

Fazl calls on Shehbaz
F.P. Report
ISLAMABAD: President of Jamiat Ulema Islam-F Maulana Fazlur Rehman and Federal Minister for Communications Maulana Asad Mahmood on Monday called on Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif here. In the meeting, they discussed the upcoming budget for fiscal 2023-24 as well as the overall political situation in the country, a PM Office press release said.

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Funeral prayers offered
F.P. Report
PESHAWAR: The funeral prayers of Lance Naik Mairaj Uddin Shaheed (23 years, resident of D.I Khan) and Naik Zaheer Abbas (38 years, resident of District Khushab) who embraced shahadat in North Waziristan while fighting gallantly with terrorists, were offered at their respective hometowns. According to ISPR, the Shaheeds were laid to rest with full military honours.

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LAHORE: President JUI-F, Maulana Fazlur Rehman and Federal Minister for Communication Maulana Asad Mahmood called on Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif.

SC won't interfere in economic affairs: CJP

ISLAMABAD (Agencies): Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Umar Ata Bandial has said that the Supreme Court will not interfere in economic affairs as it has no expertise in the domain. The CJP's remarks came while hearing the petition filed by Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) against the privatisation of K-Electric — the sole private power utility company in Karachi.

Three-member bench led by CJP Bandial and comprising Justice Athar Minallah and Justice Ayesha A Malik heard the plea. The CJP told the petitioner's counsel Rashid Rizvi that he could approach the relevant high court for the matter.

"Parliament has made two laws related to clause 3 of Article 184," he remarked. Advocate Salahuddin told the apex court that an application was also filed against the power utility's labour union. To which, Justice Malik responded that the court was not hearing the matter of labour union. The petitioner's counsel requested the top court to adjourn the hearing on the matter till next week. "Holidays are starting next week, judges will not be available on the principal seat," the chief justice remarked.

He said judges will be in their respective registries from next week. CJ Bandial asked advocate Rizvi to take instructions from his

client regarding the case and fixed the hearing of the case for tomorrow (Tuesday). The company formerly known as Karachi Electric Supply Corporation (KESC) was privatised in 2005 for a sum of Rs16 billion to a Saudi-Kuwaiti group. In those days, the US dollar was valued at Rs59.75 in the inter-bank market. Going by those rates, the company was privatised for \$270 million. The general perception was that privatisation will improve the financial condition of the company. In 2009, the company was sold to private equity firm Abraj Group with management control for Rs361 million.

Soldier martyred in S Waziristan

F.P. Report

RAWALPINDI: A soldier was martyred during an exchange of fire between security forces and militants in the Ladha area of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's South Waziristan district on Monday, according to a statement issued by the military's media affairs wing.

The Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) said security personnel "effectively engaged the terrorists' location" during the gunbattle. However, during "intense" exchange of fire, 30-year-old Lance Naik Muhammad Sabir, a resident of Mansehra district embraced martyrdom after fighting gallantly, the statement added. Sanitisation of the area was being carried out to eliminate any other terrorists found in the area, the ISPR said.

In an earlier statement, the ISPR said two soldiers were martyred while two militants were killed during an exchange of fire in KP's North Waziristan district. It added that the troops effectively engaged the terrorists' location and two militants were "sent to hell" while two were injured.

The ISPR identified the martyred soldiers as Naek Zaheer Abbas, aged 38 and a resident of the Khushab district, and Lance Naik Mairajuddin, aged 23 and a resident of the Dera Ismail Khan district.

The statement said weapons and ammunition were also recovered from the terrorists while "sanitisation" of the area was being carried out to eliminate any other terrorists found in the area. Both statements said that the "armed forces of Pakistan are determined to eliminate the menace of terrorism and such sacrifices of our brave soldiers further strengthen our resolve".

Rana Sanaullah hospitalized

F.P. Report

FAISALABAD: Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah was admitted to Faisalabad Institute of Cardiology (FIC) for a checkup after his BP shoot-up last night.

Rana Sanaullah underwent heart surgery in 2004. According to FIC sources, Sanaullah was brought to the hospital with 120/160 blood pressure and complained of 'heart pain.' The interior minister underwent the test to know the nature of the heart attack, the sources said.

Earlier in the month of November, last year, the minister was also shifted to AIFC over health issues. Later, Interior Minister issued a statement about his well-being after photos of him in a hospital circulated on social media. In the audio statement, Sanaullah said that he was all perfectly fine and that he had already undergone heart surgery back in 2004. Multiple tests were conducted on the interior minister as he was under surveillance at the hospital for 8 hours.

reported that the two countries had agreed to further strengthen bilateral ties. The "understanding" between the two countries was reached during a meeting between Bilawal and his Iraqi counterpart, Dr Fuad Hussein, the report said. The state broadcaster quoted Bilawal as saying that "Pakistan maintains deep fraternal relations with Iraq".

"During the meeting, the two sides exchanged views on different aspects of diplomatic relations between Pakistan and Iraq," the report added. In a tweet, Bilawal said he was delighted to meet Hussein and that he had a "wide-ranging discussion on all issues". "I'm grateful to the government of Iraq for its support in opening of Pakistan consulate in Najaf," he added. The minister highlighted both sides signed important memorandums of understanding (MoUs) and resolved to unlock "huge potential in dynamic bilateral cooperation". Reiterating the hope to strengthen bilateral ties in a joint press conference with Hussein, Bilawal said both countries "enjoyed decades-old ties and they always supported each other in the hour of need".

The Foreign Office (FO),

meanwhile, said the two agreements were related to enhancing cultural cooperation, and visa abolition on diplomatic and official passports. Bilawal is undertaking his maiden visit to Iraq at the invitation of Hussein, who is also the Iraqi deputy prime minister. Upon arriving in Baghdad, he was received by Iraqi Deputy Foreign Minister Mohammed Hussein Bahral Uloom, Pakistan's Ambassador to Iraq Ahmed Amjad Ali and other officials from the Pakistani embassy.

The FO shared photos of Bilawal arriving in Baghdad, being greeted by Iraqi officials and meeting with Bahral Uloom and Hussein. Radio Pakistan also shared videos showing glimpses of Bilawal's arrival and his interactions with Iraqi officials. The minister's trip to Iraq is the latter leg of his journey, after having attended a royal wedding in Jordan earlier at the invitation of the Jordanian royal family. In an official statement released last week, the FO had said that the foreign minister would meet with the Iraqi leadership. According to the FO, "important agreements" would be signed during the visit.

Imran to be made an example for May 9 mayhem: PML-N

F.P. Report

BAGH: Firing a broadside at Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf Chairman Imran Khan, Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) Senior Vice-President Maryam Nawaz on Monday said that an example will be made of the former prime minister who is "hiding in the bunker" for the May 9 events.

"The person hiding in the bunker will be made an example [for everyone]," said Maryam without naming Khan and his current residence — Zaman Park in Lahore — where he has been living since he got injuries in an assassination attempt in Wazirabad on November 3 2022. She made the remarks while addressing a public gathering

in Bagh, Azad Jammu Kashmir (AJK). Condemning the PTI chief for the May 9 attacks, the PML-N leader said that the Azad Jammu and Kashmir prime minister was "testifying against Imran Khan". She claimed that the AJK premier had identified the PTI chief as the May 9 attacks planner. Maryam, while saluting the martyrs, said that those who desecrate the martyrs' monuments are not Pakistani — referring to the May 9 arsonists who vandalised Jinnah House and other military installations soon after the arrest of the PTI chairman in the Al-Qadir Trust corruption case.

She added that the May 9 incidents brought tears to the "eyes of the heirs of the martyrs". "Whoever treated the

martyrs like this, the nation will not forgive them," she further said. Maryam, the scion of the Sharif family's political dynasty, went on to say that the PTI chief sold Kashmir while sitting with former US president Donald Trump. "Soldiers stand on the mountains and put their lives at risk for the homeland. Salute to those who sacrifice their lives for our safety," she also said.

On the exodus of PTI leaders from the party, she asked the crowd where the PTI was, saying that it "went back to where it came from". "The party which made a plan to end Nawaz Sharif's politics is in crumbles. Those who used to say that they will make them cry are crying day and night," the PML-N's stalwart said.

The Frontier Post

— Govt successfully navigates challenges faced by Pakistan

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif has said that his government has been able to navigate the challenges faced by Pakistan in the best possible fashion with the help of its people and brotherly and friendly countries.

In an interview with Anadolu News Agency posted on its website on Monday, the prime minister said Pakistan had been facing a plethora of problems since April 2022, when the current government took over after former prime minister Imran Khan was ousted in a no-trust vote. "The issues are the result of the previous government's policies," he said.

"Pakistan, in April 2022, was on the verge of default because the government of the day had violated the IMF agreement and the economy was in tatters," he maintained. "Then we had devastating floods in August 2022. Combined with that we are facing galloping inflation, because of the international situation," he added.

To a question, PM Shehbaz said Pakistan was very hopeful of finalizing a deal with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) this month. "We are still very hopeful that the IMF programme will materialize. Our ninth review by the IMF will match all terms and conditions and, hopefully, we'll have some good news this month," he told Anadolu in Ankara. The prime minister was in Ankara for President Recep Tayyip Erdogan's inauguration ceremony.

"We have met all conditionalities. I repeat, each and every requirement of the IMF as prior actions has been met," he asserted. "Some of those actions are usually met after the board's approval, but this time the IMF required that those actions be met before the board's approval, so we have met them," he was quoted by the Turkish news agency as saying. The prime minister said the people of Pakistan had faced challenges in the past, and if needed, would tighten their belt and rise again.

About May 9 vandalism, he said PTI chief Imran Khan faced charges of "serious corruption, malpractice,

and wheeling-dealing," stressing that the "law had to deal with this." He (Imran Khan) for a period of time, had been preparing his people mentally, his bunch of thugs as he would call them, to react violently, in case he (IK) was arrested, the prime minister added.

Prime Minister Shehbaz said, "He (IK) planned this very serious act against the state of Pakistan. He incited his people. There's evidence beyond any doubt." Khan's supporters were instructed to torch buildings, attack institutions, and desecrate graves and monuments, he added.

"Those people who have attacked civilian installations will be tried under civilian law, and those people who attacked military installations and desecrated institutions will be tried under the Military Act," the prime minister further elaborated. About cases under the Military Act, the prime minister explained that 'once the judge awards punishment, the defendant has two appeals - one in the high court and then in the Supreme Court of Pakistan'.

He said that the bottom line of the entire process was ensuring justice so that such thing could never take place in Pakistan, for the rest of their lives. "Would any civilized country allow this kind of vandalism against the state, which happened on May 9 in Pakistan?" he questioned. The prime minister cited an example of incidents that took place on January 6, 2021 at Capitol Hill in Washington.

Were not those perpetrators being tried and given severe punishments so that such an act could never happen again in the history of the United States! he maintained. The prime minister also congratulated the people of Türkiye on President Erdogan's reelection, hailing it as a "wonderful development".

"I will work very closely with my brother, President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, a visionary leader and a man of commitment who believes in public service. I hope our relations will enhance to a much higher level in terms of brotherhood, understanding,

Govt dealing cases of May 9 rioters under due law process

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Monday said every case related to the violence committed by Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf on May 9 was being dealt with due process under the law.

"I assure everyone that the culprits are being dealt with under the law and that I will ensure that no rights violations take place," he wrote on Twitter. Sharif said Pakistan fully respected and was committed to all its constitutional and international obligations on human rights.

He said the PTI chief Imran Niazi in his interviews with international media outlets was openly and deliberately disinforming local and foreign audiences by "glib-talk laced with fake news and plain misrepresentation". "His expedient description of the post-May 9 events as 'human rights abuses' and 'stifling of the right to political protest' is not only misleading but aimed at manipulating and swaying opinion-makers outside the country," he said. He categorically stated that what PTI did on May 9 was a "brazen attack on the State of Pakistan, with malafide intent and sinister objectives". "No country in the world would tolerate such an attempt at destroying its integrity," he said.

and economic cooperation," he said. He further said, "I always maintain, and I mean it, that our two brotherly countries are like one soul with hearts that beat together. We speak different languages, but we understand what we're saying through our hearts. So, I think it's a great opportunity."

He expressed the confidence that both countries would boost cooperation in the near future to enhance trade and foster mutual growth by focusing on areas such as biogas, solar energy, and hydropower.

People lost faith in judiciary: JI

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: Amir Jamaat-e-Islami (JI), Sirajul Haq has said that the Pakistan Democratic Movement (PMD) and Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) have failed to fulfill the promises they made with the masses before coming to power in April last year.

Talking to a delegation of lawyers and party workers which called on him here on Monday, he said that the ruling parties had led the long-marches against inflation but now they hardly talked about the plight of the common man who was burning in the fire of inflation and unemployment.

Sirajul Haq said the security situation was alarming and the two provinces were without the government where caretaker setups were running the affairs. If the PTI damaged the economy, the PDM brought it to the level of complete destruction, he added. All the international institutions warned the government against the alarming situation of the national economy but the rulers were claiming all good, he said, adding the government neither controlled the non-developmental expenditure and nor it could introduce good governance. The corruption went unchecked amid the absence of any accountability system for the powerful, he said.

The JI chief said the most dangerous aspect of the prevailing crises was that the people lost faith in judiciary. The term of rule of law was only limited to the dictionary, he said, appealing to the lawyer community to pay their role for the rule of justice and democracy. He said the lawyers rendered countless sacrifices for the independence of judiciary and they had history of struggle to strengthen democracy but the goals were yet to be achieved.



BAGHDAD: Minister of Foreign Affairs Bilawal Bhutto Zardari meeting with his Iraqi counterpart Fuad Hussein during his visit to Iraq.

Asad Umar denies having any contact with Tareen

ISLAMABAD (INP): PTI leader Asad Umar on Monday denied having any contact with Jahangir Khan Tareen, who used to be a close aide of PTI chief Imran Khan before heading a group of dissidents in the party.

The PTI leader, who had quit his party positions on May 24 but had not resigned from the party altogether, made the remarks outside an Islamabad court where he appeared in a case pertaining to violent protests in the country on May 9. Umar's remarks come amid reports of the Tareen group which had emerged as a faction in the PTI comprising the party's dissident parliamentarians stepping up efforts to poach as many PTI defectors as it can to swell its ranks ahead of general elections.

In recent days, several PTI members, including prominent leaders, have parted ways with the party following a state crackdown on it over allegations of their involvement in vandalism during May 9 protests following the arrest of the PTI chief. On May 29, Tareen held a meeting with former PTI leader Aleem

Khan at his residence in the provincial capital, according to a Dawn report. The meeting was also attended by former minister Ishaq Khakwani, PM's aide Aown Chaudhry, Saeed Akbar Niwani, and Shoaib Siddiqui, the report said.

Though there has been no word from the Tareen group regarding their re-entry to the political arena, reports suggest that the former PTI leader and financier would re-launch his political career with a new political party. On Saturday, the Tareen-led group held a meeting in Lahore in which PTI defector Sardar Tanveer Ilyas, the former prime minister of Azad Jammu and Kashmir, participated and announced that he would be moving forward with the group. "Our understanding with Jahangir Tareen is that we will move forward together. The work regarding forming a new party is also underway," Ilyas said.

Nauman Langrial, another member of the Tareen group, said the association was seriously considering forming a new party. "Although no final decision has yet been made, we will

likely form a new party. We are in contact with the former PTI leaders. Big names will join us soon," he said. He said that after the May 9 riots, things had changed and the people were not with "Imran Khan's PTI", adding that "we will welcome anyone who is ready to leave the PTI and its narrative". During today's court appearance, Umar was hounded by reporters who asked him about joining Tareen. "What connection do I have with Jahangir Tareen?" Umar responded to the queries.

Another reporter then asked the PTI leader whether Tareen had been in contact with him, to which Umar shook his head in denial. However, he did state that Fawad Chaudhry — who had resigned from the party last month — remained in touch from "time to time". Umar was also asked whether he was facing any "pressure". He promptly replied that the only "pressure" he was facing was appearing before different courts every day. "Since my release from Adiala Jail, I have attended more than eight court hearings," he said.

Two robbers netted

KARACHI (APP): Pakistan Rangers Sindh and Police in a joint intelligence-based operation in the Orangi Town area arrested two of a robbers' gang and recovered illegal arms and ammunition from their possession.

According to a news release on Monday, the arrested were identified as Ameer Nawab and Yousuf alias Raja.

The arrested accused revealed that they along with their other accomplices committed more than 70 robberies in Orangi Town, Nazimabad, SITE Area and other areas during which they snatched 150 mobile phones and cash Rs. 0.2 million. Raids were being conducted to arrest their other accomplices. Arrested along with recovered arms and ammunition were handed over to the police for further legal proceedings.

Police counters at hospitals issue 10,433 medicolegal certificates

LAHORE (APP): Thirteen police service counters, established by the Lahore police in various hospitals of the provincial capital, issued a total of 10,433 medicolegal certificates so far this year.

In a statement released on Monday, Capital City Police Officer Bilal Siddique Kamyana said the police service counters were open for the public round-the-clock. Giving details, he said that 1,995 medicolegal certificates were issued at Lahore General Hospital, 1,576 at Jinnah Hospital, 1,256 at Services Hospital, 1,159 at Mayo Hospital, 871 at Kot Khawaja Saeed Hospital, and 370 at Sir Ganga Ram Hospital.

Governor urges people fight environmental pollution

LAHORE (APP): Governor Punjab, Muhammad Balighur Rehman has said that environmental pollution and environmental changes including climate change and global warming are adversely affecting mankind.

In a message on the occasion of World Environment Day here on Monday, he said everyone in the society needs to take eco-friendly steps to meet these challenges.

The Governor Punjab said according to this year's theme of World Environment Day, it is very important

to spread awareness among the people about the pollution caused by plastic.

Governor Punjab, Muhammad Balighur Rehman added that the use of plastic bags should be discouraged as they are harmful to the environment.

He said more plantations not only make the environment beautiful but also prevent floods, provide oxygen and reduce temperature.

"We all have to play a role in making the planet safe from environmental pollution," Governor Punjab, Muhammad Balighur Rehman said.

Police Khidmat App introduced for convenience of overseas Pakistanis

LAHORE (APP): Inspector General Police Punjab Dr. Usman Anwar on Monday introduced Punjab Police Khidmat App for the convenience of overseas Pakistanis.

In his message, the IG Punjab said that the Punjab Police Service App was available on both Android and IOS systems for the convenience of overseas Pakistanis.

The Overseas Pakistanis could download this App and seek immediate help from the police, he added.

The IG Punjab said that the Punjab Police Public App, 1787 helpline and the front desks in all the police stations of the province were also available all the time to help and guide the overseas Pakistani citizens.

Through the app, while out of the country, citizens could get relief by submitting their applications directly to 1787.

Dr. Usman Anwar said that the legal branch of the Punjab Police would pro-

vide full support to the overseas Pakistanis, DPOs would personally supervise these cases, adding that on the screen of his office dashboard, overseas applications and progress of the actions taken would be monitored.

Inspector General Police Punjab Dr. Usman Anwar said that overseas Pakistanis were the backbone of Pakistan's socio-economic development as their direct foreign investment, industrial development, stock market investment, money in property, and remittances helped the country's economy and development.

The IG Punjab said that fraud often occurred with overseas Pakistanis in their absence, and immediate help in this situation was required to them so the Punjab Police created this App to facilitate them.

Dr Usman Anwar said that all the RPOs, DPOs had also been instructed to change the general perception of lack of access to people.



LAHORE: An outside view of the Tomb of Dai Anga also known as the Gulabi Bag is a 17th-century Mughal Tomb Complex located in the Mughal-Era Suburb of Begampura, outside the Walled City of Lahore.

Andrew Schofer for continued US partnership to empower Punjab economy

LAHORE (APP): U.S. Embassy Deputy Chief of Mission (DCM) Andrew Schofer has said that Punjab has immense economic potential and empowering economy of the province will economically empower local population besides having a positive spillover impact on the country economy. During a three-day visit to provincial capital Lahore and industrial hub Faisalabad, he underscored United States' partnership with people of Punjab through initiatives related to education, cultural preservation and economic development.

The DCM Schofer visited higher education institutions, software houses, and places of historical and cultural importance during his visit to the two cities. In Lahore, the US diplo-

mat met leaders at NETSOL Technologies and discussed Pakistan's digital ecosystem and highlighted areas where U.S. Mission can partner with the private sector for innovative digital solutions.

DCM Schofer also toured Sunehri Mosque and Wazir Khan Mosque and the adjoining areas. These cultural landmarks have been conserved through financial assistance from the Ambassador's Fund for Cultural Preservation (AFCP) of the US embassy Islamabad. Founded in 2001, AFCP has invested more than 7.6 million dollars on 32 cultural preservation projects.

The latest project is an almost one million dollars restoration project of seven sites at the Lahore Fort.

During his Faisalabad visit, Deputy Chief of Mission Andrew Schofer inaugurated a U.S. Mission Pakistan funded Career Expo at the University of Education (UoE). The Career Expo was attended by U.S. government sponsored English Works program alumni, university students, and members of the business community. English for Workforce Development in Pakistan, popularly known as English Works, caters to unemployed and under-employed youth between 17 and 25 years of age in seven districts of Punjab. "English language skills open doors of opportunity. English connects us to the international community, be it business or personal lives," said DCM Schofer.

KMC takes steps for plantation in Karachi to combat environmental challenges: Dr. Syed

KARACHI (APP): Administrator Karachi Dr. Syed Saifur Rahman on Monday said that sea and air pollution and increased temperature are the indicators of climate change all over the world. We need to change our way of thinking and behavior to bring this pollution on a lower level and KMC is taking steps to plant trees in all open places in Karachi to combat environmental challenges and climate change.

He said this while addressing a function organized by Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI) sub-committee on environment and climate change and Karachi Metropolitan Corporation at Bagh Ibn Qasim on the occasion of World Environment Day. He said that the purpose of observing World Environment Day is to raise awareness and intensify efforts at the international level to protect the planet from the dangers posed by plastics and other hazardous chemicals.

Plantation of 50 thousand saplings was also done on this occasion. Chairman of FPCCI Sub-Committee for Environment and Climate Change Muhammad Rabbani, Dr. Khalid, Dr. Kanwal, Al-Khair Trust Chairman Muhammad Tahir Ansari and others also spoke while Director

General Parks Junaidullah Khan and prominent religious leader Qari Usman were also present on the occasion.

Dr. Syed Saifur Rahman said that the theme of this year's World Environment Day is "Beat Plastic Pollution- Restore Ecosystem". In 1972, the United Nations General Assembly declared World Environment Day to be celebrated for the first time to raise awareness of environmental challenges and encourage action in this regard. He said that environmental experts have undertaken this time to find a solution to save the world from plastic pollution. Plastic is one of the best inventions in the world, the main thing is its use, until today in Bangladesh, jute bags are used. The world produces 400 million tons of plastic every year, half of which is disposable and only 10 percent is recycled, 19 to 23 million tons of plastic produced in the world ends up in rivers, oceans, Micro plastics are added to our food, water and air. According to an estimate, every person on the planet consumes 50 thousand plastic particles every year. Waste plastic seriously harms human health and ecological balance and it contaminates the entire ecosystem from top of the mountains to the bottom of the ocean.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pakistan Defence officers Housing Authority karachi It is to inform the General public that Mst. Sajeeda W/o Amanullah Khan R/O kotka Amand khan Gandi khalid khalid Lakki Marwat having following plot/Plots in DHA Karachi (DHA city) has expired on 25/10/2011. A Reference plot File No DCK/T&R/II- RES-57025/1436 Plot no - sector No- Sub Sector No - measuring 125 sq yds Approx Her / His following legal heirs have applied" for transfer of the above plots in their names Name of legal Heirs, a Muhammad Mudisar Aman son, b Manahil Sajeeda Daughter, c. Muqadas Sajeeda Daughter, d. Muhammad Mustafa son, e. So Iana bibi, e. Sohana bibi. Daughter, f. Muhabat khan father, g. Sajeeda widow. Any one having any claim / objection should notify director transfer and record DHA City karachi in writing within in fifteen days after which no claim objection shall be entertained by this authority. Note. 1 strike out which ever is not applicable. 2 publication be made in following with photograph if deceased.

JUDGE BANKING COURT-II FEDERAL JUDICIAL COMPLEX-PHASE-7 HAYATABAD PESHAWAR Case No: 38/1 Next Date: 05-07-2023

Suit for recovery of Rs.630,000/- HBL, Mardan Branch Vs. Malik Hisham Khan Note versus: Malik Hisham Khan S/o Abdul Sattar R/o Nisara Road Chantmar Mardan District Mardan. Where is the plaintiff Bank has instituted a suit for the recovery of Rs.630,000/- against you under section 10(2) of the Financial Institutions (Recovery of Finances) Ordinance 2001. You are hereby summoned to obtain leave of the court to appear and defend the suit within 30 days after receipt/publication of the notice in the newspaper filling which an expert decree shall be passed in favor of the plaintiff Bank with costs.

