came into power last year its size came down to Rs 550 billion. "Now after a period of five years there will be a development budget of Rs 1,100 billion, which reflects our priority for the

national development." Today, he said, the country was facing economic difficulties all because of the failed policies of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) government, which during its last year allowed \$ 84 billion import of luxury items and obliged friends for showing artificial growth, but the trade deficit mounted to \$ 50 billion.

"It was the turning point that pushed the country into the severe economic crisis that has eaten away all the foreign exchange reserves," he added. The minister said when the current government took over last year, all the PTI leaders were saying that the country would default in two to six months and there would be a Sri Lanka-like situation. "But we by the grace of Allah Almighty steer the country out of the crisis despite massive destruction caused by the last year's floods and the delayed programme of the IMF (International Monetary Fund) by managing imports and taking corrective measures," he said.

As a result of it, he said, Pakistan was gradually moving towards economic stabilization and foreign investors were coming to invest in diverse fields. Sharing details of the targets set for the next fiscal year by the Annual Plan Coordination Committee (APCC), Ahsan Iqbal said 3.5 per cent growth targets had been

fixed each for the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and the agriculture sector, manufacturing 4.3 per cent and services sector 3.6 per cent. As per the next year's Annual Development Plan, he said, the inflation rate would be brought down from 29.2 per cent to 21 per cent; the national savings to be increased from 12.5 per cent to 13.4 per cent, exports to be taken over \$ 30 billion as compared to the current year's projected \$ 28 billion, \$ 58.7 billion import projected for the next year and the trade deficit that currently stood at 1.1 per cent, to be brought down to -1.7 due to revival of the economy.

"We are making efforts with great prudence to completely steer the national economy out of the crisis," he said while stressing the need for expediting the process of economic revival. He said the national development evolved around the framework of five Es (Exports, E-Pakistan, Equity, Energy and Environment), which needed vigorous pursuance to pull the country out of the financial crisis and turn around to a stable platform. The minister said the government was making efforts to complete the ongoing projects which were at advanced or middle of the stages on priority so that the burden of throw-forward development schemes could be curtailed.



KARACHI: President Dr. Arif Alvi addressing a seminar on 'the role of Federal Insurance Ombudsman in the development of insurance industry', at Governor's House.

KP Minister for provision of 10 kanals land to school

E.P. Report

CHARSADDA: Caretaker Minister for Information, Auqaf, Hajj, Religious and Minority Affairs, Barrister Feroz Jamal Shah Kakakhel has directed to allocate 10 kanal of Auqaf land for construction of play ground in Auqaf Model School, Tehsil Tangi.

He issued these directives during his visit to Charsadda district. Secretary Auqaf Dr. Asad Ali, Administrator Auqaf Hamid Gigyani and other officials also accompanied him during the visit. He also directed provision of basic facilities in the school and preparation of PCI for establishing "Quran Park Mahal" on 45 Kanals land of Auqaf Department in Tehsil Rajar.

The Caretaker Minister also inspected various sections, classes and other facilities of the school and inquired about availability of basic facilities in Auqaf Model School. The Caretaker Minister met with students and distributed prizes among outstanding students. He directed the concerned authorities to provide all basic facilities including clean drinking water in the school.

Govt policies revolve around masses: Javed

E.P. Report

KHANPUR: Federal Minister for Parliamentary Affairs, Murtaza Javed Abbassi here Friday said that Pakistan Muslim League (N) has strong roots in masses and the PMLN government policies revolved around masses.

Addressing a big public gathering here, the Minister said former Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif has constructed a state of the art Hazara Motorway that spoke his immeasurable love for people of Hazara divisions. He said people of all districts were being facilitated from the motorway.

He said that people of Khanpur also loved PMLN due to record development works by the party in Hazara Division and voted in favour of the PMLN candidates in last local bodies election here. The credit of giving gas facility to Khanpur tehsil went to former Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif, he said, adding prosperity of people were linked with democracy.

Murtaza Javed Abbassi said that May 9 vandalism has exposed the real face of PTI and Imran Khan. He said due to negative policies of PTI, the politics of Imran Niazi was irrelevant and people rejected PTI. In the 9 years rule of PTI in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, he said Hazara division including Haripur district was deprived of development.

The federal minister said that Pakistan Muslim League N after coming into power in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa would address the problems of people and remove their long sense of deprivation. Murtaza Javed Abbassi assured to address problems related to Galiyat Development Authority, stones crushing machines and announced huge development and financial package for Khanpur.

