

IHC rejects Qaiser's bail plea

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Islamabad High Court has rejected the protective bail plea of PTI leader Asad Qaiser due to his absence during the hearing. Justice Tariq Mehmood Jahangiri presided over the bail plea hearing of Asad Qaiser on Friday. During the proceedings, Justice Jahangiri inquired about Asad Qaiser. The assistant counsel representing Asad Qaiser informed the court that he would be arriving shortly.



@thefrontierpost

First national English daily published from Peshawar, Islamabad, Lahore, Quetta, Karachi and Washington D.C

www.thefrontierpost.com

Vol. XXXIX

No. 176

Regd. No. 241

ZIL HAJJ 26 1444 -- SATURDAY, JULY 15 2023

PESHAWAR EDITION

12 PAGES

PRICE. 30

PM breaks ground on \$3.48b Chashma N-Power Plant Unit-5

Shehbaz for promoting skilled-based vocational training to improve balance of payment

E.P. Report

MIANWALI / ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Friday broke ground on the 1200 MW Chashma Nuclear Power Plant Unit 5 (C-5) here which is likely to be completed in seven to eight years at a cost of around US\$3.48 billion.

On June 30, 2023 the prime minister had witnessed the signing of Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on the C-5 project between China National Nuclear Corporation Overseas Ltd (CNOS) and Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission (PAEC). Addressing the ground breaking ceremony, the prime minister said keeping in mind the country's requirements of clean and cheap energy sources, the project should be completed before the given schedule.

Terming it a huge milestone and a symbol of cooperation between the two great friends China and Pakistan, Shehbaz Sharif said the project would help the country promoting clean, efficient and comparatively cheaper energy. He said after a pause of many years, the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) was going again in full swing. He gave the credit of concluding the agreement of C-5 to the coalition government and the SPD for their hard efforts.

"Our detractors had been fabricating rumours all around that Pakistan was going to default on its sovereign commitments but we crossed all turbulent waters in just 15 months," he added. However, he said the risk of potential default had been completely averted through team effort of the government.

The prime minister said a couple of days ago, there was an approval of

Premier thanks IMF MD for assistance

E.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif had a telephonic conversation with Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) Kristalina Georgieva on Friday and conveyed profound gratitude to her for support and assistance in materializing the recently concluded Stand-by Agreement for \$3 billion.

The prime minister appreciated the IMF managing director for her leadership and professionalism. He also acknowledged that the MD felt for the poor and termed her support invaluable. The IMF MD said the prime minister built a very convincing case, though the IMF Board was skeptical about Pakistan's commitment to fulfilling the conditions of agreement due to the past trust deficit. However, in the light of her continued engagement with the prime minister, she assured the Board that Pakistan would deliver on its commitments as she had personally met the prime minister and seen his seriousness to deliver. She acknowledged the leadership shown by the prime minister. She underlined that there was strong partnership and mutual trust between both the parties now. Terming Pakistan an important member of the IMF, she reassured to continue to help the country.

the International Monetary Fund (IMF) programme and within 48 hours around \$4.5 billion were transferred by the Pakistan's brotherly countries Saudi Arabia and UAE besides another \$1.2 billion from the IMF. About 4 months ago, he said the Chinese government and commercial banks rolled over amounts back to Pakistan to the tune of \$5 billion.

He paid his tributes to the the Chinese President Xi Jinping, Saudi Crown Prince Mohammad bin Salman and UAE President Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan for their support in need of the hour. He informed that as a result of serious efforts by the coalition government and himself, the Chinese company kept the cost of the project at the level agreed upon in 2017-18 by then PML-N government and not include the average inflation of around 10% in the project cost. Further, he said on

his request, a discount of Rs 30 billion was also given to Pakistan which reflected a sense of sincerity between the two countries.

Charge D'affaires of the Chinese embassy in Pakistan, Pang Chunxue said C5 would help Pakistan building low carbon, clean and cheap energy which would also produce local jobs and would engage the local industries to contribute in the project. Chairman of China National Nuclear Cooperation Yu Jianfeng said cooperation between Pakistan and China in nuclear energy had become an integral part of the all weather strategic cooperative partnership.

He said the C5 project was a significant milestone in the HPR 1000 development global journey. Hualong One (HPR 1000) is the 3rd-generation nuclear power brand to which China has exclusive intellectual property rights.

Court adjourns Toshakhana case

ISLAMABAD (INP): A trial court in Islamabad has adjourned the Toshakhana criminal case hearing till July 17. Additional Sessions Judge Humayun Dilawar conducted the hearing on Friday.

Election Commission of Pakistan's lawyer Saad Hassan appeared before the court. The judge asked the ECP lawyer to present his arguments. But the lawyer told the court that Barrister Amjad Pervaiz would give

the arguments on the case and he could not come to the court today due to some domestic urgency. He requested the court to put off the hearing till tomorrow.

The judge remarked that the case could not be heard tomorrow as kutchehri was being shifted to new building tomorrow. Then the ECP lawyer suggested to adjourn the hearing till July 17. Agreeing to him, Judge Dilawar put off the case till

Monday 11am. PTI Chairman's Barrister Gohar Ali Khan also appeared before the court. Addressing Gohar, the judge remarked in a light vein that 'nowadays the barrister seems to be very busy'.

The judge also uttered 'good to see you' words. On which, barrister Gohar quipped 'in new kutchehri building, the hearing will be conducted in new amiable environment'.



Better planning, Better urban life

Public Notice



For suggestions/opinions and objections
Development of Master Plan 2042 for the Two Urban Centers
Ghalanai, District Mohmand & Khar, District Bajaur of NMDs

The Land Use and Building Control Authority, Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa has prepared a Master Plan for better future planning of Two Urban Centers Ghalanai, District Mohmand & Khar, District Bajaur of NMDs.

The spatial planning of both Urban Centers Ghalanai, District Mohmand & Khar, District Bajaur is required to address the issues related to Public Transport, Environment, Water & Sanitation, Industry, Trade, Better Residential Facilities, Agricultural land and Cultural Heritage and other Urban related Issues.

In this connection, Urban Policy and Planning Unit, Planning and Development Department, Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa has prepared an excellent master plan for Ghalanai, District Mohmand & Khar, District Bajaur by hiring an experienced consultant (MM Pakistan).

Draft Master Plan 2042 of Ghalanai, District Mohmand & Khar, District Bajaur, is available on Urban Policy and Planning Unit website:

www.urbanpolicyunit.gkp.pk.

In order to further improve the Master Plan 2042, Urban Policy and Planning Unit requests the General Public, Government Organizations, Semi Government Organizations, Private Institutions, Civil Society Organizations to send their suggestions and comments to the Urban Policy and Planning Unit, Planning and Development Department by letter, email or phone / Whatsapp 0334-9157932 within 15 days of publications of this advertisement.

All available feedback/suggestions will be made part of the
Master Plan for Ghalanai, District Mohmand & Khar District Bajaur.

Contact for more details

Adnan Salim

Project Director Master Plan Project (MPP)
Urban Policy and Planning Unit
Planning and Development Department
Govt of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

Tel No: 091-5702645 Email: pdmasterplan@gmail.com

Address: House # 37-D, Circular Lane, University Town Peshawar, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

Pak forces concerned on safe havens, liberty to TTP in Afghanistan: COAS

E.P. Report

RAWALPINDI: General Syed Asim Munir, COAS visited Quetta Garrison today where he was briefed on recent terrorist attack in Zhob. The COAS Paid rich tribute to the Shuhada, visited the injured soldiers at CMH, Quetta, lauded their services to the nation and appreciated their resolve.

The Armed Forces of Pakistan have serious concerns on the safe havens and liberty of action available to TTP in Afghanistan. It is expected that interim Afghan Government would not allow the use of its soil to perpetrate terror against any country, in the real sense and in line with commitments made in Doha Agreement.

The involvement of Afghan nationals in acts of terrorism in Pakistan is another important concern that needs to be addressed. Such attacks are intolerable and would elicit effective response from the Security Forces of Pakistan. Operations against terrorists would



continue unabated and the Armed Forces shall not rest till the menace of terrorism is rooted out from the country. Earlier on arrival, COAS was received by Commander Quetta Corps.

Funeral prayers for soldiers martyred in Balochistan terror hits offered: Funeral prayers for the soldiers, martyred in a terrorist attack in Zhob Cantt and an exchange of fire with terrorists in Sui district of

Balochistan, were offered on Friday. The martyred soldiers were buried with full military honours in their native areas, according to Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR).

A large number of people including civil and military officials and relatives of the martyrs attended their funeral prayers. "The Armed Forces of Pakistan are determined to eradicate terrorism from the motherland at every cost," the ISPR said.

It is to be noted here that nine Pakistan Army soldiers had embraced martyrdom in a terrorist attack on Zhob garrison in northern Balochistan the other day. Five terrorists were also killed after the security forces retaliated the dastardly attack. Similarly, three soldiers embraced martyrdom during an exchange of fire with terrorists in Sui district. The exchange of fire took place during a clearance operation by the security forces. Three terrorists were also killed during the operation.



For more details scan the QR code



Bank AL Habib Limited

ہم صرف تعلق نہیں، آپ سے رشتہ جوڑتے ہیں

AL Habib
currentplus
account

- Free Personalised Cheque Books*
- Free Banker's Cheques*
- Free PayPak Debit Card*
- Free Online Banking
- Free E-Statements
- Free AL Habib Mobile & Netbanking Facility

*Free Services on the Condition of Maintaining Monthly Average Balance of PKR 25,000/-

1095 branches and sub branches in 443 cities
24/7 Call Center: (+92 21) 111-014-014
f t i n /BAHILOfficial @ www.bankalhabib.com



رشتہ بھروسے کا



Bilawal to launch work on Dhabiji CPEC project today

F.P. Report

KARACHI: Minister for Information, Transport, and Mass Transit Minister, Sharjeel Inam Memon, along with Special Assistant to the Sindh Chief Minister for Investment and Public-Private Partnership, Syed Qasim Naveed Qamar, addressed a joint press conference in Karachi today and announced that the development work of the grand project of CPEC at the Dhabiji Special Economic Zone site will commence on Saturday at 12 noon.

Pakistan Peoples Party Chairman and Foreign Minister, Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, along with Sindh Chief Minister, Syed Murad Ali Shah, and members of the Sindh Cabinet, will inaugurate the project.

Information, Transport, and Mass Transit Minister, Sharjeel Inam Memon, said that Sindh government is inaugurating Dhabiji Special Economic Zone on July 15, any investor who establishes their business within this zone will be eligible for a ten-year tax exemption, the importation of machinery for business purposes will be duty-free.

Sharjeel Inam Memon emphasized that the Dhabiji Special Economic Zone holds immense potential for generating employment opportunities for millions of youth. This zone is expected to create both direct and indirect employment prospects, providing a platform for the skilled and talented individuals of our nation. With its golden investment opportunities, the zone aims to attract investors from around the



globe. Its scale and scope promise to be a magnet for international investment, contributing to the growth and prosperity of the region. He stated that the Chief Minister of Sindh is actively developing programs to identify investment opportunities within the province. The objective is to showcase the various investment sectors to potential investors and businessmen, encouraging them to invest in these sectors.

During the media briefing, Syed Qasim Naveed Qamar, the Special Assistant to the Chief Minister of Sindh for Investment and Public-Private Partnership, emphasized the significance of promoting investment opportunities in our country for economic development. He expressed that Pakistan has yet to witness an opportunity as remarkable as the Dhabiji zone—a zone brimming with potential and countless opportunities.

He explained that this is a CPEC project due to China's recognition of this area as an ideal location for the relocation of neighboring industries, an essential aspect of the Dhabiji zone is its commitment to being environmentally friendly, there

would be alternative energy sources that are both cost-effective and accessible.

He highlighted that this zone boasts comprehensive management of gas and water supply, ensuring the necessary resources are readily available. He said that this zone will significantly impact the economic trajectory of Pakistan, aiming to transform it into the most prosperous and successful economic zone in the country.

He mentioned that the Dhabiji zone is strategically located along a crucial geographical route and emphasized its significant role in the country's economy. In its initial phase, the zone aims to create approximately 150,000 employment opportunities, contributing to job growth and socioeconomic development, recognizing the need for skilled technical staff, plans are underway to establish a technical institute within the zone to address the shortage and ensure a qualified workforce.

Chief Executive Officer of Sindh Economic Zone Management Company, Abdul Azeem Uqaili, Dhabiji Zone Developer, Mahabat Khan, and Head of Sindh Public Private Partnership Unit, Asad

Zamin, also addressed the gathering on this momentous occasion.

During a media briefing, Sharjeel Inam Memon responded to a question by stating that investors are already in contact and showing interest in establishing their presence in the Dhabiji zone. An investment of approximately 5 billion dollars is expected, indicating the substantial economic potential of the zone.

In response to another question, he mentioned that the Dhabiji zone will accommodate industries of various sizes, ranging from small-scale to medium and large-scale enterprises. Bookings for the zone are set to commence in two months, providing opportunities for businesses to secure their presence, the development work is projected to be completed within 18 months.

In response to a question, Sharjeel Inam Memon assured that comprehensive security measures will be implemented to ensure the safety of the project. He emphasized that this project will serve as a model for others, setting a high standard of development and security.

Regarding the allocation of land in the zone, he explained that as per the regulations of the SEZMC land will be exclusively provided to investment companies. In response to another question, Sharjeel Inam Memon expressed his enthusiasm for the project, stating that it will have a significant positive impact on Karachi, Sindh, and Pakistan as a whole. He mentioned that the project has the potential to expand from its initial size of 1500 acres to a massive 15000 acres.



LAHORE: Artists presenting an art performance in the Sufi Music Festival regarding the culture of Pakistan and Iran at Al Hamra.

French NGO to work in health, education & clean drinking water sectors

KARACHI (APP): French NGO Triangle Generation Humanitaire intends to work in the fields of education, health and clean drinking water in the province and its delegation led by Director Operation Ivan Deret met Governor Sindh Kamran Khan Tessori in this regard.

Governor Sindh while welcoming the delegation, expressed hope that its assistance would provide improved basic amenities of life to locals in the province, said a spokesperson of Sindh Governor on Friday. Their plan to provide clean drinking water is specially commendable, the Governor Sindh said.

He also lauded the contribution of Triangle Generation Humanitaire in various other countries of the region. The Director Operations of French NGO informed that Triangle Generation Humanitaire is working since last 30 years and its projects are running in 12 countries of the world.

Governor Sindh for ensuring foolproof security arrangements in Muharram-ul-Haram: Governor Sindh Kamran Khan Tessori has said that foolproof security would be provided for gatherings and

processions during Muharram-ul-Haram.

He was talking to a delegation of Jaferia Alliance led by Shabbir Raza which called on him at Governor House here Friday. Security measures for Muharram processions, close coordination with local administration, economic steps of federal government for strengthening of economy and other matters of mutual interest were discussed during the meeting.

The Governor Sindh said that all facilities would be

provided to mourners throughout the province. All district administrations have been directed to coordinate with relevant persons in this regard, he added. The Governor said that the desecration of the Holy Quran was unacceptable as this incident had hurt millions of Muslims around the world. "I have written a letter to Swedish Ambassador in Islamabad and strongly condemned the incident", he said. He said that all religious leaders had condemned this

incident. This shows that all peace-loving persons are against such kind of acts, the Governor added.

He said that positive results of the economic policies of the federal government had started to emerge. "We all must contribute towards this in our own capacity, he opined.

Shabbir Raza thanked the Governor Sindh for his assurance and said that the acts of the Sindh Governor on the incident of Sweden reflected the sentiments of the entire Muslim Ummah.

‘Towns, district councils’ budget increased by 50%

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Chief Minister (CM) Syed Murad Ali Shah was told on Friday that the budget of all the towns and district councils has been increased by 50 per cent, and the local government would strengthen the local bodies by giving them funds and providing them with equipment.