Banking Court-II Peshawar

<p>PUBLIC NOTICE</p> <p>Application for issuance of Letter of Administration / Succession Certificate by Mr. Awas Ahmad with regards to moveable & immovable assets of deceased Ms. Samina Ahmad citizen number 1730113411212 has been received. Following are declared as legal heirs:</p> <p>1. Awas Ahmad (Daughter)</p> <p>2. Ishfaq Ahmad (Spouse)</p> <p>3. Awas Ahmad (Son/4. Shoab Ahmad (Son)</p> <p>On the above application the objections of public at large are invited. Any aggrieved person may approach in person the undersigned for submission of objection (if any) within fourteen (14) days after publication of this notice.</p> <p>INCHARGE SFU, NADRA RING ROAD-DSFU</p>	<p>PUBLIC NOTICE</p> <p>Application for issuance of Letter of Administration / Succession Certificate by Ms. Syed Muslima with regards to moveable & immovable assets of deceased Mr. Imran Ali citizen number 1430195129963 has been received. Following are declared as legal heirs:</p> <p>1. Syed Muslima (Spouse)</p> <p>On the above application the objections of public at large are invited. Any aggrieved person may approach in person the undersigned for submission of objection (if any) within fourteen (14) days after publication of this notice.</p> <p>INCHARGE SFU, NADRA ORAKZAI-SFU</p>	<p>PUBLIC NOTICE</p> <p>Application for issuance of Letter of Administration / Succession Certificate by Mr. Gul Ali with regards to moveable & immovable assets of deceased Ms. Sayed Ul Nisa citizen number 2130387224842 has been received. Following are declared as legal heirs:</p> <p>1. Gul Ali (Son)</p> <p>On the above application the objections of public at large are invited. Any aggrieved person may approach in person the undersigned for submission of objection (if any) within fourteen (14) days after publication of this notice.</p> <p>INCHARGE SFU, NADRA SFU PARACHINAR-CFC</p>	<p>PUBLIC NOTICE</p> <p>Application for issuance of Letter of Administration / Succession Certificate by Mr. Warasat Khan with regards to moveable & immovable assets of deceased Mr. Awal Khan citizen number 1730156720125 has been received. Following are declared as legal heirs:</p> <p>1. Maryam Bibi (Daughter)</p> <p>2. Nooran (Daughter)3. Abd Hussain (Son)4. legal Khan (Son)5. Warasat Khan (Son)6. Zahid Hussain (Son)</p> <p>On the above application the objections of public at large are invited. Any aggrieved person may approach in person the undersigned for submission of objection (if any) within fourteen (14) days after publication of this notice.</p> <p>INCHARGE SFU, NADRA MEGA CENTER PESHAWAR-SFU</p>	<p>PUBLIC NOTICE</p> <p>Application for issuance of Letter of Administration / Succession Certificate by Mr. Aman Ullah Khan with regards to moveable & immovable assets of deceased Mr. Kamal Khan citizen number 1560703466685 has been received. Following are declared as legal heirs:</p> <p>1. Shagufta Bibi (Mother)2. Aman Ullah Khan (Father)</p> <p>On the above application the objections of public at large are invited. Any aggrieved person may approach in person the undersigned for submission of objection (if any) within fourteen (14) days after publication of this notice.</p> <p>INCHARGE SFU, NADRA SWAT-SFU</p>	<p>PUBLIC NOTICE</p> <p>Application for issuance of Letter of Administration / Succession Certificate by Mr. Zahir Shah with regards to moveable & immovable assets of deceased Mr. Kamal Khan citizen number 1560703466685 has been received. Following are declared as legal heirs:</p> <p>1. Amina Bibi (Daughter)2. Saima Gul (Daughter)3. Shah Johan (Spouse)4. Muhammad Sikandar Shah (Son)5. Muhammad Zahid Shah (Son)6. Zahir Shah (Son)7. Muhammad Bakhtawar Shah (Son)8. Muhammad Jahanger Shah (Son)</p> <p>On the above application the objections of public at large are invited. Any aggrieved person may approach in person the undersigned for submission of objection (if any) within fourteen (14) days after publication of this notice.</p> <p>INCHARGE SFU, NADRA RING ROAD-DSFU</p>
<p>PUBLIC NOTICE</p> <p>Application for issuance of Letter of Administration / Succession Certificate by Mr. Muhammad Faisal with regards to moveable & immovable assets of deceased Mr. Muhammad Faisal citizen number 16202173031 has been received. Following are declared as legal heirs:</p> <p>1. Madina (Daughter)2. Hajera (Daughter)3. Khadeja (Daughter)4. Parveen (Spouse)</p> <p>5. Muhammad Faisal (Son)6. Muhammad Salman (Son)</p> <p>On the above application the objections of public at large are invited. Any aggrieved person may approach in person the undersigned for submission of objection (if any) within fourteen (14) days after publication of this notice.</p> <p>INCHARGE SFU, NADRA SWABI-SFU</p>	<p>PUBLIC NOTICE</p> <p>Application for issuance of Letter of Administration / Succession Certificate by Mr. Tariq Bashir with regards to moveable & immovable assets of deceased Mr. Hader Karar citizen number 1520105709625 has been received. Following are declared as legal heirs:</p> <p>1. Tariq Bashir (Son)2. Zubair Bashir (Son)3. Khaid Bashir (Son)4. Omar Farooq (Son)</p> <p>On the above application the objections of public at large are invited. Any aggrieved person may approach in person the undersigned for submission of objection (if any) within fourteen (14) days after publication of this notice.</p> <p>INCHARGE SFU, NADRA CHITRAL-SFU</p>	<p>PUBLIC NOTICE</p> <p>Application for issuance of Letter of Administration / Succession Certificate by Mr. Muhammad Ilyas Khan with regards to moveable & immovable assets of deceased Mr. Raham Daraz Khan citizen number 1110114993177 has been received. Following are declared as legal heirs:</p> <p>1. Kamina Rahman (Daughter)</p> <p>2. Musarat Shaheen (Daughter)</p> <p>3. Gul Naveed (Daughter)4. Raza Ullah Khan (Son)5. Muhammad Aftab Khan (Son)6. Muhammad Aftab Khan (Son)7. Sahib Daraz Khan (Son)</p> <p>On the above application the objections of public at large are invited. Any aggrieved person may approach in person the undersigned for submission of objection (if any) within fourteen (14) days after publication of this notice.</p> <p>INCHARGE SFU, NADRA BANNU-SFU</p>	<p>PUBLIC NOTICE</p> <p>Application for issuance of Letter of Administration / Succession Certificate by Mr. Muhammad Ilyas Khan with regards to moveable & immovable assets of deceased Mr. Sakti Sultan citizen number 1350303505789 has been received. Following are declared as legal heirs:</p> <p>1. Zakia Bibi (Daughter)2. Bibi Hameeda (Daughter)3. Saeeda Riaz (Daughter)4. Mushtaq Ahmed (Son)5. Ashtaq Ahmed (Son)</p> <p>On the above application the objections of public at large are invited. Any aggrieved person may approach in person the undersigned for submission of objection (if any) within fourteen (14) days after publication of this notice.</p> <p>INCHARGE SFU, NADRA MANSEHRA-SFU</p>	<p>PUBLIC NOTICE</p> <p>Application for issuance of Letter of Administration / Succession Certificate by Ms. Mehwish Arnes with regards to moveable & immovable assets of deceased Ms. Munaf Jan citizen number 1730109164184 has been received. Following are declared as legal heirs:</p> <p>1. Mehwish Arnes (Daughter)</p> <p>2. Khawaja Qaiser Matloob (Son)</p> <p>On the above application the objections of public at large are invited. Any aggrieved person may approach in person the undersigned for submission of objection (if any) within fourteen (14) days after publication of this notice.</p> <p>INCHARGE SFU, NADRA RING ROAD-DSFU</p>	<p>PUBLIC NOTICE</p> <p>Application for issuance of Letter of Administration / Succession Certificate by Ms. Durehshwar Aqeel with regards to moveable & immovable assets of deceased Ms. Salma Aqeel citizen number 1730112434162 has been received. Following are declared as legal heirs:</p> <p>1. Salma Aqeel (Daughter)2. Aliya Aqeel (Daughter)3. Durehshwar Aqeel (Daughter)4. Alina Aqeel (Daughter)5. Aqeel Ahmad (Daughter)6. Ehsanullah Saeed (Son)7. Fahad Aqeel (Son)</p> <p>On the above application the objections of public at large are invited. Any aggrieved person may approach in person the undersigned for submission of objection (if any) within fourteen (14) days after publication of this notice.</p> <p>INCHARGE SFU, NADRA MEGA CENTER PESHAWAR-SFU</p>
<p>PUBLIC NOTICE</p> <p>Application for issuance of Letter of Administration / Succession Certificate by Mr. Muhammad Tahir with regards to moveable & immovable assets of deceased Mr. Sartar Khan citizen number 1730116394785 has been received. Following are declared as legal heirs:</p> <p>1. Shameem Akhtar (Daughter)</p> <p>2. Feraza (Spouse)3. Muhammad Tahir (Son)</p> <p>On the above application the objections of public at large are invited. Any aggrieved person may approach in person the undersigned for submission of objection (if any) within fourteen (14) days after publication of this notice.</p> <p>INCHARGE SFU, NADRA MEGA CENTER PESHAWAR-SFU</p>	<p>PUBLIC NOTICE</p> <p>Application for issuance of Letter of Administration / Succession Certificate by Mr. Qasim Saeed with regards to moveable & immovable assets of deceased Mr. Saeed Ullah citizen number 1730170437951 has been received. Following are declared as legal heirs:</p> <p>1. Razia Saeed (Spouse)</p> <p>2. Qasim Saeed (Son)3. Naveed Ull Saeed (Son)4. Bilal Saeed (Son)</p> <p>On the above application the objections of public at large are invited. Any aggrieved person may approach in person the undersigned for submission of objection (if any) within fourteen (14) days after publication of this notice.</p> <p>INCHARGE SFU, NADRA MEGA CENTER PESHAWAR-SFU</p>	<p>PUBLIC NOTICE</p> <p>Application for issuance of Letter of Administration / Succession Certificate by Mr. Zaheer Ali with regards to moveable & immovable assets of deceased Mr. Qambar Ali citizen number 1430125487851 has been received. Following are declared as legal heirs:</p> <p>1. Shabana Khatoun (Daughter)</p> <p>2. Sajida Khatoon (Daughter)</p> <p>3. Wawa Jan (Spouse)4. Zaheer Ali (Son)</p> <p>On the above application the objections of public at large are invited. Any aggrieved person may approach in person the undersigned for submission of objection (if any) within fourteen (14) days after publication of this notice.</p> <p>INCHARGE SFU, NADRA KOHAT-SFU</p>	<p>PUBLIC NOTICE</p> <p>Application for issuance of Letter of Administration / Succession Certificate by Mr. Ghulam Hussain with regards to moveable & immovable assets of deceased Mr. Ghulam Hussain citizen number 1730157129375 has been received. Following are declared as legal heirs:</p> <p>1. Jamsheeda (Daughter)</p> <p>2. Khurshida Bibi (Daughter)</p> <p>3. Ghulam Hussain (Son)4. Sartar Hussain (Son)5. Ghulam Hussain (Son)</p> <p>On the above application the objections of public at large are invited. Any aggrieved person may approach in person the undersigned for submission of objection (if any) within fourteen (14) days after publication of this notice.</p> <p>INCHARGE SFU, NADRA MEGA CENTER PESHAWAR-SFU</p>	<p>PUBLIC NOTICE</p> <p>Application for issuance of Letter of Administration / Succession Certificate by Ms. Shumaila with regards to moveable & immovable assets of deceased Mr. Muhammad Ishaq citizen number 1720143630317 has been received. Following are declared as legal heirs:</p> <p>1. Shumaila (Daughter)2. Nayab Ishaq (Daughter)3. Yasmeen Ishaq (Spouse)</p> <p>On the above application the objections of public at large are invited. Any aggrieved person may approach in person the undersigned for submission of objection (if any) within fourteen (14) days after publication of this notice.</p> <p>INCHARGE SFU, NADRA RING ROAD-DSFU</p>	<p>PUBLIC NOTICE</p> <p>Application for issuance of Letter of Administration / Succession Certificate by Mr. Bilal Karim with regards to moveable & immovable assets of deceased Mr. Muhammad Unis Ehsani citizen number 6110120157575 has been received. Following are declared as legal heirs:</p> <p>1. Shumaila (Daughter)2. Nayab Ishaq (Daughter)3. Yasmeen Ishaq (Spouse)</p> <p>On the above application the objections of public at large are invited. Any aggrieved person may approach in person the undersigned for submission of objection (if any) within fourteen (14) days after publication of this notice.</p> <p>INCHARGE SFU, NADRA RING ROAD-DSFU</p>
<p>PUBLIC NOTICE</p> <p>Application for issuance of Letter of Administration / Succession Certificate by Mr. Kalem Ullah with regards to moveable & immovable assets of deceased Ms. Dilshad Begum citizen number 6110117244667 has been received. Following are declared as legal heirs:</p> <p>1. Niamat Ullah (Spouse)</p> <p>2. Khuram Shahzad (Son)</p> <p>3. Wasem Ullah (Son)4. Faheem Ullah (Son)5. Kalem Ullah (Son)</p> <p>On the above application the objections of public at large are invited. Any aggrieved person may approach in person the undersigned for submission of objection (if any) within fourteen (14) days after publication of this notice.</p> <p>INCHARGE SFU, NADRA BANNU-SFU</p>	<p>PUBLIC NOTICE</p> <p>Application for issuance of Letter of Administration / Succession Certificate by Mr. Hassan Raza with regards to moveable & immovable assets of deceased Ms. Rashida Begum citizen number 1730170758830 has been received. Following are declared as legal heirs:</p> <p>1. Tahmina Nooren (Daughter)</p> <p>2. Afsheen Bashir (Daughter)</p> <p>3. Shazia Nooren (Daughter)</p> <p>4. Tahir Raza (Son)5. Hassan Raza (Son)</p> <p>On the above application the objections of public at large are invited. Any aggrieved person may approach in person the undersigned for submission of objection (if any) within fourteen (14) days after publication of this notice.</p> <p>INCHARGE SFU, NADRA MEGA CENTER PESHAWAR-SFU</p>	<p>PUBLIC NOTICE</p> <p>Application for issuance of Letter of Administration / Succession Certificate by Mr. Abdul Baseer with regards to moveable & immovable assets of deceased Mr. Abdul Baseer citizen number 1540214365805 has been received. Following are declared as legal heirs:</p> <p>1. Shaista Rahman (Daughter)</p> <p>2. Nazeem Begum (Daughter)</p> <p>3. Bibi Zoha (Spouse)4. Abdul Salam Arif (Son)5. Salah Udd Din (Son)6. Abdul Baseer (Son)7. Abdul Wahab (Son)8. Irfan Uddin (Son)</p> <p>On the above application the objections of public at large are invited. Any aggrieved person may approach in person the undersigned for submission of objection (if any) within fourteen (14) days after publication of this notice.</p> <p>INCHARGE SFU, NADRA MALAKAND-SFU</p>	<p>PUBLIC NOTICE</p> <p>Application for issuance of Letter of Administration / Succession Certificate by Mr. Muhammad Asim Khan with regards to moveable & immovable assets of deceased Mr. Muhammad Gohar Rahman citizen number 1730113676873 has been received. Following are declared as legal heirs:</p> <p>1. Shaista Rahman (Daughter)</p> <p>2. Ayesha Rahman (Daughter)</p> <p>3. Rabea Rahman (Daughter)</p> <p>4. Sofia Rehman (Daughter)</p> <p>5. Robina Shaheen (Spouse)</p> <p>6. Muhammad Asim Khan (Son)</p> <p>On the above application the objections of public at large are invited. Any aggrieved person may approach in person the undersigned for submission of objection (if any) within fourteen (14) days after publication of this notice.</p> <p>INCHARGE SFU, NADRA MEGA CENTER PESHAWAR-SFU</p>	<p>PUBLIC NOTICE</p> <p>Application for issuance of Letter of Administration / Succession Certificate by Mr. Faiza Rais with regards to moveable & immovable assets of deceased Mr. Sayid Fakhar I Alam citizen number 1730115667953 has been received. Following are declared as legal heirs:</p> <p>1. Faiza Rais (Daughter)</p> <p>2. Tehzeeb Zulfigar (Daughter)</p> <p>3. Syeda Fatima Zahra (Spouse)</p> <p>4. Syed Musa Raza (Son)</p> <p>On the above application the objections of public at large are invited. Any aggrieved person may approach in person the undersigned for submission of objection (if any) within fourteen (14) days after publication of this notice.</p> <p>INCHARGE SFU, NADRA MEGA CENTER PESHAWAR-SFU</p>	<p>PUBLIC NOTICE</p> <p>Application for issuance of Letter of Administration / Succession Certificate by Ms. Musarat Begum with regards to moveable & immovable assets of deceased Mr. Niaz Muhammad citizen number 1620209628765 has been received. Following are declared as legal heirs:</p> <p>1. Musarat Begum (Daughter)</p> <p>2. Tahariyat (Daughter)</p> <p>3. Rukhsar (Daughter)4. Aali Khan (Son)5. Sarfaraz Khan (Son)6. Hameed Khan (Son)</p> <p>On the above application the objections of public at large are invited. Any aggrieved person may approach in person the undersigned for submission of objection (if any) within fourteen (14) days after publication of this notice.</p> <p>INCHARGE SFU, NADRA MEGA CENTER PESHAWAR-SFU</p>
<p>PUBLIC NOTICE</p> <p>Application for issuance of Letter of Administration / Succession Certificate by Mr. Saad Sarfaraz with regards to moveable & immovable assets of deceased Mr. Muhammad Sarfaraz citizen number 135031322033 has been received. Following are declared as legal heirs:</p> <p>1. Mukhtar Begum (Spouse)</p> <p>2. Muqaddas Sarfaraz (Son)3. Zaid Sarfaraz (Son)4. Fahad Sarfaraz (Son)5. Saad Sarfaraz (Son)6. Abdul Wahid Sarfaraz (Son)7. Shahid Sarfaraz (Son)</p> <p>On the above application the objections of public at large are invited. Any aggrieved person may approach in person the undersigned for submission of objection (if any) within fourteen (14) days after publication of this notice.</p> <p>INCHARGE SFU, NADRA MANSEHRA-SFU</p>	<p>PUBLIC NOTICE</p> <p>Application for issuance of Letter of Administration / Succession Certificate by Mr. Ali Zaman with regards to moveable & immovable assets of deceased Mr. Muhammad Ayaz citizen number 1330203574978 has been received. Following are declared as legal heirs:</p> <p>1. Maryam Bibi (Daughter)</p> <p>2. Maryam Bibi (Daughter)</p> <p>3. Zaman (Spouse)4. Muhammad Ayaz (Son)5. Haider Zaman (Son)6. Muhammad Fiaz (Son)</p> <p>On the above application the objections of public at large are invited. Any aggrieved person may approach in person the undersigned for submission of objection (if any) within fourteen (14) days after publication of this notice.</p> <p>INCHARGE SFU, NADRA HARIPUR-SFU</p>	<p>PUBLIC NOTICE</p> <p>Application for issuance of Letter of Administration / Succession Certificate by Mr. Muhammad Ayaz with regards to moveable & immovable assets of deceased Mr. Muhammad Ayaz citizen number 1620209041549 has been received. Following are declared as legal heirs:</p> <p>1. Nazish Zeb (Daughter)</p> <p>2. Gharibal Zeb (Spouse)</p> <p>3. Muhammad Ayaz (Son)</p> <p>4. Muhammad Amir (Son)</p> <p>On the above application the objections of public at large are invited. Any aggrieved person may approach in person the undersigned for submission of objection (if any) within fourteen (14) days after publication of this notice.</p> <p>INCHARGE SFU, NADRA SWABI-SFU</p>	<p>PUBLIC NOTICE</p> <p>Application for issuance of Letter of Administration / Succession Certificate by Mr. Iqbal Uddin with regards to moveable & immovable assets of deceased Mr. Iqbal Uddin citizen number 1520196330621 has been received. Following are declared as legal heirs:</p> <p>1. Rafia (Daughter)2. Bibi Bahira (Daughter)3. Mukhtar Jahan (Daughter)4. Shaheer (Daughter)5. Shaheer (Daughter)6. Farooq Bibi (Spouse)7. Iqbal Uddin (Son)8. Safi Udd Din (Son)9. Wali Udd Din (Son)10. Munir Udd Din (Son)</p> <p>On the above application the objections of public at large are invited. Any aggrieved person may approach in person the undersigned for submission of objection (if any) within fourteen (14) days after publication of this notice.</p> <p>INCHARGE SFU, NADRA CHITRAL-SFU</p>	<p>PUBLIC NOTICE</p> <p>Application for issuance of Letter of Administration / Succession Certificate by Ms. Faiza Rais with regards to moveable & immovable assets of deceased Mr. Sayid Fakhar I Alam citizen number 1730115667953 has been received. Following are declared as legal heirs:</p> <p>1. Faiza Rais (Daughter)</p> <p>2. Tehzeeb Zulfigar (Daughter)</p> <p>3. Syeda Fatima Zahra (Spouse)</p> <p>4. Syed Musa Raza (Son)</p> <p>On the above application the objections of public at large are invited. Any aggrieved person may approach in person the undersigned for submission of objection (if any) within fourteen (14) days after publication of this notice.</p> <p>INCHARGE SFU, NADRA MEGA CENTER PESHAWAR-SFU</p>	<p>PUBLIC NOTICE</p> <p>Application for issuance of Letter of Administration / Succession Certificate by Ms. Musarat Begum with regards to moveable & immovable assets of deceased Mr. Niaz Muhammad citizen number 1620209628765 has been received. Following are declared as legal heirs:</p> <p>1. Musarat Begum (Daughter)</p> <p>2. Tahariyat (Daughter)</p> <p>3. Rukhsar (Daughter)4. Aali Khan (Son)5. Sarfaraz Khan (Son)6. Hameed Khan (Son)</p> <p>On the above application the objections of public at large are invited. Any aggrieved person may approach in person the undersigned for submission of objection (if any) within fourteen (14) days after publication of this notice.</p> <p>INCHARGE SFU, NADRA MEGA CENTER PESHAWAR-SFU</p>



May 9 vandalism exposes evil face of attackers: Sajid

PESHAWAR (APP): The Federal Minister for Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development Sajid Hussain Turi said that May 9 vandalism have exposed the evil face of the attackers and elements involved in the ransacking of national installations could not escaped from law.

He strongly condemned the ransacking of public, government and defence installations on May 9-10 vandalism and said that burning of Radio Pakistan Peshawar's historic building showed that the attackers have no regards for cultural heritage and media.

He expressed these views during his visit to the burnt building of Radio Pakistan Peshawar and expressed solidarity with employees of

the national broadcaster and Associated Press of Pakistan Corporation.

Sajid Hussain Turi said ransacking and burning of Radio Pakistan Peshawar, Jinnah House Lahore and defence installations on May 9-10 exposed the barbaric mindsets of the roiters.

He said that former President Asif Ali Zardari had raised slogan of "Pakistan Khapay" after the martyrdom of Benazir Bhutto Shaheed in 2007 and PPP had allways raised the national flag sky high.

The Federal Minister said the destruction and damages of May 9 vandalism was beyond immigration and the culprits could not escape from clutches of law.

He said Radio Pakistan Peshawar was a historic station established on March 6, 1935 from where the announcement of Pakistan's Independence was aired on midnight of August 13-14, 1947.

Sajid Turi said he would talk to PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto about devastations caused to the Radio Pakistan Peshawar's building and announced five motorcycles for the national broadcaster.

Later, talking to APP, the Federal Minister said that the Government in last one year has sent over 9,50,000 skilled labourers abroad for employment.

The Minister said the death grant of overseas Pakistanis has been increased from Rs6 lakh to Rs8 lakh and dowry grant from Rs4 lakh to Rs6 lakh.

Sajid Hussain Turi said that eight lakh children of overseas Pakistanis and 62,000 students of others Pakistanis were enrolled in his ministry schools.

He said many politicians were approaching to the leaderships of Pakistan People Party to join the party and senior parliamentarians like Dr Haider Ali

and Usman Lala have joined PPP and expressed full confidence in the leadership of PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari and former President Asif Ali Zardari.

The Minister said that land has been required for construction of Parachinar University and work on the project would start soon.

Later, the Federal Minister went around different sections of the burnt building of Radio Pakistan and APP Offices. The Minister was briefed about devastations caused to both the national organizations.

He was also informed about the burnt auditorium of Abdul Qayyum Khan and Chaghi Model Mountains destroyed by the violent mob on May 9, 2023.

The Minister said that PPP stand with employees of both the organizations and the historic building would be rehabilitated more beautiful than before.



PESHAWAR: Federal Minister for Overseas Pakistani & Human Resource Development Sajid Hussain Turi talking to media at Radio Pakistan. — F.P. photo by Ghulam Murtaza

Payment of BRT operations to Daewoo suspended

PESHAWAR (APP): The transport department of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa has directed the suspension of payment to Daewoo Express Bus Service Limited for its operation in BRT Peshawar due to non-payment of Rs 2.1528 million outstanding rent to Road Transport Board (RTB) since 2021.

The Chairman of RTB while expressing concern over the non-payment of rental money for the M/S Daewoo Express terminal located here and directed to get the terminal vacated with immediate effect.

He directed the Deputy Director of Transport to submit a report in the next board meeting on all possible adequate actions that can be taken against M/S Daewoo in light of the Revenue Recovery Act 1890.

He directed that an advance notice should be served to the company to vacate the terminal and upon the end of the contract, the offices of the Directorate of Transport and Mass Transit should be moved into the building.

Students tour Zakori Industries

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: A group of the students of SOS Children's Village Hayatabad paid a visit to Zakori Industries (Pvt.) Ltd. here on the other day. The purpose of the highly enriching and educational factory tour was to provide the children a captivating experience of the inner workings of the company.

The students were warmly welcomed by the company team and briefed that industrial visits were very significant in the academic curriculum, offering students the practical exposure of the industrial environment.

The team stated that the purpose of arranging the visit was to provide an exclusive opportunity to the children to explore the cutting-edge facilities and latest industrial practices of the company, adding that the tour not only familiarized the students with the current market trends but also sparked a profound sense of inspiration about the business world.

"Recognizing the profound impact of experiential learning on the educational and professional growth of children, Zakori Industries remains dedicated to equipping young minds with the requisite skills and knowledge to thrive in the dynamic world of business and industry," the young visitors were told.

Environment Day observed

PESHAWAR (APP): The Centre for Water Informatics and Climate Resilience, in collaboration with the Gym Club at the Institute of Management Sciences Peshawar, commemorated World Environment Day 2023 in the Lincoln Corner of the university.

According to a press release issued on Monday, a panel discussion was held wherein the guest speakers discussed plastic waste, how it can be recycled, and how it affects the environment.

Faculty members, along with other members of the panel, stressed the importance of behavioural change when it comes to plastic use in daily life and the need for a green campus and eco-friendly practices.

Drug addiction most heinous social evil, says Afridi

PESHAWAR (APP): KP Caretaker Minister for Excise and Narcotics Control, Haji Manzoor Khan Afridi has said that drug addiction is the most heinous social evil which has rapidly infiltrated in our youth and is eating away all their talents.

Talking to a delegation from Shiro Jhangi locality of Peshawar here on Monday, the provincial minister said that the time has come to pay full attention to both the spread and treatment of drug addiction and to protect the new generation from the menace of narcotics.

The delegation eulogized the people friendly steps of the provincial government, especially the minister of Excise in respect of waging war against narcotics.

They, while appreciating the sincere efforts on anti-

narcotics, assured of full cooperation at the public level to make this important initiative a success story in all respects.

Haji Manzoor Afridi said that his Excise and Narcotics Control Department has launched a comprehensive campaign against drugs with three major goals, including blocking the sources of supply and demand of all kinds of narcotics, the effective prevention of the use of drugs among the youth as well as treatment and rehabilitation of the addicts.

He said that unfortunately the youth suffering from the curse of drugs consider themselves to be healthy, but in reality they are terminally ill and their God-given abilities fade with time and eventually they die in very miserable conditions.

The provincial minister said that his department is

working diligently to achieve the above three crucial goals, wherein the cooperation of people of all schools of thought, including the religious scholars, has become indispensable.

In this connection, he appealed to the public, especially parents and teachers, not to treat drug addicts as untouchable and stop avoiding them, but consider them more important and focus on their treatment and recovery to make them useful citizens of the society once again.

The delegation also apprised the minister of some of their other problems of their respective areas, to which he assured of proper resolution, while on the pinpointing of some other important problems, he contacted the relevant authorities on the spot and issued orders for their immediate solution.

‘Obstacles hindering promotion of modern education being removed’

PESHAWAR (APP): Special Assistant to the Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on Prisons, Hidayat Ullah Afridi has said that youths are our asset and future and their brought up with quality and contemporary education should be the prime priority of their parents and government.

He said there should be no compromise on their education as these youth will run the affairs of the country in future.

He was talking to the representative delegation of youth from his constituency at his office here on Monday. Afridi said the past regimes in KP showed criminal negligence

towards the promotion of the education sector and today we are bearing the brunt of their neglect.

Our education system, he said, is weaker and that is why no proper heed was paid towards promotion of modern education. To rectify these mistakes, he said the caretaker government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa is removing all hurdles hindering the promotion of modern and contemporary education in the province.

He further said that in the past the development of Peshawar was totally ignored due to which the city was today faced with one or another problem. The sense of deprivation of

people living in Peshawar will be removed and every effort would be made to hand over all civic rights to the people. He said solid steps have been initiated to bring Peshawar at par with other developed cities.

Afridi said talks are underway with the district administration and traffic police to streamline the disordered traffic system in Peshawar adding that very soon a visible improvement would be witnessed in traffic flow.

With regard to law and order, he added that those sabotaging the peaceful environment will not be spared and dealt with iron hands.

Excise dept crackdown against drugs smugglers 64 capsules filled with heroin recovered



F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: Secretary Excise, Taxation and Narcotics Control, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Ehsanullah has said that the Excise Department is taking vigorous action against drug smugglers, the elimination of the scourge of drugs from the society is our first priority. Drug traffickers will be pursued to any extent.

In this regard, Aftabuddin Director Narcotics had received information from secret sources about the international and inter-provincial network that two suspects were going to smuggle capsules filled with drugs.

On the direction of Director Narcotics, Zahid Iqbal Khan Excise and

Taxation Officer Narcotics Control and Arshad Zaman Khan Circle Officer Peshawar Region along with other personnel, alerted all the field formations for abrupt operation. According to the information, the above mentioned team has arrested both the accused in a successful operation from Haji Camp Stop Peshawar.