LHC extends Imran's bail in Zille Shah case

LAHORE (INP): The Lahore High Court (LHC) on Friday extended PTI chief Imran Khan's bail in the Zille Shah murder case till June 6 as the former prime minister joined the probe and recorded his statement with the police.

The order was issued by Justice Anwarul Haq Pannun as the court took up the former prime minister's bail petition in the case linked to concealing facts and evidence about the death of a PTI worker, Zille Shah, in a road accident.

Earlier, the LHC had granted Imran bail in the case till June 2. During the brief hearing today, the judge asked the investigating officer (IO) if Imran had been made a part of the investigations into the murder to which the latter replied that the PTI chief had not yet joined the probe.

The court then ordered the IO to record Imran's statement after the hearing. "Ask him whatever questions you want to," Justice Pannun said. Here, the government's counsel said that the statement could not be recorded in the presence of the petitioner's lawyers. "Will you answer the questions they ask you?" the judge asked Imran. The PTI chief responded by saying: "Yes, I am absolutely ready."

Subsequently, the court extended Imran's bail till June 6. Following the proceedings, the ex-premier joined the probe and recorded his statement with the police. Earlier, Imran arrived at the court amid tight security. A video posted on PTI's official Twitter account showed his vehicle surrounded by a huge contingent of security personnel outside the LHC.

Prior to the LHC hearing, Imran also appeared before a Lahore anti-terrorism case for bail in cases linked to May 9 violence. On May 19, Judge Ijaz Ahmad Buttar had granted bail to the former prime minister in the three cases till June 2, subject to furnishing surety bonds of Rs100,000 each.

At the outset of the hearing today, the judge directed Imran to come to the rostrum. "I was told the reasons why you are not joining the probe ... but now you have to become a part of the investigation," he stressed. For his part, Imran told the judge

that there were threats to his life. At that, PTI chief's lawyer Salman Safdar said that Imran was ready to join the probe but requested that all the cases should be fixed for hearing on the same day. "I will complete the arguments in all three cases," he assured the court.

Safdar further requested that all the cases be fixed for hearing on June 20, promising that Imran would join the probe the day court issued the order. Subsequently, Judge Buttar allowed Imran to leave and said that the order will be issued later today.

Imran to file Rs 15b defamation suit against chairman NAB: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan has filed a Rs 15 billion defamation suit, against Chairman NAB and served him legal notice for issuing my arrest warrant on a public holiday and keeping in secrecy for eight days.

PTI Chairman said that he was unlawfully detained from Islamabad High Court's premises with the ulterior motive to defame him and showed the world that he was arrested on corruption charges. Imran Khan pleaded: "My arrest warrant was issued on a public holiday and was kept in secrecy for eight days and I was not informed about conversion of Al-Qadir Trust Case Inquiry into Investigation."

He stated that the conditions stipulated in Sec 24 of NAB Ordinance were disregarded, adding that Supreme Court held that manner and execution of his arrest warrant was unlawful and unconstitutional, as Pakistan Rangers was used which subjected him to brute force to execute arrest warrant. PTI Chairman stated the sole purpose to arrest in such way to tarnish his image globally because he was collecting Rs 10 billion in charity annually. Imran Khan vowed: "My credibility has never been questioned. Nevertheless, act of implicating me in a bogus inquiry followed by my illegal and malafide arrest, have adversely affected my reputation." PTI Chairman stated that it had subjected him to ridicule; therefore, he was well within his right to initiate defamation proceedings.

Khadija Shah, 7 other PTI women presented in ATC

LAHORE (INP): Following the identification parade, seven other women accused associated with the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), including prominent fashion designer Khadija Shah, were presented before the Anti-Terrorism Court (ATC) Friday.

The arrested PTI women, after their appearance in court, expressed their dismay over their detention. They strongly asserted that they have not faced any form of abuse during their time in jail. They added that their continued detention without any concrete evidence against them is a clear act of abuse.

In a separate development, the Lahore High Court witnessed the production of Khadija Shah, the daughter of former finance minister Salman Shah and a well-known fashion designer. The police handed her over to the court for further proceedings. Khadija Shah had voluntarily surrendered herself at Lahore's Iqbal Town police station on May 23. Following her surrender, an anti-terrorism court remanded her into judicial custody for a period of seven days, starting from May 24.

Lahore police present seven PTI women before ATC, who deny torture on them: Police on Friday produced seven PTI women involved in arson attack on Jinnah House before an anti-terrorism court in Lahore.