This was informed by Sindh Minister of Local Government Syed Nasir Hussain Shah to the Sindh CM, who on the third consecutive day interacted with the newly elected chairmen, and vice chairmen of district councils, Town Municipal Committees, and Town Committees of four districts of Hyderabad Division and urged them to develop parks, playgrounds, water supply and sanitation schemes, and streets, a statement said.

"The main issues of our towns and villages are defective or nonfunctional sewerage systems that they gutter or open drains are flowing onto the streets," he said and added that his government has constructed sewerage systems almost in all the small towns and villages but there is lack of ownership of these schemes which

you (chairmen) have to look after and own in the larger interest of the people of the areas. The meeting was attended by Minister of Local Government Syed Nasir Shah, MPA Aijaz Shah, Dost Mohammad Jesar, Asif Shah, and others. The chairmen and vice chairmen of district councils, Town Municipal Committees, and Town committees of four districts - Tando Muhammad Khan, Jamshoro, Dadu, and Badin were also present on the occasion.

The Sindh CM said he has started meetings with the newly elected representatives of local bodies so that he could listen to them and give his guideline so that a working relationship could be developed to redress the public grievances. "Our main objective is to serve the province and make a difference," he said.

Syed Murad Ali Shah said that during his tenure he has developed water supply and sanitation schemes in every town and village. "We have developed towns, and parks, constructed village-to-market roads, and the roads to connect the villages with main roads," he said and added that

some of the small roads have dilapidated due to heavy rains and floods while some of the sewerage schemes have failed to serve the purpose because of lack of ownership. The Sindh CM stated that now you [local bodies elected representatives] have taken over and you have to give ownership not only to the schemes but each and every brick and equipment installed in your areas. "These schemes are public property, and you are their custodian," he said and hoped these schemes would function properly and in the public interest.

Syed Murad Ali Shah urged the local bodies' chairmen to remove encroachment from their areas, beautify their towns, develop playgrounds, promote cultural and sports activities, and ensure each and every employee of their local body must work honestly. At the request of the local bodies' chairmen, the Sindh CM directed Minister of Local Government Syed Nasir Shah to provide refuse vehicles to every town committee and fire tender facilities at least in every taluka headquarters.

Acting CS ensures job quota of persons with disabilities

KARACHI (APP): Acting Chief Secretary (CS) Sindh Baqaullah Unar has said that the job quota of the persons with disabilities would be ensured.

Talking to a 25-member delegation of the Bilnd Association led by its President Riaz Hussain Memon and General Secretary Ikhtiar Ali Magsi, which called on him here Friday, he said that the persons with disabilities would be provided with every basic facility.

The Acting CS said that blind and other disabled persons were the responsibility of the government and the society.

He said that vehicles would be provided to the Vocational Center of blind persons in Larkana.

Earlier, the delegation discussed, the problems being faced by blind persons and the implementation of about 5 percent job quota with the Acting CS.

7 dead, 1,296 injured in Punjab road accidents

LAHORE (APP): At least seven persons were killed and 1,296 others injured in 1,211 road traffic crashes (RTCs) in Punjab districts during the last 24 hours.

As many as 638 people with serious injuries were shifted to different hospitals, while 638 with minor injuries were treated at the incident site by the rescue medical teams. The data analysis showed that 658 drivers, 40 underage drivers, 114 pedestrians and 531 passengers were among the victims of road traffic crashes. The statistics showed that 253 accidents were reported in Lahore, which affected 285 persons, placing the provincial capital at top of the list, followed by 89 in Multan with 97 victims.



KARACHI: Governor Sindh Kamran Khan Tessori meets delegation of French NGO, Triangle Generation Humanitaire at Governor House.

GOVERNMENT OF KHYBER PAKHTUNKHWA COMMUNICATION AND WORKS DIVISION DIR UPPER NOTICE INVITING E-BIDDING

(Single Stage Single Envelope E-Bidding System)

The C&W Division Dir Upper, Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa invites Electronic Bids from Eligible firms / Constructors in accordance with KPRA Rules 2014 amended up to 10.05.2022 & 22.08.2022 on Single Stage Single Envelope procedure for the following works.

S. No.	Name of Work	Required Category of PEC	Bid Security	Tender Fee @0.03%	Period of completion	Last Date of Submission and Time	Date of opening and Time of Financial Bid
CONSTRUCTION OF TECHNCALLY & ECONOMICALLY FEASIBLE 294 KMS ROAD IN MALAKAND DIVISION ADP No.1591/200245 (2022-23)							
01	Sub Head:- Kotkai to jaba Battali Umarali Road Wari Dir Upper	C-6	Rs.251150/-	Rs.3500/-	As per W/Order	29.08.2023 AT 12:00 PM	29.08.2023 AT 12:30 PM
02	Sub Head:- Panjkora Road Wari Dir Upper	C-6	Rs.246350/-	Rs.3420/-	As per W/Order	29.08.2023 AT 12:00 PM	29.08.2023 AT 12:30 PM
03	Sub Head:- Kas s Chaper PCC Road Wari Dir Upper	C-6	Rs.146000/-	Rs.1910/-	As per W/Order	29.08.2023 AT 12:00 PM	29.08.2023 AT 12:30 PM
04	Sub Head:- Daskor To Berarai Badali Road Wari Dir Upper	C-6	Rs.146000/-	Rs.1910/-	As per W/Order	29.08.2023 AT 12:00 PM	29.08.2023 AT 12:30 PM
05	Sub Head:- Grade Caloni PCC Road Wari Dir Upper	C-6	Rs.112150/-	Rs.1400/-	As per W/Order	29.08.2023 AT 12:00 PM	29.08.2023 AT 12:30 PM
Sub Divisional Dir & Kohistan Dir Upper							
01	Sub Head:- Construction/BT Charkom to Barkhwar Road U/C Dislore Dir Upper	C-6	Rs.218750/-	Rs.3000/-	As per W/Order	29.08.2023 AT 12:00 PM	29.08.2023 AT 12:30 PM
02	Sub Head:- Const/BT Bandai to Serai Road U/C Nehag Bandai Dir Upper	C-6	Rs.218750/-	Rs.3000/-	As per W/Order	29.08.2023 AT 12:00 PM	29.08.2023 AT 12:30 PM
03	Sub Head:- Const/BT of Shoar Road UC Gwaldai Dir Upper	C-6	Rs.227150/-	Rs.3130/-	As per W/Order	29.08.2023 AT 12:00 PM	29.08.2023 AT 12:30 PM
04	Sub Head:- Const of PCC Road Kass Payeen (Parvez Korrona) VC Kass Dir Upper	C-6	Rs.118750/-	Rs.1500/-	As per W/Order	29.08.2023 AT 12:00 PM	29.08.2023 AT 12:30 PM
05	(A) Sub Head:- Package No.01 (i) Gran Kor Road (ii) Koto Road Nasrat (iii) Sawan Sar Road Kasi (iv) Kass Road Shingara (v) Lal Bin Road	C-6	Rs.178750/-	Rs.2400/-	As per W/Order	29.08.2023 AT 12:00 PM	29.08.2023 AT 12:30 PM
06	(B) Sub Head:- Package No.02 (i) Jabba to shingara Road (ii) Repair of sesp Bridge Chinda kot (iii) Zareen kasi abakand (iv) Bagh road Bagligar (v) PCC Road Gandigar (C) Sub Head:- Package No. 03 (i) PCC Road Nalo Kair Dara (ii) PCC Road Darora (iii) RCC Bridge/Culvert Rehan Kot / Wali Ullah	C-6	Rs.198750/-	Rs.2700/-	As per W/Order	29.08.2023 AT 12:00 PM	29.08.2023 AT 12:30 PM
07	(D) Sub Head:- Package No. 04 (i) Marano Road Chinda kot (ii) PCC Road Ala Bala (iii) PCC Road Sadeeq Banda (iv) RCC Bridge/Culvert to Bando Muhammad Ameen Kala	C-6	Rs.158750/-	Rs.2100/-	As per W/Order	29.08.2023 AT 12:00 PM	29.08.2023 AT 12:30 PM
09	Construction of PCC Road Kotibasto / Mushtaq Korona Dir Upper	C-6	Rs.147950/-	Rs.940/-	As per W/Order	29.08.2023 AT 12:00 PM	29.08.2023 AT 12:30 PM

- Bid Documents including instruction to Bidders can be downloaded from C&W website (www.cwd.gkp.pk) before the submission date/time.
- The bidders should submit their e-bids as per KPRA Notification No.S.R.O(14)/Vol:1-20/2021-23 dated 10.05.2022 and Notification No. S.R.O (15)/Vol:1-25/2022-23 Dated 22.08.2022.
- Complete Detail of Bid Security in shape of CDR i.e Bank Name, CDR i.e Bank Name, CDR Number(s) and Date(s) must be submitted electronically along with E-bid on the E-bidding System.
- All bidders are required to be registered with Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Revenue Authority under Finance Act No. XXI of 2013.
- Venue of Bids opening is Office of the Executive Engineer C&W Division Dir Upper.

**EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
C&W DIVISION DIR UPPER**

INF(P) 1603/23

Role of KP Information Minister commendable, says PPC President

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: Arshad Aziz Malik, President Peshawar Press Club, has said that apart from the welfare of the journalist community, the press club is also carrying out the duty of conveying public issues to the houses of power and publicizing the good initiatives of the government with full support of the Information Department.

He however appreciated the role of Provincial Information Minister Barrister Feroze Jamal Shah Kakakhel for bringing about positive changes in Pakhtunkhwa. Radio Peshawar and Information Department as well as initiating efforts to provide them ample resources. He, while assuring his full cooperation, clarified that it is the need of the hour to bring the official media into an aggressive mode for effective promotion of government policies.

He expressed these views while speaking at Pakhtunkhwa Radio's program *Studio 92*.

Journalist Hasnain Malik hosted the program while station director of Pakhtunkhwa Radio FM 92.2 Ghulam Hussain Ghazi was also present on the occasion. Arshad Aziz Malik said that journalism is the fourth pillar of the state adding that positive reporting and authentic news play a major role in the betterment of society.

To a question, he admitted that journalists are facing difficult situations but concrete steps are being taken to solve them with the help of the government. In this regard, he revealed, the provincial government has approved a grant of five crore rupees for journalists, while four and a half crore rupees have been distributed for the welfare of over five hundred members of the Peshawar Press Club. Similarly, he said, sports, entertainment, travel and tourism programs are also being conducted for journalists so that they can focus on their professional duties with equal attention.

In response to a question, Arshad Aziz Malik

said that when he first became the president of Khyber Union of Journalists in 2011, he introduced health cards for journalists at the national level for the first time, which is a matter of honor. To another question, he clarified that yellow journalism will be discouraged everywhere. There is no room in the press club for such so-called journalists, he maintained and cautioned that journalists should not publish any news without verification.

Regarding the role of social media, Arshad Aziz Malik said that this medium is not being used properly, due to which the trend of fake news is increasing in the society and to stop it, the government and the journalistic institutions should cooperate accordingly. He said that Peshawar Press Club conducts different types of capacity building programs from time to time to train new members which ignites the creative capabilities of the journalists, he concluded.

Police thwart armed attack on Mattani Police Station

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: The police force successfully repelled an audacious attack by armed militants on the Mattani Police Station in the suburban area of Peshawar, police confirmed on Friday.

According to media reports, exploiting the cover of darkness, the militants brazenly targeted the police station during the early hours of the night. However, the police, equipped with professional competence and unwavering gallantry, retaliated swiftly, forcing the attackers to retreat and ultimately escape.

Upon receiving the information of the attack, Chief Capital City Police Officer (CCPO) Syed Ashfaq Anwar promptly arrived at the site to assess the situation. He lauded the police force for their courageous response in repulsing the assailants, commending their dedication and commitment to upholding the law and order of the city.

CCPO Ashfaq Anwar said, "The swift and effective action taken by our police force in thwarting this attack is commendable.". "Our officers and personnel remain fully vigilant, ready to respond promptly to any subversive activities aimed at disrupting the peace and stability of our city."

11 districts declared most sensitive

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa police have declared 4500 places of worship in 11 districts of the province the most sensitive during Muharram.

The 11 sensitive districts of the province include Peshawar Kohat, Hangu, Dera Ismail Khan, Kurram, Orakzai and Tank. Based on the information shared by the police and security forces, the home department has decided to deploy police, FC, Frontier Corps for performing security duties during the holy month of Muharram at sensitive and most sensitive places of worship.

According to a police official, the police have been instructed to strictly manage the security to maintain peace and order in the province. The district police have been directed to chalk out their security plans for Muharram as per the requirements.

The lists of the most sensitive places of worship have been sent to the respective district administrations for taking security measures. In the provincial capital the inner city and various Imambarghas on GT Road, Hayatabad and Peshawar Cantt have been declared as sensitive and the most sensitive.



PESHAWAR: US Ambassador Donald A Blome and KP IGP Akhtar Hayat Khan giving away officer of the year award to DPO Batagram Shamroze Khan.

Building resilience to climate change

Adil Khan

CONFLICTS and issues in societies are natural because of the presence of diverse groups with different opinions, values, beliefs and with the conflicting interests of the parties. The emergence of a conflict or an issue in a society gives us the chance to establish new and sustainable modes of resolving these issues before getting intensity and causing a potential threat to the existing set up. Amongst the most dangerous crisis that human society are facing today, Climate change and environmental issues have dominated the spheres of influence of international communities. The changing directions of environmental set up are stressing the world to prepare for the self-made catastrophe in the coming days.

Climate change means the changing of environmental set up particularly the change in temperature of an area in a particular area. Historically there had been changes in the environment with a proper average because of natural processes or climatic cycles in the world. Records of such changes in the environment are not much destructive because of its proximity with the area and the self-control mechanism of society. But this process of adaptability and mitigation was greatly disturbed by the industrial revolution. The industrial revolution resulted in the deforestation of jungles, greater carbon emissions and methane gas. As a result, the temperature of the world began to boil. Due to which humans are facing severe threats to their existing in society.

The Increasing industrialization, growing areas of Urbanization and continuous deforestation resulted in the rapid changing of temperature over time. In order to clearly understand the directions of changes in

the environment, the records of global Temperature measurement were started in 1970. Historically, the average change in temperature from 1970 to 2012 was approximately 12.7 °c which was raised to 16.7 °c in 2016. In a recent record, the global temperature has reached 17.3°c on July 6 2023. July 6, was the hottest day in the world in terms of global Temperature.

The results of changes clearly indicate the notion that . Climate change is not going to happen in the next 20 or 30 years . It is happening now and we therefore should need to prepare in order to be safe from the devastating impacts of global warming and climate change in the coming days.

Since the 1990s, the world is trying to devise plans for the adoptability and protection of the human environment. The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Paris agreement and the minutes of the COP 27, at Sharm Al Sheikh Egypt, in the form of Loss and damage fund, and particularly the mission 2030 of Sustainable Development Goals are contributing greatly to the issue of climate change. But still a strong mechanism to combat climate change and other natural disasters doesn't seem to exist because many of the developed countries are yet to contribute to the process of mitigation and adaptability through financing.

Pakistan is amongst the 10 most effected countries in the world. Our carbon output is less than 0.8 percent but still we are suffering badly from climate change. Last Years we experienced a flood which put one third of the Country under water. About 94 districts throughout the country was badly effected. A huge amount of 40 Million People displaced and majority of them settled in Quetta and Peshawar which was already amongst the active flood zones. Pakistan

faced a damage of 30.2 Billion. Poverty increased by 1.7 percent. Flood highly damaged public and private sector areas including: Housing, Agriculture and livestock, Education, Health, Infrastructure, Transportation and Communication etc. All these Events led to the disruption of Normal life for almost a half a month. According to the Climate Change Development Report, Pakistan will need a Fund of \$ 348 billion for rehabilitation and development.

Pakistan should need to devise a strong mechanism for the protection of infrastructure and to develop resilient Infrastructure in the country in collaboration with other stake holders in order to offer a strong resilience to the changing environmental conditions and to reduce the losses in the country. Steps like the reforestation of unproductive areas with environmental friendly trees, Decorbanization of environment through urban strategies and industrial output regulations through taxation and process improvement of industrial system.