It should be noted that the arrested accused were the most wanted smugglers and operatives of the international and inter-provincial drug network. The arrested accused were trying to smuggle heroin abroad to Dubai.

In the initial investigation, the accused admitted to having heroin-filled capsules in their bodies, after which the accused were

transferred to LRH Hospital for the recovery of heroin, where 64 heroin-filled egg-shaped capsules were removed from the body of both the accused.

Two more main suspects/smugglers Ishaq and Abidullah, residents of Bara, were successfully arrested during the operation. There have also been other revelations in the case, the details of which will be shared after more arrests. Regarding the action, Secretary Excise Ehsanullah, Director General Excise Akmal Khattak and Aftabuddin Director Narcotics Control have issued instructions to speed up and expand the series of operations against drug smugglers while appreciating the action of the relevant staff.

Police arrest 3 smugglers, recover arms

PESHAWAR, (APP): Capital city police on Monday arrested three smugglers and recovered arms and ammunition including 66 pistols.

The spokesman for police said that operations conducted by Saddar Division Police, attempt to smuggle illegal weapons thwarted, three suspects linked to inter-provincial arms smugglers group arrested.

On a tip off, in compliance with the special directives of SP Saddar Division, Malik Habib, rigorous checking has been intensified on all internal routes.

During special checking, under the supervision of DSP Badhber Circle Hassan Khan, SHO Matani Police Station Imran Uddin carried out significant operations against inter-provincial arms smugglers based on intelligence inputs.

The arrested alleged smugglers include Arshad Hussain, Nawaz, and Muhammad, who are residents of Matani and Sarband.

The suspects were attempting to smuggle weapons, including firearms, through Suzuki vehicles to Peshawar as well as other districts and provinces.

Acting on intelligence information, they were apprehended during operation at Abbab Topo Check Post and Saran Chowk checkpoints. The suspects have confessed to their involvement in illegal arms smuggling during the initial investigation.

During the operations, a total of 66 pistols, four MP4 pistols, 830 different magazines, three guns, one Kalashnikov, one rifle, and hundreds of rounds, two Suzuki vehicles, were seized by the police.

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Hot, dry weather predicted

PESHAWAR (APP): The Provincial Meteorological Center Peshawar on Monday predicted that mainly hot and dry weather is expected over most districts of the province.

However, it said that cloudy weather conditions with chance of isolated thunderstorm-rain/wind is likely to occur over Abbottabad, Mansehra, Battagram, Torghar, Kohistan, Upper Dir, Swat, Buner, Khyber and Kurram districts.

During the last 24 hours mainly dry weather prevailed over most districts of the province. However, isolated thunderstorm-rain occurred in Swat, Kurram and Khyber districts.

Rain recorded (in mm): Parachinar 05, Saidu Sharif 04, Khyber (Landikotal 01 & Tirah Trace).

The maximum and minimum temperatures recorded in centigrade at different stations of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa were Peshawar City 36/22, Chitral 32/14, Timergara 33/19, Dir 30/12, Mirkhani 30/13, Kalam 25/06, Drosch 30/16, Saidu Sharif 33/15, Pattan 33/22, Malam Jabba 20/11, Takht Bhair 33/19, Kakul 31/14, Balakot 33/17, Parachinar 26/10, Bannu 37/22, Cherat 28/15, D.I. Khan 38/24.

The highest temperature recorded in the province was 38°C in Dera Ismail Khan.



PESHAWAR: Managing Director, Bank of Khyber Muhammad Gul Faraz giving away shields to position holder students during a ceremony held at Press Club for the children of journalists.

KMU holds anti-corruption awareness seminar and walk

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: Director NAB Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Mian Muhammad Waqar has said that corruption is not just the name of financial irregularity, but wrong and unnecessary use of national resources, abuse of authority, violation of merit, deviation from rules and regulations are also types of corruption. Young people, especially students, can play a key role in eradicating corruption.

He expressed these views while addressing an awareness seminar on the anti-corruption week in Khyber Medical University (KMU) Peshawar, while on this occasion apart from Director KMU-IBMS Dr. Inayat Shah, a large number of faculty and students were also present.

Mian Muhammad Waqar said that NAB is an autonomous institution that is playing an active role in eradicating corruption from society. He said that cor-

ruption weakens the country's foundations and its prevention is the main mandate of NAB.

He said that there are many types of corruption and in developing countries like Pakistan; corruption is a big challenge for the concerned institutions.

He said that obtaining halal sustenance is not only a religious obligation, but it is also a source of blessing in wealth and life.

Mian Muhammad Waqar emphasized to the youth that they can play an important role in the eradication of corruption and we want the youth to play the role of NAB ambassadors in the national campaign against the eradication of corruption.

In response to a question, he said that NAB works under the laws approved by the Parliament and in this regard whatever laws the Parliament enact is its authority and these laws bind NAB.

In response to another

question about NAB's role in combating corruption in the army and the judiciary, he said that since there is a comprehensive and active accountability system for combating corruption in these two institutions, it is therefore these both national institutions are beyond the jurisdiction of NAB.

Addressing the event, Dr. Inayat Shah stressed to the students that they should play the role of the front line in the eradication of corruption.

He said that the students of today are the responsible rulers of tomorrow, so they have a heavy responsibility to make Pakistan a corruption-free country.

He said there is no room for corruption in KMU and we are standing side by side with NAB in eradicating corruption.

At the end of the event, an anti-corruption awareness walk was also organized in which the students actively participated.

Power suspension for Hazara, Swabi notified

PESHAWAR (APP): Peshawar Electric Supply Company (Pesco) on Monday notified that due to maintenance work power supply will remain suspended from 132 KV Abbottabad Grid Station on 6th, 8th, 13th, 20th and 22nd June from 8:00 a.m to 2:00 p.m subsequently consumers of 11KV Jahangai, Banda Pir Khan, APS, Jannah Abad, Madian, SIE, Camset University, INOR, AMC, PMA 2, Repco, Link, Sherwan, Cantt feeders will face inconvenience.

It said that power supply

will also remain suspended from 132 KV Kholian Bala Grid Station on 6th, 7th, 14th & 19th June from 8:00 a.m to 4:00 p.m. resultantly consumers of 11 KV Sirkot, City Havelian, Town Havelian, Kokal, Industrial 1, Kholian and Jabri feeders will face inconvenience. The power supply will remain suspended from 132 KV Haripur Grid Station on 6th, 8th, 13th & 15th June from 8:00 a.m to 4:00 p.m. following which consumers of 11 KV Panian 1, Kot, 1,2, Chamba, Zeb Pharma, PIDC,

Phosphate, KTS 1, 2, Swabi Mera, Swabi Mera 1, 2, Town 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, Panian 2, SNK, Judicial Complex, Bayan, Khanpur New, Baldher, NRTC feeders will face inconvenience.

Likewise, the power supply will remain suspended from 132 KV RBT Grid Station on 6th, 8th, 10th and 15th June from 8:00 a.m.to 2:00 p.m. resultantly consumers of 11 KV Topi, Kalabat, Kotla, HS Mill, Gandaf, GIK, Manal, New Yousafzai, Village 1,2 feeders will face inconvenience.



PESHAWAR: Caretaker Minister for Transport Shahid Khan Khattak presiding over annual meeting of transport board.



In brief

Five killed in mishap

PHALIA (INP): Five people died as a result of a terrible collision between a dumper and a passenger van in Phalia on Monday. The accident took place near Pahrianwali Adda area of Tehsil Phalia in Mandi Bahauddin, when a dumper and a passenger van collided due to high speed and five people were killed including the driver and three women, while 13 passengers were injured. The rescue team shifted the dead bodies and injured to a hospital. The driver of the dumper fled after the incident.

Motorbike, cell phones looted

MUZAFFARGARH (INP): Three armed robbers looted motorbike with three mobile phones from a bike rider was moving along with his fellow here. Police source said the victim named Tahir Khan registered complaint with Sher Sultan police station as he was intercepted on gunpoint at Kalar Wali area. He said the robbers being three in numbers, snatched the said valuables from both of them before escaped the scene.

Five injured in groups clash

BAHAWALNAGAR (INP): At least five people were injured in armed clash between two groups in Minchinabad area of Bahawalnagar on Monday, police said. According to details, the dispute emerged over hanging panaflex in suburban area Adda Feeder. Five people were injured in the clash and shifted to local hospital for treatment. The police registered a case against the members of the two clashing groups and started an investigation. Meanwhile, a young girl attempted suicide over domestic disputes by consuming toxic spray here on Monday, police said. Annoyed over the domestic quarrels and taunting of the family, young lady Rukhsar Bibi hailing from Chak Abdullah of Bahawalnagar drank toxic sprayed due to which her condition deteriorated. She was rushed to a local hospital in critical condition where medics were trying to save her life. Madrassa police of Bahawalnagar after registering a case into the incident have started an investigation.

Police shootout near Airport

SUKKUR (INP): Sukkur SSP Sanghaar Malik said that an encounter took place near the Sukkur Airport limits Bachao Band. Police managed to capture a robber named Shabir Mirani in injured condition while his accomplice managed to escape. He said that second encounter took place in Section-A police station limits in which an alleged robber Shaukat Bugti was arrested in injured condition. Police claimed to recover pistols and bullets from arrested robbers while arrested bandits were wanted in theft, robbery and other serious cases.

CPEC to boost business activities

QUETTA (INP): Balochistan Home and Tribal Affairs Minister Mir Ziaullah Lango marked China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) a game changer for promoting economic development and regional peace and stability. He expressed his views in a talk with Chinese Consul Gene Yang Yundong who called on him in Quetta. The provincial minister said completion of the project will provide South Asian countries to showcase their products to international markets more easily and effectively.



MINGORA: Inspector General of Police Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Akhtar Hayat Khan offering dua after sapling plant at Swat Police Lines.

Mayor demands action against ex-KP Minister

F.P. Report

MARDAN: City Mayor Mardan Himayatullah Mayar advocate has demanded of quarters concerned to take stern action against the ex-provincial minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Muhammad Atif Khan for his alleged medicine factory scandal.

Talking to this acirbe here on Monday, the city mayor Himayatullah Mayar demanded alleged that the medicine factory owned by former provincial minister Muhammad Atif Khan nad his brother Hanan Khan was manufacturing very low quality medicines.

Mr. Himayatullah Mayar who also belonged to Awami Nativkhal Party, blamed that Mr. Hanan Khan was the brother-in-law of the then provincial health minister Shehram Khan Tharakai that was why all the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government hospitals were bounded to use the drugs of said medicine factory. The ex-provincial minister earned billions of rupees by providing low quality medicines to the government hospitals in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province in

the last 9-years PTI tenure, he added.

Mayor also blamed that Muhammad Atif Khan hide the medicine factory and did not show it in his assets when he was submitting his nomination papers for the last general elections held in 2013 and 2018. When this scribe contacted Mr. Muhammad Atif Khan for his comments in this regard, he claimed that he had established the said medicine factory in 2008 which was regularly paying huge amount to the government in shape of taxes.

He rejected the allegations of providing medicines to KP government hospitals, adding that his factory did not provide a single drug to any government hospital in KP province. He claimed that his medicine factory had been exporting drugs to other countries. He alleged that the incumbent had started victimisation against him and his other family members.

Meanwhile, two armed dacoits allegedly snatched cash amount and mobile phones from barber, his employees and customers on gunpoint Saroshah area

here the otherday. The officials of relevant Saroshah police station told that they had registered FIR in the robbery case.

The police FIR stated that two unidentified armed dacoits forced into the shop of a barber located near the Takhtbai degree college and snatched thousand of cash amount and mobile phone sets from the shop owner, his employees and four clients on gunpoints and fled the spot forthwith. After the robbery incident, the members of barber association and traders of thanzim-e-tajaraan held protest demonstration against the incident.

Addressing on the occasion, the traders' leaders strongly condemned the robbery incident. They criticised the rulers for their failure to provide security and protection traders and poor shopkeepers. They demanded of the relevant officials to arrest the accused and recover the snatched cash amount and mobile phone sets. They gave three day deadline for recovery and arrest of the alleged dacoits, otherwise, they would be forced to launch an aggressive anti-government protest.

4 killed as truck plunges into Neelum River

MUZAFFARABAD (PPI):

In a tragic turn of events on Sunday, a cargo truck traveling from Muzaffarabad to Upper Neelum Valley met with a devastating accident in the Changan area, resulting in the loss of at least four lives.

According to details, the ill-fated truck was traveling from Muzaffarabad to Upper Neelum Valley when it met with an accident in Changan and plunged into the Neelum River. As news of the accident spread, locals, rescue workers, and the Pakistan Army promptly arrived at the scene and launched a rescue operation.

Girl killed, six injured in firing

QUETTA (INP): A nine-year old girl was killed while six people including women were injured in firing of motorcyclists here on Monday.

Police said that unidentified culprits riding motorcycles sprayed bullets at pedestrians heading to bus terminal in Hazar Ganji area of Quetta. A nine-year old girl was killed on the spot in the firing while two women among six people sustained bullet wounds. The attackers sped the scene. The body and injured were shifted to hospital for medico-legal formalities. The police registered a case against unidentified assailants and started an investigation into the incident.

Man killed, three injured in firing

MIAN CHANNU (INP): One person was killed while his three family members in firing of armed men over property dispute here on Monday.

The incident took place in suburban village 49/15-L of Mian Channu where culprits sprayed bullets at members of rival group with whom they were in dispute over property ownership.

As a result of firing a man identified as Bhai was killed while his father and two brothers sustained bullet wounds. The body and injured were shifted to hospital for medico-legal formalities and police after registering a case against the culprits started raids for their arrest.

Youngster shot dead in Sujawal

SUJAWAL (INP): Rival shot dead a youngster over a long standing grudge in Sujawal district of Sindh, police confirmed on Monday.

According to media reports, the incident occurred in Janun Janwani village when two warring parties started an armed conflict over a long standing grudge. The prolonged episode of firing sent waves of terror in the entire area and as a result of firing Ghumshad Janwani was killed.

KP IGP commends matchless sacrifices of Swat Police

Shafi Ullah

MINGORA: Inspector General of Police (IGP) Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Akhtar Hayat Khan has said that the Malakand Police have rendered matchless sacrifices in the war against terrorism and reiterated his determination to make the Swat Police stronger and more integrated to deal with all kinds of challenges.

He expressed these views while addressing a Police Darbar of officers and jawans of Malakand region in Swat Police Lines on Monday. Officers and jawans of all ranks from various units and departments of the police force participated in large number in the darbar. DIG Malakand, DPOs Swat Lower Dir, Bajaur, Buner and other senior police officials were also present on the occasion.

The Police chief said that every officer and jawan of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Police have performed their duties beyond the expectations despite all kinds of adverse conditions for the past two decades and every rank of officer and jawan have sacrificed their precious lives for the restoration of peace.

The IGP further said that the economy of Swat is linked to tourism and millions of tourists used to come from the nook and corner of the country every year during the summer season. The IGP described the Malakand Police's arrangements regarding tourism policing as satisfactory and urged the Darbar's participants to be kind to people, especially tourists.

The IGP said that the behavior of police officers, traffic officials and those performing duty at check posts should be exemplary

towards the public. The IGP directed the senior officials of Malakand Police to make recruitment to the posts of Muharrar and Assistant Muharrar through examination to provide opportunity to intelligent and talented youth to pave way for bringing collective improvement in the force.

The IGP assured to address the issue of the promotion of police personnel on priority basis and said that no one will be deprived of his due right and the issue of the promotion of all the officials of the province will be solved by July 15. The IGP said that as the Force Commander, the welfare of the police force is his top priority, saying after assuming charge, he has introduced several reforms in this regard and has taken revolutionary measures for provision of better education and health facilities to the children of police personnel.

Beside, increasing the monthly stipend and burial charges, the amount for dowry of the first daughter of a police officer has been increased from Rs.30,000/- to Rs. 100,000/- Furthermore, he said that Police personnel will be given Rs.100,000/- to Rs.300,000 for their parents and children. Similarly, he said that qualified and intelligent children of the police personnel will be given admission on merit in the higher and standard educational institutions of the country. He said that all the issues related to employment of police jawans in tribal districts have been resolved and more measures are being taken for the welfare of the employees.

The IGP said that the police force is like a family and all available resources will be used to make it invincible. On this occasion,

officers and jawans presented personal and collective problems related to their service. The IGP after listening to all their arguments issued orders on the spot to resolve them. The IGP also planted saplings in the lawn of Swat Police Lines in connection with the plantation drive.

Two terrorists arrested from Swat: The police in Swat on Monday arrested two terrorists associated with the outlawed Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) from Swat.

Addressing a press conference KP Inspector General of Police Akhtar Hayat Khan said the police have arrested two TTP terrorists named Asmatullah and Rafiullah aka Jawad from Swat. He said every year attempts from a 'neighboring country' are made to disturb law and order in Swat.

Giving details about the arrest of two TTP operatives, the KP IG said police launched an operation on information about the presence of terrorists on May 23 in Buner. He said in an attack by the terrorists a citizen was martyred while a jawan of Elite Force named Waqar Khan had sustained wounds. He said the terrorists' group was active in Chabagh and Manglaore areas of the Swat district.

The terrorists' facilitator, Asmatullah was involved in providing safe passage to the TTP operatives. The terrorist named Rafiullah along with his family had moved to Afghanistan in 2012 and returned to Pakistan, last year, after the formation of TTP Swat group. He said both the terrorists have been arrested in an intelligence based operation and further investigation from them was underway to arrest their accomplices.

Direct Hajj flights from Quetta officially kicks off

QUETTA (INP): In a significant development, direct Hajj flights from Quetta have officially kicked off, marking a milestone for pilgrims in the region. Last night, a total of 145 pilgrims embarked on their sacred journey to Medina directly from Quetta.

The initiation of direct Hajj flights from Quetta brings great relief to pilgrims from Balochistan, streamlining their travel experience to the holy land of Hajj.

Quetta International Airport witnessed yet another significant breakthrough as it welcomed the commencement of these special flights. The PK-747 aircraft, operating on the new Runway Category-II,

made a successful first night landing before embarking on its journey to Medina with the 145 Hajj pilgrims onboard. Prior to this development, PK-6133 and PK-6137 had facilitated the travel of three hundred Hajj pilgrims to Medina. Previously, pilgrims from Quetta had to undertake the additional leg of their journey to Karachi before heading to the holy land.

Pilots expressed their utmost satisfaction with the new experience of landing on Quetta Airport's state-of-the-art CAT-II runway during nighttime. The Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) spokesperson highlighted the recent upgrades that have made direct flights possible from Quetta. Thanks to the recent expansion,

the runway now extends over an impressive length of 12,000 feet, allowing for more extensive operations. The installation of the modern CAT-II airfield lighting system on the new runway guarantees smooth and reliable operations in various weather conditions.

The spokesperson further revealed that the enhanced facilities at Quetta Airport have opened doors for wide-bodied aircraft, including the esteemed Boeing 777 and its equivalents, to land comfortably at the airport. The commencement of direct Hajj flights from Quetta represents a significant achievement, as it eases the journey for pilgrims from Balochistan.

Minor student loses eyesight due to carelessness of teacher

PATTOKI (INP): In a woe-tale of corporal punishment, a school teacher damaged an eye of a one grader in a Pattoki school when she flung a pencil at her, making the student blind from that eye, it came to surface on Monday. Reportedly, 6-year-old Aqsa is a student of grade one in a Pattoki school. But the little child suffered the most inhuman punishment by her teacher who flung a pencil at her which hit her eyeball, damaging her sight permanently.

Aqsa came to home and complained to her parents about pain in her eye. They immediately took her to Jinnah Hospital in Lahore where doctors performed a procedure on her eye. But even after the operation, she still is not able to see from that eye. Aqsa mother moaned, adding that it seems her sight from that eye has gone.

The family called on Kasur deputy commissioner, CEO Education and local police to take action against the teacher who inflicted a permanent damage to their child's eye.

They also bewailed the apathy of the school administration who did not take the child who was in agony to a hospital for treatment.

Pakistan passed a historic bill in National Assembly last year banning all types of corporal punishment at formal and informal workplaces and in various educational settings including religious, government and private institutions. But the bill applied to Islamabad only, and the rest of the country was yet to follow suit.

Two abducted people killed in Katcha area

MIRPUR MATHELO (INP): The death of two abducted persons during the ongoing operation in the Katcha area triggered a new controversy between the Punjab and Sindh police over the jurisdiction issue.

According to sources, the police even refused to assist the injured abducted persons as the two corpses are still lying in the area and decomposing. The reason is that neither Punjab nor Sindh police are ready to take responsibility of the kidnapped citizens who have

been killed. They have been identified as Yaseen of Faisalabad and Ikram of Sargodha.

A video posted on social media highlighted the issue. However, the matter was later resolved as it was established that the crime scene fell into the jurisdiction of the Punjab police. But the area SHO still wants to see the bodies getting rotten. Mirpur Mathelo is a town located in Ghotki, the northernmost district of Sindh bordering the Rajanpur and Rahim Yar Khan districts of Punjab.

On the other hand, three injured kidnapped persons, in the video, have appealed to the authorities to recover them as the dacoits are ready to free them. Their names are Rizwan (Faisalabad), Sajid Rind (Khanewal) and Waris (Sheikhupura). The operation is being conducted in Katcha area – the region covering the riverine bed along the Indus River in southern Punjab and upper – as thousands of police officials are trying to remove and eliminate the powerful gangs of dacoits from the region.

WSCCK organises seminar on eve of World Environment Day



F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: Water and Sanitation Services Company Kohat (WSCCK) organized a seminar on the eve of International Environment Day at Preston University Kohat on Monday. It is noted here that World Environment Day is celebrated on June 5 each year to draw attention to environmental issues.

This year's World Environment Day theme is 'Beat Plastic Pollution' to refocus attention on solutions to plastic pollution. Key-note speakers on the occasion highlighted the significance of World Environment Day and delivered lectures on the theme of 'Beat Plastic Pollution'. Besides, WSCCK

Operations Shehbaz Khattak, Manager Media and Communication of the company Asma Ali, Assistant Manager Solid Waste Management Ammad Bangash, Chief Sanitary Inspector Muhammad Sohail, Gender Coordinator Shela Gul, KPCIP staff, Director of Preston University Dr Aon Abbas, Aqil Amin Khattak, Hamid Gul, a large number of the varsity's faculty members, both male and female students were participated in the seminar.

Asma Ali, Manager Media and Communication of the WSCCK briefed the participants about working and performance of her institute. Ammad Bangash, Assistant Manager Solid Waste Manager of the company expressed his views

on the theme of World Environment Day 'Beat Plastic Pollution', stressing the need for minimum consumption of plastic to make the environment pollution free.

Dr Aon Abbas, Director Preston University while speaking on the occasion said that time has come that all institutions should work together and take concrete initiatives to safe environment from pollution, because we are already facing global warming issues. At the end, Manager Operations, WSCCK Shehbaz Khattak responded to various queries raised by participants of the seminar. On the occasion, the company's senior official informed in detail about the WSCCK Helpline 1334.

Govt to reduce burden on masses in upcoming budget: Rana

SHEIKHUPURA (INP): Federal Education Minister Rana Tanveer Hussain has said that the economy of country is currently going through critical situation but the government will make all out efforts to lessen burden on masses in upcoming budget 2023-24. Talking to media in Sheikhupura on Monday, he alleged that PTI chief Imran Khan and company

erected barricades in front of IMF programme bankrupting the country.

However, the incumbent government despite all hurdles not only saved the country of being bankrupted but will also present a balanced budget in line with the desires of the countrymen.

While responding to a query, Rana Tanveer Hussain said that entire nation was worried

over attitude of the judiciary.

The way accused involved in May 9 incidents were provide relaxation reveals that Imran Khan was being facilitated, he claimed. The federal minister said that press conference of IGP Punjab and presence of Yasmin Rashid in Jinnah House in her forensic report was proving her suspect.



Service during shooting, pandemic Ardern given a top New Zealand honour

WELLINGTON (AP): Former Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern on Monday received one of New Zealand's highest honors for her service leading the country through a mass shooting and pandemic. Ardern was made a Dame Grand Companion, the second-highest honor in New Zealand, as part of King Charles III's Birthday Honors. It means people will now call her Dame Jacinda. Royal honorees are typically chosen twice a year in New Zealand by the prime minister and signed off by Charles, the British king who is also recognized as New Zealand's king.

Ardern was just 37 when she became prime minister in 2017, and was seen as a global icon of the left. She shocked New Zealanders in January when she said she was stepping down as leader after more than five years because she no longer had "enough in the tank" to do it justice.

She was facing mounting political pressures at home, including for her handling of COVID-19, which was initially widely lauded but later criticized by those opposed to mandates and rules. Prime Minister Chris Hipkins, who succeeded Ardern, said she was being recognized for her service during "some of the greatest challenges our country has faced in modern times." "Leading New Zealand's



response to the 2019 terrorist attacks and to the COVID-19 pandemic represented periods of intense challenge for our 40th prime minister, during which time I saw firsthand that her commitment to New Zealand remained absolute," Hipkins said in a statement.

Fifty-one Muslim worshippers were killed during Friday prayers in the 2019 attack at two Christchurch mosques by a white supremacist gunman. Within weeks of the attack, Ardern led major changes to New Zealand's gun laws by banning assault weapons. More than 50,000 guns were handed over to police during a subsequent buyback scheme. Ardern said she was in two minds about whether to accept the award because much of what she was being recog-

nized for were experiences that were collective to all New Zealanders. "So for me this is about my family, my colleagues and all those who supported me to do that incredibly rewarding job," she told iNews.

Ardern will be temporarily joining Harvard University later this year after she was appointed to dual fellowships at the Harvard Kennedy School. She has also taken on an unpaid role combatting online extremism. Also recognized in the King's Birthday Honors list was rugby coach Wayne Smith, who helped lead both men's and women's rugby teams representing New Zealand to World Cup victories. In keeping with tradition, Britain's Queen Camilla was given the top award by being appointed to the Order of New Zealand.

US, UK navies say responded to call from ship

WASHINGTON (Agencies): The United States Navy has said its sailors and the United Kingdom's Royal Navy came to the aid of a ship in the crucial Strait of Hormuz after Iran's Revolutionary Guard allegedly "harassed" it. Three fast-attack Guard vessels with armed troops on board approached the merchant ship at a close distance, the US Navy said in a statement.

It shared black-and-white images, which showed three small ships close to the commercial vessel, taken by a US Navy Boeing P-8 Poseidon that was flying overhead. The US Navy's guided-missile destroyer USS McPaul and the Royal Navy's frigate HMS Lancaster responded to the incident, with the Lancaster launching a helicopter. "The situation deescalated approximately an hour later when the merchant vessel confirmed the fast-attack craft departed the scene," the Navy said. "The merchant ship continued transiting the Strait of Hormuz without further incident." About 20 percent of the world's oil passes through the Strait of Hormuz, the narrow mouth of the Persian Gulf. While the Navy did not identify

the vessel involved, ship-tracking data from MarineTraffic.com analysed by The Associated Press showed the Marshall Islands-flagged bulk carrier Venture erratically changed course as it travelled through the strait at the time of the incident.

Its location also matched information about the incident given by the UK Maritime Trade Operations, a UK military operation overseeing traffic in the region. The vessel also resembled the images released by the Navy. The ship's registered manager, Trust Bulkers of Athens, Greece, did not immediately respond to a request for comment. Iranian state media and the Revolutionary Guard did not immediately acknowledge the incident. Iran's mission to the United Nations did not immediately respond to a request for comment. This latest incident comes after a series of maritime incidents involving Iran following the US unilaterally withdrawing from Tehran's nuclear deal with world powers in 2018. The US is suspected to have seized the Suez Rajan, a tanker linked to a US private equity firm and believed to have been car-

rying sanctioned Iranian crude oil off Singapore. While authorities have not acknowledged the Suez Rajan's seizure, the vessel is now off the coast of Galveston, Texas, according to ship-tracking data analysed by the AP.