Sarwar Road police presented seven Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf woman leaders before the ATC

after completing their identification parade. The women included: Khadija Shah, Sanam Javed, Tayyaba Raja, Alia Hamza and others. Investigation officer Muhammad Sarwar presented the PTI women before the court.

The Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf has been clamouring that its detained women were subjected to rape and violence during custody. But when these women were being brought to the court room, they told media that they were neither raped nor tortured during custody. However, they said that they were innocent and their arrest which was political was unjust.

Another prime suspect involved in May 9 riots identified: The investigators identified another prime suspect involved in the Jinnah House attack case on Friday. According to the details, a video came to light in which the suspect identified as Nazim Abbas can be seen vandalizing the government and military property, as well as played a key role in the May 9 riots.

Nazim Abbas, is a political representative of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) from PP-95 of Chiniot and resides in Nisar Colony, Lahore. The suspect actively participated in the violent protests during the May 9 events in an aggressive and provocative manner, while remaining at the forefront in vandalism and attacks government installations.

Nazim Abbas, played a significant role in the May 9 incidents by inciting anti-army slogans and leading

other miscreants. His actions fueled their aggression and contributed to the overall unrest during that time. It is crucial to note that efforts are currently underway to identify all other individuals involved in the May 9 incident.

The authorities are diligently working towards bringing those responsible to justice and ensuring that such acts of violence and disturbance are properly addressed.

PTI local leaders remanded

PESHAWAR (APP): PTI Peshawar Youth President Meena Khan Afridi and his colleagues arrested in connection with the incidents of May 9 and 10 and appeared in the Anti-Terrorism Court (ATC).

The ATC Court has referred the two alleged accused to the Police on three-day physical remand for investigation. The alleged accused Meena Khan Afridi and Jalal Mohmand are involved in the burning incidents of May 9 and 10, said the Investigating Officer. A case has been registered against both alleged accused in Khan Raziq Shaheed Police Station, the Investigating Officer informed the Court. Both the accused were absconding, said the Investigating Officer.

The alleged accused Meena Khan Afridi has been arrested from Buner and Jalal from Peshawar, informed the Investigating Officer.

4 children killed in Dir

E.P. Report

LOWER DIR: Four children aged 10 to 15 years drowned in a stream at Kumbar area of Maidan here on Friday, residents and rescuers said. They said the children identified as Abu Bakar, Zaid, Abdur Rehman, residents of Gumbat Banda and Fayyaz, a resident of Sar Lara Maidan were reading religious education at the Kamal Masjid Kumbar. They went to a nearby stream to take a bath but to no-swimming experience they drowned in the gushing water. The Rescue 1122 divers and medical team along with local volunteers reached the site and retrieved the bodies after hectic efforts. The bodies were shifted to the tehsil headquarters hospital Lal Qila wherein the doctors declared them dead.

Meanwhile 14 other children including two women were injured when the roof of a room of a house suddenly caved in at Kharkanai area in the jurisdiction of Ouch police station. An official of the Ouch police station said that a 'khatam e Quran' function was in progress in the house of one Ishaq when the roof of a room caved in due to rush of people.

As a result 14 children including Wajeeha 8, Samreen 8, Waleed 6, Muskan 9, Kausar 14, Kainat 13, Aziz 5, Asia 26, Wajeeha 3, Habiba 9, Sumia 9, Yasmin 25, Takrima 15 and Sher Bano 26 got injured. The injured were taken to the tehsil headquarters hospital Chakdara where their condition is stated to be out of danger. The Ouch police registered a case and started further investigations.

50 dead in Indian train collision

NEW DELHI (Agencies): At least 50 people were killed and 300 hospitalised in India after a passenger train derailed and collided with goods train in Odisha's Balasore district on Friday, according to media reports. Rescue operations were underway at the site and "all possible assistance" is being given to those affected, India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi said in a tweet on Friday.

The collision is a "grave accident", HK Dwivedi, West Bengal's chief secretary told reporters. South Eastern Railway officials, who did not want to be named, said they fear heavy casualties, without disclosing the number of deaths. The Coromandel Express, which runs from Kolkata to Chennai, derailed and fell on the opposite track, with many people still trapped, the reports said.

"I can't comment on the details right now and casualty figures. I was in Delhi and rushing to the accident site," Archana Joshi, general manager for South Eastern Railways, told Reuters. Joshi said a large number of injured were being shifted to hospitals.