Climate Change is a global issue, it requires global consensus and multidimensional Approach to be tackled. The challenges of climate change we are facing now are enormous and urgent, and requires a profound transformation in each of the productive sectors and in each region around the world. It also requires a change in the behavior and lifestyles of individual human being. These transformations can be possible only if countries cooperate with each other financially, technologically and by strengthening capacities of the leaders if international communities to take steps towards a more equitable and sustainable development pathway.

The writer is student of BS Pakistan Studies at Jahanzeb College Swat.

US supports KP govt to boost land records system

F.P Report

PESHAWAR: The US government is partnering with the Government of KP to strengthen transparency and accuracy in the land records and registration system, promoting economic growth and investment in the seven subdivisions of the newly merged districts.

The USAID has provided equipment worth \$5 million dollars to the KP Board of Revenue to augment its capacity for accurate land measurements. The ceremony held in this regard was also attended by the US Ambassador, Donald Blome, said a press release issued here on Friday.

The United States also announced a new partnership to empower the Ombudsperson Secretariat by providing training to Ombudsperson staff on women's rights and land settlement regulations.

This initiative aims to raise awareness about the Ombudsperson's crucial role in safeguarding women's rights to property and inheritance. Speaking on the occasion, Senior Member of Revenue (SMBR), Ikramullah Khan said that the board is digitizing the entire land record system in seven subdivisions of the newly merged districts to benefit the people by increasing efficiency, accuracy, and convenience of the institution.

The Ambassador Blome has also joined Inspector General Akhtar Hayat and KP Police Officers in an inauguration ceremony of the recently completed \$17.2 million Joint Police Training Center in Nowshera. The inauguration marks the end of the 12-year project funded by the US Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (INL). The center is the largest construction project ever completed by INL in Pakistan. Implemented by the UNDP, the completion of this project has enabled the training center to increase its training capacity to 1,700 personnel at one time.

Walk held to mark ‘World Population Day’

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: The Health Department of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) and Green Star Social Marketing on Friday organized an awareness walk in connection with 'World Population Day' in the Hazara division.

A press release issued by the KP health department said that a large number of Lady Health Workers (LHW) and other staff of the department participated in the event. The purpose of the awareness walk was to create

awareness among people about the risks of the rapidly increasing population and related challenges.

DHO Haripur Dr Syed Nasir Shah, Deputy DHO Dr Sher Bahadur, and Deputy DHO Dr Shehzad addressed the participants and underlined the need for birth spacing and mother and children healthcare to bring balance between population increase and socio-economic well-being. They said, "Family planning is one of the most cost-efficient interventions for maintaining a balance

between population and socio-economic development." Dr Idris, National Program Coordinator, and Dr Ashfaq said that rapid population growth in KP was mainly caused by the high total fertility rate, adding that the rural fertility was quite high in the province as compared to the urban area.

They called for educating the rural population, especially the females, and giving them gender equality in all fields of life to contain the risks of increasing population in the country.

First ever Pashto-Chinese mix song attracts applause

PESHAWAR (APP): The first ever Pashto-Chinese song on seventy years old phenomenal friendship between Pakistan and China is attracting applause from dwellers of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, terming the melody as true reflector of inner emotions of peoples of both the countries.

The song is prepared by 'China Window' around a year earlier and re-launched it on the occasion when both the countries are celebrating the completion of ten years of gigantic China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) agreement. Headed by prominent journalist, Amjad Aziz Malik, China Window is a Chinese cultural center established in Peshawar for providing opportunity to the people to explore the culture of their brotherly neighbor.

Within few years after its establishment, China Window has provided opportunity to more than 100,000 people for exposure

visit to the Chinese culture, literature, art and history through exhibitions, movie screenings and training. Pakistan embassy in Beijing, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Culture and Tourism Authority (KPCTA), Archeology Department, Youth Directorate KP and Islamia College Peshawar extended cooperation in preparation of the song.

The five minutes and fifty two seconds long song titled as 'Two bodies one soul' is sung by famous Pashto music duo of Sitara Younas and Sajjad Khan from Pakistan. While from China the singers who performed are Lan Yueliang and Shao Feng. The unique song starts with the wording that 'We China and Pakistan are two bodies and one soul, the friendship is selfless and whole world knows it'.

The same lyric is sung in both Pashto and Chinese languages by different performers amid display of very beautiful and historic pic-

tures depicting leadership, culture, development, landscape and historical sites of the both the countries. "Lyrics are simple and meaningful while composition and voices are awesome. So well represented the deep cordial relationship between the two brotherly countries, Pakistan and China. Well done China Window," commented a viewer on social media.

"For the first time in the history, we heard Chinese and Pashto mix song, very awesome," wrote another viewer. Some of the netizens while terming the song as very good initiative, suggested people to must watch and listen. "This is a very unique initiative taken by China Window by involving culture in promotion of sentiments of friendship between Pakistan and China," observed Zia-ul-Haq Sarhadi, Chairman Abaseen Column Writers Association.

Promoting culture of run-of-the river dams imperative for arresting load shedding, bolstering agriculture development

PESHAWAR (APP): The population bulge and technological advancement have exerted pressure on energy resources where its shortfall has touched a record 7,000 megawatts (MW) that negatively impacted the national economy, agriculture and industrial growth.

As the country's population has crossed the psychological barrier of 240.954 million mark in May this year which means that new water dams and promotion of run-of the river (ROR) hydroelectricity would be required to bridge the widening demand-supply gap of electricity. It would help fulfil the pressing demands of affordable energy of the consumers that was increasing with each passing day in the wake of mushroom growth of IT and agriculture sectors.

The PESCO officials told APP that harsh weather conditions have recently amplified the demand to produce 28,200 megawatts whereas the power supply is 21,200MW showing a shortfall of 7000MW. Despite 60,000 MW hydropower potential, Pakistan is currently generating 4,635 megawatts of electricity from hydel, 1060 MW from thermal, 5280MW from coal, 1985MW from wind and 9,677MW manufactured through IPPs.

"Currently, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) was receiving about 1.873MW electricity from the national grid

while its demand was about 3,220 MW, facing a shortfall of 1,347," PESCO's Power Distribution Company spokesman said. He said the load management was being carried out in high-line loss feeders in Peshawar and Nowshera districts besides peripheries of Peshawar and Nowshera, the residents of Bannu, DI Khan, Karak, Lakki Marwat, Khyber, Bajaur, Waziristan and others tribal districts to bridge the supply-demand gap.

Tribal Electricity Supply Company (TESCO) official said about 180 MW was being drawn from the express transmission line for merged tribal areas against 1,000 MW demand, adding the 820MW shortfall mainly occurred due to power stealing through direct hocks. "Energy crisis is one of the major reasons for the country's poor economic and industrial growth besides posing serious food security challenges in Pakistan," said Professor Dr. Muhammad Naeem of the Economics Department, University of Swabi while talking to APP.

He said that the energy consumption share of industries has increased by 28 percent during July-April 2022 from 26.3 percent recorded in July-April 2021 while the share of the agriculture sector jacked up to nine percent from 8.9 percent during the same period. He said the change of government in



center last year has made a positive impact on energy projects that resulted in an increase of electricity generation to a record 41,557MW during July-April 2022 by 11.5 percent against 37,261MW recorded during the same period last year.

Dr Naeem said the last year's devastating floods have adversely affected the country's agriculture, economy, livestock, and energy sectors as scores of mini micro hydel stations were swept away by the gushing water that inflicted over USD 40 billion economic losses to the government kitty. "We need to adopt the culture of construction of small water reservoirs and ROR projects being cost and time efficient and is very popular in developed countries," said Dr Muhammad Naeem, adding China

has constructed about 98,000 dams, India 5,324 dams and only 150 dams by Pakistan.

He said despite the huge 30,000 MW hydel potential of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, not a single dam was constructed in Pakistan after the Tarbela dam was built on River Indus in 1984 with an estimated cost of USD1.49 billion. While citing examples of ROR dams in world, Dr Naeem said that Canada is generating more than USD 140 million annual revenue from Niagara ROR dam that were attracting over one million tourists every year.

Similarly, Hoover RoR dam on the Colorado River generates about USD 250 annual revenue for USA and Three Gorges ROR Dam on Yangtze River has contributed USD 1.5 billion tourism revenue in 2019

to the economy of China. "ROR hydroelectricity is a type of hydroelectric generation plant whereby little or no water storage is provided for electricity generation," Engineer Zahoor Hussain, Director of Projects told the news agency.

He said ROR hydroelectricity was considered ideal for rivers and streams that could sustain a minimum flow or those regulated by a lake or reservoir upstream. He said a small dam was usually built to create a headpond ensuring that there is enough water entering the penstock pipes that lead to the turbines which are at lower elevations. Engr Zahoor said ROR was a prime source of renewable energy that does not produce greenhouse gases and can easily be located in remote areas where other forms of energy generation were not feasible besides these could be built quickly and required less investment than conventional dams.

He said the Grand Coulee dam at Washington USA and the Itaipu dam on River Parana between Brazil and Paraguay were the world's largest ROR projects that generate electricity from the natural flow of the rivers. He said Chitral, Kohistan, Upper Mansehra, Dir, and Swat in KP, Northern Punjab, Azad Kashmir, and Gilgit Baltistan (GB) rivers were most suited for ROR dams.

Engr Zahoor said that the construction of ROR hydroelectricity projects in these areas would help provide clean, renewable, and affordable energy to the local population that could be a valuable addition to the national grid. However, ROR dams can have a negative impact on the environment and ecology such as disrupting fish migration and altering water quality.

Engineer Muhammad Luqman Khan, Chief Planning Officer, of KP Energy Department told APP that under the power generation policy 2015, an inclusive strategy has been adopted for promoting the culture of ROR dams in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Under the strategy, he said the focus was being made on awareness campaigns for the education of people about the significance of ROR dams and their role in clean energy generation, water resource management, and economic development.

He said ROR could be achieved by offering financial incentives, tax breaks, and a speedy approval process under public partnership mode. Engr Luqman said, "Faster collaboration with international organizations and countries that have experience in ROR projects was a key area of the government strategy to promote such culture in the country and especially in the KP province for socio-economic development of people.



In brief

DBA car parking inaugurated F.P. Report

H A F I Z A B A D : Pavement work on parking of District Bar Association Hafizabad has been complete and District and Session Judge Hafizabad Malik Mushtaq Elahi Bingi inaugurated the parking. Deputy Commissioner Umar Farooq Warriach, President Bar Malik Waqas Raza Awan, Secretary Bar Muzammal Aziz Gujjar, Chaudhry Mouzam Ali Bhatti of Jandraka Bhattian, ex-president Bar Iman Ullah Sannndhu, Sufyan Abbas Bhatti, P.M Safadar Kharal and Barrister Syed Waseem-ul-Hassan Shah were accompanied by him. Malik Mushtaq Ellahi, Umer Farooq Warriach and Malik Waqas Raza Awan said that batter coordination among Bench, Bar and District Administration was vital for providing justice and relief to people promptly and by the grace of almighty Allah, ideal atmosphere of mutual respect was prevailed among Bench, Bar and Administration already as a result of which problems of lawyer community were being addressed at the earliest. Meanwhile, former Federal Minister Chaudhry Liaqat Abbas Bhatti said that present government led by Mian Shahbaz Sharif is committed to steer the country out of financial and other crisis confronted the nation. While talking to different delegations at Sukheki Town, he said that prudent policies of the government would yield positive results and country would run on the track of progress and prosperity at the earliest. He said that Pakistan Muslim League (N) would come to power with majority to win upcoming elections in the country. He further said that due to hectic struggle of the government, the danger of default had been put off and foreign reserves were improved significantly.

Two drug peddlers held F.P. Report

MARDAN: The police arrested two drug peddlers and recovered over three kilogram narcotics here on Friday. According to details, under supervision of DSP Rural circle Fazal Sher Khan and headed by SHO Abdul Sajid Khan, operation was conducted against drug pushers in Rustam police station jurisdiction in Mardan. During operation, two drug peddlers were arrested after recovery of over three kilogram hashish from their possession. The police confiscated the recovered hashish and after registering a case against the detainees started an investigation.

Three drowned in Naryab dam F.P. Report

HANGU: As many as three drowned in Naryab Dam including two minor boys while Rescue 1122 has conducted recovery operation and shifted dead bodies to District Headquarters Hospital, on Friday. According to details, the deceased were identified as Hakeem 37 years of age, Yahya 12 years and Hamza 13 years of age. Deputy Commissioner (DC) Fazal Akbar has initiated inquiry against the accidents. However, DC told to media personnel after conclusion of inquiry responsibility on the competent officials because section 144 has imposed on the dam site on bathing. He claimed that summary should be initiated for disciplinary action against responsible persons neglected their duties.

Malgari Ustazan condemns baton charge against teachers

F.P. Report

MARDAN: Malgari Ustazan Mardan strongly condemned the baton-charge and shelling on government teachers in Peshawar who were protesting for their genuine and due rights.

Usman Sangar, the (Mardan chapter) district president of Malgari Ustazan while talking to journalists calimed that the school teachers were peacefully holding their protest to press the government for fulfillment of their genuine demands. He said that it was sheer injustice that provincial government was treating the protesting teachers with cruelty.

He claimed that teachers were builders of nation, thus, such type of cruel behaviour of government with them, was unbearable. He demanded of the government to immediately release the arrested teachers.

In the scorching hot weather, he pointed out that the teachers were holding their protest, but, they did not even break a single pot of flowers or plant. He asked the KPK provincial government to resolve their genuine issue of upgradation, otherwise, they would be forced to close all government schools of the province till fulfillment of their demands.

Seminar on 'E-commerce' held: Mardan Chamber of Commerce and Industry and Trade

Development Authority of Pakistan, Ministry of Commerce organized a joint seminar on "E-Commerce".

Mardan Chamber of Commerce and Industry President Haji Zahir Shah, Senior Vice President Shah Riaz, Members of the Executive Committee, Presidents of Central Organization of Traders, General Secretaries, Deputy Director of Trade Authority of Pakistan Peshawar Zahid Muhammad, Assistant Manager Muhammad Amir Khan, Assistant Director Adil Mukhtar were present in the seminar. Besides, Chairman and members of Mardan Youth Parliament and management of Ansi College participated in large numbers.

Mardan Chamber President Haji Zahir Shah welcomed all the guests and participants of the seminar and said that Mardan is the second largest city of the province but it is far behind in terms of e-commerce, so our first effort is to make this area Develop the business here on modern lines by introducing the business class and especially the new generation to e-commerce because all business transactions at the global level have shifted to modern technology. Haji Zahir Shah said that it is a matter of concern for us that our new generation is equipped with modern education, but when they finish their education, they eat

baskets of dirt for those who do not find any job, this is the opportunity to expose the new generation to e-commerce and modern technology for which Mardan Chamber of Commerce and Industry will organize such seminars and programs from time to time, with the support of TDAP and SMEDA in order to transfer the business of this area to e-commerce.

From the seminar, Deputy Director of Trade Development Authority of Pakistan, Zahid Muhammad thanked Mardan Chamber President Haji Zahir Shah for organizing the seminar. Basic information about e-commerce but while shedding light on the use of modern technology for business transactions and its benefits in detail, he said that it is impossible to develop and compete in the market without e-commerce in this modern age.

From the seminar, Mohammad Amir Khan gave a detailed presentation on the transition to e-commerce and how a businessman can modernize his business by building on the lines, digitalization or new business can be started. The participants of the program also asked questions related to e-commerce, which were answered satisfactorily. At the end of the seminar Mardan Chamber President Haji Zahir Shah distributed certificates among the participants.

LHWs role in healthcare promotion lauded

F.P. Report

LOWER DIR: Speakers at a training workshop lauded the role and services of lady health workers (LHWs) in healthcare promotion and stressed for their capacity building. The Green Star Pakistan, a social marketing agency and the health department jointly arranged a training workshop capacity building of lady health workers at Timergara here the other day. The LHWs from different areas of the district attended the workshop which was addressed by the district health officer Dr Irshad Ahmad Rughani, deputy DHO Dr Noor Hamid and others.