At the end of April, Iran seized the Turkish-operated, Chinese-owned tanker Advantage Sweet, which was carrying Kuwaiti crude oil for the US energy firm Chevron. Iran said the tanker collided with an unidentified Iranian vessel hours before it was seized. In early May, Iran seized the Niovi, a Panama-flagged tanker, as it left a dry dock in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, bound for Fujairah on the UAE's eastern coast. While not carrying any cargo, data from S&P Global Market Intelligence seen by the AP showed the Niovi in July 2020 received oil from a ship known then as the Oman Pride. The US Treasury in August 2021 sanctioned the Oman Pride and others associated with the vessel over it being "involved in an international oil smuggling network" that supported the Quds Force, the expeditionary unit of the Guard that operates across the Middle East.

Deadly fighting escalates in Sudan as truce expires

KHARTOUM (Agencies): Fighting intensified in Khartoum after a ceasefire deal expired and a new outburst of violence took hold in Sudan's restive Darfur region with dozens reportedly killed in what was described as "complete lawlessness". Black smoke billowed above the capital after the truce between Sudan's army and the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF) expired hours earlier, live television footage showed.

"In southern Khartoum we are living in terror of violent bombardment, the sound of anti-aircraft guns and power cuts," said 34-year-old resident Sara Hassan by phone. "We are in real hell." Fighting in the capital has led to widespread damage and looting, a collapse in health services, power and water cuts, and dwindling food supplies. The RSF claimed it shot down a fighter jet after the army "launched an audacious airborne assault upon our forces' positions" in northern Khartoum. A military source said a Chinese-made jet crashed near Wadi Seidna base north of Khartoum because of a "technical malfunction". Witnesses said they saw

an aircraft travelling from the south to the north of the capital with flames erupting from it. Others spoke of air strikes on RSF positions in the east of the city, with some civilian casualties reported. Among the other areas where fighting was reported were central and southern Khartoum and Bahri, across the Blue Nile to the north. Brokered by Saudi Arabia and the United States, the ceasefire calmed the street battles slightly and allowed limited humanitarian access, but like previous truces was repeatedly violated. Talks to extend the ceasefire broke down. The deadly power struggle that erupted in Sudan on April 15 has triggered a major humanitarian crisis with more than 1.2 million people displaced within the country and another 400,000 fleeing into neighbouring states. It also threatens to destabilise the region as a whole. Beyond the capital, deadly fighting also broke out in the Darfur region in the far west of Sudan, already grappling with long-running unrest and huge humanitarian challenges. Witnesses reported heavy fighting had brought chaos to Kutum, one of the

main towns and a commercial hub in North Darfur.

At least 40 people were killed and dozens more wounded, including residents of the Kassab camp which houses people displaced by earlier unrest, said the Darfur Bar Association, which monitors rights in the region. The army denied claims that the RSF, which developed out of Darfur militias and has its power base in the region, had taken over Kutum. Darfur Governor Mini Minawi - a former rebel leader now close to the army - on Twitter denounced "looting" by armed groups, declared Darfur a "disaster zone", and appealed for help from the international community. The governor of West Darfur, Khamis Abakar, said there was "complete lawlessness" in his state. "Armed men have taken over everything, and the situation is completely out of control," he said. Saudi Arabia and the United States said they were continuing to engage daily with delegations from the army and the RSF, which had remained in Jeddah even though talks to extend the ceasefire were suspended last week.

7 shot, one fatally, in Chicago

CHICAGO (AP): A 25-year-old woman was fatally shot and six other people were wounded when gunfire erupted in Chicago during a remembrance for a man who died in a car crash, police said. A large group of people had gathered about 1 a.m. to mark four years since a man's fatal crash when there was an altercation and shots rang out, said Deputy Chief Adnardo Gutierrez of the Chicago Police Department, WLS-TV reported.

Seven people were wounded and one of them, a 25-year-old woman, was pronounced dead at a hospital, he said. The six other shooting victims were hospitalized, one in critical condition. "They were out there celebrating and then something happened and a verbal altercation occurred and somebody began shooting, or multiple people began shooting," Gutierrez said at a briefing.

He said it's still under investigation how many people opened fire, but he said the gunshots were fired by a person or persons who were taking part in the remembrance. Gutierrez said a witness told officers an altercation occurred before the shooting, which happened as the group was in a street in the Austin neighborhood on Chicago's West Side. Among the six other victims, a 29-year-old man was hospitalized in critical condition with a chest wound. The five others, a 17-year-old girl, a 28-year-old woman, and three men ages 27, 28 and 29, were hospitalized in good condition, the Chicago Sun-Times reported.

Police detectives were investigating the shooting, and no one was in custody. Gutierrez said detectives were still working to find and interview witnesses. He urged anyone with information about the shooting to contact police and pass that information along.

Navalny supporters hold demonstrations

MOSCOW (AP): Alexei Navalny voiced hope for a better future in Russia as his supporters held pickets and demonstrations to mark the imprisoned opposition leader's 47th birthday. Navalny is serving a nine-year sentence for fraud and contempt of court, charges he says were trumped up to punish him for his work to expose official corruption and organizing anti-Kremlin protests.

He is facing a new trial on extremism charges that could keep him in prison for decades. Kremlin critics view the case as another Russian government attempt to isolate President Vladimir Putin's most prominent foe. Navalny's associates called for demonstrations to show support for him in Russia and abroad. Risking their own prison terms, some Navalny supporters in Russia marked his birthday by holding individual pickets, while others painted graffiti. Police quickly detained many for questioning. Police beefed up their presence in downtown Moscow and moved quickly to round up those who tried to stage individual pickets on Pushkin Square and elsewhere in the capital.

One man managed to throw around leaflets before being whisked away. A woman holding a small black balloon with the words "Happy Birthday!" who was clad in a hoodie with "You aren't alone" written on it was among those detained. She asked officers why they were detaining her, but they didn't answer. Navalny's supporters also showed up in St. Petersburg and other Russian cities, holding one-person pickets and leaving signs and graffiti in Navalny's support. Many were detained. Pro-Navalny demonstrations were held in several European cities. Navalny said in a social media post released by his allies that he would obviously prefer to spend his birthday with a family breakfast, kisses from his children and gifts, but "life is such that social progress and a better future can only be achieved if a certain number of people are willing to pay for the right to have beliefs."

Snowden leaks at 10 years: More data more controls

WASHINGTON (AFP): In 2013 US intelligence contractor Edward Snowden stunned the world with revelations that the massive US spy apparatus was secretly sucking up communications and private data on people around the world, from the lowest social media poster to the phone calls of German chancellor Angela Merkel.

Snowden showed no one was safe from electronic prying by the National Security Agency, least of all Americans, whose private communications were supposedly constitutionally protected. Ten years later, Snowden sits in exile in Moscow and US intelligence still collects huge amounts of private electronically stored and transmitted information.

But his revelations had lasting impact, advancing privacy protections in Europe and America and accelerating use of encryption. After Snowden's leaks, "in almost every Western democracy, there was a historic debate about the relationship of citizens and the state mass surveillance programs, whether oversight of those programs was adequate," said Ben Wizner of the American Civil Liberties Union and an attorney for Snowden. A boyish 29-year-old NSA systems administrator, Snowden downloaded thousands of NSA and CIA documents showing the extent of the global data collection dragnet that took off after the September 11, 2001 attacks. Documents that Snowden gave to journalists in secret Hong Kong meetings showed how US intelligence worked with Britain's GCHQ and other agencies to build files on billions of people without any grounds for suspicion. They showed the US was able to tap into the phones of allied leaders and that the NSA had

a program called Prism that collected user data from internet giants like Google and Facebook -- with and without their agreement.

The NSA collected call data from leading cell provider Verizon and routinely trawled data from public companies, hospitals and universities. He also revealed that GCHQ with NSA help sucked up all traffic moving through major global undersea communications cables. GCHQ also surreptitiously snapped millions of pictures from the computer cameras of people while they were on Yahoo webcam chats. The problem, Snowden said, was not the justification of fighting terrorism, but that these were secret programs with virtually no limits. "The public needs to decide whether these kinds of programs and policies are right or wrong," he said.

The revelations outraged the public but also US intelligence, who accused Snowden of devastating counter-terrorism programs and helping America's enemies. US spy agencies however declined to enumerate the damage, only noting that their surveillance had prevented dozens of attacks. In 2016, national intelligence director James Clapper pointed to the central damage: Snowden made the NSA's work harder by pushing internet and mobile communications firms, app makers and others to encrypt their services. For Wizner, the leaks strengthened civil liberties, even if more internet companies than ever are collecting users' data. Snowden effectively forced the White House, Congress and courts to reverse course on spying activities they had approved in secret, revising authorities for the NSA and forcing some

programs to be cancelled.

"Congress, for the first time since the 1970s, legislated to reduce rather than expand the surveillance authorities," Wizner said. In 2018 the European Union implemented the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) aiming at the power of US companies like Google and Facebook to collect and make liberal use of user data. "Snowden's global surveillance revelations tangibly affected the Internet privacy debate in Europe," wrote Gus Rossi, director for Responsible Technology and the Omidyar Group. Under the GDPR, last month Facebook owner Meta was fined 1.2 billion euros (\$1.3 billion) by Ireland for violating EU data protections because data it collects on European users and transfers to the US was not safe from the NSA and CIA. Now 39, Snowden still advocates for more privacy protections. Living in Moscow with his American wife and two sons, both born in Russia, he earns a living with paid speeches and consultations.

He cannot leave Russia for lack of another safe haven, and is wanted by the US on felony charges under the Espionage Act. "He would prefer to be elsewhere. And we both wished that there were an option other than a maximum security prison cell and living in Russia," said Wizner. Marcy Wheeler, an independent journalist focused on the nexus of intelligence and the law, is more skeptical about the gains of Snowden's revelations. The ever-adaptive NSA just accomplishes what it needs "via other means," she said. "The most important surveillance targeting Americans... is done by the FBI and, with even less oversight, by states and localities," she said.

Hundreds of thousands march in Poland anti-government protests

WARSAW (Agencies): Hundreds of thousands of protesters gathered in Poland on the 34th anniversary of the eastern European country's first post-war democratic election - a march the liberal opposition billed as a test of its ability to end nearly eight years of nationalist rule later this year. The enormous anti-government march in the capital Warsaw was attended by citizens travelling from across the country to voice their anger at the right-wing administration.

Large crowds gathered in Krakow and other cities across the nation of 38 million, showing frustration with a government that critics accuse of violating the constitution and eroding fundamental rights in the country long hailed as model of peaceful and democratic change. Crowds stretching for at least two kilometres marched with banners reading "Free, European Poland" and "European Union yes, PiS no", referring to the governing Law and Justice (PiS) party. Some held masks of ruling party leader Jaroslaw Kaczynski that had the word "shame" written on them. Organisers said one million people were marching, but police and city officials did not give an estimate.

"I took part in many marches but I've never seen a protest of this size with such energy. I feel this is a breakthrough like [the] June 4, 1989 [democratic election] was," Jacek Gwozdz, 51, an IT specialist from Nowy Sacz, said in Warsaw. Opinion polls show an election due after the summer will be closely fought, with Russia's war in neighbouring Ukraine giving a boost to the Law and Justice government, which has emerged as a leading voice against the Kremlin in Europe. The opposition has struggled to galvanise support despite widespread criticism at home and abroad of the PiS, which has been accused of eroding the rule of law, turning state media into a government mouthpiece, and endorsing homophobia.

Prime Minister Mateusz

Morawiecki's government denies subverting any democratic norms and says its aim is to protect traditional Christian values against liberal pressures from the West and to make the economy more fair. Donald Tusk, head of the Civic Platform party and a former European Union council chief, welcomed supporters by saying the voice of Poles could not be silenced. "Democracy dies in silence but you've raised your voice for democracy today. Silence is over, we will shout," he said in a speech at the end of the march.

"There's half a million people in the streets of Warsaw, it's an absolute record," he told the crowds filling Castle Square in the capital. Tusk called for unity despite political differences in the opposition and promised victory in elections that will be held in October or November. "Today, I'm vowing to win, to make those in power accountable, to mend injustice so that in the end people can be reconciled," he said. In June 1989, a partially

free vote handed victory to a government led by the Solidarity trade union and triggered a series of events culminating in the fall of the Berlin Wall that November. Hundreds of buses arrived in Warsaw to bring opposition supporters from across the country. Some said they were motivated by a row over legislation proposed by PiS to weed out undue Russian influence from the country. The opposition sees the legislation as a government attempt to launch a witch-hunt against political opponents. In an unexpected turnaround, President Andrzej Duda, a PiS ally, said that he would propose amendments to the law, which has also drawn criticism from lawyers, as well as the United States and the European Commission. The EU's executive said the legislation could effectively ban individuals from holding public office without proper judicial review.

"It's beyond comprehension," said Andrzej Majewski, 48, from Slupca in western Poland, who was in Warsaw to join march.

NATO chief urges Turkey not to veto Sweden joining alliance

BRUSSELS (Agencies): NATO chief Jens Stoltenberg has urged Turkey not to veto Sweden's bid to join the military alliance, ahead of a meeting this month to try to overcome objections delaying Stockholm's membership. "Membership will make Sweden safer but also make NATO and Turkey stronger," Secretary-General Stoltenberg told journalists in Istanbul after meeting Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan and his newly appointed foreign minister, Hakan Fidan, the former head of the intelligence agency.

"I look forward to finalising Sweden's accession as soon as possible," Stoltenberg added. Officials from Turkey, Sweden and Finland will meet next week to attempt to resolve the issues that have delayed Sweden's NATO membership, said Stoltenberg, referring to a permanent joint mechanism

set up to address Turkey's concerns about Sweden and Finland. In March, Turkey ratified Finland's bid for membership, and it became NATO's 31st member in April. All 31 member countries must ratify a candidate's accession protocol for it to join the transatlantic alliance. Turkey's government accuses Sweden of being too lenient on "terrorist" organisations and security threats, including Kurdish groups and people associated with a 2016 coup attempt. Hungary has also delayed its approval, but the reasons why haven't been made publicly clear.

"Sweden has taken significant concrete steps to meet Turkey's concerns," said Stoltenberg, noting that the country has amended its constitution, strengthened its anti-"terror" laws, and lifted an arms embargo on Turkey since it applied to join NATO just over a year ago. NATO wants to

bring Sweden into the fold by the time United States President Joe Biden and other leaders meet in Lithuania on July 11-12. Fearing they might be targeted by Moscow after Russia invaded Ukraine last year, Sweden and Finland abandoned their traditional positions of military non-alignment to seek protection under NATO's security umbrella.

As Stoltenberg held talks in Istanbul, hundreds of people, including dozens of pro-Kurdish protesters, gathered in Stockholm to demonstrate against Sweden's planned NATO membership. Up to 500 people took part in the "No to NATO - no Erdogan Laws in Sweden" protest. They rallied under the banner of the "Alliance Against NATO," an umbrella for Kurdish organisations, leftist groups, anarchists, youth and climate activists and people opposed to Sweden's new "anti-terror" laws, which took effect on June 1, as well as those calling for free media. In January, a protest in Stockholm involving the burning of a copy of the Quran brought Sweden's membership talks at NATO to a grinding halt, after Erdogan suspended the meetings. The incident led to anti-Sweden demonstrations around the Muslim world. Stoltenberg appeared to suggest that the protests might have been raised during his talks. "I understand it is hard to see demonstrations against Turkey and against NATO in Sweden," Stoltenberg said. "But let me be clear, freedom of assembly and expression are core values in our democratic societies. These rights must be protected and upheld." Stoltenberg attended the inauguration in Ankara of Erdogan, who was re-elected to serve a third presidential term and another five years in office.

Russia claims to have thwarted 'large-scale' Ukraine attack

MOSCOW (Agencies): Russia has said its forces thwarted a major Ukrainian offensive in the Ukrainian region of Donetsk, killing 250 Ukrainian troops and destroying tanks and armoured vehicles. "On the morning of June 4, the enemy launched a large-scale offensive in five sectors of the front in the South Donetsk direction," the Russian defence ministry said on its Telegram channel early on Monday.

There was no update from Ukraine on the alleged offensive. In its evening update on June 4, the General Staff of

Ukraine's Armed Forces said Moscow was focusing its military efforts on the full occupation of the Luhansk and Donetsk regions. Donetsk is one of four Ukrainian territories that Russia annexed last September, along with Luhansk, Zaporizhia and Kherson. "During the day, the occupiers made 23 attacks, but all of them were repulsed by units of the defence forces," it said. It was not possible to immediately verify the Russian or Ukrainian claims.

The Russian defence ministry said

Ukraine had launched the attack using six mechanised and two tank battalions. "The enemy's goal was to break through our defences in the most vulnerable, in its opinion, sector of the front," the defence ministry said. "The enemy did not achieve its tasks, it had no success." Ukraine has been preparing for a counteroffensive to take back territory occupied by Russia since it began its full-scale invasion of Ukraine in February 2022, as well as the Crimean Peninsula it seized in 2014.

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National assets, and need for transparent management

FEDERAL Minister for Railway and Aviation, Khawaja Saad Rafique has told the media that the government was taking measures to strengthen the country's aviation industry and decided to outsource three major airports and signed a deal with the New York City administration to operationalize Roosevelt Hotel in the United States. According to the Minister, Karachi, Lahore, and Islamabad airports will be handed over to international operators for a certain period, and the airports will be returned to Pakistan with all the value addition done by the companies. Federal Minister assured that no Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) employee would lose his job, and their salaries/perks will not affect during this process. According to him, the government engaged the services of the International Finance Corporation (IFC), a World Bank subsidiary, to perform the outsourcing work.

Pakistan's aviation industry has faced financial difficulties in recent years due to high operating costs, increasing fuel prices, inconsistent policies, mismanagement, and corruption in funds. The state-owned Pakistan International Airline (PIA), which would have to act as the national flying horse and lead the entire aviation industry fell victim to multiple issues, whereas poor safety culture, over-employment, government intervention, inadequate infrastructure, and unserviceability of operation fleet and bureaucratic governance remained at the forefront to push this prestigious airline into a failure and collapse. Similarly, the PIA failed to compete with its regional competitors including Emirate and Qatar Airlines as well as it could not maintain its domestic monopoly over private airlines which led to losing its market share in the international market and domestic routes. The successive governments were compelled to invest the hardened taxpayers' money in the PIA to keep it flying, however, the PIA faced scrutiny over its compliance with international safety standards, leading to temporary bans and restrictions in various countries in Europe and North America.

The past governments used multiple strategies to revive the nose-down national flag career including the provision of bulk funds, recurrent attempts for privatization, and appointment of reputed civilian and military bureaucrats to rescue the national airline from complete failure but all those efforts could not bore the requisite fruit that the PIA gradually sank under the heavy load of its operational losses, over employment and corruption. The sale of Civil aviation and the PIA properties had been a lucrative business for the elite class that always tried to give away those precious units to their blued-eyed for free or at a nominal price. The saga of the Roosevelt Hotel came to the limelight once again. Leasing of national assets including airports, hotels, parks, and ports is not a new phenomenon in the world, because the closed hotel is continuously causing debt for the government on account of taxes, maintenance, and security of the building. However, the leasing process must be transparent and open so no case of corruption, kickbacks, commission, or fraud could happen in the contract.

Unfortunately, the majority of the past rulers dealt the national assets like their personal heirlooms and gave unnecessary concessions to foreign firms in mining, investment, and construction contracts that caused significant financial loss to the national exchequer and proved to be counterproductive for the country. The case of PIA's New York property had always been highly controversial and multiple efforts for its privatization had caused tremendous public uproar and criticism in the past. Although Pakistan is facing the utmost financial constraints along with a persistent risk of an economic collapse. The coalition government must protect national interests while dealing with foreign firms instead of making the country a global pastureland for foreign investors, so the nation gets the optimum benefit of privatization, investment, and other endeavors being made by the governments. Ironically, no accountability forum, legal, or technical evaluation platform is currently available in the country that oversees such transactions as the mining contract of natural resources including gold, copper, or coal, the privatization of entities as well as leasing/ selling of government assets. Such endeavors mostly cost public suspicions, attract opposition from politicians, and usually end up in failure of the deal and payment of liability to foreign firms. Realistically, all state-owned entities including the PIA, Railway, Steel Mills, National Shipping Company, Pakistan Post, and the so-called mass transit systems in major cities are currently white elephants that continuously add a heavy burden on the national exchequer. The story of each institution starts with corruption and nepotism and ends with the same malady. Meanwhile, each government views these administrative issues through political prisms that cause further delays and worsen the issue. Therefore, the government must constitute a forum comprising famed public leaders, civil society, and technical experts to ensure the transparent privatization of government entities, finalization of lucrative contracts, and other monetary deals, so the nation comes out of the persistent debt trap and economic frailty in the future.

The war for eastern Syria is just getting started

Baria Alamuddin

are unsurprisingly anxious to get their hands on this. These documents furthermore indicate that the Quds Force of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps is training paramilitaries to use more powerful armor-piercing roadside bombs, which are designed specifically to target US military vehicles and proved highly deadly in Iraq after 2003. In

seek to retaliate against Israeli airstrikes in the west by making the Americans suffer in the east. In the context of soaring geopolitical tensions around the Ukraine conflict, Russia has actively sought to discomfit US forces in Syria by violating deconfliction agreements, flying over American bases and harassing US aircraft, even as

ing control over the Syria-Iraq border region, including measures such as elaborate fortifications centered upon Abu Kamal, comprising kilometers of deep underground tunnels for storing missiles. They aspire to control the east-west transit of munitions, drugs and contraband through Syria to the Mediterranean. Although these forces are nominally sided with Assad, they are

worst of these killings were probably due to Iran-backed militias seeking to monopolize this vast region. Violent clashes even erupted in 2022 between Russia-backed and Iran-backed militias, each seeking to establish exclusive control over key routes and strategic locations. The city of Deir Ezzor lies along the dividing line of control between Damascus and eastern Kurdish forces. Assad has sought to curry favor with local tribes through a complex reconciliation process, while pro-Tehran forces have exploited the fragile situation to buy up large amounts of land and property in this wider area.

There are ample indications that the Syrian conflict is entering a new phase, as Assad and his allies - emboldened in the west - seek to reassert themselves and wrong-foot the Americans in the east. What all these parties - Tehran, Washington, Russia, Daesh, Israel and Turkey - have in common is that they are pursuing their own foreign agendas on Syrian soil. None of the players in this globalized great game has any serious or sincere aspiration to bring peace and stability to Syria. The only end point to this quagmire is when Syrians can one day govern themselves under a leadership that respects their rights, freedoms and sovereignty. We may be in for a long wait.

Arab News

Al-Hashd Al-Shaabi militants in Iraq have spent the past few years consolidating control over the Syria-Iraq border region, including measures such as elaborate fortifications centered upon Abu Kamal, comprising kilometers of deep underground tunnels for storing missiles. They aspire to control the east-west transit of munitions, drugs and contraband through Syria to the Mediterranean. Although these forces are nominally sided with Assad, they are understandably reluctant to see a resurgent Damascus cramping their style.

border area has been a key element in thwarting Damascus, Moscow and Tehran's aspirations to assert control in the east.

Damascus and Moscow have repeatedly accused the US of stealing Syrian oil - although in practice revenues from these eastern fields largely go on funding US-backed Kurdish forces. Syria isn't one of the world's largest oil producers; before 2011 it pumped out about 400,000 barrels per day, around 25 percent of the regime's budget. Nevertheless, Assad and the various other players

of these weapons by Hezbollah and Quds Force, conducted near Damascus in early 2023, these weapons penetrated 7.5cm-thick tank armor at a range of just under 25 meters. Militancy expert Michael Knights warns of a "sea change in (militants') risk-acceptance in killing Americans in Syria."

A militant drone strike in March that caused US casualties and triggered a succession of tit-for-tat strikes was just one of dozens of drone and rocket attacks against US assets and allies in eastern Syria. Militants

Moscow has drawn down its Syrian capabilities in order to throw everything into the Ukraine arena. Although Tehran - as the leading supplier of arms to Russia - has moved more closely into Moscow's orbit, the leaked US intelligence documents show the ayatollahs venting frustration at a high-handed Kremlin excluding them from Russian-led negotiations with Turkey, while allowing Israel to continue hitting Iran-aligned targets.

Al-Hashd Al-Shaabi militants in Iraq have spent the past few years consolidat-

understandably reluctant to see a resurgent Damascus cramping their style. Meanwhile, Daesh continues to stage regular attacks against Kurdish forces and other targets, and there are indications that this terrorist group is actively masking the true extent of its Syrian capabilities, with many militants laying low in the vast Badia desert region.

The killing of about 250 truffle hunters in a flurry of incidents in the Syrian desert this spring had been widely blamed on Daesh. But experts believe that the

So what if Biden trips up?

Will Hutton

HE stumbles when coming down the stairs of Air Force One; he trips over a sandbag on stage to fall flat on his face when handing out diplomas at the US air force academy; he muddles his words with alarming regularity. It is easy to write off President Joe Biden as a senile, 80-year-old duffer. Yet he is already being regarded by many Democrats, and some Republicans, as significant a Democrat president as Franklin Roosevelt or Lyndon Johnson. He is dramatically changing the face of the US around Democrat priorities - reindustrialisation to support blue-collar jobs and wages, wholeheartedly fighting climate change, investing massively in science and education, doing more for the poorest and, not least, rejuvenating the US's decaying public infrastructure.

But, unlike his famous predecessors, he has never had their big majorities in Congress, and after November's midterm elections he does not even control the House of Representatives. He has had to rely on guile, sheer political craft and reading the Washington runes better than any alive. For the last

few months we were being warned of financial Armageddon, as an implacable Republican party forced the US to default on its debts, only to be avoided if the administration agreed to its demands for swingeing public spending cuts to avoid going through an artificial debt ceiling limit. Tomorrow was to be the witching day when default occurred and a financial crisis engulfed the world. Instead, last week the wily Biden again outfoxed his opponents, and struck a deal massively weighted in his favour that was voted for by overwhelming majorities.

It was an extraordinary victory and, when invited to claim it as such, he replied: "You think that's going to help me get it passed?" First rule in Washington politics, from which the affable Biden has never deviated: always allow the defeated to save face because you're soon going to have to cut another deal with them.

Yet what lay behind the Republican retreat is important not just for US politics but our own. The ever more ideological US right, so influential among British Tories, has been abandoning fiscal conservatism as a dead end for

some time. It goes through the motions of bloodcurdling threats to cuts in public spending, but it does not have the bottle to face the political consequences - the decimation of social programmes beloved of its own base and which any Republican presidential nominee needs preserved to have a hope in 2024. Instead, the new terrain is the fight against "the woke" - from banning drag queen reading hours to penalising investment companies that invest on "environmental, societal and governance" principles - laced with traditional social conservatism fighting against abortion along with a dose of America-first nationalism. It is, in effect, Donald Trump's politics. The ghastly cocktail might work in the US, although I doubt not enough to win national presidential elections. It certainly won't work in Britain.

Biden's negotiating tactics were textbook. Publicly, he took seriously the threats of Kevin McCarthy, leader of the House of Representatives, to cut \$4.5tn of spending over a decade, talking up the threat and flying back early from the G7 summit to negotiate, showing the

depth of his concern. Privately, he knew the Republican would back off: cuts of that scale would mean that social programmes would be decimated, given that so much federal spending is on defence, which the Republicans did not want to touch. This was not 2011, when the Republicans used the same tactic and meant it, when their libertarian tax-cutting right were in control; now they are big spenders too.