'May 9 vandalism buried politics of Imran forever'

E.P. Report

HARIPUR: Adviser to the Prime Minister for Political and Public Affairs and National Heritage, Engr Amir Muqam here Friday said that May 9 vandalism and ransacking of Govt and defense installations have buried the politics of Imran Niazi forever.

Addressing as chief guest at the inauguration of Khanpur Grid Station here, Engr Amir Muqam said that Imran Niazi wanted bloodshed on May 9-10 after his arrest in Rs60 billion mega corruption case, however his negative designs were frustrated by the law enforcement agencies.

He praised the law enforcement agencies and security forces of Pakistan for showing great restraint despite provoking attacks by the horde of PTI on Government and defence installations including Radio Pakistan Peshawar, Jinnah House Lahore etc apparently on the orders of

Imran Niazi. He said politics of Imran Khan has been restricted to Zaman Park as PTI founding members have also separated ways from Imran Niazi due to assault on the government and defence Installations.

The Prime Minister adviser said hue and cry of the PTI leadership after the arrest of Imran Niazi in a mega corruption case was illogical and was an attempt to divert people attention from the case. Engr Amir Muqam said that Nawaz Sharif Govt has constructed network of motorways including Hazara Motorway that brought significant positive changes in lives of people of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa including Haripur district.

He said that PML-N leadership has kept the national flag sky high and restored peace in the country besides eradicated load shedding. Engr Amir Muqam said that PTI has failed to deliver in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa during its

nine year rule in the province and problems of KP people were increased manifolds due to poor performance of the rulers of PTI.

He said that Hazara division was a stronghold of PML-N as evident of the party success in local bodies election in Khanpur. Engr Amir Muqam said the PML-N Govt has linked Khanpur with Hazara Motorway and it's new grid station would address problems of low voltage and load shedding.

Earlier, Amir Amir Muqam has inaugurated the ground breaking ceremony of Hattar-3 Grid Station at Hattar Industrial Estate that would be completed with an estimated cost of Rs1.5 billion. The workers of Pakistan Muslim League N raised full throated slogans in favour of Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, PML-N Quaid Muhammad Nawaz Sharif and Engr Amir Muqam.



LAHORE: Indian fishermen going to country after released from prison by Pakistani authorities.

Deadly clashes break out in Senegal

DAKAR (Agencies): Senegalese authorities on Friday deployed security forces around the capital Dakar, a day after an outbreak of violence left nine people dead following the conviction of opposition politician Ousmane Sonko. Clashes erupted on Thursday after Sonko, President Macky Sall's fiercest opponent, was convicted for "corrupting" a young woman, in a case which has deeply divided Senegal, usually a bastion of stability in West Africa.

The ruling may disqualify Sonko from contesting next year's presidential election. On Friday, men in fatigues carrying rifles were stationed at various points in Dakar, where the streets were deserted and activity had virtually ground to a halt, AFP journalists observed. AFP was not immediately able to identify which force they belonged to. "While appealing for calm and serenity from our fellow citizens, the state of Senegal has taken all measures to guarantee the safety of people and property", Interior Minister Antoine

Diome declared overnight after one of the deadliest days of political protests for years.

On Thursday, shops and public facilities were ransacked and the motorway between Dakar and the international airport was overrun with demonstrators. Young people clashed with security forces, with stones and tear gas being thrown. The interior minister reported nine deaths on national television. Shops remained closed on Friday along entire streets still bearing the scars of the previous day's violence.

There was extensive destruction on the main university campus, where prolonged clashes took place on Thursday. Students with suitcases lined the streets outside the university, struggling to find transportation after being told to leave campus. The government acknowledged that it had restricted access to social networks such as Facebook, WhatsApp and Twitter in order to stop "the dissemination of hateful and subversive messages". Trouble was also reported on Thursday in Ziguinchor in the south,

Mbour and Kaolack in the west and St Louis in the north.

Before Thursday's violence, around twenty civilians had been killed since 2021 in disturbances largely linked to Sonko's legal affairs. Sonko rose to prominence in the presidential elections in 2019, coming third after a campaign that took aim at President Sall and the country's ruling elite. He was initially charged with rape and issuing death threats against a woman employee of a beauty salon where he said he received messages between 2020 and 2021. However, the court acquitted him on these charges and convicted him for "debauching" a woman under the age of 21, without clarifying the immoral acts he is alleged to have committed. Under the electoral code, the verdict would appear to render him ineligible for next year's election. Sonko has maintained his innocence and claims the president is manipulating the judiciary to torpedo his political career — a charge the government denies.