The social marketing agency staff members discussed its project for capacity building of the LHWs.

Speaking on the occasion the DHO said the LHWs played a vital role in society. He said that all available resources would be utilized for capacity building of LHWs in order to make them able to cope with the new challenges. The DHO said Green Star Pakistan with the financial support of the government of Germany would establish six model clinics for LHWs in Lower Dir district that aimed to help them stand on their own feet. The other speakers said the capacity building of the LHWs was the need of the hour and the government should focus on it.

Substandard materials: Local residents have complained that the newly

built Dherai-Ploso road in the Lower Dir district with a cost of Rs 13 million had developed cracks and ditches within a few months. Talking to local journalists at Timergara here on Friday, the area elders including village council chairman Muhammad Yousaf, Ibrahim Jan and others alleged that sub standard materials were used in construction of the road.

They said that due to substandard materials the road had developed cracks and ditches and motorists were reluctant to drive on it. They demanded of the district administration and high ups of the Pak PWD to take notice of the matter and take actions against the contractor concerned.

Projects for Afghan's refugees kicks off



F.P. Report

BUNER: An inaugural ceremony for provision of education and health facilities to Afghan refugees with special focus on disable person and women held at Tehsil Council Mandanr with the cooperation of Handicap International which is assisted by European Union financially.

Assistant Commissioner Mandanr Rahmat Ullah was chief guest of the ceremony while tehsil Nazim Naseeb Khan, Tehsil Municipal Officer Amin Khan, Refugee Camp Shura president Peer Zada, general secretary Malak Sardar Wali, Maulvi Sher Baz Mazhari, Director Social Welfare Bahadar Shah, Nazims including Yousaf Zada, Suhrah Khan and Mehboob Bacha along with officials of education and health's departments were present.

Moreover, Handicap Project Manager Fauzia Shahzad, project officer Muhammad Ayaz and Farzana Siraj while Hello Tas International national program manager Asad,

Malteser International manger Muhammad Ibrar before participated on behalf of their respective organizations.

Handicap project Director Fauzia Shahzad, Asad Khan and Muhammad Ibrar stated that the organizations had kicks off several initiatives to facilitate residents of Afghan Refugee Camp at Mandanr tehsil. They claimed that their medical staff including doctors will sever Afghan's refugees at Basic Health Unit (BHU) at the premises while test and necessary medicine should be provided to them.

The participants committed for enrolled of Afghan's children to ensure maximum literacy rate among the refugees while facilities should be provided in this regard. Assistant Commissioner Rehmat Ullah, Mandanr Nazim Naseeb Khan, Tehsil Municipal Officer Amin Khan, Refugee Shura president Peer Zada and village council Nazim Suhrah Khan paid thanks to nonprofit organizations for serving and facilitating Afghan' refugees residing in the premises.

Moreover, Tehsil Council Gagra passed Rs600 millions budget for the year 2023-24 while Rs24 crores allocated for developmental schemes and Rs: 30 crores 50 lakh to be spend over non-developmental, the budget proposals suggested. Out of the developmental budget Rs: 8 crores to be spend over proposed family park in the Babaji Kandow and its road, it was jointly agreed in the budget distribution proposals.

The Nazim, TMO the convenor claimed it was balanced budget and assured its justified utility for rendering services to community adding all of members would be equally respected in every field so as to make sure friendly and brotherly atmosphere during whole the tenure.

However, numbers of members were criticized the local bodies system and branded it ineffective. They argued during last 16 months no single developmental scheme was done nor the members were of useful for community rather just having title of public elected representative and nothing else.

KDA vow to promote tourism F.P. Report

ABBOTTABAD: The Kagan Development Authority (KDA) has pledged promoting tourism in the valley and extending maximum facilities to the tourists visiting the valley.

The 14th meeting of KDA's Board of Authority was jointly presided over by Chairman Dr. Aimal Zaman Khan and Commissioner Hazara Division Aamir Sultan Tareen at Commissioner Office Abbottabad.

The meeting was also attended by Director General KDA Tariq Khan, Deputy Directors Ameen ul Hassan and Sheraz Khan, Boar members Senior Advocate Zahid Mufti Idrees, Sahibzada Shoab, Aamir Muneer, Chief Conservative Forest Yousaf Khan, PA to Commissioner Asim Abbas, Legal Advisor Tasleem Khan, KDA officials including Noman Khan, Iftikhar Khan, while Deputy Secretary Tourism and Deputy Commissioner Mansehra Shahid Bilal Rao participated meeting on zoom. Steps needed for provision of maximum facilities to tourists visiting the area remained key focus of the meeting and important decisions in this regard were made on the occasion.

Assistant Director Accounts Iftikhar presented budget of the authority for fiscal year 2023-24 during the meeting. Deputy Director Ameen ul Hassan briefed the participants of the meeting about the development on construction of walking track on Lake Saif ul Malook road, hydropower project and other projects with cooperation of different organizations. The KDA meeting decided to mark August 14 and September 06, with national enthusiasm and for chalking out various competition programmes in Naran on the occasion.

JUI-F blamed for political ends Syed Waliullah Shah

NEWSHERA: Jamiat-e-Ulema Islam Fazal (JUI-F) provincial general secretary Maulana Atta-ul-Haq Darvish said that political opposition is blaming the party that inflation which is imprudent because interim government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa aren't JUI-F workers, on Friday.

This he claimed while addressing JUI-F general body meeting and added that Shahbaz Sharif become due to Maulana Fazal-ur-Rehman role in the Pakistan Democratic Movement. He also criticized former Member Provincial Assembly Ikhtiyar Wali Khan and claimed that he was elected with help of JUI-F Nowshera workers.

JUI-F general secretary claimed neither interim Chief Minister nor other cabinet members belonging to the party while political opponent blaming for their election narrative. He claimed that JUI-F has more than century of political and intellectual struggle which can't be subverted in any condition.

New child protection unit opens

KASUR (INP): Child Protection & Welfare Bureau Chairperson Sarah Ahmad, along with Director General Aftab Ahmed Khan, representatives of the Buildings Department, and others inaugurated the building of a new child protection unit in Kasur, on Friday.

She told the event participants that construction of the unit building had started in November 2021 at Kutchehry Road, and the child protection office had been operating in Kasur since 2019. She expressed her gratitude to the Punjab chief secretary, additional chief secretary (ACS) Home and the line departments for their cooperation in the endeavor.

Sarah Ahmad noted that construction of the child protection unit in Kasur was completed with Rs 34 million, adding that such units had been established in 25 districts already. She said the CPWB was committed to expanding the scope of its services to all districts, ensuring effective protection of child rights across the province.

Balochistan NAB organizes seminar, walk against graft



F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: In an effort to raise awareness about corruption and instill a sense of responsibility among students, the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) Balochistan on Friday organized a seminar and walk in Quetta Cantt School.

The primary objective of the seminar was to educate students about the consequences of misconduct and promote a culture of intolerance towards such actions. The event was attended by Saima Nazir and Henna, representing the school, along with Zahid Kassi and Khurram Shahzad, Deputy Directors from NAB Balochistan.

The speakers expressed their views on the subject and shed light on NAB's strategies and the role of students in combating corruption. They emphasized the negative impacts of corruption on society and highlighted the valuable initiatives taken to eradicate it. During the seminar, effective measures were also highlighted, empowering students to actively contribute to the development of a transparent and accountable society.

The overall objective of the seminar was to serve as an informative platform, motivating students to actively participate in actions against misconduct. The participants gained insights into the negative

effects of misconduct and the steps being taken to prevent it. In a symbolic gesture, a walk was organized at the conclusion of the seminar, in which students enthusiastically participated. The walk aimed to symbolize their commitment to fighting misconduct and their dedication to building a more transparent society. The seminar and walk organized by NAB Balochistan in collaboration with Quetta Cantt School successfully raised awareness about misconduct and encouraged students to play their part in eradicating it. This initiative serves as a stepping stone towards fostering a responsible and accountable society.

Dispute Resolution Council setup in Bajaur

F.P. Report

KHAR: A Dispute Resolution Council (DRC) was established for the first time in Bajaur wherein a swearing in ceremony was held at the District Police Officer Office on Friday.

In light of the instructions of Inspector General of Police Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Akhtar Hayat Khan Gandapur, Additional IG Headquarters Muhammad Ali Baba Khel and DIG Malakand Nasir Mehmood Sati under the supervision of District Police Officer Bajaur Nazir Khan for the first time in District Bajaur Dispute Resolution Council (DRC) was established.

Various types of problems, enmities etc. existing in this district will now be resolved peacefully through regional customs (Jirga) and traditions with the aim to settle down all the disputes that most of the time lead to clashes and as a result many of the groups lost their loved one in different incidents.

Addressing the ceremony, DPO Nazir Khan said that the establishment of the Dispute Resolution Council (DRC) is good for the establishment of lasting peace. The members included in the council are serious about peace and regional peace in all respects. He urged the council members to resolve various types of disputes between the parties in accordance with regional customs (Jirga) and laws in an honest, good faith and transparent manner.

He further said that in the first phase, the council has been established at the district level. Later the jurisdiction of the council will be extended to the level of Police Stations. This will make it easier to solve the problems in the area.

He further said that the establishment of the Dispute Resolution Council is a very important initiative which will definitely have a positive impact on regional peace. DRC is a Jirga system of Pakhtun traditions which can be utilized, he added. The office, staff and other necessary arrangements for the council have been completed and the council will start its work from Saturday, next.

DC for timely action to start cleanliness campaign: A high-level meeting was held in the office of Deputy Commissioner Bajaur Mohammad Anwar Haq on Friday regarding cleanliness campaign, removal of encroachments and traffic plan in Bajaur district.

In addition to administration officers, officers and representatives of other relevant line departments attended the meeting. Attended. In the meeting, there was a detailed discussion about the traffic plan, removal of encroachments and sanitation in Bajaur district.

On this occasion, the Deputy Commissioner directed all the Assistant Commissioners to immediately remove all illegal encroachments. At the same time, traffic in-charges referred to him to immediately set up a plan for smooth and stable flow of traffic in the markets and take concrete and practical steps to implement it as soon as possible so that the people can come and go. The Deputy Commissioner also strictly instructed the concerned authorities to start the cleaning work today to keep all the bazaars and streets of Bajaur district clean.

Kholi Kachri held: An open court was held in Bajaur's

Mamond Barkholz, people piled up their complaints. On the special instructions of Deputy Commissioner Bajaur Muhammad Anwar Haq, Good Governance Strategy of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Provincial Government, Kholi Kachri was organized in Tehsil Mamund, Bar Khulzo under the supervision of Additional Deputy Commissioner Bajaur Ali Raza in which Additional Deputy Commissioner Finance and Planning Naseer Khan, Assistant Commissioner Navagai Adeel Ahmad Sattar, Tehsildar Mamond Anwar Hussain, officers of line departments, regional elders including the general public participated in full.

He described the efforts of the district administration to solve the problems of the people at their doorsteps. After that, the people of the area and the regional elders explained their problems in detail. The people and elders thanked the district administration for their tireless efforts.

Cops directed to ensure proper dress code

F.P. Report

ABBOTTABAD: Deputy Inspector General (DIG) Hazara chaired a meeting of Abbottabad police officers in which law and order situation was discussed with zeal.

According to details, Shortcomings in professional duties should be removed, there is no room for negligent officers and men, Tahir Ayub Khan. SDPOs and SHOs take actions against criminals, drug dealers, Deputy Inspector General of Police Hazara Tahir Ayub Khan presided over a meeting of police officers of Abbottabad district, in the meeting DPO Abbottabad Umar Tufail, Additional SP Arif Javed, SP investigation was attended by Syed Mukhtar Shah and all SDPOs and SHOs of Abbottabad district. DIG Hazara Tahir Ayub Khan while issuing instructions to the SDPOs and SHOs said that they should remove the deficiencies in

the professional duties and perform the official duties in an efficient manner, there is no room for negligent officers and men.

Strictly enforcing police discipline and wearing uniform as per police rules during duty, SDPOs and SHOs should ensure that helmet jackets are worn by the SDPOs and SHOs performing security duties at important places and entrances and exits of the city. Use it in any case, in the future, departmental action will be taken against police officers and youths who are guilty of violation. SDPOs and SHOs take actions against criminals and drug dealers.

The civilians coming to the police stations should be heard in a better manner and they should be given all possible legal assistance as per the law. While giving instructions regarding the upcoming Muharram, DIG Hazara said that SDPOs and SHOs should review the security of

Imambargahs and procession routes on a daily basis.

Father, wife killed F.P. Report

JAMRUD: A man shot and killed his father and wife here in Lala Cheena village of Ali Masjid, subdivision Jamrud district Khyber on Friday.

An official in Ali Masjid police while confirming the incident said that, one Arman Shah opened indiscriminate firing on his father identified as Sher Badshah and his wife in his home injured them critically.

They were shifted to the nearest health center for medical aid, but succumbed to their wounds before reaching the hospital, locals said. Soon after the event, the police officials rushed to the site, apprehended the killer and put behind bars for investigation.



Syria gives green light to reopen key crossing

UNITED NATIONS (AP): The Syrian government gave a green light for the United Nations to use a key crossing from Turkey to the country's rebel-held north-west that was closed earlier this week, but it wants to take away UN control over aid deliveries to the region. Syria's UN ambassador, Bassam Sabbagh, said the government is granting the UN and its agencies "permission" to use the Bab al-Hawa crossing for six months starting, but he said it must be done "in full cooperation and coordination with the government."

He told reporters the UN also should not communicate with "terrorist organizations" and their affiliates illegally controlling the Idlib region and must allow the International Committee of the Red Cross and the Syrian Arab Red Crescent to run aid operations in "terrorist" controlled areas, Sabbagh made the announcement after delivering letters to Secretary-General Antonio Guterres and the Security Council president with the government's decision. It followed failure of the Security Council to renew authorization of aid deliveries through Bab al-Hawa, a UN operation that had been vital to helping a region of 4.1 million people. UN spokesman Stephane Dujarric said: "We've received the letter and are studying it for now." But Britain's UN ambassador, Barbara Woodward, was clearly not impressed, saying Bab al-Hawa has "gold standard aid monitoring" yet now Syrian President Bashar Assad has said he will open it without UN monitoring. "Control of this critical lifeline has been handed to the man responsible for the Syrian people's suffering," Woodward said. "The priority needs to be getting aid flowing again, fast, to the people who need it - and then getting certainty over its future. We will not hesitate to bring this back to the Security Council."

The main insurgent group in northwest Idlib is Hayat Tahrir al Sham, whose origins were in al-Qaida. The group and other militants are a mix of home-grown fighters and foreign jihadists who began coming to Syria in 2011 after an initially peaceful uprising against Assad turned into an armed insurgency. Many people in Idlib have been forced from their homes during the 12-year civil war, which has killed nearly a half million people and displaced half the country's pre-war population of 23 million. Hundreds of thousands live in tent settlements and have relied on aid that comes through the Bab

al-Hawa border crossing. The Security Council initially authorized aid deliveries in 2014 from Turkey, Iraq and Jordan through four crossing points into opposition-held areas in Syria. But over the years, Syria's closest ally Russia, backed by China, has reduced the authorized crossings to just Bab al-Hawa from Turkey - and the mandates from a year to six months. After the devastating magnitude 7.8 earthquake that ravaged north-western Syria and southern Turkey on Feb. 8., Assad opened two additional crossing points from Turkey, at Bab al-Salameh and al-Rai, to increase the flow of assistance to victim, and he extended their opening until Aug. 13. The United Nations has also been using those crossings to deliver aid. But UN spokesman Stephane Dujarric reiterated after vote that the secretary-general was trying to reopen Bab al-Hawa, which is closest to Idlib and where 85% of UN cross-border aid passed through.