Biden read the mood swing well: he knows his opponents better than they know themselves. Taking over the key negotiations himself, I am told, he forced the realities home on McCarthy, who successively scaled back his demand to a headline cuts figure of \$1.5tn, which helped him save face. But even that was vastly overstated because of a series of side, off-balance-sheet deals. Federal spending will end up by being reduced by 0.2%, if that, over the next 10 years, while all the huge spending programmes on chips, infrastructure and green investment that Biden has negotiated through are intact. A stunning victory. There are problems ahead: the US,

accounting for 15% of world GDP, can comfortably afford spending on this scale, but it will just have to increase its tax base. The Internal Revenue Service has been hollowed out over the years. As a first step, Biden wants to build up its capacity to go after the scarcely taxed US super-rich - one area where McCarthy did get a spending cut, if not decisive. But before 2030 the US will have to raise taxes. This will not lower its growth: as the Institute of Government recently reported, there is little or no evidence that tax cuts have any impact on growth. But it will force a huge political battle into the open.

Meanwhile, Bidenomics defines the new consensus, what US treasury secretary Janet Yellen describes as "modern supply side" economics, set out in perhaps the best statement of social democratic economic analysis ever to come out of Washington, the 2022 Economic Report of the President. In her recent trip to Washington, the shadow chancellor, Rachel Reeves, met the principal architects, including Yellen, all endorsing her own version of modern supply side economics she has been developing since getting the job in 2021. At its simplest, this

is a commitment to ambitious public investment, particularly over net zero, in a deliberative partnership with business as the foundation for economic growth.

It is working in the US. It will work in the UK. British Tories are in a parallel position to McCarthy's Republicans. They may deplore public spending and the big state in principle, but they shrink from the consequences of putting their ideology into action. They find themselves giving aid to new technologies and supporting the green transition as political and economic necessities without believing in either - so their approach is tepid, ad hoc, unconvinced. They are tempted to follow the US right into the poisonous thickets of being anti-woke - but Britain is a much more liberal, easygoing society than the heartlands of the US midwest. And round the corner comes the spectre of having to raise, not cut, taxes. It may be that both Britain and the US will be in the throes of national elections in autumn 2024. For the first time in 40 years, not only does the liberal left have the better argument; with a following wind, they can go all the way.

The Guardian

Cut taxes and trust people to choose

Daniel Hannan

KEIR Starmer is swimming against the European current. Across the continent, traditional parties of the Left have been wiped out. The Dutch Labour Party won 5.7 per cent at the last election, the French Socialist Party 1.8 per cent in the presidential election. Only in Scandinavia and Iberia have parties of the mainstream Left clung on. And even that is about to change, with Spain set to give its socialists a brutal clubbing.

Before we get to Spain, though, it is worth delving into why the old Left has seen its support collapse. It has to do mainly with changing work patterns. I don't expect my children to have "a job" as we understood that word in the 20th century. Rather, they will go through life constantly reskilling, freelancing and adapting as technology accelerates.

Artificial intelligence won't make us redundant; that claim has been made of every advance in mechanisation since the industrial revolution, yet the number of people in work keeps rising. What it will do is diversify the employment market even more. When machines take on our old tasks, they free us up to find niches that no one had previously imagined. In such a world, parties linked to mass industrialised workforces look not so much

old-fashioned as cultish. The structures, slogans and symbols of syndicalist struggle seem to belong, quite literally, to another century.

Each country has its own story, of course. But it is hard to ignore the aggregate shift. Until 1999, the Party of European Socialists, the bloc in the European Parliament that brings together social democratic and labour parties from EU states, had a permanent majority. That year, the year I became an MEP, it lost, sliding from 34.2 per cent of the seats to 29.4. At all but one subsequent election - where it flattened - the group has slipped further, falling to 20.5 per cent in 2019. Tellingly, Tony Blair could never bring himself to pronounce its name. Knowing how electorally toxic the word "socialist" was, he referred to it incorrectly as "the European Labour group". Perhaps that is why, of the eight leaders Labour has gone through over the past 45 years, Blair is the only one to have won a general election.

Spain looked like a place where the old enchantments still held a little of their magic. Its prime minister, the handsome and well-spoken Pedro Sánchez was one of the last socialists to be found at EU summits. His party, PSOE, was properly old-guard, with May Day rallies, strong trade union links and a history of

class struggle. But PSOE has just lost Spain's regional elections so badly that Sánchez felt impelled to dissolve the Cortes. His cheerleaders hail it as an audacious move by a clever strategist, but I'm not buying. The reason Sánchez became PM was that he was willing to do something that no previous PSOE leader had considered acceptable, working with the heirs of the Basque terrorist movement to bring down a conservative leader.

He then presided over a coalition of separatists and Left-wing extremists; precisely the kind of wacky alliance, in fact, that Starmer might end up leading here. Almost immediately, he started losing elections - in Galicia, Madrid, Old Castile, Andalusia and, now, the whole country. Sánchez has not brought forward the general election as a clever tactic, but because he would otherwise be slung out by a party that has lost control of parts of the country that it had held continuously since Franco's death - which, Spain being Spain, means that an awful lot of socialists are about to lose their sinecures and subsidies.

No, our Labour Party will find scant comfort in what is happening across the Pyrenees. But our Conservative Party might learn a thing or two. I spent most of this week in

Madrid, where I carried out some unscientific polling. Spanish people are easier to engage in conversation than Brits, because they don't avoid eye contact. So, in shops, in cafés and in queues (which Spaniards are much better at than they used to be) I would ask about the coming election.

Some things are immediately striking to the British observer. First, young people are not monolithically Left-wing. Indeed, many of them support Vox, the party that overseas commentators almost always describe as far-Right. Second (and this has a lot to do with the first), Spain is not nearly as woke as the Anglosphere. Yes, it has its lapses - one of the things that the opposition held against Sánchez was his support for a gender self-identification law like the one Nicola Sturgeon backed - but not speaking English turns out to be a welcome barrier against the worst forms of American identity politics.

Third, the Right is winning cities. Our last election saw Labour secure its worst result since 1935, yet the party still held Bristol, Cardiff, Leeds, Leicester, Manchester, Newcastle, all of Liverpool's 14 constituencies and two thirds of London's 73. Spain's local elections, by contrast, saw advances for Vox in every city except Madrid, where the traditional conservative

party, the Partido Popular (PP), extended its already impressive majority. It is here, I think, that our Tories have the most to learn. The head of Madrid's regional government is the unapologetically Thatcherite Isabel Díaz Ayuso. If the PP had had the sense to make her its national leader last year, it would now be sweeping the board.

Spain had a bad pandemic, combining a strict lockdown with a high death rate. But Ayuso kept Madrid open, campaigning under the one-word slogan Libertad. She went on to cut taxes and give people more choice over which schools and hospitals to use. Her most recent campaign was launched in the bullring. Madrileños repaid her with an absolute majority. All that the Left can do in response - beyond unleashing the personal abuse that female conservatives always seem to attract - is to accuse her of being too close to Vox and, by implication, an extremist.

That incantation, too, is losing its power. Unlike some populist parties in Europe, Vox has always been economically liberal, championing free enterprise and free competition as well as free speech and free association. Yes, its hostility to separatism is very strong, but it weaves that policy into its wider dislike of wokery, arguing that it wants to restore equal citizenship as the primary basis

of identity. In any case, unionism is a popular cause in Spain. PSOE accuses Rightists of being nostalgic for the Franco years. But, in a country where you need to be well into your 50s to remember the old brute, that accusation no longer holds force. Rather as the only Brits who bang on about imperial nostalgia are Remainers, so the only Spaniards who keep referring to the dictatorship are Leftists.

If calling your enemies fachas doesn't work any more, what does? The old infrastructure of organised labour has gone. Wokery in its various forms - racial, gender-based or sexuality-based - is unpopular. Greenery has a certain appeal but, as the sheer expense of net zero becomes clear, voters want it toned down. The strongest argument for the Left is the unpopularity of the other side. Since 2004, when José María Aznar stood down, the PP has been seen by many of its supporters as a milk-and-water alternative to the socialists, who made all the running. That is why Vox came into existence in the first place.

If there is a lesson from Spain's local elections, it is that voters don't much care about accusations of extremism. But they do care about rising taxes and rising prices. When Rightist parties are trusted on those issues, the Left has nothing left.

The Telegraph

The EU pays Africa’s brutal militias to lock up migrants

“Please help, today one person self dead by petrol because hopeless.” Sally Hayden received the text in October 2018. The Irish Times journalist was one of the few outsiders trusted by refugees locked up in Libya. The text was about Abdulaziz, who had been forced to flee his native Somalia to escape al-Shabaab, the al-Qaida-linked Islamist group waging terror in east Africa.

After a perilous journey across the desert, Abdulaziz was locked up in Triq al-Sikka, a grim prison in Tripoli, Libya. Why? Because the EU pays Libyan militias millions of euros to detain anyone deemed a possible migrant to Europe. Like many other similar prisons across Libya, Triq al-Sikka is a place of hunger, disease, beatings, rape, torture and death. Death by starvation, death by beatings, death by execution. And death by suicide. After nine months' incarceration, Abdulaziz felt so bereft of hope that he seized a container of petrol used to fuel a generator, doused himself and lit a match. Hayden was the only journalist to report on his death.

I don't know whether the UK's immigration minister Robert Jenrick knows about Abdulaziz. Last week, he visited countries on either side of the Mediterranean (though not Libya) to persuade political leaders to take tougher measures against asylum seekers and undocumented migrants crossing the Mediterranean, to get north African governments to "stop the boats" a thousand miles from British waters. In all this, Jenrick was coat-tailing EU politicians who for more than a decade have been stitching up deals with virtually every coercive force in the

region, however reactionary or repulsive, funding them handsomely to lock up potential migrants to Europe. These deals have done little to undermine smuggling gangs but have been catastrophic both for asylum seekers and migrants and for the peoples of north and east Africa and the Sahel. The charred body of Abdulaziz is a reminder of the human cost of these deals.

From the EU's 2010 compact with Muammar Gaddafi; to its subsequent agreements with militias and warlords after western intervention had shattered Libya; to the EU Emergency Trust Fund for Africa set up in November 2015 as the Syrian war caused a sharp peak in migrants and panic in European capitals; to the Khartoum Process, which drew in countries in the east of Africa, including Ethiopia, Eritrea, Sudan and South Sudan; to bilateral deals with countries such as Turkey and Niger - the EU has disbursed billions of euros in an effort to persuade non-European countries to act as its immigration police. The result has been the creation of a huge kidnap and detention industry from the Atlantic to the Red Sea, from the Mediterranean to the Sahel. Prisons, warehouses, even zoos, have been repurposed for the caging of migrants. A leaked EU internal memorandum in 2020 acknowledged that capturing migrants was now "a profitable business model". In Libya, militias and people smugglers have rebadged themselves as "coast-guards" trained and funded by the EU to capture migrants at sea and force them into Libyan detention.

In Triq al-Sikka and other detention centres, "acts of murder,

Kenan Malik

enslavement, torture, rape and other inhumane acts are committed against migrants", observed a damning UN report, "in furtherance of a state policy". European leaders have long been aware of this, but have chosen to shut their eyes to the reality of their policies, pretending, as British politicians do, that they are moral crusaders challenging the evils of people smugglers. The EU, after all, is the organisation that has given money to Omar al-Bashir, the former leader of Sudan indicted by the international criminal court for war crimes, to "manage migration" to Europe. The Janjaweed, a militia that pursued genocidal violence in Darfur, now calls itself the Rapid Support Forces and hunts down migrants for the EU rather than rebels for Bashir.

The EU approach has also been disastrous for local peoples. The externalisation of Europe's migration policy has led to the dismantling of economies, the breakup of communities, the creation of new opportunities for human smugglers and Islamist militias and the undermining of trust in elected authorities. Take Niger, a country in the Sahel, abutting Libya. It is among the 10 poorest countries in the world, which is why it has been turned into "Europe's migration laboratory". It is, in per capita terms, the largest recipient of EU aid, in return for which the Niger authorities are forced to distort domestic policies to fit with the EU's migration needs, including the adoption in 2015 of a law against smuggling migrants.

Migration was woven into Sahel life long before Europe felt threatened by it. Much of the economy is rooted in that tradition of people

movement. The Brussels-enforced policy has not only acted as a block to Europe-bound migration but destroyed regional migration and made freedom of movement, that hallowed policy within the EU, much more difficult within Niger. It has destroyed the livelihoods of many who used to service migrant routes without creating new means of making a living. It has also, ironically, helped establish a new industry of human smuggling.

EU demands have led also to an even greater erosion of the already low public trust in the authority of the government, leading people to ask why "we work for the EU rather than for them, the people who got us elected". It's a pertinent question given the description of the region by Ángel Losada, the EU's former special representative for the Sahel, as "Europe's new forward border". And there's the irony. Politicians and policymakers who normally place such great store on "defending sovereignty" and "protecting borders" are more than happy to trample over the sovereignty of poorer nations and to disregard their borders so long as it allows them to "stop the boats".

Britain, Jenrick told the Times last week, is "taking the fight to the people-smuggling gangs upstream" so as to save migrants from making "dangerous and unnecessary journeys". That is about as morally honest as the EU's presentation of its migration policy as being for the good of African nations. It may provide a morally acceptable soundbite, but Jenrick's real aim is to push other nations to act as Britain's immigration police. Britain may have left the EU, but the EU's migration mentality remains firmly lodged in British policy.



Lula is right on global politics

Bruno Cava

WHEN Brazilian President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva was sworn in in January, many policymakers in the West breathed a sigh of relief. Four years of Jair Bolsonaro's reactionary politics had undermined Western engagement with Brazil and worried Western liberal democracies about the resurgence of far-right politics in South America.

The staunch support Lula received from Western capitals, especially from Washington, when Bolsonaro's followers attacked government buildings in the Brazilian capital shortly after the inauguration, was meant to solidify this "reset" in relations.

But when the United States and its European allies pressed the Brazilian president to take a stance on the raging war in Ukraine, the response they got was not what they had hoped for. Apart from voting in favour of a United Nations resolution condemning the Russian aggression, Brazil under the new administration did not take a clear side in the conflict. Lula refused to enter the anti-Russia camp by joining the sanctions regime or arming Ukraine and continued to toe the neutrality line set by his right-wing predecessor.

To expect Brazil to fully align with the West on the war in Ukraine is, of course, naïve. From a Global South perspective, Lula's stance makes sense. He is not only defending vital national interests related to Brazilian agribusiness, but is also ideologically consistent with the neutral position Brazil occupies in global politics. Yet, domestic concerns and diplomatic continuity should not prevent the Brazilian government from extending solidarity to Ukraine, the victim of aggression by a former colonial power.

During his election campaign in 2022, Lula banked on his previous success and raised hopes among Brazil's poor that his new administration will repeat past socioeconomic policies. During his first two terms (2003-10), the global boom in commodity prices allowed his government to boost public spending. The extra revenues were redirected to massive income transfer policies, like Bolsa Família, the social programme which became his trademark and which lifted about 36 million people out of extreme poverty.

But today, the situation in Brazil is quite different, considering the internal political polarisations and difficult economic situation marked by high inflation, slow growth and a sluggish private sector. That is why, when putting together his foreign policy, Lula has to keep in mind the economic interests of industries, which contribute large chunks of state revenue. When examining relations with Russia, one of the key sectors to consider is agribusiness, which accounts for about 25 percent of the Brazilian gross domestic product (GDP) and 48 percent of the country's total exports.

The productivity of Brazilian agriculture depends on the massive use of fertilisers, especially NPK (nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium compounds). Brazil is the largest importer of NPK in the world, and Russia is its biggest seller, meeting 22 percent of Brazilian demand. Joining the Western sanctions regime on Moscow would certainly disrupt the steady supply of Russian fertilisers and affect agricultural exports. This in turn would not only anger big agribusiness which has a sizable lobby in the Brazilian parliament, but would also affect the government revenue stream from agricultural exports.

Lula's calculations are simple: To finance social policies and recover the electorate that swung to the extreme right, he needs economic stability and sources of revenue; the trade relationship with Russia plays a significant role in this equation. Brazil under Lula is not alone in pursuing its own interests when considering its position on the war in Ukraine. Governments across the Global South do not want to get involved because they think they stand to lose a lot if they do.

Last year, the war and the subsequent sanctions took a toll on poorer countries as the prices of grains and fuel skyrocketed. Developing nations can ill afford to stoke the crisis further by taking sides in a war that concerns them little and potentially threatens their supplies of grain. Across the Global South, there is a general feeling that Europe and the US are disregarding global economic stability and the wellbeing of poorer nations in their rush to arm and aid Ukraine.

Many also perceive the Western backing for Kyiv as a continuation of the long record of Western interventions across the world. In this sense, the Brazilian government and others in the Global South do not see the West as having the moral authority to demand support for their military efforts in Ukraine. The locus classicus of this line of reasoning is the US-led invasion of Iraq in 2003, which Washington launched, despite having no authorisation from the UN Security Council. In the context of growing tensions between the West and China and Russia, Lula has attempted to establish a geopolitical ground analogous to the non-aligned movement during the Cold War. In foreign visits, he has emphasised Brazil's neutrality and has called for South-South solidarity, even calling for the de-dollarisation of international trade.

He has appealed for peace, proposing a new initiative - a "peace club" in an effort to jumpstart negotiations between Ukraine and Russia. Moscow has given a nod to the initiative, but Kyiv has rejected it outright, while the US has accused the Brazilian leader of "parroting Russian and Chinese propaganda".

Lula's subsequent comments that Russian President Vladimir Putin and Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy are both to blame for the war and that Ukraine will have to give up its claim on the Crimean Peninsula have not helped. Attempts at damage control by the presidency, clearly condemning the Russian invasion of Ukraine and declining the Russian invitation to partic-

ipate in the St Petersburg Economic Forum have not worked. Lula's attempt at conjuring a new non-aligned movement has failed and, in the process, he seems to have lost some of the international standing he had built during his previous terms.

There is a contradiction in Lula's appeal for a 21st-century Third-Worldism vis-à-vis the war in Ukraine. Although he is right to criticise Western interventionism, his critique falls short when considering Ukrainian history and current standing. The country, one of the poorest in Europe, has a brutal colonial past similar to Brazil's and the rest of Latin America's. It is not, by any means, a nation of the Global North, which has enriched itself through the domination of other peoples.

At the same time, Ukraine cannot be reduced to a victim of forced Westernisation or a NATO puppet. Doing so would ignore the Ukrainian struggle for national liberation and independence and would legitimise Russian aggression and colonialist pretences. In this sense, were Brazil to extend support to Ukraine, it would be an expression of South-South solidarity - one that sees through the propaganda from Western, but also from Eastern powers.

In extending a hand to Kyiv, Lula can reject not only the simplistic Western narrative of "Western liberal democracy vs Eastern authoritarianism", but also the equally hypocritical discourse of "the West vs the rest" that turns a blind eye to aggression by regional powers, autocratic brutality, and repression of minorities in the Global South. The Brazilian government also cannot ignore the growing evidence of shocking war crimes committed by Russian forces in Ukraine, which is refuting any claims of symmetry within this conflict. Lula cannot present himself as a messenger of peace, leading a country historically committed to human rights and social justice, while disregarding major violations of international human rights and humanitarian law.

The Russian aggression in Ukraine and the apologetic narrative of the Kremlin are challenging the legitimacy of the international legal system that the Brazilian state, a UN founding member, has supported since 1945. Putin's multi-imperialist vision of the world in which nuclear powers divide it into spheres of influence directly contradicts the multilateralism and egalitarianism that Brazil has defended for the past 75 years. Lula seems to be trapped in old Cold War dilemmas in a world that is no longer bipolar. The alternative to the unilateralism of US President George W Bush that marked the invasion of Iraq in 2003 cannot be the multi-imperialism of Putin's invasion of Ukraine. If the Brazilian president really wishes to promote multilateralism and uphold international law, then he must unequivocally express solidarity with Ukraine and condemn Russian aggression. From this position, he can then proceed to lead multinational mediation efforts, putting together a coalition of willing partners along with China and India.

Aljazeera

Peace talks in Myanmar highlight China’s increasing influence

CHINESE-SPONSORED talks in Myanmar between the junta and three of Myanmar's ethnic armies, known as the Brotherhood Alliance, aimed at persuading the three to support the junta's election plan concluded without an agreement Friday. The alliance of the Arakan Army, the Ta'ang National Liberation Army, and the Myanmar National Democratic Alliance Army has been providing military training and supplies to anti-junta forces.

The talks were held over two days in the Mongla region in northern Myanmar's Shan state, near the Chinese border. According to local reports, the meetings were attended by Guo Bao, China's special envoy from neighboring Chinese province Yunnan's Foreign Affairs Department. "Both parties exchanged opinions and agreed to hold a second meeting," Kyi Myint, a spokesman for the National Democratic Alliance Army - which is separate from the Myanmar National Democratic Army and is one of the groups that facilitated the talks - told VOA.

"Three ethnic armed groups were in attendance to express their views and listen to the junta's point of view," according to Kyi Myint, who coordinated the meeting. "They said they would submit reports to their respective central executive committees," he added, "but they did not reach any agreements with the junta officials." The peace talks between the junta and the alliance, assisted by China, were the first since the military coup in 2021.

"We would not be willing to meet with the junta without China," said Khaing Thu Kha, a spokesman for the Arakan Army, in a phone interview with VOA on

Thursday. He told VOA, "We demanded the release of our detained members by the junta, to revoke the designation of our group as an 'outlaw association' and to end travel restrictions in Rakhine so that aid can be delivered to the victims of Cyclone Mocha," which struck the western province May 14.

Major General Zaw Min Tun, a spokesman for the junta, responded to VOA on Thursday, expressing optimism about the meeting. "Our delegation broadly discussed building trust, national reconciliation, multiparty democratization, and building a federal union, to cooperate in peace and developments," he said, adding that their delegation was led by Lt. Gen. Yar Pyae, chair of the National Solidarity and Peacemaking Negotiation Committee. According to local reports, the junta officials at the meeting asked the alliance to support its long-planned election, but the alliance refused to discuss the matter.

The junta asked the ethnic armed groups to support its election plan after the coup in 2021, with the promise that power would go to the winning party. However, the junta has not set a date for the election and has only stated that it will take place when there is peace. The planned election has been called illegal both in the country and around the world. "It is premature at this time for our side to make definitive statements," Khaing Thu Kha told VOA. "The military junta has stated that it wants to build trust, but from our perspective, that will take time and numerous discussions."

When asked about China's role in the peace talks, Khaing Thu Kha said, "China was only spon-

Ingyin Naing

soring the meeting and they were not involved in our discussion." Although there is no official cease-fire between the armed groups and the Myanmar junta, according to Khaing Thu Kha, the Arakan Army has ceased fighting with the Myanmar military on humanitarian grounds. The other two armed organizations, the Ta'ang National Liberation Army and the Myanmar National Democratic Alliance Army, have fought the junta's forces on occasion, but are not engaged in fights with the military now, he said.

A May 30 alliance statement pointed to China's role in initiating the meeting, saying that in "accordance with the mediation" of Chinese authorities, alliance and junta representatives would meet in Mongla on June 1. Than Soe Naing, a China-Myanmar expert and former member of the Communist Party of Burma, told VOA that the junta was using the discussions to persuade ethnic armed groups not to join the anti-coup resistance movement, as well as to gain support for the forthcoming elections. "This in line with China's agenda of non-alignment by the armed groups with the National Unity Government and the People's Defense Forces," said Than Soe Naing.

"The NUG and the PDF are seen by China as being supported by the US especially because those groups are mentioned by name in the BURMA Act as part of the recently passed NDAA," Than Soe Naing told VOA, referring to language in the National Defense Authorization Act broadening the US government's authority to impose sanctions against the Myanmar regime and aid opposition and resistance groups. "China wants to portray

itself as an international peace-maker," Than Soe Naing told VOA. "For instance, China is actively leading the repatriation of Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh back to Rakhine state; but China's underlying goal is to prevent Western countries and democratic forces from further influence in Myanmar and Southeast Asia in general." State media in Myanmar reported last Tuesday that a top official from Chinese military intelligence, Major General Yang Yang, conferred with the junta's deputy leader in Myanmar's capital, Naypyidaw, prior to the peace talks. The official, the first Chinese military leader to publicly visit Myanmar since the 2021 coup, met with Deputy Senior General Soe Win to discuss "cooperation between the two armies."

Chinese Foreign Minister Qin Gang also came to Naypyidaw May 2, meeting with the junta's leader, General Min Aung Hlaing. "Such visits by Chinese officials only serve to bolster the junta's legitimacy," said Than Soe Naing. According to the online publication Irawaddy, Qin's visit was followed by protests around the Myanmar over China's connection with the military junta. One of these was a demonstration in Letpadaung, in Sagaing region, home to a contentious copper mine operated by China, during which a Chinese flag was burned.

A demonstration by Burmese-Americans against China's support for the military junta in Myanmar also took place outside of the Chinese Consulate General in New York Friday. "If the Chinese government acts against the will of the Myanmar people to pursue their interests by maintaining close ties with the junta, anti-China sentiment will rise both within and outside the country," Than Soe Naing told VOA.

Washington should never cross Beijing’s redline

THE Russia-Ukraine conflict, which began more than 15 months ago, has caused immense suffering to the people of Ukraine while hurting the Russian economy. The US, after pushing Ukraine into the conflict, eventually refrained from direct military confrontation with Russia. The US' questionable role in the conflict and its evil design to compare the Ukraine crisis with the Taiwan question have raised "doubts" among Taiwan residents that the island may face a fate similar to Ukraine.

However, the nature of cross-Taiwan Strait relations and the Taiwan question are fundamentally different from Russia-Ukraine relations and the Ukraine crisis. To begin with, Russia and Ukraine are two sovereign nations, while cross-Strait relations are those between different regions of the same sovereign country, China. The Ukraine crisis is about one country's actions endangering the security of another country, whereas the Taiwan question involves the collusion of external forces with the aim of splitting Taiwan from the motherland, thereby undermining the country's sovereignty and territorial integrity and national security.

Beijing has consistently opposed "Taiwan independence" and external forces' interference in the country's internal affairs, which is exactly what the Taiwan ques-

tion is. There are certain principles that should be abided by all countries that have diplomatic relations with Beijing. They should acknowledge the one-China principle that there is only one China and Taiwan is an integral part of China, and never allow separatists on the island to seek "independence". More important, Beijing will not sit idly by while separatist forces in Taiwan collude with foreign anti-Beijing forces in a bid to separate the island from the motherland.

In fact, Beijing has already enacted the Anti-Secession Law. According to the law, if the "Taiwan independence" secessionist forces act under any name or by any means to cause the fact of Taiwan's secession from China, or if major incidents entailing Taiwan's secession from China should occur, or the possibilities for a peaceful reunification should be completely exhausted, the state shall employ non-peaceful means and other necessary measures to protect China's sovereignty and territorial integrity. Besides, the Chinese mainland has the capability and determination to prevent the island's separatist forces from seeking "independence". Beijing may not yet be on par with Washington in overall military strength, but the latter no longer holds the advantage in scenarios such as a cross-Strait conflict.

In fact, if the mainland were to resort to the use of force to suppress separatist forces on the island and achieve national reunification, even a US-led international intervention cannot prevent it. This is the fundamental reason why the US maintains strategic ambiguity on the Taiwan question and refuses to make clear its stance on the "defending-Taiwan-with-force" issue. Given the significant tangible benefits it derives from Sino-US relations, Washington needs to weigh the potential consequences of openly expressing support for the "Taiwan independence" forces, because it could potentially force Beijing to sever diplomatic ties with it. Also, the fact that the mainland is capable of causing serious harm to the US has prompted American leaders to consider the immense cost that a cross-Strait or Sino-US conflict would entail.

No wonder the US, on the one hand, uses various strategies, including playing the "Taiwan card", to provoke Beijing, while, on the other hand, it seeks dialogue with senior Chinese officials and promises the "five noes" (that is, it does not seek a new Cold War, does not seek to change China's system, does not seek to confront China through strengthened alliances, does not support "Taiwan independence", and does not seek conflict with China). The US, it

appears, is not willing to sever diplomatic ties with China, in order to support the island's separatists to seek "independence" nor is it willing to engage in a mutually destructive military conflict with China.