Pressed on what "full cooperation and coordination with the government" will mean in practice, Sabbagh said that "I leave these details to the UN to explain," saying the government wants Bab al-Hawa open. He said Syria also wants the UN to support the country's development, recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction of roads, power stations, mining activities. Syria's close ally Russia vetoed a compromise resolution drafted by Switzerland and Brazil that would have extended the UN operation through Bab al-Hawa for nine months.

That was supported by 13 of the 15 council members, as well as by the secretary-general and humanitarian organizations. A rival Russian resolution that would have extended the aid deliveries only for six months but added new requirements failed to get the minimum nine "yes" votes for approval and was only supported by Russia and China. Russian Ambassador Vassily Nebenzia told the council that if Moscow's resolution wasn't accepted it would not approve any compromise. The Russian draft resolution included language supporting Assad's government, which has for years delayed UN-led negotiations on a new constitution as a key step to elections and ending the conflict that began in 2011. It also referred to US and European Union sanctions on Syria and asked the secretary-general to provide a special report on the impact of these measures in December.

Iranian president welcomed in Zimbabwe

HARARE (AP): Iran's President Ebrahim Raisi was welcomed in Zimbabwe by people singing songs criticizing the West as he made his last stop on a three-nation Africa trip aimed at finding new trade alliances to soften the impact of US sanctions on his nation. Raisi was greeted at Harare's international airport by Zimbabwe's President Emmerson Mnangagwa and dozens of supporters waving Zimbabwe and Iran flags and holding placards with Raisi's image.

Both countries are under US sanctions and Raisi's trip to Africa, which has already included stops in Kenya and Uganda, highlights Iran's efforts to counter those heavy economic punishments. Iran and Zimbabwe already have a joint permanent commission on political and trade relations and officials signed 12 new memorandums of understanding, including agreements on agriculture, pharmaceuticals, telecoms, gas, energy and education. Iran also signed agreements with Kenya and Uganda. "Our cooperation with Zimbabwe and our cooperation with the African continent, which is a continent full of potential, could help

us for mutual advances," Raisi said in translated comments in Zimbabwe. Raisi has recently reached out to other nations struggling under US sanctions, including on his first visit to Latin America last month, when he went to Venezuela, Nicaragua and Cuba. "It is critically important that we, the victims of Western sanctions, are talking to each other," Mnangagwa said. "The authors of these sanctions would not want us to talk to each other. But because we are both victims it is equally important that we show them that we are united." Iran has been subjected to a new bout of sanctions by the United States for allegedly supplying Russia with drones that have been used to devastating effect in the war in Ukraine.

The US and European Union sanctions on Zimbabwe go back 20 years and are largely due to allegations of human rights abuses under former president Robert Mugabe. Some of those EU sanctions are being eased. Iran and Zimbabwe also share historical ties and Mnangagwa thanked Raisi for Iran's help in a liberation war in the 1970s that eventually led to the southern African nation breaking free of white

minority rule. "When we went to war, Iran was our friend. I am happy you have come to show solidarity," Mnangagwa said earlier in brief remarks on the tarmac at the Robert Mugabe International Airport named after the late Zimbabwean leader Mnangagwa helped oust in a coup in 2017. At the airport, supporters sang songs criticizing the West as "white masters" intent on interfering in Zimbabwe and Raisi inspected an honor guard by Zimbabwe's military. On his visit to Uganda, Raisi sharply criticized Western nations' support for homosexuality and LGBTQ+ rights, calling it "one of the dirtiest things." He said Uganda's recently-passed anti-gay legislation and Western criticism of it was "another area of cooperation for Iran and Uganda." Zimbabwe also has anti-gay laws, and homosexuality and same-sex marriages are illegal. However, Mnangagwa has not attacked homosexuality, unlike his predecessor, the late Mugabe, who described gays as "worse than dogs and pigs." The last visit by an Iranian leader to Zimbabwe was in 2010 by then-President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad.

Africa's dam: Egypt, Ethiopia hope to reach deal

NAIROBI (AP): After years of failed talks, Ethiopia and Egypt said they aim to finalize within four months an agreement on the operations of Africa's largest dam, an apparent breakthrough in a dispute that Cairo has described as an existential threat. The joint statement on "expedited negotiations," issued by Ethiopia's government, came after Ethiopia's prime minister, Abiy Ahmed, discussed the dam with Egypt's President Abdel Fattah el-Sissi on the sidelines of a regional meeting about the conflict in neighboring Sudan.

Sudan is a third party to the talks about the \$4.6

billion Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam on Ethiopia's stretch of the Blue Nile, which is located just 10 kilometers (6 miles) from the Sudanese border. Egypt depends on the Nile River to supply its booming population of 100 million with fresh water, while Ethiopia says the dam helps to pull millions of its 110 million citizens out of poverty. Tensions rose as the dam's reservoir began to be filled annually in the past few years.

The new statement does not describe the foreseen agreement as a legally binding one, which Egypt and Sudan have sought. It also does-

n't say whether the talks will be under the auspices of the African Union, which Ethiopia has preferred. The United States has been among a variety of mediators in the past. In a separate statement, the president of the African Union Commission, Moussa Faki Mahamat, commended the Ethiopian and Egyptian leaders for their "joint decision" to reinstate the negotiations on the dam. Key questions in the talks have been how the countries will resolve any future disputes around the dam and how much water Ethiopia will release downstream if a multi-year drought occurs.

Jordan urges WFP to reverse subsidy cuts for Syrian refugees

DUBAI (Reuters): Jordan's foreign minister called on the United Nations' World Food Programme (WFP) to reverse a decision to cut food subsidies to Syrian refugees by Aug. 1. The WFP office in Amman told Reuters that an "unprecedented funding crisis" had forced it to cut food help for 50,000 out of some 465,000 refugees it was helping in Jordan.

"This is not on Jordan," Foreign Minister Ayman Safadi said in a Twitter post. "It is on those who are cutting support. We can't carry this burden alone." "We urge WFP and others cutting subsidies to Syrian refugees to reverse decision," he added. The United Nations' humanitarian agencies and other aid groups are struggling to keep up aid to Syrians as needs skyrocket and funding streams dry up. More than 15 million people need aid across the country - a record number - and malnutrition rates are at an all-time high. But the UN said in June that its \$5.4 billion appeal for humanitarian work in Syria this year had only been 11% funded. At the time, the WFP announced it would cut food aid to 2.5 million of the 5.5 million people it supports. It was not immediately clear if those figures included refugees outside of Syria's borders. The WFP's Amman office said it had "exhausted all options" and that even after taking this step, it was still facing a critical funding shortage. "Without the necessary funds, WFP will be compelled to reduce its response further," it said. Millions of Syrians have fled their homeland since conflict broke out there in 2011 following protests against the rule of President Bashar al-Assad, who was then isolated across the region for his crackdown on demonstrations. The Arab League welcomed Syria back into the fold earlier this year, and Arab countries say it is time for Syrians seeking refuge on their territory to go home. Safadi said that the UN "must work to enable voluntary return. Until then, its agencies must keep sufficient support."

Iraqi officials are defending a barter deal with Iran

BAGHDAD (AP): Iraqi officials defended a deal inked this week to barter oil for gas with Iran, saying that the deal does not violate US sanctions on Tehran and that it will help alleviate a worsening electricity crisis in Iraq.

The remarks come as the government in Baghdad struggles to maintain a balance between its two key allies, Washington and Tehran. A previous arrangement in which Iraq was buying gas from Iran and paying dollars for it was held up because Washington declined to approve sanctions waivers. That in turn led Iran to cut the gas supply, triggering severe power shortages in Iraq. After decades of electricity shortages because of war, corruption and mismanagement, oil-rich Iraq has become heavily reliant on imported Iranian gas to meet its electricity needs. The shortages in recent months are in part due to US restrictions on transferring funds to Iran.

Imports from Iran are especially vital during the scorching summer months when Iraqis are forced to pay for private diesel generators or suffer through temperatures that often exceed 50 degrees Celsius (122 degrees Fahrenheit). Washington has granted some exemptions to its sanction on Iran over Tehran's disputed nuclear program to allow Iraq to meet its energy needs. Iraqi Prime Minister Mohammed Shia al-Sudani announced the barter deal with Iran but warned that Washington still has not granted a waiver for Baghdad to pay \$11 billion it currently owes to Tehran, leaving the money trapped in Iranian accounts in the state-owned Trade Bank of Iraq. As a result, he said Iran had cut its gas exports since the beginning of July, and Baghdad's supply has declined by over 50%. After the barter deal, al-Sudani said the "supply of Iranian gas has resumed" and would "return to the same quantities as previously."

North Korea's ambassador blames US for tensions

UNITED NATIONS (AP): North Korea's UN ambassador defended his country's recent long-range missile launch in a rare appearance at the UN Security Council where he also accused the United States of driving the situation in northeast Asia "to the brink of nuclear war." Kim Song told the council that test-flight of the developmental Hwasong-18 missile was a legitimate exercise of the North's right to self-defense. He said the United States was raising regional tensions with nuclear threats and deploying a nuclear-powered submarine to South Korea for the first time in 14 years.

Kim said the missile launch had "no negative effect on the security of a neighboring country," pointing to Japan's announcement that the ICBM - which flew at a steep angle - landed in open waters outside Japan's exclusive economic zone. South Korea's UN Ambassador Hwang Joon-kook countered, asking: "How can an ICBM launch ever make neighboring countries appear safe?" Diplomats said Kim's appearance was the first time a North Korean diplomat addressed the Security Council since 2017.

Hwang said each of North Korea's repeated ballistic missile launches allow the country to advance its technology toward its goal of having an arsenal of nuclear-armed weapons. Immediately before the meeting, a statement from nine council members including the US and Japan, joined by South Korea, was read to reporters condemning the launch "in the strongest possible terms" and stressing that it was the 20th ballistic missile launch this year in blatant violation of multiple Security Council resolutions banning such tests. The Security Council imposed sanctions after North Korea's first nuclear test explosion in 2006 and tightened them over the years in a total of 10 resolu-



tions seeking - so far unsuccessfully - to cut funds and curb its nuclear and ballistic missile programs. The last sanctions resolution was adopted by the council in December 2017, and China and Russia vetoed a US-sponsored resolution in May 2022 that would have imposed new sanctions over a spate of intercontinental ballistic missile launches. The two veto-wielding permanent members have blocked any council action including statements to the media since then. The statement by the 10 countries said the Security Council cannot remain silent in the face of so many North Korean provocations and must send a message to all proliferators "that this behavior is unlawful, destabilizing, and will not be normalized." It also called on all countries to confront North Korea's illicit activities to generate revenue such as cybercrime. But Russia and China remained

opposed to any council action. China's UN Ambassador Zhang Jun took note of the latest missile test but criticized the heightened US military pressure on North Korea and its deployment of strategic weapons to the Korean Peninsula. He said the long-time view of the US and other countries that North Korea poses a security threat and their obsession with sanctions put North Korea under "existential pressure," while the country's own legitimate concerns "have never been addressed." Zhang said history since the 1990s clearly shows that dialogue and negotiation are the only way to ease tensions, and he urged the US and North Korea to resume talks. The statement from the 10 countries said they remain committed to diplomacy without preconditions. Song made no mention of talks, which have been stalled since 2018.

Sudan conflict: 'I saw bodies dumped in Darfur mass grave'

DARFUR (BBC): Maalim is traumatised by what he saw in Sudan's western region of Darfur, before he fled across the border to Chad. "If the people who I worked with know I have shown you these photos and videos, or even that I filmed them, I am a dead man," he tells me as he whips out his phone to show me harrowing pictures of scattered corpses in the city of El Geneina. We have changed his name for his own safety.

Before leaving the country, he was part of a group of people tasked with removing corpses from the streets and burying them in mass graves. Sudan has been rocked by fierce battles between the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF) and the army since April, with some of the worst fighting in Darfur, where the RSF originates. The photos showed dozens of dead bodies, some of them covered with blankets and clothing, others swollen and already rotting. Maalim also showed photos of aid agency compounds, which were wrecked and looted. "I felt terrible. I felt like they died while in a state of fear and terror. Many of them had been lying dead on the streets for more than a

week," he tells us, visibly distressed. Perhaps the most disturbing footage he showed us was a video he took while hiding in a bush. It showed bodies being dumped from a lorry into a mass grave. "We went towards the forest graveyard to bury the bodies. But the RSF did not allow us to do so. Under the orders of the RSF, the driver of the truck was ordered to dump the bodies in a pit," Maalim says, adding that the RSF ordered them to leave the area afterwards. "They should have been buried according to Muslim rituals. We should have held prayers for them. But the RSF insisted that they were discarded like garbage."

Nobody knows who the bodies belong to or how they were killed. But many families who have sought refuge in Chad tell us the RSF were specifically targeting young men and boys in West Darfur, forcing them out of their hideouts and killing them. The families say members of non-Arab communities were targeted. They describe being stopped at RSF checkpoints and asked about their ethnicity. They told us they were too frightened to say they were Masalit in case they were

killed. The BBC has asked the RSF to comment on the allegations but it has not responded. But earlier this week it denied allegations it was involved in similar attacks on members of the Masalit community in May. Maalim's account matches details in a UN report published on 13 July, saying local people were forced to dispose of the bodies of at least 87 ethnic Masalit and others allegedly killed by the RSF in a mass grave in West Darfur. The metadata on the photos and videos in Maalim's phone show that they were taken between 20 and 21 June, the same dates mentioned in the UN report. Like the UN report, Maalim told us the bodies were buried in an open area known as al-Turab al-Ahmar (Red Soil), west of El Geneina and near a police base.

The UN statement said some of the people had died from untreated injuries. In one of Maalim's videos, a man is found alive among a pile of dead bodies. Flies hover around his dry, cracked lips as he tries to speak. Maalim says the victim had been lying there for eight days, suffering from gunshot wounds. We do not know what has happened to this man.

Maalim tells us he took the videos because he wanted to document what was happening in his hometown. But he soon felt it was no longer safe for him to stay in the city. "I was afraid because more than once they were searching for people who had mobile phones on them while doing the clean-up." Darfur Arab and Black African communities in Darfur have been at loggerheads for years - with the worst violence erupting two decades ago when non-Arabs took up arms accusing the government of discrimination. The RSF was born out of the notorious Janjaweed Arab militia, which brutally suppressed the rebellion, killing hundreds of thousands of people. The group was accused of widespread atrocities and ethnic killings, described as the first genocide of the 21st Century.

Fighting between the RSF and the Sudanese army, which erupted in April, seems to have reignited this conflict. Last month, the West Darfur governor was killed shortly after he accused the RSF of carrying out a genocide against the Masalit people. This round of violence in many parts of Darfur doesn't appear to be random.

Vermont braces for more rain in wake of historic flooding

LONDON (AP): Vermont prepared for the next round of storms - and possibly a tornado - as people took advantage of calm weather to clean up from historic flooding that damaged thousands of homes, businesses and roads, and left some residents stranded. As floodwaters receded, the good news was that there were no new rescue missions, dams were holding up and more roads reopened. The bad news was that strong thunderstorms were expected to move into parts of the state, which could cause more flash flooding, Gov. Phil Scott said at a news conference. Conditions could spawn a tornado, he said. And the state could get more heavy rain over the weekend.

"The period we are more concerned about because that could be more widespread and heavier, but not nearly on the scale of what we saw earlier in the week," National Weather Service meteorologist Seth Kutikoff said. Scott said it's important for Vermonters to be vigilant, and that includes not going into the water. "We've seen many pictures on social

media of kids swimming in floodwaters. This is not typical rainwater - it's filled with chemicals, oil, waste, and more. It's simply not safe," he said.

New Hampshire, where some roads, towns and campgrounds were flooded in several western counties, was also in the latest storm's path. "We strongly encourage residents and visitors, especially campers staying at sites along rivers and streams, and campgrounds in low-lying parts, to know what to do if evacuation is needed," said Robert Buxton, director of the state's Homeland Security and Management agency. Other New England states to the south were also drying out, including Connecticut, where officials warned boaters and others about dangerous debris in the Connecticut River, including large trees. A dock with several boats attached was washed away in Glastonbury, just south of Hartford, and was seen floating down the river a few towns away. In Vermont, communities were cleaning up from the floods that were more destructive in some places

than 2011's Tropical Storm Irene and regarded as the worst natural disaster since the 1927 floods, which killed dozens of people and caused widespread destruction. Unlike that event, no injuries or fatalities have been reported with this week's flooding. Transportation officials were moving equipment to areas that were considered more flood-prone to prepare for the storms as they continued to evaluate damage, including to rail lines. Amtrak and other railroad service has been suspended.

One death in New York was blamed on the storm - a woman whose body was found after she was swept away in Fort Montgomery, a small Hudson River community about 45 miles (72 kilometers) north of New York City. Scott said he has submitted a request for a major disaster declaration to President Joe Biden. "It's separate from, and in addition to, the federal emergency declaration the president already signed", he said. If approved, the declaration would provide federal support for recovering communities. In Vermont's

small state capital of Montpelier, where the swollen Winooski River had flooded downtown, the elevator at City Hall was damaged, making the building inaccessible, spokesperson Evelyn Prim said.

"Cleanup from the hazardous floodwater damage in City Hall is expected to take several months. Because of this, City Hall will be closing until further notice," she said. Offers of help poured in, including free pet food from an animal shelter in Morrisville and a donation collection for water and nonperishable food items at the University of Vermont. A Vermont Main Street Flood Relief Fund was set up to help small businesses and the Vermont Community Foundation established a fund to help longer-term efforts for people and communities. An annual concert, the Do Good Fest in Montpelier, will be livestreamed and act as a fundraiser. "One of the defining truths about Vermont is that Vermonters look out for one another," said Dan Smith, the foundation's CEO. "We saw it during the pandemic; we saw it during Tropical Storm Irene."

The Frontier Post

JALIL AFRIDI
Managing Editor

Printed and published by Mahmood Afridi at
Moraka's Printers, 27 Abdara Road, University Town,
Peshawar.

Peshawar Office: 091-5700095, 0300- 9009001

Peshawar Fax: 091-5703687, Post Box No. 573

E-mail: fppeshawar@thefrontierpost.com

Lahore Office: 0335-4026284

Email: fplahore@thefrontierpost.com

Islamabad Office: 0321-5066253

Email: mahmoodafridi@thefrontierpost.com

Karachi Office: 021-32213411, 0300-8340907

Email: fpkarachi@thefrontierpost.com

*USA and Canada Toll Free Number 1-800-5905747

Self evaluation is laudable but selfpraise is disasterous

PRIME Minister Shehbaz Sharif has said that despite challenges and conspiracies hatched by the political opponents, the coalition government had successfully managed to put the country in the right direction in the shortest period of time. During his address to the nation, the Premier promised to hand over the reins of the government to caretaker setup in August. The Prime Minister noted that the International Monetary Fund (IMF) programme agreed by the previous government on the toughest conditions, was the biggest obstacle in the way of the country's economic revival as the previous regime had brought the country to the brink of default by deviating from that agreement. According to him, despite anti-state conspiracies, the government did not loose its heart and succeeded to reach a staff level agreement with the IMF. The Prime Minister Shehbaz told that the deal inked with International Monetary Fund (IMF) was a moment for Pakistan to reevaluate its policies towards attaining the goals of financial self-reliance. According to him, the IMF agreement is not a moment of rejoice, but to assess the state of affairs as to how the country has become dependent on loans and foreign grants. The Premier expressed resolve to break the begging bowl, and urged the youth to come forward to take the country to new heights of development and prosperity.

The coalition government is near to complete it's 14 months term and announced to hand over the state affairs to caretaker setup that will steer the country during the election season. Prime Minister Sharif blasted at the previous government for laying bomblets and destroying economy, sabotaging IMF program and creating hurdles for the coalition government in negotiating deal with the IMF in recent past. At the same time, Shehbaz recounted a long list of successes and acheivments made by his government during the economic crisis, super floods, that also includes the preservation of civil liberties and human rights along with securing a \$3 billion standby deal with the global lender. The Prime Minister vowed to throw away the begging bowl after the recent loan, which was the 24th claim of it's kind by the successive Pakistani leaders over the past seven and a half decades. It reminds us the story of an hard dipsonaniac, who daily promised not to visit pub again but forgets his words and repeats that malpractice every other day.

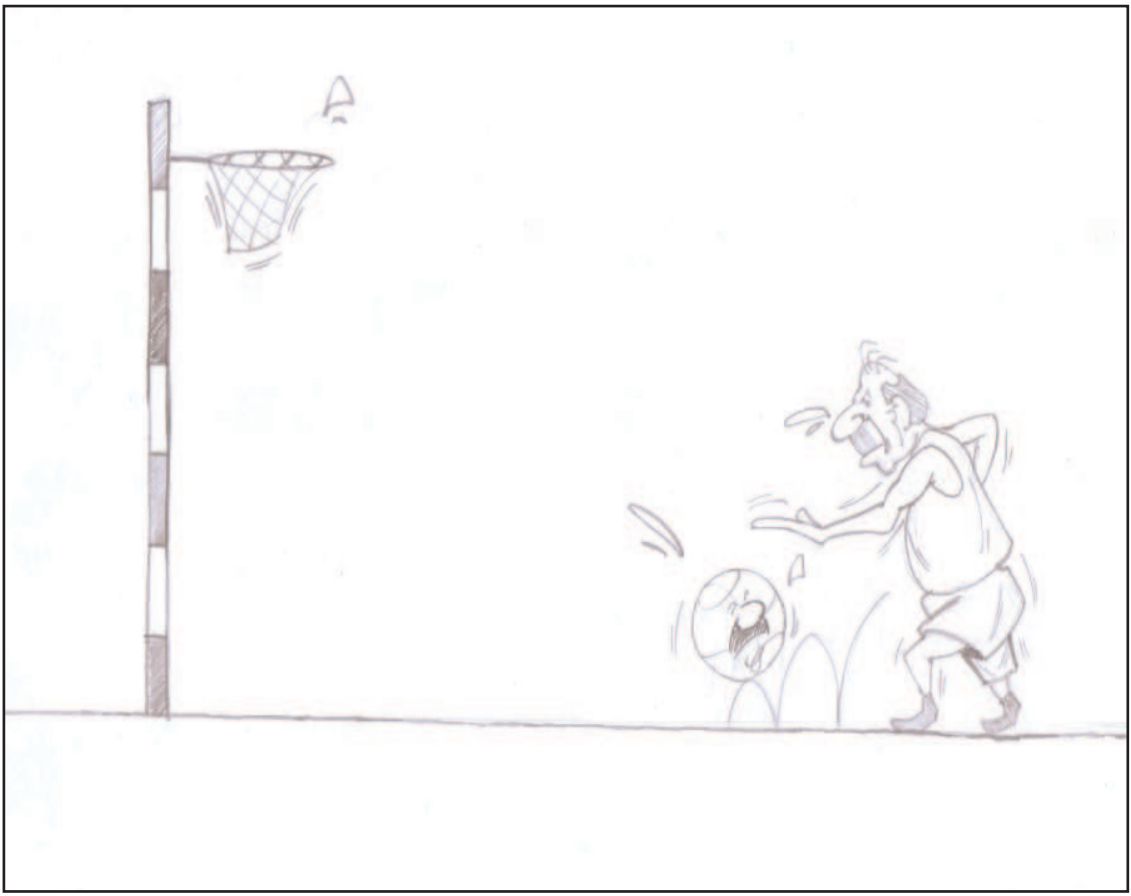
At the helm of the most difficult and hard-earned loan deal, Prime Minister Shehbaz expressed dismay over Pakistan's dependence on foreign loans and charity grants, and set a voyage to politically important Southern Punjab after loan deal was okeyed by the IMF to invest in his political legacy through development projects and Laptop Schemes ahead of crucial election in the country. In fact, Pakistani leaders had always adopted a mistaken and politically motivated approach for economic revival in the country that often made insignificant gains and led to a recurrent economic meltdown in the past. Hence, rulers self evaluation is not less then self praising as they lack resilience to face criticism of the opponents and media.

Realistically, an unceasing hostility between warring political groups, and confusing statements of certain leaders from coalition government cast doubts regarding the holding of the next election by October this year. Although the Prime Minister announced to quit power by August 14, yet some circles forcaste an extension in the tenure of the caretaker setup on some technical grounds, which will surely not serve the national interests and would lead to further political uncertainty and choas in the country. There had been differences among the coalition partners over the timely arrangement of the next election, while the PTI Chairman demanded guarantees from the IMF delegation in reward for his support for \$3 billion standby agreement with Pakistan. In fact, the election saga has become a matter of life and death for contesting political groups who use all tacts and tools to knock down each other in the upcoming general election.

In the current scenario, free, fair and timely election is the only war forward for Pakistan that will not only transition the political stability but also set stage for economic revival and industrial growth in crises hit nation. All stakeholders must demonstrate a responsible conduct while the ruling coalition and Pakistan Tahreek-e-Insaaf (PTI) must pause their hostility and fully cooperate with the Election Commission so a smooth and transparent election could be possible in due course of time. The Pakistani nation has suffered utmost from persistent political unrest and it deserves political tranquility and economic stability in the future.

Important Notice

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



Can the region move from fragile rapprochement to sustainable peace?

ABULKHALEQ Abdulla, the renowned Emirati scholar, last week wrote an article in which he described the region as moving from the "bad C" of confrontation to the "good C" of cooperation. However, despite his optimism, he recognized that the current rapprochement environment is fragile and cannot yet be called peace. He also said that this fragile peace could easily be decimated by three potential spoilers: Israel, radical forces in Iran, and a potential Donald Trump return to the White House in 2024.

Trump would not want to see a rapprochement between the two sides of the Gulf. He would seek a Gulf-Israel alliance against Iran. He would use all his weight to pressure all the Arab Gulf states into normalizing relations with Israel. He would push Arab countries into an unconditional normalization. This would definitely put Iran on edge and increase the tensions, reversing the few shy steps made toward peace.

As for the radical forces in Iran, namely the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps, we need to ask ourselves a question. What would be their value if Iran were to normalize with Saudi Arabia? When Iran no longer sees a value to its militias or sleeper cells, what would be the role of the IRGC, which is implicitly mandated with exporting the revolution? We have to remember that, after then-Foreign Minister Javad Zarif shook the hand of US Secretary of State John Kerry to seal the nuclear deal in 2015, the IRGC captured an American navy vessel that had drifted into Iranian waters. The Iranians filmed the American soldiers humiliated, on their knees and with their hands behind their heads. The purpose of this was not to humiliate the US - it was to humiliate Zarif and embarrass him in front of his American interlocutor. The message to Zarif was clear: We are here and we call the shots.

Similarly, the rapprochement between the two sides of the Gulf is a sign of worry to Israel. Israel has been able to thrive by playing on regional differences. Initially, Tel Aviv was an ally of the secular shah against pan-Arab and pan-Islamic leaders like Gamal

Abdel Nasser of Egypt and King Faisal of Saudi Arabia. Both leaders advocated the Palestinian cause and the rights of the Palestinian people. However, when the regime changed in Iran in 1979 and became vehemently anti-Israel, the latter shifted to Turkiye. The secular Kemalist regime, which looked at Arabs in a conde-

realized that they have to accept each other because the proxy wars they are engaged in are futile. However, this does not mean that they trust each other, nor does it mean that if any state senses a security threat that its attitude will not change drastically overnight. The spoilers know this very well and are probably preparing some

We also have to remember that this rapprochement does not mean that these rivals trust each other. The mistrust is still high. The rapprochement is fragile because it was dictated by the interests of the moment. The different rivals have each reached their limit and realized that they have to accept each other because the proxy wars they are engaged in are futile. However, this does not mean that they trust each other, nor does it mean that if any state senses a security threat that its attitude will not change drastically overnight.

scending manner and sought to disengage from the Islamic East, was a perfect fit for an Israeli ally. This changed again with the rise of the AKP, especially with the rise to power of Recep Tayyip Erdogan. Erdogan sent the Freedom Flotilla in 2010, challenging Israel's siege on Gaza. More recently, Israel has been able to play on Arab Gulf insecurity toward Iran and Turkiye in order to befriend them. The Abraham Accords were a result of this attitude. Israel was seen as a counterbalance to Turkiye and Iran.

Now that Iran, Saudi Arabia and Turkiye - the three heavy hitters in the region - are coming together, who will be Israel's friend? Rightly identified by Abdulla, these three potential spoilers have a great interest in breaking the fragile rapprochement the region is witnessing.

We also have to remember that this rapprochement does not mean that these rivals trust each other. The mistrust is still high. The rapprochement is fragile because it was dictated by the interests of the moment. The different rivals have each reached their limit and

unpleasant surprises. The question we should ask ourselves is what should Saudi Arabia, Turkiye and Iran do to protect themselves from any unpleasant surprises?

To start with, building on the current agreements is a difficult task. The region does not have a framework to regulate relations between members, such as in the EU. Also, the region does not have a security guarantor, like the US was in Western Europe after the Second World War. America had military bases scattered across Europe at that time. In this regard, one might think of China, which does have economic interests with Saudi Arabia, Iran and even Turkiye. However, it does not have the military muscle or presence of the US in Europe post-1945. Hence, the onus is on the regional countries and their leaderships to cement peace. Again, one might point to investments and the power of money. Today, Turkiye is a main recipient of Gulf money. However, we need to remember that security trumps economic benefits. Each state's first and foremost goal is to exist. This means security comes first.

Business deals come as a cherry on top, but they cannot be the foundation of relations. The foundation of relations between states is security. The agreements need to be institutionalized. The different countries should set up a permanent committee that regularly meets and streamlines any security issues.

This modality does work. Iran and Oman have a good, functioning relationship despite the fact they are geographically "too close," sharing the Strait of Hormuz. However, the two countries meet regularly to discuss any security problems that arise. This is how trust can be built. For such a dialogue to be effective, the rules of engagement should be defined at the outset. The different countries should agree to those rules and commit to abide by them. Hence, the relationship and the dialogue governing the relationship will be directed by them. This is not by any means easy, but it is necessary to cement the fragile rapprochement and develop it into a sustainable peace.

Abdulla noted that the region could easily drift from cooperation to the "ugly C" of chaos. So, an awareness is needed at the leadership level, as well as the popular level, of the challenges ahead. What is also needed is a change in mentality. In order to maintain the "good C," these states should move away from a zero-sum mentality, in which they view any gain by the other as a loss for themselves. There should be an acceptance of each other's influence. None of these states will totally relinquish their role in the region and adopt an isolationist policy. However, the key is to coordinate the different policies to reach some sort of accommodation that will encourage stability in the region.

The rapprochement faces serious challenges, but the region has a real chance to reach a sustainable peace. Abdulla fears the "C" of cooperation and conversation reverting to the "C" of confrontation and chaos. I hope for the "C" of cementing the rapprochement as opposed to the "C" of chatter. There is always the chance that these agreements will be nothing but chatter that results in nothing tangible in the long run.

A climate of hatred and intolerance can only lead to violence

Maha Akeel

THE last few weeks have seen the recurrence of an Islamophobic act in Sweden that triggered condemnations and protests in Muslim countries and the fatal shooting of a Muslim teenager by French police that sparked violent riots. The circumstances and contexts surrounding the two incidents, as well as the reactions of officials in Sweden and France, are different, but there are some common factors that have again raised questions about anti-Muslim prejudice and the limits of tolerance and freedom in Europe.

The burning of a copy of the Qur'an in Sweden and the fatal shooting in France are not new; similar acts have occurred in recent months and years, with similar reactions and outcomes. It is time to look deeper into why this is happening, address the underlying causes and prevent the reactions from escalating into violence. There is no doubt that the current global political and economic tensions, migration issues in Europe and a rise in Islamophobia are the background to the violent reactions. Added to that are politicians, far-right parties and extremists exploiting such acts for their own political gain. Needless to say, violent riots and protests are unacceptable and reprehensible. Those who commit and fuel criminal acts should be held accountable.