If that is so, the US should stop saying one thing and doing the exact opposite. It should also stop sending wrong signals to the separatist forces in Taiwan. The "Taiwan independence" forces are well aware that any attempt to seek their separatist goal will inevitably lead to a cross-Strait conflict, which the majority of Taiwan residents do not want. That's why the island's separatist forces rely on US-led Western support to achieve their evil goal. The US is playing the "Taiwan card" to encircle the mainland, giving the "Taiwan independence" forces that have longed for US support some hope. In order to obtain US support, the "Taiwan independence" forces and the ruling Democratic Progressive Party authorities are not only willing to become pawns in the US' geopolitical game, but also support the establishment of US-led alliances in the region as part of their efforts to cause a breakdown in Sino-US relations, thus forcing the US to intervene militarily to "defend" Taiwan. This does not align with the interests of the US. Nor will China allow this to happen.

The China Daily

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Caretaker ministers visits industrial zones, inaugurates projects

PESHAWAR (APP): Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Caretaker Minister for Industries, Commerce and Technical Education, Mohammad Adnan Jalil visited Nowshera on Monday and inaugurated various projects in the industrial zones.

He also inaugurated the newly established centre of Rescue 1122 and a new tube-well for supplying drinking water to the Export Processing Zone (EPZ).

During the visit, he also laid the foundation stone of two new industrial units including a flour mill (MS Mibron Flour Mills) and Waste Management Plant (MS Green Private Limited).

Besides, Secretary Industry, Commerce and Technical Education, Mutiullah, Chief Executive Officer Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Eco-

nomics Zones Development and Management Company (KP-EZDMC), Javed Iqbal Khattak and other officers, the Regional Coordinator Federation of Pakistan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI), Sartaj Ahmad Khan also accompanied the provincial minister.

The provincial minister planted a sapling and inspected industrial plants producing edible oil and ice cream.

Meanwhile, the provincial minister also directed the relevant authorities to make a standard policy for the allotment of plots in the industrial zones of the province and make allotment of vacant plots in these zones according to the basis and transparency policy.

He further directed the

facilitation of investors to attract them towards investment in the province.

Meanwhile, the caretaker minister also visited the Rashkai Special Economic Zone established under the China Pakistan Economic Corridor and inspected the internal construction work on the project.

Speaking on the occasion, the caretaker minister said that the completion of phase one of the Special Economic Zone Rashkai established under CPEC is welcome, saying the project will play the role of catalyst in the economic development of the province.

He said that hurdles in the completion of the remaining phases of the project should be brought in his notice in written form

to take them up with the concerned authorities.

On this occasion, the provincial minister was informed that the 1000-acre Rashkai Special Economic Zone is one of the industrial estates to be established under China Pakistan Economic Corridor in Pakistan, which is being established in collaboration between KP-EZDMC and the China Road & Bridge Corporation (CRBC).

He was told that this is a special project under CPEC in which all facilities will be available according to international standards.

The provincial minister was further informed that Chinese and other international investors are taking keen interest in setting up industries in the Rashkai Economic Zone.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar chairing meeting of Economic Coordination Committee of Cabinet.

Shipping activity at PQ

KARACHI (APP): Two ships namely, Chem-Leona and Karimata, carrying 17,850 tonnes of palm oil and 50,779 tonnes of mogas, berthed at Liquid Terminal and Oil Terminal respectively on Sunday.

Meanwhile, seven more ships, Budapest Express, RSG, Jiu-Li-669, Saver-1, Valiant, Ullswater and Alexandra Kosan, scheduled to load/offload containers, bitumen, palm oil, coal, LPG and chemicals also arrived at the outer anchorage of the port during the last 24 hours.

A total of five ships were engaged at PQA berths during the last 24 hours, out of them two ships, Meratus Jayakarta and Alexandra Kosan, left the Port (Berths) on Monday morning, whereas, another General Cargo carrier 'BBG-He-Zhou' is expected to sail later today.

The cargo throughput during the last 24 hours stood at 79,727 tonnes, comprising 55,128 tonnes of imports cargo and 24,599 tonnes of export cargo, including containerized cargo carried in 1,475 containers (476 TEUs Imports and 1,447 TEUs export) was handled at the port.

There are 11 ships at the outer anchorage of Port Qasim, out of them three ships, Valiant, Chem-road Zenith and RSG, and three more ships, Haj Mohammed, MSC Rida and MSC Makalu-III scheduled to load/offload coal, chemicals, bitumen, cement and containers are expected to take berths at PIBT, EVT, MW and QICT today while two more container ships, Maersk Chicago and MSC Adonis are due to arrive at Port Qasim on Tuesday.

Chinese yuan strengthened

BEIJING (APP): The central parity rate of the Chinese currency renminbi, or the yuan, strengthened 35 pips to 7.0904 against the US dollar Monday, according to the China Foreign Exchange Trade System.

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

The central parity rate of the yuan against the US dollar is based on a weighted average of prices offered by market makers before the opening of the interbank market each business day.

War-affected traders' community of KP: SCCI demands special economic relief package

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: Sarhad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SCCI) demanded the government to announce a special economic relief package for the 'terrorism-affected' business community of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa in the budget.

In his interview with different private news channels regarding the upcoming fiscal budget here on Monday, the chamber's acting president Ejaz Khan Afridi urged the government to present a business friendly budget for the next financial year.

Ejaz sought reduction in the ratio of taxes and opposed the imposing additional burden of taxes on existing taxpayers and poor masses. He furthermore called to reduce electricity, gas tariffs and prices of petroleum commodities.

The SCCI acting chief said it is in dire need of hour to provide relief to the business community in the budget in order to revive the ailing economy of the country.

Businessmen are faced with difficulties owing to high prices of electricity, gas and petroleum commodities, Ejaz said.

He said if the federal government is sincere about putting the national economy on the right track, it should announce a business-friendly budget for next fiscal year.

The chamber's acting chief furthermore asked for taking economic, industries and business growth-oriented initiatives.

Ejaz Afridi condemned the recent hike in gas tariff by 50 per cent, saying that increase in prices of natural gas before the presentation of the fiscal budget was an unjust and unfair move of the government, which couldn't be acceptable to them.

He asked the government to incorporate the SCCI proposals in the upcoming fiscal budget so that relief should be given in light of the chamber's recommendations to terrorism and natural calamity hit traders' community of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

If the industries and

businesses would be functional and working positions that will bring stability in the national economy, Ejaz remarked.

He added that a prosperous business community is a guarantee for a better economy, so the government should give them relief and special incentives at every level.

In response to reporters' various queries, Ejaz Afridi urged the government to take pragmatic steps through the upcoming budget for removal of hurdles in the way of the country's export and bilateral trade.

He suggested the signing of a free trade agreement and launching joint ventures between Pakistan and Afghanistan and asked the both governments to frame a concrete and comprehensive policy in this regard.

Ejaz Afridi said enhancing bilateral trade between Pakistan and Afghanistan and Central Asian Republic countries is in dire need under the prevailing economic conditions, stressing the need to give special focus on this proposal.

FPCCI's UBG demands business friendly budget

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federation of Pakistan Chamber of Commerce and Industry's United Business Group (UBG) on Monday demanded a business-friendly, export-oriented and pro-poor people budget to gear up trade activities, besides restoring the confidence of investors with a basket of lucrative incentives to attract foreign investments.

Chairing a meeting of industrialists and traders, Chairman UBG Shahzad Ali Malik said that the government was considering their all proposals at all levels and discussing in detail about their incorporation in the coming annual federal budget, said a press release.

He said the Prime Minister's office had sent UBG proposals to ministries of finance, commerce, FBR and other relevant departments, which he

added are now in the final stage of approval by the competent authority.

Malik said all proposals were mainly aimed at ensuring growth-oriented and business-friendly environments to boost economic activities in the aftermath of the coronavirus pandemic, prevailing political turmoil and economic upheaval grappling the country.

He said Pakistan was passing through crucial times due to the deadly pandemic, Russia-Ukraine conflict, and political chaotic conditions, adding, "At this uncertain time, the business community has come forward with a clear vision to stamp out the quagmire of prevailing critical crisis".

UBG with the consultation of all stakeholders tailored such viable proposals which will ultimately help the government to revive the economy through the

upcoming budget, he added.

Shahzad Ali Malik said that Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif was highly appreciative of the contribution of the traders and the business community towards strengthening the economy and promoting a tax culture regime.

He said UBG fully supports bringing the identified millions of non-taxpayers into the tax net to lessen the burden on existing taxpayers, broaden the tax base and promote tax culture in the country.

He said the next budget should also feature a balanced tax collection approach and the government must adopt a strategy for documentation of the economy.

The UBG chairman also thanked the government for their assurance of all viable budget proposals in the forthcoming budget.

100-index of Pakistan Stock Exchange gains 314 points

ISLAMABAD (APP): The 100-index of the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) gained 314.95 points on Monday, a change of 0.76%, closing at 41,667.94 points against 41,352.99 points the previous day.

A total of 145,177,892 shares were traded during the day as compared to 99,545,856 shares the previous day, whereas the price of shares stood at Rs4.682 billion against Rs3.336 billion on the last trading day.

As many as 321 companies transacted their shares in the stock market; 183 of them recorded gains and 107 sustained losses, whereas the share price of 31 companies remained unchanged.

The three top-trading companies were WorldCall Telecom with 16,777,021 shares at Rs1.16 per share;

Sui North Gas with 9,750,118 shares at Rs43.38 per share and Pak Petroleum with 9,434,106 shares at Rs61.57 per share.

Mari Petroleum witnessed a maximum increase of Rs31.25 per share price, closing at Rs1,554.17, whereas the runner-up was Colgate Palm with an Rs28.87 rise in its per share price to Rs1,528.87.

Bata (Pak) witnessed a maximum decrease of Rs63.50 per share closing at Rs1,630.50; followed by Nestle Pakistan with Rs50.02 decline to close at Rs6,489.98.

Rupee sheds 52 paisas against US Dollar

Pakistani rupee witnessed 52 paisas devaluation against the US Dollar (USD) in the interbank trading on Monday as it closed at Rs286.19 against the previous day's closing

of Rs285.67.

However, according to the Forex Association of Pakistan (FAP), the buying and selling rates of dollars in the open market stood at Rs305 and Rs308, respectively.

The price of the Euro increased by Rs1.43 to close at Rs306.10 against the last day's closing of Rs307.53, according to the State Bank of Pakistan.

The Japanese Yen came down by 01 paisa and closed at Rs2.04, whereas a decrease of Rs2.76 was witnessed in the exchange rate of the British Pound, which traded at Rs355.10 as compared to its last day's closing of Rs357.86.

The exchange rate of the Emirates Dirham and the Saudi Riyal increased by 14 paisas each to close at Rs77.91 and Rs76.30 respectively.

Gold prices decline by Rs1,000 to Rs230,400 per tola

The per tola price of 24 karat gold decreased by Rs1,000 and was sold at Rs230,400 on Monday against its sale at Rs231,400 the previous day.

The price of 10 grams of 24 karat gold also decreased by Rs857 to Rs197,531 from Rs198,388 whereas the price of 10 grams 22 karat gold went down to Rs181,070 from Rs181,855. All Sindh Sarafa Jewellers Association reported.

The price of per tola and ten-gram silver remained constant at Rs2,750 and Rs2,357.68 respectively.

The price of gold in the international market decreased by US\$8 to \$1948 against its sale at \$1948, the association reported.

Govt initiative appreciated declaring Gwadar as tax-free zone

HYDERABAD (APP): President of Hyderabad Chamber of Small Traders and Small Industry (HCSTSI) Muhammad Farooq Shaikhani has appreciated the initiative of the Balochistan government declaring Gwadar district as a tax-free zone with no tax imposition on services, excise duty and transfer of property.

In a statement on Monday, he demanded the federal government to also declare Gwadar district as

tax-free by providing the status of a "Special Economic District" so that Gwadar, which is one of the deepest ports in the world, can be fully developed and attract the attention of domestic and foreign investors.

Shaikhani said that Dubai's DP World Port, which is one of the largest operators of global ports and provides employment to more than 0.1 million people, had reached an annual revenue of 62.9 billion Dirhams, as well as

Singapore Port 4.7 billion annually. "Singapore earns up to USD 100 million in revenue and these two ports have made Dubai and Singapore one of the world's best and most well-equipped ports," he added.

He said the greatest importance of the Gwadar port in Pakistan was that the water on the part of the sea where it is located is warm, which is characteristic of very few ports in the world. "There is no difficulty in carrying trade and goods by sea, as trade ships continue to move throughout the year, on the contrary, it is difficult to trade through ports located on cold water, but in different seasons, it becomes impossible," he said and added that Pakistan possessed an important geo-strategic

position than any other country in the region due to Gwadar port.

The HCSTSI president termed the C-PEC as a game changer for Pakistan, adding that the country had the opportunity to use the Gwadar Port properly under C-PEC without wasting any time and transits the trade between the states of South, West and Central Asian countries as well as the construction of oil and gas pipelines, and commercial and industrial facilities.

Besides China and Pakistan, he said the C-PEC could bring a new era of economic and industrial development in many countries of the region, including Afghanistan, Turkmenistan, Kazakhstan, Oman, UAE, Saudi Arabia, Iran and Qatar.

Stocks rise on 'Goldilocks' US jobs data, oil lifted by output cut

HONG KONG (AFP/APP): Markets built on a global rally on Monday after a mixed US jobs report lifted hopes the Federal Reserve will skip an interest rate hike this month, while oil extended gains after Saudi Arabia slashed output.

The figures combined with news that Washington had finally passed a debt ceiling deal to avert a cata-

strophic default, while a report that China is looking at fresh support for its property sector also boosted sentiment. Wall Street surged Friday after data showed the US economy added 339,000 jobs last month, far more than expected, indicating the labour market remained strong despite more than a year of Fed rate increases.

However, the report also revealed wage gains moderated slightly, putting less pressure on inflation.

Analysts said the "Goldilocks" reading -- neither too good nor too bad -- suggested the economy was not facing an immediate risk of a recession and could still give the Fed room to hold policy steady.

Asian traders welcomed the news, with Hong Kong extending Friday's four-per-cent surge, while Tokyo piled on more than two percent and Sydney added one percent. Shanghai was helped by a Bloomberg News report that China was looking at measures to help its beleaguered property sector, which accounts for a huge portion of its economy.

Singapore, Mumbai, Seoul, Taipei, Manila and Jakarta also rose. London, Paris and Frankfurt all climbed at the open.

The latest advances across equities have come as investors bet the Fed will not tighten monetary policy at its meeting next week, though expectations are it will do so in July. The central bank has lifted rates 10 times since early last year.

"A combination of a US debt ceiling resolution alongside a mixed US jobs report, still favouring a June Fed pause, and news that China may be considering further support to its beleaguered property sector boosted risk sentiment," said National Australia Bank's Rodrigo Catril.

The renewed confidence also saw the so-called VIX "fear gauge" drop below 15 points to pre-Covid levels.

Mark Hackett, at Nationwide, said: "Investors have spent much of the past three years obsessed by the Fed, inflation, and payrolls, though volatility around those reports has settled, reflecting a less emotional market."

Turkish inflation dips under 40%

ISTANBUL (AFP/APP): Turkey's annual inflation rate dropped below 40 percent in May for the first time in 16 months, pushed down by a temporary offer of free gas to households, official data showed on Monday.

Consumer prices rose by 39.6 percent on an annual basis and were almost stable, at 0.04 percent, compared to the previous month, according to the country's statistics agency.

However, these official figures -- the first since President Recep Tayyip Erdogan was re-elected on May 28 -- are challenged by independent economists from Turkey's Inflation Research Group (ENAG).

The latter say annual inflation stands at between 105 and 109 percent, depending on whether or not the free gas offer is taken into account.

Erdogan, who is starting a third term in office, has said tackling inflation is a top priority.

It exceeded 85 percent in autumn 2022 before starting to slow in November.

While prices continue to rise every month, they are doing so less rapidly than during the previous year.

Tokyo's Nikkei ends at fresh 3-decade high

TOKYO (AFP/APP): Tokyo's key Nikkei index closed at a fresh three-decade high on Monday, with investors encouraged by Wall Street rallies helped by a bumper US jobs report.

The benchmark Nikkei 225 index ended its third straight winning session up 2.20 percent, or 693.21 points, at 32,217.43, while the broader Topix index added 1.70 percent, or 37.09 points, to 2,219.79.

The Nikkei last finished above 32,000 in 1990 -- shortly before Japan's "bubble" economy burst, which triggered decades of economic malaise.

Investors cheered sharp gains of US shares on Friday that came on a stronger-than-expected jobs report, as well as fresh data pointing to improvement in China's service sector.

The passage of a US debt ceiling deal through Congress also eased market fears of a potentially catastrophic default.

Saudi Arabia's decision to cut oil output and oil

prices will be a focus for traders, as "higher oil prices negatively affect Europe and Asia's big oil importer economies", Stephen Innes of SPI Asset Management said.

The dollar fetched 140.28 yen in Asian trade, against 139.97 yen in New York late Friday.

Fast Retailing, which operates the Uniqlo brand, jumped 3.86 percent to 34,160 yen and Advantest, which makes semiconductor tests, rose 3.38 percent to 18,330 yen.

Honda jumped 3.21 percent to 4,185 yen and Toyota gained 0.95 percent to 2,028.5 yen, with SoftBank Group rising 0.85 percent to 6,022 yen. Tokyo Electron recovered from early losses and gained 0.75 percent to 19,420 yen.

Meanwhile, China's software and information technology service industry reported double-digit growth in revenue and profits in the first four months of the year, data from the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology showed.

Court Notice

In the Court of Saqib Khan Senior Civil Judge Family Court, Bannu, Title: Mst: Laiba Bibi vs Maqsood Suit No. 35/FC Instituted on 27-02-2023 Next date of hearing: 08-06-2023 To: Maqsood son Rasool Khan R/O Amandi Shaikh Ameer Tehsil and District Bannu presently Abroad. The defendants are informed through this notice to appear in this court on 08.06.2023. After this no excuse would be accepted and ex-parte proceedings shall be initiated against you. Given under my hand and seal of this Court.

Court Notice

In the Court of Muhammad Umair Qasmi Civil Judge-V, Bannu, Suit No. 01/1 institution 18.06.2022 & 02.01.2023 Next date of is 26.06.2023. Title: Mst: Pari Jana VS Provincial Judge etc. To: 3/3, Sher Zamin S/O Baghdad Khan 9/3, Mir Sadar Ayan 9/7, Muhammad Hayat Sons Ameer zada 8/1, Shamsher Khan 8/4, Fahim Ullah 8/5, Saad Ullah 8/8, Nadim Khan Sons Falak Sher R/O Khawaja Mad Landiok Tehsil & Bannu Presently R/o Abroad. The defendants are informed through this notice to appear in this court on 26.06.2023. After this no excuse would be accepted and ex-parte proceedings shall be initiated against you. Given under my hand and seal of this Court.

Court Notice

In the Court of Inam Ullah Civil Judge-I, North Waziristan At, Bannu, Suit No. 382/1 institution 12.11.2022 Next date of hearing is 14.06.2023. Title: Rasool bibi etc VS Akbar Ali etc To: 1/4, Azhar uddin son Akbar Ali Khan (late) R/o Dawar Tappi Tehsil Miran shah District North Waziristan, presently Abroad. The defendants are informed through this notice to appear in this court on 14.06.2023. After this no excuse would be accepted and ex-parte proceedings shall be initiated against you. Given under my hand and seal of this Court.

Court Notice

In the Court of Qaisar Khan Afridi Additional District Judge II/Azafi Zila Qazi Buner at Daggar. Appeal No. 24/13. Institution 18/2/2023 Date of hearing. 27/6/2023. Baret Khan VS Fazal Hadi etc. Notice to no 2. Fazal Subhan s/o Raziqen resident of Bulandai tehsel Chaghoezai district Buner. Whereas in the above mentioned case the mentioned defendant can not be served in the ordinary way, it is, therefore, proclaimed that if the said defendant will/shall not appear personally or through duly authorized agent or pleader in the court at 8. am dated 27/6/2023 the proceeding will be taken ex-parte. Given under my hand and seal of this Court.

Court Notice

In the Court of Qurat-ul-Ain Rashid Senior Civil Judge/Judge Family Court, Swabi, Hina Gul VS. Abid Khan Subject: Suit for Dissolution of Marriage. Hearing date: 05-07-2023. Institution date: 30-03-23. Case number: 102/FC. Notice to: Abid Khan S/O Meer Aslam Khan R/o Palo Dhand, Saleem Khan, Teh. & Distt. Swabi (Defendant) The service through ordinary means is difficult, so you are informed to attend the court on 05-07-2023 personally, through counsel or attorney to avoid ex-parte proceeding.



In brief

ACC to decide venue this week

C O L O M B O (Monitoring Desk): The Asian Cricket Council would decide the venue of the Asia Cup to be played this year. The Indian cricket board has rejected the hybrid model of Pakistan and instead want the cup be held in Sri Lanka. The PCB, meanwhile, has warned to boycott the tournament if hybrid model is not followed.

Murray returns with Surbiton Trophy win

L O N D O N (Agencies): Britain's Andy Murray kicked off his Wimbledon preparations with a straight-set victory over Hyeon Chung in the first round of the Surbiton Trophy. The 36-year-old former world number one beat the South Korean 6-3 6-2 and will face a qualifier in round two of the Challenger event. Murray skipped the French Open in order to focus on the grass-court season. Every day of the Surbiton Trophy is live across the BBC iPlayer, the BBC Sport website and the Red Button. The match began on even terms as Chung kept up with Murray's level. However, once the Scot secured the break in the first set, he grew in confidence. The three-time Grand Slam champion served eight aces and only dropped one point behind his second serve throughout the match, ending the encounter with a strong serve and forehand combination. Chung, a former Australian Open semi-finalist who used a protected ranking to enter the event, has been plagued by Achilles and back injuries since 2019. This was only his third match of the year, having not played an ATP singles match since 2020. Later on Monday, Britain's Ryan Peniston takes on Czech Jiri Vesely. Other Britons scheduled to play at the event this week include 2019 champion Dan Evans, Heather Watson and Katie Boulter.

Heat rally to beat Nuggets

D E N V E R (AFP/APP): The Miami Heat surged past the Denver Nuggets in the fourth quarter for a 111-108 victory that leveled the NBA Finals at one game apiece on Sunday. Gabe Vincent scored 23 points and Jimmy Butler and Bam Adebayo scored 21 points apiece for Miami, who withstood a 41-point performance from Nuggets star Nikola Jokic to get the win. In a game of swinging shifts of momentum, the Heat had the last word, rallying from a 15-point first-half deficit and out-scoring the Nuggets 36-25 in the final period as they silenced the crowd of 19,537 at Ball Arena. Adebayo sealed it with a pair of free-throws with 48.3 seconds remaining. Denver had a last chance to tie it but Jamal Murray missed a three-pointer. Miami, who came through two play-in games and are trying to become the first eighth-seeded team to win the title, host game three of the best-of-seven series on Wednesday. Western Conference top seeds Denver are trying to lift the Larry O'Brien championship trophy for the first time. Although Miami battled through a tough season, they are in the finals for a seventh time in search of a fourth title. The Nuggets had never before reached the championship series.



PARIS: Ons Jabeur of Tunisia plays a forehand against Bernarda Pera of United States during the Women's Singles Fourth Round match on Day Nine of the 2023 French Open.

Ibrahimovic announces retirement from football

MILAN (AFP/APP): Zlatan Ibrahimovic brought the curtain down on a long, trophy-packed career on Sunday when he unexpectedly announced his retirement from football.

Veteran striker Ibrahimovic revealed his decision to quit the game during an on-pitch ceremony following AC Milan's 3-1 win over Verona. "It's the moment to say goodbye to football, not just to you," said Ibrahimovic on the San Siro pitch. "There are too many emotions for me right now. Forza Milan and goodbye."

The 41-year-old had been expected to simply bid farewell to Milan fans after his departure from the seven-time European champions was announced on Saturday.

He returned to Milan in late 2019 for a second spell after a previous two-year period in which he won the Serie A title in 2011.

Ibrahimovic was a key



figure in Milan's resurgence to the top of Italian football after his return to the club, helping to bring them back from the doldrums and eventually win the Scudetto last season.

"The first time I came here you gave me happiness, the second time you gave me love," said Ibrahimovic.

"You welcomed me with open arms, you made me feel at home, I will be a Milanista for the rest of my life." Over the course of his career Ibrahimovic won league titles in the

Netherlands, Italy, Spain and France, although his only major European trophy was the 2017 Europa League with Manchester United.

He has hardly featured for Stefano Pioli's side this term after being plagued with injuries, returning in February following surgery on his left knee in May.

In July he signed a deal which netted him around one million euros (\$1.02 million) in fixed salary, with large bonuses linked to appearances and achievements.

But the 41-year-old only started one match and netted once for Milan this season, a 3-1 win at Udinese in March in which he became the oldest goal scorer in Serie A history.

He then picked up a calf injury in a pre-match warm up in April and ended his career sidelined before scotching rumours that he was set to move to Monza and targeting Euro 2024 with Sweden.

England may rejig attack in Leach's absence, says Atherton

LONDON (Agencies): England's lack of spin options may force them into rejigging their bowling attack for the Ashes series against Australia following Jack Leach's unavailability through injury, former England captain Mike Atherton said.

Left-arm spinner Leach was ruled out of the five-match series on Sunday due to a stress fracture in his back, dealing a major blow to the hosts' hopes of wresting the Ashes urn.

Although the 31-year-old may not be the biggest name in England's attack, Leach has bowled the most overs and is the team's joint highest wicket-taker since captain Ben Stokes and coach Brendon McCullum took over last year.

"They have said that they will announce a replacement in due course, but the decision is not straightforward because of the paucity of spin in the English game," Atherton wrote in the Times newspaper. "For years now, with the County Championship pushed to the margins of the season, counties have had no incentive to produce or play spinners and the county game has never been so threadbare for quality spin."

Teenaged leg-spinner Rehan Ahmed, who made his test debut in Pakistan in December, and all-rounder Will Jacks are being touted as replacements and Joe Root's part-time off-spin could be used more.

"My suspicion is that they may call both Ahmed and Jacks into the squad, to gauge where they are at, but it would be no surprise if they rejigged the balance of their team for the Edgbaston test," Atherton said.

England were already fretting on Stokes' dodgy knee, which might restrict his bowling in the opening test at Edgbaston starting on June 16.

Former England spinner Monty Panesar believes England may pick an extra fast bowler and roll out green tracks tailor-made for a seam-heavy attack.

French Open: Jabeur into quarter-finals for first time with win over Pera

PARIS (Agencies): Tunisia's Ons Jabeur moved into the quarter-finals of the French Open for the first time with a 6-3 6-1 victory over American Bernarda Pera.

Jabeur played in the Wimbledon and US Open finals in 2022 but lost in the first round at Roland Garros last year.

She has now reached the quarter-finals in all four Grand Slam events.

Seventh seed Jabeur, 28, will meet Brazilian 14th seed Beatriz Haddad Maia in the last eight after she eliminated Spain's Sara Sorribes Tormo.

World number 36 Pera, also 28 and playing in her first Grand Slam last-16 match, struggled on Court Philippe Chatrier and did not hold serve at all.

Jabeur was not at her fluent best and was herself broken three times in the first set and at the start of the second set, but she

raced through the final six games, sealing victory in 63 minutes.

"I wouldn't say it was easy, it was very tough and I'm so happy. It took me three times to get to the quarter-finals and I'm very happy to make my best result here at the French Open," Jabeur told Eurosport.

"Hopefully I can continue playing well and we will see what happens."