The fact of the matter is that desecrating a copy of the Qur'an does not advance or serve the cause of freedom of expression in any way. It is not an expression in an intellectual religious debate, a call to highlight religious abuse or discrimination, or a way of raising awareness about the religious rights of a minority group. It is a bigoted, uncivilized act that speaks of the narrow-mindedness of the perpetrator, committed purely for publicity, political reasons and to antagonize Muslims. Yet, it is protected by the law under the banner of freedom of expression. Such legal justifications should be revised because freedom of expression has never meant the freedom to express hatred, racism and disrespect. Although the Swedish government and the EU have distanced themselves from the act and acknowledged and condemned it as Islamophobic, that does not absolve them of the responsibility to take stricter measures in defining the limits of freedom of expression and protecting the freedom of Muslims to practice their religion without fear of hostility toward them and their beliefs. International laws clearly prohibit acts that incite hatred and violence. Burning a copy of the Qur'an is an act of hatred and evidently incites hatred and violence.

There is a fundamental difference in perceptions and the understanding of tolerance, freedom of expression and freedom of religion between secular Western laws and religious believers (not only Muslims). We need to bridge this gap and reach a common ground of mutual respect. Some argue that ignoring such abhorrent acts as burning a copy of the Qur'an or insulting the

Prophet would quell the attention seekers, the copycats and the defiant. Perhaps, but it could also encourage more provocative acts and increase the disillusionment and alienation. Many Muslim countries, as well as the US and the UN, issued strong statements of condemnation following the recent act in Sweden, and some took diplomatic measures that validated Muslims' sense of injury from the act. For civilians, there are lawful ways to express outrage, including peaceful protests, boycotts, writing letters to elected officials and signing petitions. More important is to conduct genuine efforts toward intercultural dialogue, community engagement and media campaigns to foster understanding and tolerance.

Similarly, in France, instead of blaming social media, video games or the families of the teenagers who poured onto the streets in anger and frustration, it would be wiser to address the underlying grievances of oppression, discrimination and racism. The UN called out the shooting of the teenager as due to deep issues of racism and discrimination in law enforcement, which must be addressed, as well as reviewing the laws on the use of firearms by police. However, it is not only a matter of socioeconomic grievances and marginalization for the large Muslim minorities in France and several other European countries. There is also a deep-seated suspicion and rejection of Islam and the manifestations of Islam, such as mosques, the call to prayer and the hijab, sometimes by law. If second and third-generation descendants of immigrants still do not feel accepted as French because of their religion or race, then there is a failure of integration on both sides. As long as the authorities do not realize or admit that there is a problem of racism in society, they will not be able to address the issue effectively.

It also does not help in terms of reducing tensions and feelings of resentment when boats carrying desperate refugees and migrants fleeing poverty and war in the Middle East and Africa sink, with thousands losing their lives, including children, while European countries scramble to prevent any refugees from crossing the Mediterranean or setting foot on their land. It is their right, of course, but where is the humanity and the human rights? Last year, the UN adopted a resolution proclaiming March 15 as International Day to Combat Islamophobia. The UN secretary-general stated on the occasion that anti-Muslim bigotry is part of a resurgence in ethnonationalism, neo-Nazism, stigma and hate speech targeting vulnerable populations. A recent report by the special rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief found that suspicion, discrimination and outright hatred toward Muslims has risen to "epidemic proportions." In recent times, institutional suspicion of Muslims and those perceived to be Muslim has escalated. We need to put a stop to the vicious cycle of hate, violent reactions, institutional discrimination, more violence, hate, and so on.

Arab News

How Putin saved NATO

Marwan Bishara

transformation of its military capabilities to confront new asymmetrical threats and enemies.

But divisions over the 2003 US-led invasion of Iraq undermined the alliance's political and military cohesion. NATO's attempts to pick up some of the burden in 2004 failed to stem the tide of chaos and instability in Iraq, leading to its withdrawal in 2011. The US-NATO failures were further highlighted by the rise of the "Islamic State" in Iraq and Syria. If the occupation of Iraq was a disastrous American blunder, the occupation of Afghanistan was a terrible humiliation for NATO. The costly 20-year war ended in a shameful, poorly coordinated withdrawal in 2021 and the extraordinary return of the Taliban to rule the country as they did before the invasion.

And that's not all. NATO's 2011 military intervention in Libya was no less of a foolish bungle. Its intense pounding

of Libyan forces through an estimated 7,000 bombing sorties over eight months may have dislodged Muammar Gaddafi's regime, but it also paved the way for a costly civil war that continues to paralyse the country today. President Barack Obama later defined the intervention as "the worst mistake" of his presidency. In short, despite its expansion eastwards, NATO had failed miserably to fulfil its military missions or define its core strategic mission for the 21st century.

President Joe Biden's 2021 declaration that "America is back" on the world stage and his attempts to reverse the harm caused to US reliability and credibility by his predecessors and reunite and salvage the alliance were met with a high degree of scepticism in Europe. But all changed the following year. Scepticism suddenly vanished after Russia embarked on a full-scale invasion of Ukraine

camouflaged as a "limited military operation" aimed at protecting its Russian-majority provinces. President Vladimir Putin had long warned against US-NATO meddling in his region or area of influence and warned against its intention to expand eastwards to Georgia and Ukraine. But all his warnings fell on deaf ears in Washington, no less at the Biden White House, which was bent on reviving the transatlantic relationship.

After years of rapprochement, European leaders have felt particularly betrayed by Putin's invasion, regardless of its motives and objectives. It has lent credibility to Biden's suspicions and warnings and left them looking foolish. They reckoned they had little or no choice but to coalesce around an American-led NATO to face up to the new danger from the east. Countries like Finland, which had long promised to stay out of NATO, are now vying to get in at any cost. Likewise, Sweden's desper-

ate efforts to join the alliance following Turkey's objections illustrate to what extent Europeans are willing to go. In fact, only after the EU joined in the mediation efforts with enticements has Turkey lifted its objections. Today, NATO is determined to confront and weaken Russia, albeit indirectly, on the battlefield and to deter Putin from attempting any such future folly. NATO powers have shown their readiness to provide Ukraine with tens of billions of dollars in assistance and with some of the most sophisticated and dangerous weapons, including cluster bombs, determined to fight until the last Ukrainian soldier. In a period of great malaise in the West, Putin has given NATO a new meaning, mission and drive. Regardless of how his war goes or when it ends, Russia has already lost the moral and strategic high ground to an ever more offensive alliance that is sure to militarise the continent and expand its outreach worldwide. Did someone say new NATO liaison office in Japan?

Compromised Suu Kyi no longer central to Myanmar Opp’s vision

Dr. Azeem Ibrahim

AUNG San Suu Kyi is in jail in Myanmar, at the behest of the country's military junta. She has been imprisoned since the coup against her power-sharing administration by the country's generals in 2021. Last week, Myanmar's Supreme Court heard the latest of Suu Kyi's appeals against her slew of convictions as she seeks to reduce her 33 years of jail time. The court is expected to take up to two months to deliver its ruling.

Suu Kyi made her name and reputation - and won a Nobel Peace Prize - as a prisoner, under long-term house arrest while campaigning for democracy in Myanmar. Her current imprisonment ought to have restored her reputation as a campaigner for freedom and a democratic heroine. Yet it has not. Instead, Suu Kyi is now a compromised figure, whose own political party - the National League for Democracy - is, while still popular, distrusted by much of the country.

The root of this lies in Suu Kyi's time in government and how she did not prevent nor sound any warnings about the conduct of the Myanmar military. She did not condemn it as the military launched a genocidal campaign against the Rohingya, a Muslim minority group, and drove them out of their homes and villages in 2017. This was a brutal show of force and was long planned. The events of 2017, with hundreds of thousands of Rohingyas forced from their villages to flee across the country and by boat to Bangladesh, were only the most violent and decisive stage of a years-long, military-led genocide against the Rohingyas in Myanmar.

But while this campaign was planned and launched, Suu Kyi was in government. She was responsible for the reaction to what happened. Her party had won a supermajority in parliament after the free election of 2015. Suu Kyi was barred from becoming president because her late husband and children were foreign citizens. But a new office was created for her: state counsellor, which meant she was the de facto head of government. She entered government not at the head of a democratic party or in coalition with other elected forces. Instead, she was the face of a military-backed administration, in which the generals exercised considerable power. She gave the generals a democratic figurehead and proved to be surprisingly pliant.

As head of government, Suu Kyi saw the military buildup and must have understood its intent to commit acts of genocide. She may have initially thought that it was tactically sound to leave the military to its own spheres. It claimed to be fighting a terrorist insurgency; perhaps Suu Kyi believed it when its leaders said so. But the rationale of this decision collapsed at the point when the army began committing overt genocide. The time to have spoken out or to have attempted to stop the violence was then. Yet this is not what Suu Kyi did.

On her official Facebook page, Suu Kyi dismissed the claims that the army had widely used sexual violence as a weapon of war - and with genocidal intent - as "fake rape." Later, she traveled to the International Court of Justice to deny any culpability by the state of

Myanmar in genocide. When hundreds of thousands of Rohingyas were forced from Myanmar into refugee camps in Bangladesh, where they are still trapped five years later, she expressed no intention to allow them the right to return or to seek justice against their attackers. She even refused to use the term "Rohingya" and instead referred to them as "Muslims from Rakhine," thus denying their very identity. All of this took the military line. But none of it saved her government from eventual overthrow by the military. Political scientists say that regimes backed by the army are susceptible to more military coups. The military sees itself as the "guardian" of a certain kind of government - favorable to the military - and thus reserves the right to, in effect, step in at will and depose those currently in power. This was clearly true in Myanmar after the apparent democratization of the previous decade. By keeping the military close, Suu Kyi may have unwittingly ensured her own overthrow.

When it happened in mid-2021, Suu Kyi was unceremoniously taken into custody. She had not prepared a means of escape. For the army, Suu Kyi may always have been a useful fig leaf. Eventually, they were going to get rid of her. Perhaps she had served her purpose - she denied the military's culpability in crimes against humanity and sold the country's pretense at having erected a new democratic system - and was no longer necessary. It is also likely that the military saw her, no matter how deferential Suu Kyi was to its actions, as a threat. She

was still popular. She could win elections. At some point, Suu Kyi might start insisting on her own prerogatives.

This seems to be the reason the army saw fit to manufacture further charges in order to keep her in prison for a longer time. After the coup, Myanmar entered into a state of open civil war. The former government, Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy party, has joined with other armed groups and ethnic parties to form the exiled national unity government. Its armed forces - a collection of militias and pre-existing insurgent armies called the People's Defense Force - are engaged in a bloody civil conflict that is largely hidden from the world's view due to Myanmar's communications isolation and the dangers posed to foreigners who try to report on the war. While the war rages, the national unity government has created a platform for its own government and possible grounds to negotiate with the army. Suu Kyi's release and restoration to office are not central demands of her party or the national unity government. And unlike during her long period under house arrest, the West is no longer campaigning for Suu Kyi's release.

This is partly of her own making. Suu Kyi compromised herself for power and while in power. She is associated with the crimes of the military between 2015 and 2021, including genocide. Her party says it wishes to build a democratic and multiethnic Myanmar. Suu Kyi is no longer essential to that vision. And with her close ties to a genocidal government, she may in fact be a grave impediment.

Investments in private healthcare are not helping Africans

Fati N'zi Hassane

RECENTLY, a good friend of mine took his perfectly healthy daughter to a private hospital in West Africa for a routine check-up. The paediatrician thought she was a bit thin for her age and advised that she undergo a surgical procedure, which is known to trigger weight gain in children. Despite the family's misgivings, the operation went ahead. She died on the operating table. It was a terrible loss. So many people I know in Africa have stories like this.

Public investment in essential public services has been in decline, creating a vacuum in healthcare provision that those seeking to make a profit are increasingly exploiting. But mixing profit maximisation with healthcare too often comes at an unacceptable cost. Today, many private hospitals are abusing and violating the rights of patients and their relatives and impoverishing them. I see the devastating results every day in Africa - people faced with no choice but to watch their loved ones die, or forced to sell everything or take loans to pay the exorbitant medical bills. However, the private sector continues to gain huge support as "the solution" to Africa's development challenges.

Last month, I attended the Summit on the New Global Financial Pact in Paris on behalf of Oxfam. African leaders spoke passionately there about the issues affecting their citizens and, in particular, the need for public finance and public solutions. South Africa's President Cyril Ramaphosa highlighted the profiteering by Big Pharma during the pandemic, and we kept saying, "What is more important, life or profits by your big pharmaceutical companies?" But the World Bank and the rich countries instead again offered the private sector as the answer. The new World Bank president, Ajay Banga, talked about how "for years, the World Bank Group, governments, and other multilateral institutions have tried - and fallen short - to mobilise meaningful private investment in emerging markets" and that

"we must try a new approach ... to catalyse private capital more effectively".

In my view, the private sector knows quite well how to look after itself. It does not require taxpayers' funding. Sadly, and without asking us, governments in rich countries have contributed to this misery by underwriting and investing in these predatory private healthcare companies, feeding them to grow in our countries and become ever more powerful. Oxfam recently released two shocking reports, based on complex and detailed investigative research in a number of countries. We show how development institutions belonging to the governments of France, Germany, and the United Kingdom, as well as the European Union and the World Bank, are investing billions of dollars in Majority World countries into for-profit private hospital chains that block or bankrupt patients, deny them emergency medical care, with some even imprisoning patients and retaining corpses for non-payment of fees.

They are making huge profits for their already rich owners. All this, in the name of advancing universal health coverage and fighting poverty. Ironically, the same rich countries provide healthcare and education funded by taxation and free of charge to their own citizens. In Kenya, Oxfam unearthed dozens of cases of alleged or confirmed human rights violations by the Nairobi Women's Hospital since 2017, including a newborn baby detained for three months, a schoolboy for 11 months, and a single mother of two for 226 days during which time her bill escalated by more than 2,000 percent. The body of Francisca's mother was locked in the hospital's morgue for two years, she said. "I feel very sad seeing her ... It is not easy for me because her body has changed ... It does not look like a body any more, it's more like a stone ... We pleaded with the hospital to give us the body. We will never be able to pay the money, no matter

how long they keep it."

What upsets me most is that this hospital's policy of detaining patients was already public knowledge before the rich countries chose to invest. In Nigeria, nine out of 10 of the poorest women give birth with no medical care, yet childbirth at Development Finance Institution (DFI)-funded Evercare Hospital would cost those women their 12 years' income. Across all the hospitals getting these development funds, the average starting price for a childbirth procedure is more than a year's income for an average earner in the poorest 40 percent.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, when people in my region of the world searched in desperation for scarce oxygen and life-saving care, exploitation escalated within some of these DFI-funded hospitals. In Uganda, one of Africa's poorest countries and hardest hit by the virus, private hospitals funded by European governments and the World Bank charged patient "clients" up to \$2,300 per day for treatment and care. The Maputo Private Hospital reportedly charged COVID-19 patients an upfront deposit of more than \$6,000 for oxygen and more than \$10,000 for a ventilator. In my view, the evidence is clear that the private sector is not the answer for the delivery of the public good. We know what the solution entails. Instead of promoting the growth of expensive, out-of-reach hospitals for the elite, countries should support quality universal public services - funded by taxes and aid - and delivered free of charge at the point of use.

For example, look at the incredible improvements in healthcare delivered by thousands of new health workers in Ethiopia, pioneered by then minister of health, Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, before his time leading the World Health Organization. European governments and the World Bank should stop funding for-profit private hospitals and evaluate the effect that their decades of investment in them have had on healthcare in Africa.

Has humanity missed its chance to deal with global warming?

Mohamed Chebaro

NO matter how hard one tries, one cannot escape news of the Earth's changing climate, as we now live in a more polluted world and a hotter planet for all living species. Last week, record-breaking temperatures were registered globally, according to data from the US National Centers for Environmental Prediction. It said the average global temperature reached a new high of 17.23 degrees Celsius on Thursday - the third time in the space of a few days that it had surpassed the sizzling heat waves that hit the world in August 2016, when the average temperature climbed to just under 17 C. The upward trend is continuing unabated, according to the UN's World Meteorological Organization.