Haddad Maia, 27, came back from a set down to win 6-7 (3-7) 6-3 7-5 in an epic encounter which lasted three hours and 51 minutes - the longest match on the WTA Tour in 2023.

Sorribes Tormo, ranked 132nd in the world, had gained a walkover win in the third round when Wimbledon champion Elena Rybakina had to withdraw because of illness.

Haddad Maia was unable to convert three

match points in the ninth game of the deciding set and then served for the match before having her serve broken to make it 5-5.

But she then won the next two games to complete the victory.

"I think the emotion was there for both of us," said Haddad Maia. "I'm very happy and proud that I didn't give up and pushed until my limit and I think I deserved it because of that."

Sorribes Tormo, along with partner Marie Bouzkova, were involved in controversy on Sunday in their women's doubles last-16 match as they won when opponent Miyu Kato hit a ball girl with a ball and the Japanese player and Indonesia's Aldila Sutjiadi were disqualified.

Kato was initially given a warning by the umpire but after protests from Sorribes Tormo and Bouzkova, they were disqualified.

Wahab eyes inclusion in national camp, requests PCB's consideration

LAHORE (Monitoring Desk): Wahab Riaz, Pakistani veteran fast bowler and serving adviser to the Punjab chief minister on sports, has approached the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) seeking inclusion in the forthcoming national training camp.

In a fervent bid to make a valuable contribution to the national squad's triumph, the cricketer has expressed his eagerness to actively participate in the gruelling training sessions ahead.

During a media interaction on Monday, the pacer conveyed his wish to join the national training camp with the aim to refine his bowling abilities.

The cricketer, who last played an international match back in December 2020, said: "I am focusing on my future endeavours. I am training hard and bowling regularly to be in rhythm."

"I would like to request PCB to call me in the training camp. It will help me practice my bowling in a better way. Bowling for even half an hour in the camp would help me a lot," the veteran pacer said.

PCB has called national

players for specialised camps from June 10 to 21. Spinners, fast bowlers and batters will be doing training with specialised coaches.

Invited players
Spinners – Abrar Ahmed, Ali Asfand, Arafat Minhass, Faisal Akram, Mohammad Junaid, Mehran Mumtaz, Mubasir Khan, Noman Ali, Qasim Akram, Sajid Khan, Sufiyan Mugeem, Usama Mir and Zahid Mehmood.

Fast bowlers – Aamir Jamal, Arshad Iqbal, Faheem Ashraf, Haris Rauf, Ihsanullah, Mohammad Hasnain, Mohammad Wasim Jnr, Mir Hamza, Mohammad Ali, Naseem Shah and Shahnaaz Dahani.

Batters – Abdullah Shafique, Haris Sohail, Haseebullah, Hussain Talat, Iftikhar Ahmed, Imam-ul-Haq, Kamran Ghulam, Mohammad Haris, Mohammad Huraiera, Omair Bin Yousuf, Saim Ayub, Salman Ali Agha, Saud Shakeel and Tayyab Tahir.

Schedule
For spinners – 10 till 15 June
Fast bowlers – 16 till 21 June
World Cup in India

Riaz emphasised on inclusion of senior players in the squad for World Cup in India this year.

"We need to rely on our senior players for World Cup in India. This is not T20 World Cup where bowlers will easily bowl four overs," he said.

"Our selectors should start working on making the right combinations. Bring senior players and add juniors to make good combinations," he maintained.

Pakistan's participation in the World Cup in India will be subject to the government's permission. Closer to the time, PCB will seek the federal government's permission to participate.

Since India refused to travel to Pakistan to play Asia Cup, things have become complicated. PCB had offered a hybrid model to host Asia Cup, giving India an option to play their matches outside Pakistan. However, the Indian cricket board is influencing ACC member boards to shift the event from Pakistan.

Hence, the official decision on Asia Cup is still pending.

Messi's father says player 'would like to return' to Barcelona amid speculation over Saudi move

MADRID (AP): Barcelona has not given up hope of seeing Lionel Messi returning to the club despite increasing speculation about a pending move to Saudi Arabia, and his father said Monday that his son prefers to go back to the Catalan club.

Jorge Messi was in Barcelona and briefly answered questions from reporters after reportedly meeting with club president Joan Laporta.

The player's father side-stepped most questions but acknowledged that Messi "would like to return" to the club where he spent most of his career. When asked if he believed his son could be back, he said "yes."

"It depends on lots of things. I don't know anything," he said. "We'll see what happens."

Barcelona has continued to restructure its finances to make sure it can afford Messi's return in case the Argentina star decides to come back to the Spanish league after his stint with Paris Saint-Germain.

PSG announced this past weekend that Messi will not stay at the club for another season, and the player was reportedly mulling lucrative offers from Al-Hilal in Saudi Arabia and Inter Miami in the United States.

Barcelona was always an option since it's the club where he grew up and

thrived for nearly two decades before leaving to join PSG in 2021 amid the Catalan club's financial struggles.

Barcelona's finances are in better shape now, but adding Messi to the squad would make it more difficult for the club to meet the Spanish league's strict financial fair play rules.

"It's not easy, but we'll see," Laporta said this weekend.

The club was working with the league to make sure it could get an adequate salary cap approved ahead of the new season. It still has to add some players who were registered with the youth squads, including playmaker Gavi, but it gained some important salary cap space with the departure of veterans such as Sergio Busquets and Jordi Alba.

"I would really like to have Leo back. He knows it, I've spoken to him," Barcelona coach Xavi said. "It would be spectacular, not only for me as a coach, but as a fan as well. He is a spectacular player who could help us in so many different areas. But it's his decision and I will understand it no matter what happens." Laporta has said the club would do everything possible to try to bring Messi back.

After not being able to keep the playmaker and seeing the team struggle, Laporta and his board had

to take action and sold off 25% of the club's Spanish league TV rights for the next 25 years, along with other assets. The cash was used to revamp the squad with the signings of players such as Robert Lewandowski, Jules Kounde and Raphinha. The team won the league title this season for the first time since 2019, but it still struggled in the Champions League and the Europa League.

The team's first title since Messi's departure had been the Spanish Super Cup in January, when it defeated rival Real Madrid in the final in Saudi Arabia.

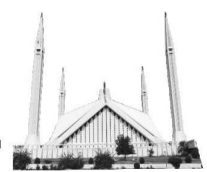
The 35-year-old Messi left Barcelona after 17 successful seasons in which he helped the Catalan club win 35 titles, including four Champions Leagues, 10 Spanish leagues and seven Copa del Reys.

While with Barcelona, Messi earned himself a record six Ballon d'Or awards as the world's top player. He remains the team's all-time scorer with 672 goals in 778 appearances, and the top scorer in the Spanish league with 474 goals in 520 matches.

Messi was the top scorer in the Spanish league in eight seasons, and the top scorer in the Champions League on six occasions. His 26 goals against Real Madrid are a record for the "clasico" matches against Barcelona's fiercest rival.



LONDON: Steve Smith of Australia looks on during Australia training prior to the ICC World Test Championship Final 2023 at The Oval on June 05, 2023 in London, England.



In brief

IRSA releases 160,000 cusecs water

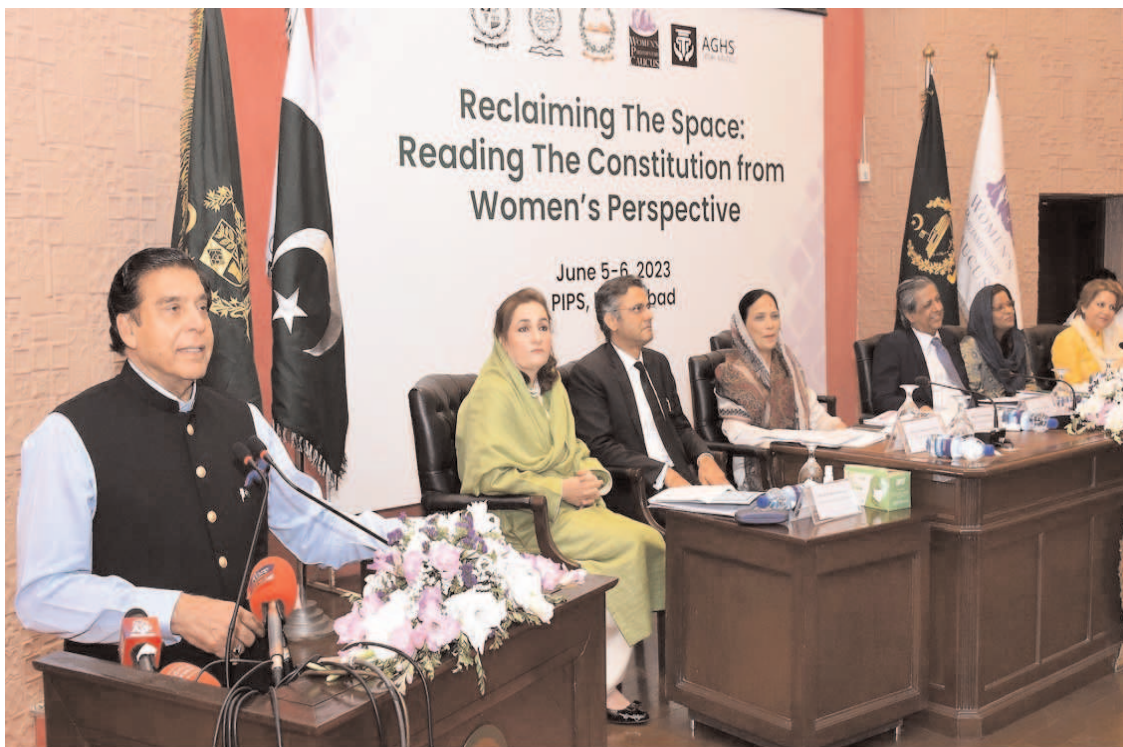
ISLAMABAD (APP): The Indus River System Authority (IRSA) on Monday released 160,000 cusecs of water from various rim stations with an inflow of 181,500 cusecs. According to the data released by IRSA, the water level in River Indus at Tarbela Dam was 1426.15 feet and was 28.15 feet higher than its dead level of 1,398 feet. Water inflow and outflow in the dam were recorded as 58,700 cusecs and 57,300 cusecs respectively. The water level in River Jhelum at Mangla Dam was 1132.90 feet, 82.90 feet higher than its dead level of 1,050 feet. The inflow and outflow of water were recorded as 55,500 cusecs and 35,400 cusecs respectively. The release of water at Kalabagh, Taunsa, Guddu and Sukkur was recorded as 74,800, 80,900, 62,300 and 21,600 cusecs respectively. Similarly, from River Kabul, a total of 36,400 cusecs of water was released at Nowshera while 12,000 cusecs were released from River Chenab at Marala.

One held, stolen motorcycle recovered

RAWALPINDI (APP): Police during an operation here on Monday, nabbed a motorcycle lifter and recovered four stolen motorcycles from his possession. According to a police spokesman, Pirwadhaj police held Sharif Khan involved in motorcycle theft and recovered four stolen motorcycles from his custody. Police have registered a case against him and started an investigation. Superintendent of Police (SP) Rawal Faisal Salim hailed the performance of the police team and said, "The accused will be brought to court with solid evidence and will be punished." He said, "Strict action will be taken against those who deprive the citizens of their valuable assets."

Power suspension programme

ISLAMABAD (APP): Islamabad Electric Supply Company (IESCO) on Monday issued a power suspension programme for Tuesday for various areas of its region due to necessary maintenance and routine development work. According to IESCO Spokesman, the power supply of different feeders and grid stations would remain suspended for the period from 09:00 AM to 02:00 PM Islamabad Circle, Naval-I & II, Anguri, NCP, Mangyal, Shahdara, Shahpur, Khayban Iqbal, Peer Suhawah, Quaid-e-Azam University, Punjab House, Buri Imam, Mandala, Athal, NIH Feeders, Rawalpindi Cantt Circle, River Garden.I & II, Sohan Garden.II, Park View, Pindi Board, Morgah, Kahota City.II, Hanif Shaheed, Shahpur, Dhok Noor Feeders, Rawalpindi City Circle, Bagh Sardara, Social Security, Industrial, Peer Wadhaj, Rajahabad, Dhok Chowdhury, Masryal Road, Madina Colony, Askari XI, Race Course, Iqbal Road, Subhan Shaheed Feeders, Chakwal Circle, CS Shah, Dandot, Bisharat Feeders, From 08:00 AM to 13:00 PM, Attock Circle, Pind Paran, Valley, Gulshan Sehat, Sangjani, Shahullah Dutta, AWT-4, MVCHS, MPCHSB-17, Paswal, Sarai Kharboza, Taxila. I & II, Sher Shah Suri Feeders and surrounding areas.



ISLAMABAD: Speaker National Assembly Raja Pervaz Ashraf addressing the seminar "Reclaiming the space: Reading the Constitution from Women's perspective organized by WPC in PIPS.

Youth, public resistance to plastics 'only solution' to phaseout single-use polythene products: Sherry Rehman

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Climate Change and Environmental Coordination, Senator Sherry Rehman on Monday said the youth and public at large had a key role in showing resistance and pressure towards plastics manufacturers to phaseout single-use polythene products like bags and bottles causing serious pollution and environmental degradation in the country.

Addressing a seminar on World Environment Day titled 'Beat Plastic Pollution' organised by the International Union for Conservation of Nature-Pakistan (IUCN), Ministry of Climate Change and Environmental Coordination and Serena Hotels, the Minister emphasised the need of motivating the general pub-

lic to step forward and take the lead in fighting plastic pollution which was insurmountable without mass support and acceptance.

Senator Rehman said the impacts of single-use plastics degrading the environment were conspicuous and glaring. She added that the threshold where once the level of degradation, toxicity and overheating was done due to plastic pollution could reach a level, if left unabated, where it would not be reversible.

"The plastics are damaging the environment and what we have done in the past 80 years is unprecedented in the millennial," she noted. The minister appreciated the Serena hotels for switching to glass bottles and shunning the use of plastic pet water bottles. "We are also beginning a journey of letting off

easy-to-use and throw-away plastics in the Prime Minister's house, federal ministries and public departments as efforts are underway," she informed.

The senator mentioned that there was very little data available on recycling of plastics as the country was not recycling over 70% of its plastic waste. "Plastics do not degrade and it's a complete canard that it vanishes from the environment after some time. It takes more time than our entire life to degrade. Plastics could be banned in three years but cannot be removed completely," she said.

Senator Rehman informed that the country produced some 3.3 million metric tonnes of plastics that would go beyond 12 million metric tonnes by 2040.

Saifullah Qureshi completed his PhD F.P Report

ISLAMABAD: Dr. Muhammad Saifullah Qureshi from International Islamic University Islamabad completed his PhD in Clinical Psychology under the supervision of Assistant Professor Dr. Asghar Ali Shah.

Dr. Saifullah Qureshi is the son of late prominent educationist Muhammad Jamalullah Qureshi. On this occasion, he successfully defended his research in International Islamic University Islamabad Psychology Department.

The title of his research was "Effects of Father Absence on Children's Mental Health". His external examiners were Professor Dr. Shazia Khalid and Associate Professor Dr. Rizwana Amin and his internal supervisor Associate Professor Dr. Mazhar Iqbal Bhatti and other examiners appreciated Saifullah Qureshi research paper and declared his research successful.

World Food Safety Day to be marked on Jun 7

ISLAMABAD (APP): World Food Safety Day will be marked on June 7 (Wednesday) across the globe including Pakistan to impart awareness on the importance of food standards. Food-borne diseases affect one in 10 people worldwide each year, and food standards help us to ensure what we eat is safe.

World Food Safety Day (WFSD) celebrates its fifth edition in 2023. Every year, 600 million people fall ill due to the 200 different types of illnesses that can be transmitted by food. Young people and populations with limited resources are among the most affected. Food-borne illnesses cause 420,000 preventable deaths every year.

This celebration is aimed at raising awareness about the importance of prevention, detection, and management of risks through food safety practices, promoting debates, solutions, and ways to improve human health, trade, agriculture, and sustainable development. This year's theme is 'Food Standards Save Lives'. Standards not only provide farmers and processors with guidance on the hygienic handling of food, but also define maximum levels of additives and contaminants, among other components, that can be safely consumed.

'Parliamentarians' struggle for furthering cause of democracy unmatched'

ISLAMABAD (APP): Speaker, National Assembly Raja Pervaz Ashraf Monday said that struggle of Pakistani Parliamentarians for the cause of strong democracy was unmatched in the annals of world political history.

"Social progress and development are interlinked with women's inclusion in every sphere of life" he expressed these views while inaugurating the seminar, "Reclaiming the Space: Reading the Constitution from Women's Perspective" organized by the Women Parliamentary Caucus (WPC). He said, "The need of the hour is to focus on the implementation of laws regarding ensuring gender equality in every sphere of life".

The speaker also said that he had been honoured and proud to learn politics from the unmatched and astute leadership of Mohtrama Shaheed Benazir Bhutto.

He appreciated the active participation of women Parliamentarians in the parliament of Pakistan.

He added, "Ensuring gender parity is pivotal for socio-economic progress".

While demanding for establishment of a Women Federal Ministry for empowering women, he added, "It is time that our men must come forward for empowering their women". He also emphasized the need for direct elections of women Parliamentarians.

He also said that the text of the Constitution was above gender discrimination. Shahida Rehmani secretary of WPC while addressing the seminar stressed the need for gender parity and gender equality as enshrined in the constitution.

She also expressed gratitude to the Speaker National Assembly Raja Pervaz Ashraf for supervising with dedication to the whole procedure of Gender Budgeting for this financial year.

She said that WPC would continue to strive for women and children-friendly legislation. She said that since its inception in 2008, WPC has achieved milestones in increasing chances for women's participation.

MNA Mehnaz Akbar Aziz Convener Parliamentary Caucus on Child Rights signified the struggle of women parliamentarians for finding space in the Parliament of Pakistan. She also emphasized that reading the constitution from a women's Perspective would be the right step on the occasion of the golden jubilee celebration of the Constitution.

Furthermore, MNA Shaista Pervaiz Malik during his address to participants of the seminar also briefly pointed out the women-friendly legislation initiated from the platform of WPC. She also demanded Women parliamentarians must have space in politics for direct election.

ANF seizes over 135 kg drugs in eight operations

RAWALPINDI (APP): ANF while conducting eight operations across the country managed to recover over 135 kg of drugs and arrested six accused, said an ANF Headquarters spokesman here on Monday. He informed that in an operation conducted near Bahria Town Phase-4, over 100 intoxicated tablets were recovered from the possession of an accused resident of Rawalpindi.

In another operation near Hangu Bypass, Kohat, 14.4 kg charras was recovered. In the third operation at Jinnah International Airport, Karachi, 1256 grams of Ice drug and 6.5 kg of suspected material were recovered from the possession of a Saudia-bound passenger, resident of Mardan, going on flight no GF-751.

In the fourth operation conducted by ANF and Customs Department, 270 grams of charras were recovered from a

parcel booked for Bangkok at the GPO office, in Karachi. He informed that in the fifth operation at Faisalabad International Airport, 390 grams of heroin was recovered from the possession of a Dubai-bound passenger, a resident of Pakpattan, going on flight no FZ-392. ANF recovered 1020 grams of Ice drug from the possession of an accused resident of Lahore, arrested from 'Padhana' village near Lahore while in another operation 922 grams of heroin was recovered from a parcel booked for London at a private courier office in Lahore. In the eighth operation conducted near the 'Kuchlak' Bypass, Quetta, 90 kg charras and 20 kg heroin was recovered from a deserted area.

Separate cases have been registered against the accused while further investigations are under process, he added.

Experts demand for introducing climate change as subject in curriculum

ISLAMABAD (APP): Expert on Monday stressed environmental laws on a provincial level and demanded relevant authority to introduce the subject of climate change in the educational curriculum, with an aim to aware the younger generation about the harmful effects of plastic use and to protect the environment in future.

Senior Researcher at NIMA Dr Kanwar Muhammad Javed Iqbal on 'World Environment Day' talking to a Private news channel said that the ministry should take the

provinces into confidence and convince them to introduce climate change as a subject from the school to university level.

He said, "The best way to equip the young generation to combat the looming danger is to educate and aware them of the negative impacts of climate change."

He further explained, "Education is an important element to reduce the usage of plastic bags and helps people to encourages their behaviour changes in their attitudes." Replying to a question, he said, "By

enforcing the exciting laws, we can reduce the negative impacts of pollution, climate change, and resource depletion and work towards a more resilient and sustainable future." He stressed that the public should stop the use of plastic bags, bottles, and cups, which would create a huge positive impact on nature.

"Plastic pollution is a grave issue and as a nation, it is our collective responsibility to adopt value-added solutions like the use of biodegradable bags instead of plastic bags," he added.

YDA demands security for doctors in all hospitals

RAWALPINDI (APP): The Young Doctors Association (YDA) has demanded the Punjab government provide security for the doctors in all hospitals in the province. Addressing a rally organized at District Headquarters Hospital (DHQ) here on Monday in protest against the torture of a doctor in Lahore's Children's Hospital, YDA President Dr Mohsin said that doctors were feeling insecure

and asked the government to take effective steps for the security of people, especially the doctors. Flanked by the YDA's allied hospital chapter representatives Dr Rana Azeem, Dr Zoha and others they demanded of the concerned to give exemplary punishment to the accused involved in an attack on Dr Saad Rafique in Lahore's Children's Hospital.

Meanwhile, Caretaker

Provincial Minister for Health Punjab Dr Jamal Nasir said that the doctor's and paramedical staff's protection would be ensured at any cost and patients and their families would not be allowed to take the law into their own hands. He said that obligatory laws would be made for the protection of doctors and paramedical staff and would be implemented in letter and spirit.

Railways earn Rs. 5m from saloons during last three years

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan Railways has generated revenue worth Rs. 5,269,315 through utilizing its 23 saloons and inspection coaches for commercial purposes, during the last three years (2020-22). "At present Pakistan Railways has only 23 saloons and inspection coaches with different dignitaries of the country who are entitled to use these saloons when needed," an official in the Ministry of Railways told APP.

Giving the details of the saloons, he said that two highly luxurious coaches have been allocated for the Prime Minister's Secretariat while four coaches have been allocated for the Minister for Railways, Secretary/Chairman of Railways and another senior official in the Ministry. The official said only one saloon has been allocated to the federal government while one saloon each has been allocated to the Governors of Sindh, Balochistan, Punjab and the provincial governments.

In addition, eight saloons had been allocated for the Railway Headquarters Lahore, in which one each would be marked to Chief Executive

Officer/General Manager (BS-22), Additional General Manager BS-21, Inspector General Railway Police, Federal Government Inspector and four saloons were allocated for Principal Officers, he added. The official said that six saloons had been allocated for Divisional Superintendents of Peshawar, Rawalpindi, Quetta, Sukkur Lahore Karachi.

He said that the Principal Officers of Pakistan Railways were entitled to travel at these saloons or inspection coaches only when they were travelling on duty. Above all, they said luxury saloons were also available for private travel on a rental basis. The official said the saloons were very luxurious and had two rooms, a bath, a dining area and a kitchen like a small house on wheels with the availability of every facility.

He said some of these saloons were inspection coaches and their back wall was made of glass from where officers can view the track and surrounding area.

"Pakistan Railways officers are not entitled to use this facility other than duty and all these saloons are mostly 40 to 50 years old," the official added.



ISLAMABAD: A view of heap of garbage which may cause health issues to the residents of the adjacent areas in the Federal Capital on the eve of World Environment Day.

Supreme Leader hold meeting

KABUL (Agencies): The Supreme Leader of the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan, met with acting Education Minister, Mawlawi Habibullah Agha and directors of education departments of 34 provinces in Kandahar. Sharing the future plans, goals, and achievements of the Ministry of Education called the main agenda of the meeting with the Supreme Leader of the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan, Mullah Hibatullah Akhundzada, according to a statement.

ARCS president left for SL

KABUL (BNA) Acting President of Afghan Red Crescent Society, Mawlawi Muti-ul-Haq Khalis, traveled to Sri Lanka on an official visit. The ARCS president will attend the meeting of leaders of national communities at the regional level on that country. The regional meeting in the host country will also be discussed the timely delivery of humanitarian aid to the needy, and they will discuss attracting more support from donor countries, the statement added.

IEA invites Australian war crimes investigators into Afghanistan

KABUL (Agencies): The Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan (IEA) has invited Australian officials to travel to Afghanistan and investigate allegations of war crimes committed by Australian troops.

Speaking to Australian broadcaster SBS, IEA spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid said that the IEA will ensure safe passage for officials to speak with the alleged victims.

"All the killings will be investigated and what they consider a crime. After the agreement and our departments get involved, we will 100 percent confidently

arrange security. There is no issue there," Mujahid said.

IEA has been following the fallout from the defamation case brought by former Australian soldier Ben Roberts-Smith against three newspapers – the Sydney Morning Herald, The Age and Canberra Times.

The federal court ruled in favor of the newspapers and said their stories that the soldier murdered unarmed Afghan civilians were true.

Mujahid said IEA officials have been following the case.

"We have observed this case. But the perception in

Afghanistan it is a symbolic act. Because Australian forces were here for 20 years to support the American war that killed and tortured many more people," Mujahid said.

Separately, an independent body, the Office of the Special Investigator, has been investigating 40 allegations of war crimes allegedly committed by Australian forces.

Chris Moraitis, the director-general of the agency, said in February that investigators had not interviewed witnesses inside Afghanistan due to a lack of access.

3 killed, 20 injured in 2 accidents

LAGHMAN (Agencies): In two separate road accidents in Laghman, officials said three people were killed, and 20 others were injured.

According to provincial traffic police, three commuters were killed and 20 others injured in two separate road accidents in the Laghman province of Afghanistan.

The first accident occurred when a minibus crashed with another vehicle coming from the opposite direction on the Kabul-Nangarhar highway, resulting in two fatalities and 20 injuries.

The second accident occurred a few minutes later when a vehicle overturned due to careless driving in the same area, killing one person on the spot, said a statement.

In a similar incident in Wardak province of Afghanistan, two people were killed, and eight others were injured.

Reckless driving, bad roads, a lack of the rule of law, and poorly maintained cars are all contributing factors to the rise in traffic accidents in the country.

Increase in malaria cases raised

JALALABAD (Agencies): Nangarhar residents have voiced concern about the increase in malaria cases in the province, and urged the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan to take steps to stop the spread of the disease.

Residents said many members of their families have contracted the disease with the arrival of summer.

Abdullah Baryalai, a health official in the eastern zone of the country, says that the prevalence of malaria has increased not only in Nangarhar province but also across the eastern province.

Malaria is transmitted from person to person by mosquitoes. Doctors recommend the use of mosquito nets and encourage people to make sure there is no standing water around their houses. Health officials in Nangarhar province say the Ministry of Public Health has launched an awareness campaign in order to help rid the province of mosquitoes.

DABS settled outstanding bills

KABUL (Agencies): Da Afghanistan Breshna Sherkat, the country's national power utility company, said that last year it paid most of its electricity bills to exporting countries.

According to the company, \$94 million was paid to Uzbekistan, \$96 million to Tajikistan and \$62 million to Iran.

DABS' chief operating officer Safiullah Ahmadzai said that a five-year strategic plan for renewable energy has been drawn up to provide reliable and sustainable electricity, which includes 710 megawatts of solar and wind power.

At the Transportation and Aviation Institute's graduation ceremony, Hamidullah Akhundzada, the acting minister of transportation and civil aviation, said that twenty foreign flights daily are using the nation's airports.

Speaking at the ceremony, Akhundzada stressed the need for Afghanistan to be self-sufficient in the civil and aviation sectors, adding that thirty students had been sent to Uzbekistan to study to advance the aviation industry.

"Through this institute, we maintain the nation's international airports' operational status, and currently these airports are active for domestic and foreign flights, 20 international flights are made each day from these airports," Akhundzada added.

The Minister of Higher Education, Neda Mohammad Nadim, said during the graduation ceremony of the students of the Transportation and Aviation Institute

Minister meets with Chinese over energy production



KABUL (Agencies): The minister of energy and water Abdul Latif Mansoor said in a meeting in Kabul with representatives of Chinese companies that the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan (IEA) is eager

to invest in energy production from coal resources and solar power projects.

At the meeting, the Chinese expressed their willingness to invest in energy production projects and requested the coopera-

tion of the leadership of the ministry in this regard.

The minister welcomed their enthusiasm and said grounds had been paved for investment and for job creation opportunities.

Mansoor said that in

order to speed up the investment process, an agreement should be signed between the two sides as soon as possible and with other relevant departments so that work can start.

Afghanistan's current power need 1,500 megawatts, says MoEW

KABUL (TOLONews): The Ministry of Energy and Water said that the current power demands of Afghanistan are 1,500 megawatts—with up to 720 megawatts being imported and the rest supplied by internal sources.

The spokesman for the MoEW, Hekmatullah Maiwandi, said that more than 500 megawatts of power are being supplied by domestic sources, particularly the water dams.

"In general, our domestic power is 565 megawatts of power. The whole country needs between 1,400 to 1,500 megawatts of power," he said.

The main Afghan power dams include Naghlo, Mahipar, Sarobi, Kajaki, Salma and Daronta.

"From September to May it (dam) is making rotations, after this period, water both in Logar and Kabul river dries up. Then this station is deactivated, and we are working on

repairs," said Mumtaz Ahmad, a worker at the Mahipar dam.

At the end of 2009, due to frequent power shortages, the US invested \$340 million in a thermal power station in Kabul.

However, the station is not used normally due to the high price of fuel.

"This thermal power station started running at the end of 2009, its overall capacity is 105 megawatts, which is usually being used

during the peak time of power shortages in the winter or if the power pylons are damaged," said Ahmad Wais Sargand, general director of the thermal power station.

Despite having mass natural sources and water, Afghanistan is facing extreme challenges in power supply as the majority of its electricity is being imported from the neighboring countries, especially the Central Asia.

Sixty Afghan girls hospitalized in school poisoning incident

SAR-E-PUL (Agencies): Around 60 Afghan girls were hospitalized after being poisoned at their school in northern Afghanistan, police said on Monday.

"Some unknown people entered a girls' ... school in Sancharak District .. and poisoned the classes, when the girls come to classes they got poisoned," said Den Mohammad Nazari, Sar-e-Pul's police spokesperson, without elaborating on which substance was used or who was thought to be behind the incident.

Nazari said the girls had been taken to hospital but were in "good condition." No one had been arrested.



All airfields in Afghanistan operational, says Ministry

KABUL (TOLONews): Afghanistan's Ministry of Transport and Civil Aviation (MoTCA), said that all airfields in Afghanistan are currently operational.

The Transportation and Aviation Institute's graduation ceremony, Hamidullah Akhundzada, the acting minister of transportation and civil aviation, said that twenty foreign flights daily are using the nation's airports.

Speaking at the ceremony, Akhundzada stressed the need for Afghanistan to be self-sufficient in the civil and aviation sectors,

adding that thirty students had been sent to Uzbekistan to study to advance the aviation industry.

"Through this institute, we maintain the nation's international airports' operational status, and currently these airports are active for domestic and foreign flights, 20 international flights are made each day from these airports," Akhundzada added.

The Minister of Higher Education, Neda Mohammad Nadim, said during the graduation ceremony of the students of the Transportation and Aviation Institute

that work should be left to specialists, and that professionals should be appointed in each department.

Speaking at the ceremony, Nadim promised to cooperate in improving the capacity of the students of the institute.

"We have a commitment in this field for work to be given to those who suit the position. No one else can do what an engineer does, so there is a need for professionals who should be employed there," Nadim said.

The graduates of the Transportation and Aviation Institute asked the

Islamic Emirate to provide them with employment opportunities.

"We ask the Islamic Emirate to provide job opportunities for these graduates who studied for two years and worked hard," said Shahir Sutanzada, a graduate.

According to data from Afghanistan's Ministry of Transport and Civil Aviation (MoTCA), more than 50 individuals received two years of training in air traffic control, monitoring, navigation, and other departments in 1402 (solar calendar).

Women and girls, primary victims of late regime change in Afghanistan

KABUL (Khaama Press): Women and girls have been the main victims of the late regime changes in Afghanistan, resulting to the collapse of the former Islamic Republic government, and return of Taliban to power, according to civil society activists.

Khaam Press News hosted a Twitter Space on the "situation of women and girls in Afghanistan after the fall of the former gov-

ernment". Participants in this online session stressed that Afghan women and girls have lost their civic, social and human status under the Taliban regime, and have been placed under house arrest.

Sorya Paikan, a women's rights activist attended the session as a keynote speaker, who urged the Taliban-run administration to fulfill their responsibilities towards the general

public. She also emphasized that women are part of human society and their problems should be resolved and addressed accordingly.

According to her, only the de facto authorities of Afghanistan can solve the existing issues, adding that Afghan women and girls' problems have two major internal and external factors.

Najiba Ayubi, a journal-

ist and civil society activist, in her remarks, reiterated that considering the dire situation in the country, there is no prospect or hope for women and girls in Afghanistan.

Ms. Ayubi believes that Afghan women have lost their status in the fields of education, work and political participation, adding the country is moving towards dogmatism and promoting extremism.

Over 100 people facing eye problems in Uruzgan

KABUL (TOLONews): More than one hundred men and women who live in Uruzgan's Deh Ravod district are facing eye problems and blindness, a TOLONews report revealed.

The majority of people with eye issues are children, particularly girls, who struggle with an unknown future. These residents of Uruzgan said that because of this disease, they are isolated from society and no one seeks friendship or intimacy with them.

"Three to four of my young girls have this (eye) problem. Around 20 people are facing this challenge in the homes of our cousins and brothers," said Sediqullah, a resident of Uruzgan.

"We have been passing along this disease from our ancestors and this has spread

from one generation to another," said Abdul Karim, a resident of Uruzgan.

The residents said that a medical team visited them a few days ago to provide care but the team said that because this illness cannot be treated inside the country, they must travel outside for treatment. They asked aid organizations to help them in this area.

"We have been told that we cannot be treated inside the country and we should go outside the country for treatment," Juma Khan, a resident of Uruzgan, told TOLONews.

"I cannot do anything due to my eye problem. I sit in my place and cannot see anything," Saleh Mohammad, another resident of Uruzgan, told TOLONews.

According to medical

professionals, this illness is inherited from one generation to the next. They assert that another cause of this illness is being married to a close relative.

The head of Uruzgan's martyrs and disabled affairs department said that more than twenty members of this family are registered with the department and they are paid monthly.

"This disease is being spread hereditarily from one generation to another generation," said Zia Rahman Niazi, the former chief physician of Uruzgan Provincial Hospital.

This comes as a medical team from the Ministry of Public Health treated hundreds of blind individuals in Uruzgan for free three weeks ago with the financial support of Australia.

Traffic accidents kills three and injures dozens: Official

KABUL (Agencies): Taliban authorities in eastern Laghman province said at least three people were killed and 20 others were injured in Kabul-Jalalabad high accident.

The head of the traffic department of Laghman province, Mawlawi Habibullah Mubariz in a statement said that three individuals were killed and twenty others sustained injuries in two separate road accidents in Serkhakan area of Qarghayee district of the province.

The victims were transferred to the provincial hospital for treatment, the health conditions of some of whom are reported critical, the statement said.

In a separate road accident that took place on the Kabul-Kandahar highway in Nerkh district of



Maidan Wardak province, one woman died and four others were injured, the Islam Emirate officials said.

Meanwhile, in another incident in the "Lalmeh" area of north Salang, on Kabul-Baghlan road, a

vehicle ran over a child and seriously injured him. The victim later died at the hospital due to excessive injuries he sustained, according to local sources.

The increasing number of road accidents in different parts of the country is

closely linked to careless driving and failure to abide by traffic rules.

Furthermore, poorly maintained vehicles and cracked roads also play a part in the number of road accidents according to traffic officials.



BAGH: Chief Organizer of PML-N Maryam Nawaz addressing during a public gathering in Azad Kashmir.

Phasing out single use plastic items top priority: Marriyum

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb on Monday reiterated the government's commitment to curb use of plastic made items from routine life for preserving the planet earth from looming threat of climate change.

"Phasing out plastic shopping bags, plates, spoons, forks, containers, cups, bowls, knives, and similar single-use items is the government's foremost priority," the minister said in news statement issued in connection with the World Environment Day being observed today across the globe. Theme for the World Environment Day 2023 is under the campaign #BeatPlasticPollution, 'Ecosystem Restoration'.

The minister said, use of straws,

lids and wraps for drinks would also have to be curbed at all cost for protecting the environment and biodiversity in the ecosystem. She said the plan worked out by the Ministry of Climate Change to curb use of disposable items was a crucial step in the right direction.

Businesses community had also assured their cooperation in this regard, but the citizens would have to abandon plastic crockery and other items, she added. Marriyum said today there was a need to renew commitment for ending environmental pollution caused by plastic and its products. "We have to phase out use of everything that is inflict damage on environment," she added. From August 1 this year, she said a campaign would be launched in Islamabad to end use of disposable

items which was a laudable step. The minister said environmental woes were a global challenge and could only be overcome with collective efforts.

She urged the youth to make biodiversity conservation a mission of their life as this was the matter of humankind survival. "By reducing carbon footprint, the looming threat of climate change can be averted," she added. "Conservation of marine life, micro-organisms, plants, fungi and all kinds of animals is conservation of life," the minister remarked.

She said youth and children would have to become a force which would protect environment by curbing environmental pollution. Collective efforts were needed to protect the planet earth for the incoming generations, the minister added.

I am with PTI, says Asad Qaiser

ISLAMABAD (Agencies): At a time when many of the PTI leaders and former lawmakers are dissociating themselves from the party, Asad Qaiser the National

Assembly speaker on Monday made it clear that he had not switched sides. He was standing by the party and in contact with the PTI chief, Qaiser told reporters outside a local court where he attended the hearing of a case pertaining to the vandalism outside the federal capital's judicial complex. "I am with [Pakistan] Tehreek-e-Insaf and in touch with the PTI chairman."

The latest assertion is in complete contrast with what the people had seen last week when Pervaz Khattak, addressing a presser in Islamabad along with Qaiser, had announced his decision to quit as the PTI president. However, Qaiser remained silent during the event where Khattak had condemned the May 9 mayhem and said it wasn't possible for him to continue as a PTI office holder, adding that he would announce his future plan later after consulting his friends and party colleagues.

And on Monday, Qaiser said he wasn't in contact with Jahangir Tareen. He was replying to a question about whether Tareen had contacted him as the influential politician from Lodharan is currently busy in forming a new political party mostly comprising the PTI defectors. Qaiser repeated his position that he was still in the PTI when a reporter pressed him about the claim made by Fawad Chaudhry who had talked about contacting the former speaker and other party leaders. Earlier in the day, PTI's former general secretary Asad Umar said Tareen had not reached out to him, but added that Fawad maintained regular contact.

PTI wickets continue to fall

ISLAMABAD (INP): More wickets of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) continue to falls as former Member of the National Assembly (MNA) from Gujranwala Rana Nazir Ahmad Khan quit the PTI. The announcement to leave party was made by him while addressing a news conference in Islamabad on Monday. Speaking on the occasion, Rana Nazir Ahmad Khan also condemned the May 9 violent incidents. He was of the view that the national stability and interests superior of the party affiliations.

Another Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) MPA from Sindh Malik Shehzad Awan on Monday announced to part ways with the party and quitting politics after condemning the May 9 violence.

Addressing a press conference at the Karachi Press Club, Malik Shehzad Awan strongly condemned the attacks on the military installations following the arrest of the PTI chairman and former prime minister. He demanded strict action against those found guilty of the attacks. Malik Shehzad Awan said he remained part of PTI from 1997 but after May 9 violence, he is quitting party and politics.

Ex-governor Mian Azhar released

LAHORE (INP): Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader Hamid Azhar has announced that his father Mian Azhar, former Punjab governor, has returned home after police released him. Hamid tweeted on Monday that "he's back Alhamdulillah."

He wrote that his father was taken to the Crime Investigation Agency (CIA) police station where his phone was checked for one hour. In a tweet post after midnight on Sunday, Hamid wrote that "they picked him up at this time, took him to CIA police station." In another tweet, he said "my father, Mian Muhammad Azhar, 82 years of age with multiple health conditions, has just been taken by police and some unknown people to an undisclosed location."

Hamid had on May 25 tweeted that unidentified men raided his house and threatened his father that his daughters would be arrested.

Business friendly policy focus of budget: Shehbaz

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif Monday said the focus of the budget for the financial year 2023-2024 will be progress, public welfare and business-friendly policies. He was speaking at a high-level consultative meeting with the allied parties here on the Public Sector Development Programme (PSDP).

He said the size of PSDP in the budget would be increased from Rs 700 billion to Rs 950 billion in the next financial year to spur economic growth and create job opportunities. He said the next financial year would be the year of economic progress for Pakistan, adding economic conditions were difficult and the government was adopting a policy of utilizing available resources in the best possible manner.

The PM said substantial funds would be allocated in the new budget for the reconstruction and rehabilitation of the flood-affected areas. During a briefing, the participants of the meeting were told that the long-delayed National Flood Response Programme would be restarted after a lapse of many years.

He said despite the damage caused to the national economy by the previous government, his government worked hard and brought economic stability. He said he considered consultation with the allied

parties very important, adding last year for the first time in the history of Pakistan, the 13-parties alliance saved the state by putting in danger their own politics.

"We cannot find this kind of effort to save the country's economy, anywhere in the world." He said Pakistan was saved from economic destruction and agents of chaos.

Federal Ministers Ishaq Dar, AhsanIqbal, Moulana Asad Mehmood, Rana Tanvir Hussain, Maulana Abdul Wasey, Syed Aminul Haque, Agha Hassan Baloch, SardarIshaqTareen, Advisor to PM Ahad Cheema, Ministers of State Hashim

Notezai, Ehsanullah Reki, member National Assembly and Convener MuttahidaQoumi Movement Dr Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui, MNAs Aslam Bhotani, Mohsin Dawar and member Awami National Party Sardar Hussain Babak and officers concerned attended the meeting. Chief Minister Sindh Syed Murad Ali Shah, member National Assembly and Chairman Balochistan National Party Sardar Akhtar Mengal attended the meeting through a video link. The leaders and members of the allied parties thanked the prime minister for taking them into confidence about the development budget and for including their suggestions.

The meeting was told in detail about the economic targets and figures and pro-

posed projects of the development budget. The PM directed the officials concerned and the Ministry of Finance to implement the suggestions of the allied parties and incorporate them in the upcoming budget.

Efforts on to develop legal instrument on ending plastic pollution: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Monday said the government was actively working with national and international stakeholders to develop a legal instrument to end plastic pollution.

"On World Environment Day today, Pakistan joins the international community in renewing its commitment to phase out single-use plastic as part of its efforts to combat plastic pollution," he wrote on Twitter. The prime minister expressed satisfaction that the government was working on the Plastic Prohibition Regulation 2023 for Islamabad Capital Territory.

"The comprehensive framework under the Regulation will provide a timeline for phasing out single-use plastic," he said. Sharif urged all sections of society to come together for the preservation of our planet's biodiversity. He also stressed spreading awareness in the communities to make recycling initiatives a success. "We owe it to our future generations, as bequeathing a clean environment is our fundamental responsibility," he said.

LHC seeks details of FIRs against Qureshi

LAHORE (Agencies): Lahore High Court on Monday sought details of criminal cases registered against Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) stalwart Vice Chairman Shah Mehmood Qureshi from incumbent caretaker provincial government by June 06 (today).

The former foreign minister Qureshi has been in police custody in the aftermath of the May 9 attacks on sensitive state installations. On May 23, the Islamabad High Court (IHC) ordered the release of Qureshi after he submitted an undertaking to the court. However, hours later he was re-arrested by the Punjab Police from outside the Adiala Jail in Rawalpindi.

Consequently, daughter of the PTI vice chairman, Meher Bano Qureshi invoked the LHC jurisdiction seeking details of all undisclosed or new first information reports (FIR) registered against her father. She made Chief Secretary Punjab and Provincial Police Chief as respondents in the matter. She sought the court directives to the concerned authorities to give protection of law to Qureshi and not to arrest him in any new criminal case without prior permission of the court.

She also stated in the petition that Qureshi's family had learned that a number of undisclosed criminal cases have been registered against him and there is an apprehension that he may again unjustifiably be arrested in the mentioned undisclosed new criminal cases. After hearing preliminary arguments in the matter on Monday, a single-member bench of the LHC comprising Justice Ali Baqar Najafi issued directives to the caretaker government to submit details of all registered cases, disclosed or otherwise, before the court by June 06.

Another key culprit held

ISLAMABAD (INP): In a recent development, the investigators on Monday unearthed another primary miscreant involved in the riots happened on May 9 at Jinnah house, Lahore. According to the details, another primary miscreant, identified as Ali Raza, travelled from Okara to attack at Jinnah house in Lahore.

The alleged culprit Ali Raza revealed that the speeches of PTI leadership provoked him against the army. "I became a part of the mischief as per the pre-arranged plan. Hassan Niazi, Yasmeen Rashid, Ijaz Chaudhry and others were included in the plan made on May 9 at Zaman Park," Ali Raza revealed.

LHC told: Elahi family non-cooperative in case

LAHORE (Agencies): Opposing former Chief Minister Punjab Pervaiz Elahi's plea for quashing FIR in money laundering case on Monday Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) apprised Lahore High Court that Elahi's family was not cooperating with the Agency's investigation in the matter relating to funds deposited in the bank account of Punjab Assembly employee.

The agency disclosed while submitting a report before the Lahore High Court (LHC) in response to plea of Pervaiz Elahi's son Rasikh Elahi and his wife Zahra Elahi and Moonis Elahi's wife Tahreem Elahi urging the court to quash FIR in the matter.

It has been revealed in the report that on January 24, the Anti-Corruption Establishment (ACE) Punjab registered a criminal case against PA employee Qaisar Iqbal Bhatti and sent a referral letter, along with copy of the FIR and connected material, to the office of the answering respondent to initiate an investigation into money laundering under the relevant provisions of Anti Money Laundry Act (AMLA) 2010.

This office was communicated by the ACE Punjab that Bhatti was a low-wage employee of the PA (naib qasid - peon) who has been involved in corrupt prac-

tices and accumulated assets beyond his known source of income.

The ACE Punjab further reported that the PA employee used his bank accounts to route the money for the purpose of laundering it. The agency provided details of inexplicable banking transactions made from the accused's account to different individuals, including the petitioners - Rs83 million to Rasikh, Rs27 million to Tahreem and five million rupees to Zahra.

According to sources, the FIA registered FIR against the petitioners following the referral being sent to them by the ACE. The accused petitioners are on ad-interim bails in this case. The report further revealed that another FIA inquiry regarding suspicious transactions was also under investigation against the accused on the report of the Financial Monitoring Unit (FMU).

Later, it transpired that Bhatti had been involved in inexplicable transactions of Rs175 million. The record of the banks further revealed that Bhatti had a turnover of Rs811 million and 4,000 in his bank accounts that showed transactions with the petitioners.

The petitioners were served self-explanatory call up notices on the basis of these transactions, requir-

ing them to appear before the inquiry officer along with requisite record. However, the FIA informed the court that the petitioners failed to appear before the inquiry officer despite being issued two call up notices. The reply submitted was incomplete, whereas there was no explanation for the queries presented to them through written notices.

In an incomplete reply presented to the inquiry officer, the petitioners gave different versions. One of the petitioners admitted receiving the aforesaid amount in their bank accounts and took the plea that the said amount was received as consideration for the shares they held in M/s Argo Tractor Pvt Ltd. However, this stance was belied by the fact that the said company had been defunct since 2014 while the petitioner received the amount in 2020. They failed to answer the legitimate source of transaction - the PA employee has no relationship with them or their family.

Moreover, another petitioner claimed that the said transactions were against the purchase of land which could not mature. However, no proof was presented for this claim. Subsequently, the FIA requested the court to dismiss the petitioner's plea.

ECC okays Rs9500m for Hyderabad-Sukkur motorway

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar on Monday chaired the meeting of the Economic Coordination Committee (ECC) of the Cabinet. The ECC considered a summary of Ministry of Communications and accorded approval for issuance of GoP guarantee amounting to Rs. 9,500 million for the project construction of Hyderabad-Sukkur motorway on build-operate-transfer basis.

The Committee also considered a summary of NDMA and approved Rs. 12 billion for procurement of relief items to restock/replenish its reserves in order to be better prepared to respond to any impending disaster. The ECC considered a summary of Ministry of National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination and after detailed discussion approved fixation of Maximum Retail Prices (MRPs) of 49 new drugs on the basis of being lower as compared to their prices in the neighboring countries. These are drugs which are being introduced in Pakistan for the first time mostly at prices considerably lower than the region.

The ECC also approved

Supplementary and Technical Supplementary Grants including, Rs. 839.129 million as TSG in favor of the project titled "New Gwadar International Airport (NIGA) of Ministry of Aviation, Rs. 120.450 million TSG in favor of Establishment Division for the CFY 2022-23 to meet shortfall of ERE and Non-ERE components, Rs. 140, 584, 175/- as TSG in favor of Establishment Division for Payment to Govt. Departments for Services Rendered from various sources, Rs. 116.499 as TSG million in favor of Ministry of Human Rights for meeting the shortfall in essential expenditures in different organizations working under the Ministry, Rs. 700 million as TSG in favor of Ministry of Information and Broadcasting to meet the shortfall during CFY 2022-23, Rs. 48 million TSG in favor of Ministry of Interior for release of funds to HQ Frontier Corps (North) KP, for construction of FATA Levies Centre at Shakas Peshawar, Rs. 470.827 as TSG million in favor of Ministry of Interior for the payment of troops cost/subsistence allowance to personnel of Civil Armed Forces deployed in UN Peacekeeping Missions.

The ECC also considered and approved a summary of Ministry of Interior for release of funds of Rs. 66.336 million as TSG for the construction of Frontier Constabulary Training Center, Michni, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. The funds have been granted in aid to Pakistan by the USA for capacity building of Civil Armed forces. The committee also approved Rs. 347.99 million as TSG in favor of Ministry of Interior to complete the raising process of 6th Battalion of Pakistan Post Guards for anti-smuggling purpose, Rs. 1,251,374,153/- as TSG in favor of Ministry of Interior for FATA Temporary Displaced Persons Emergency Recovery Project (TDP-ERP) of NADRA to serve the vulnerable families, affected by military operations, Rs. 49.5 million as TSG in favor of Ministry of Interior for further disbursement of amount as financial assistance for the families of Shuhada and injured persons of Swat terrorism incident, Rs. 9,145 million as TSG TSG in favor of Power Division for execution of 2x660 MW Coal fired Power project Jamshoro, Rs. 48.429 million TSG in favor of Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs to meet its ERE shortfall.

NEW DELHI (Agencies): India and the United States have concluded a roadmap for defence industry cooperation for the next few years, the two countries said on Monday, a landmark move expected to bolster New Delhi's defence manufacturing ambitions.

Washington is working to deepen ties with India and sees stronger military-to-military and technology ties with the world's largest democracy as a key counterweight to China's dominance in the region. It is also seeking to wean New Delhi away from its traditional dependence on Russia for defence supplies. The roadmap was finalised at a meeting between visiting US Defence Secretary Lloyd Austin and Indian Defence Minister Rajnath Singh.

The agreement comes weeks before Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi visits Washington on June 22 for an official state visit and holds talks with President Joe Biden. The roadmap is considered significant as Washington

maintains strict controls over what domestic military technology can be shared or sold to other countries. The move aims to change the "paradigm" for defence sector cooperation between the two countries, the US Embassy in New Delhi said in a statement. It will "fast-track technology cooperation and co-production in areas such as air combat and land mobility systems, intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance, munitions, and the undersea domain", it said.

The roadmap includes specific proposals that could provide India access to cutting-edge technologies, it said, adding that Austin and Singh also pledged to review regulatory hurdles impeding closer industry-to-industry cooperation. India, the world's largest arms importer, depends on Russia for nearly half its military supplies but has also increasingly diversified its sources to buy from the US, France and Israel, among others. New Delhi also wants glob-

al defence manufacturers to partner with Indian companies and produce arms and military equipment in India for local consumption as well as exports.

The Biden administration is set to sign off on a deal that will allow General Electric Co to produce in India jet engines powering Indian military aircraft. Austin said he and Singh had discussed ways to increase information sharing and new initiatives to improve maritime cooperation, including in the undersea domain. The US-India defence partnership matters, he told reporters, because "we face a rapidly changing world." "We see bullying and coercion from the People's Republic of China, Russian aggression against Ukraine that seeks to redraw borders by force and threatens national sovereignty, as well as transnational challenges such as terrorism, and climate change. "So democracies must now rally together around not just our common interests but also our shared values," Austin said.

US committed to Saudi, Israeli normalisation

WASHINGTON DC (Agencies): The United States is committed to brokering formal diplomatic relations between Israel and Saudi Arabia, Secretary of State Antony Blinken has said, as President Joe Biden's administration continues an Israel "normalisation" push. Speaking at a conference of the American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC), an influential pro-Israel lobby group in the US, Blinken said on Monday that Washington "has a real national security interest in promoting normalisation" between the two countries.

"We believe that we can - and indeed we must - play an integral role in advancing it," he said.

Blinken, who will visit Saudi Arabia this week, acknowledged that a deal may not be finalised easily. "But we remain committed to working toward that outcome, including on the trip I'm about to take this week to Jeddah and Riyadh," he added. The top US diplomat's comments come amid an apparent regional realignment after Iran and Saudi Arabia agreed to re-establish their own diplomatic ties in a move expected to reduce tensions across the Middle East.

Few Arabs states have recognised Israel - a key US ally in the region - since its establishment in 1948, but

former US President Donald Trump's administration helped secure agreements to establish relations between Israel and the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain and Morocco in 2020. Sudan also agreed to join the normalisation deals, known as the Abraham Accords. Reporting from the White House on Monday, Al Jazeera's Kimberly Halkett said that while it has been known that the US was pushing for Saudi Arabia and Israel to establish diplomatic ties, it was significant that Blinken explicitly called the drive a national security interest.

"And so, as a result the US sees itself as being absolutely critical in advancing the integration of Israel in the region," she said. Israeli officials have been calling for the normalisation deals, which would help break the country's regional isolation, independent from its conflict with the Palestinians. This year, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said Israel is seeking formal relations with Saudi Arabia because it could be a "giant leap towards ending the Arab-Israeli conflict". For their part, Saudi officials have said Riyadh is sticking by the Arab Peace Initiative, which conditions normalisation with Israel on its withdrawal from Arab territories and the establishment of a

Palestinian state, as well as finding a "fair solution" to the plight of Palestinian refugees.

On Monday, Blinken heaped praise on Israel, telling the AIPAC crowd that the US commitment to the country's security is "non-negotiable". The secretary of state also renewed a promise by the Biden administration to never allow Iran to obtain a nuclear weapon. "We continue to believe that diplomacy is the best way to verifiably, effectively and sustainably prevent Iran from getting a nuclear weapon; in parallel, economic pressure and deterrence reinforce our diplomacy," he said.

Indirect talks between Washington and Tehran to revive a 2015 nuclear deal, which saw Iran scale back its nuclear programme in exchange for the lifting of sanctions against its economy, have broken down in recent months. Israel and AIPAC have been fierce opponents of the agreement, which Trump withdrew from unilaterally in 2018.

Efforts to restore the pact - known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) - have been further complicated by a crackdown on anti-government protests in Iran and Washington's allegations that Tehran supplied Russia with drones that Moscow is using against Ukraine.