Wherever you look, records keep on being broken. In the last few weeks, southern parts of the US have been under an intense heat dome. In China, an above average heat wave has produced temperatures above 35 C, while some North African countries have seen temperatures hovering near 50 C. Even Antarctica, currently in its winter months, has broken its July record temperature, with 8.7 C recorded, according to Ukraine's Vernadsky Research Base.

The announcement regarding the record-breaking temperatures might be an abstract occurrence for all of us mortals, yet its impact has been translating into increased damage to ecosystems everywhere, and ultimately a likely death sentence for nature as we know it. Just look at the fires in Canada and the resulting smoke giving the skies of New York a yellow hue. The war in Ukraine is not the sole culprit in the cost-of-living crisis being felt worldwide. It is down to a mixed bag of rising prices of energy, but also crop yields have been affected due to droughts and dwindling water supplies, as well as wetter or drier seasons than those the farmers were previously used to. In short, the economic prosperity and growth that we have long relied on, at least in the Global North, to pay for the green transition is showing signs of recession and, when that happens, it puts pressure on government projects to finance the shift to a greener economy in rich and poor countries alike.

The question that needs to be answered is did we miss the chance to halt global warming when the coffers of the developed nations were full in previous decades? The current economic outlook in countries that are considered economically healthy increasingly points to higher inflation, less growth, fewer returns and even recession. Poorer economic performance is a bad omen for the fight to limit global warming and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Clearly, we live in an era of geopolitical discord, an absence of multilateralism and overall weak leadership, along with a less than satisfactory economic outlook across the board. Therefore, one can

notice that fears are surfacing concerning the green transition, as rich nations' governments are pushed to freeze or redirect the funds earmarked for limiting emissions and meeting climate targets.

For example, UK Prime Minister Rishi Sunak is reportedly planning to renege on his government's £11.6 billion (\$14.9 billion) pledge to help poorer countries deal with climate change. This may be shortsighted and could damage the many building blocks achieved through the Conference of the Parties of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, better known as COP, particularly if others follow suit. It is the economy that often wins or loses elections in democratic countries, but the economy and its performance is also what might encourage rich nations to finally set a timetable for their promised delivery of \$100 billion annually to help developing nations green their economies and build resilience against future climate change. That promise is more than two years past its due date and still 20 percent short of its target, amid uncertainties about the mechanisms needed to ensure such funds are not siphoned off by corrupt and unaccountable state actors.

At last year's COP27 in Egypt, the heads of developing nations won a small victory when delegates agreed to put the controversial issue of compensation for "loss and damage" on the summit agenda. But like all initiatives that are put on paper,

their application needs a vigor that is absent from today's world. For all the above reasons, combined or individually, I feel that maybe the world has already forfeited its chance to bring us back from the brink by acting while the economic cycle was more positive, allowing for surplus and more experimentation. In recent years, the need to worry about the future of our planet has finally resonated among people in the rich world, but that is a commodity not shared by the people of the Global South, who have for decades had to grapple with other adversities and focus on securing their next - or tomorrow's - meal.

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said last week: "The situation we are witnessing now is the demonstration that climate change is out of control." If people keep looking for a painless transition that does not force them to stop doing the things that they like most, such as driving or jetting off abroad, new record temperatures will continue to be seen on land, in our oceans and in the atmosphere. We all talk about reducing our carbon footprint, but nobody seems ready to change their behavior or habits, not as a society, as a system of government or even at the corporate level. Until we do, the marshlands of southern Iraq will continue to dry up, forest fires will intensify, from Canada to Spain and elsewhere, and lakes are likely to shrink further, while our oceans will only heat up further and in an unsustainable way for humanity and nature alike.

The Ukraine war highlights the deep strategic folly of Euroscepticism

Rafael Behr

NATO must protect Ukraine from Russian aggression, and also Ukraine cannot join Nato while it is at war with Russia. That is the conundrum that leaders of the western military alliance grapple with at their annual summit in Vilnius. Kyiv craves the security of a mutual assistance pact - the ultimate solidarity that treats an attack on one Nato member as an aggression against them all. Nothing short of that guarantee, unwritten by US firepower, will persuade Russia to respect post-Soviet borders.

But Vladimir Putin's armies have already smudged Ukraine's border with blood. Nato abhors the violation but draws the line at direct military confrontation with Russia, not least because nuclear weapons potentially come into play when former cold war adversaries meet in battle. For President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, it is catch-22: to earn collective protection from the invader he must first fight off the invasion alone. The leaders gathered in Vilnius express maximum support for that endeavour, but membership of their club can be defined only loosely, as a work in progress. Rishi Sunak is one of the strongest cheerleaders for Ukraine's prompt inclusion in the alliance; more so than Joe Biden, who dwells on the technical conditions of entry - tests of good governance and military modernisation. But even the hawkish UK prime minister cannot say when he thinks Kyiv should formally cross the threshold.

A similar diplomatic dance is happening around Ukraine's hopes of joining the European Union. Zelenskyy put in a bid for membership last February, within days of the Russian invasion. Formal candidate status was granted four months later. That was a symbolic statement of support for a country that has paid a

horrific price for the aspiration to be counted among European democracies, and not just in the last 17 months. There was the Maidan uprising of 2013-14, triggered by the refusal of Viktor Yanukovich, Ukraine's pro-Kremlin president, to sign an association agreement with Brussels. Yanukovich was eventually ousted, but not before dozens of protesters had been killed. Putin then decided it was time to upgrade Russian involvement in Ukraine from proxy manipulation of the country's politics to annexation of its territory, starting with Crimea in March 2014. Ukraine is the only country in Europe where people have taken bullets because they dared to drape themselves in the blue-and-yellow starred flag of the EU. That is what Ursula von der Leyen, European Commission president, means when she speaks of a "special responsibility" to Kyiv.

But, as with Nato, there is a big gap between the moral imperative to include a heroic nation in the European project and the political reality of qualification on the usual terms. It is easy to invoke the EU's founding ethos of continental harmony by way of economic interdependence. It is a lot harder to find room for a big, poor, war-battered country in the complex and rigid legal apparatus of Brussels decision-making, budget allocations and, in the case of Ukraine's gigantic Soviet-scale farms, agricultural subsidies. On her most recent visit to Kyiv, earlier this month, Von der Leyen said it was impossible to envisage a future for the EU without Ukraine. That was an elegant way to balance firmness of commitment with vagueness over the timetable. The same delicate line between offering Ukrainians hope and managing their expectations is

being trodden in Vilnius. The EU and Nato are reprising a double act familiar from the turn of the century, when a number of former Warsaw Pact countries followed twin-track accession to both clubs. Legal harmonisation for the single market and military interoperability required very different reforms. But the combination described a coherent strategic imperative to be part of the west, which was understood most urgently by countries that bordered Russia as irreversible emancipation from the Kremlin's bullying reach.

That sense of imminent threat was not universally shared by established club members. One view, commonly expressed, was that Russia had swallowed enough defeat when the USSR unravelled, and could be allowed a residual cordon of superpower influence in its back yard. The warnings from Poland and the Baltic states that their liberty would soon be dissolved in such a grey zone were often belittled as paranoid Russophobia. But they were right. Russia's neighbours knew it best. Putin has no more respect for the borders of Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia than he has shown for Ukrainian sovereignty. The difference is that the Balts not only got away, but closed the door behind them. Nato membership was the lock; EU membership was the passport to a better economic future - literally, for those citizens who acquired freedom of movement within the single market. Britain, then under a Labour government, was an enthusiastic advocate of that process. The favour has not been forgotten in eastern Europe, although goodwill acquired as a friend of EU accession countries was most useful in the business of coalition-building and trading favours on the European

Council.

Brexit put a stop to that. It has also imposed an asymmetric view of continental security on a Conservative government that is ideologically allergic to acknowledgment of the EU as a primary institution for the advancement of western interests in Europe - Nato's economic sibling. For all the progress that Sunak has made befriending Von der Leyen - signing the Windsor framework, dropping the prancing bombast of his predecessors - his foreign policy is still rooted in denial of facts about Europe in the 21st century. The axiomatic Tory view of Brussels as an alien conspiracy against national sovereignty has hardly evolved since squabbles over the Maastricht treaty 30 years ago. Delusions of market parity with a bloc of 27 other countries persist despite a barrage of proof that the relationship is wildly unbalanced and not to Britain's advantage.

For the time being, a downgrade in the economic sphere doesn't change Britain's status as a leading military power in Europe, which is what matters most in Kyiv right now. Nato is the alliance to which Zelenskyy appeals first and foremost to secure his country's survival as an independent state. EU membership is the longer journey that offers Ukrainians the prospect of a more stable and prosperous democracy - full escape from Russia's coercive orbit. Nato and the EU are two arms of the same embrace, but Sunak can only do continental strategy with one hand behind his back. There are many downsides to Brexit, most of them parochial misfortunes for Britain to bear alone. But there is one that is more poignant because it reaches so much further. Having turned our backs on the European project, we are half the friend to Ukraine that we could be.

Heat waves threaten global food security

DUE to the combined effects of El Nino and global warming, extreme heat and droughts or drought-like conditions are making life difficult in China and many parts of the world. According to the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), the average temperature in June this year was 0.5 degrees Celsius higher than the 1991-2020 average, which also broke the 2019 record.

The beginning of July was the hottest week on record for the planet, according to the WMO. Temperatures in most parts of China are unusually high, especially in the Huang-Huai-Hai region of the North China Plain where the temperature was continuously high, more than 0.5 C higher, and some other areas of North China where temperatures were 1-2 C higher. Also, the number of high temperature days this year has already exceeded the number in the same period in previous years. In the future, unusually high temperatures are expected to become more common.

The impact of unusually high temperatures and droughts on agricultural production will increase, threatening long-term food security. The continuous high temperatures in many places in North China, especially the Huang-Huai-Hai region, have accelerated the loss of soil moisture. And the growth of autumn grain has entered a critical period. Besides, high temperatures and droughts or drought-like conditions will affect the growth and development of seedlings and endanger the production of autumn crops if corrective measures are not taken. High temperatures and dry weather also pose a challenge to vegetable production, transportation and marketing. They will affect livestock production, too, because of lower feed production and higher feed

Zhang Yumei & Fan Shenggen

and middle-income countries were the most affected by droughts, resulting in 34 percent crop and livestock production loss worth \$37 billion in economic value, equivalent to an average annual loss of 6.9 trillion calories, or the annual calorie intake of about 7 million adults. Therefore, countries across the world need to urgently change their strategic direction by making the agri-food systems more resilient through various measures to mitigate the impact of heat waves, high temperatures and droughts on food security.

First, investment needs to be increased to actively respond to climate change, enhance the capacity to cope with high temperatures and droughts, make agri-food systems more resilient, and ensure long-term food supply security. These include strengthening infrastructure construction and developing water-saving irrigation facilities, ensuring timely irrigation and seedling preservation, promoting research into and cultivate drought-resistant crop varieties, adopting conservation tillage and adjusting the planting structure. In addition, helping farmers access insurance and social protection programs that would provide them protection against natural disasters like heat waves and droughts should be further strengthened. All these will help make agri-food systems more resilient against climate change. And second, agri-food systems must be transformed to reduce the greenhouse gas emissions, as they account for one-third of the total greenhouse gas emissions globally. Moreover, providing technological, policy and institutional support for the agri-food systems, and compensating farmers and enterprises to practice low - or zero-carbon farming are also essential to ensuring food security.

The China Daily



Rupee sheds Rs1.13 against US Dollar

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistani Rupee on Friday witnessed Rs 1.13 devaluation against the US Dollar in the interbank trading as it closed at Rs277.59 against the previous day's closing of Rs276.46.

However, according to

the Forex Association of Pakistan (FAP), the buying and selling rates of dollars in the open market stood at Rs280 and Rs283 respectively. The price of the Euro increased by Rs3.18 to close at Rs 311.73 against the last day's clos-

ing of Rs308.55, according to the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP). The Japanese Yen went up by 01 paise to close at Rs2, whereas an increase of Rs3.65 was witnessed in the exchange rate of the British Pound, which trad-

ed at Rs364.19 as compared to its last day's closing of Rs360.54.

The exchange rates of the Emirates Dirham and the Saudi Riyal increased by 28 paise and 29 paise to close at Rs75.57 and Rs73.98, respectively.

Strict action must be taken against Hundi operators: Atif

ISLAMABAD (INP): Former Vice President of Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI) Atif Ikram Sheikh has demanded steps to restore the confidence of the expatriates.

In a statement issued on Friday, he also demanded action against those involved in illegal hundi business, who were offering higher exchange rates for profit, which was damaging the economy.

Atif Ikram Sheikh said that resolving problems and restoring the confidence of expats is necessary as the country lost over \$4 billion in FY23 as it received a total of \$27.024 billion against a record \$31.278 billion in FY22.

He said that we lost four billion dollars in remittances, which is much high-

er than the amount the government struggled to secure from the IMF.

The country received a total of \$27.024 billion in remittances during FY23, compared to a record \$31.278 billion in FY22, a decline of 13.6 percent or 4.254 billion, said Atif Ikram Sheikh who has also served as President ICCI and Chairman PVMA.

The central bank did not offer any reason for the decline of the remittances, but analysts said the government's effort to keep the dollar at lower than actual rates hit the inflows through banking channels.

The government tried to maintain the dollar-rupee parity at Rs220 in the first half of FY23, which proved counterproductive. The USD grossly appreciated in

the open market, and resultant a grey or black market emerged that started offering Rs20 to Rs25 per dollar higher rates, badly hitting remittances, he informed. The business leader said that under pressure from the IMF, the government uncapped the exchange rate on February 26, and the dollar immediately jumped to Rs269.

With fluctuations in subsequent months, the USD reached Rs299 in the inter-bank on May 11 but remained in the range of Rs280-290.

Atif Ikram Sheikh said that during the entire fiscal year FY23, the country remained under the grip of severe political and economic uncertainties, which practically weakened both the economy and the currency.

Shipping Activity at Port Qasim

KARACHI (APP): Shipping activity was observed at the Port where five ships namely, Vancouver, IPSEA Colossus, SC-Hong Kong, Chemroad Quest and Bahri Tulip, carrying Container, Steel Coil, Chemicals, Palm oil and Mogas, berthed at Qasim International Terminal, Multipurpose Terminal, Liquid Terminal and Oil Terminal respectively on Thursday.

Meanwhile three more ships, Jens Ludendorff, Andiamo and Ullswater with Coal and LPG also arrived at outer anchorage of the Port Qasim during last 24 hours PQA berths were engaged by 07 ships during the last 24 hours, out of them two ships, Al-Areesh and Vancouver sailed out to sea on Friday morning (today) on 14 th July, while three more ships, Leon, SC-Hong Kong and IPSEA Colossus are expected to sail on same day afternoon.

Cargo volume of 77,033 tonnes, comprising 73,531 tones imports Cargo and 3,502 tonnes export cargo, including containerized cargo carried in 265 Containers (59 TEUs Imports and 206 TEUs export) was handled at the port during last 24 hours.

There are 5 ships at Outer Anchorage of Port Qasim, out of them two ships, Ullswater and Jens Ludendorff & another ship, APL Florida carrying LPG, Coal and Container are expected to take berths at, Sui Southern Gas Terminal, Bulk Terminal and Container Terminal respectively on 14 th July, while three more ships, Olympia, CMA CGM Figaro and Meratus Jayawijaya are due to arrive at Port Qasim on Saturday.

IMF loan sigh of relief for public: Zahid

KARACHI (INP): Chairman of National Business Group Pakistan, President Pakistan Businessmen and Intellectuals Forum, and All Karachi Industrial Alliance, and former provincial minister Mian Zahid Hussain has said that the approval of the loan by the IMF and the issuance of the first tranche of 1.2 billion dollars has proved a sigh of relief for the public and businessmen.

In a statement issued here on Friday, he said that the decision of the lender will ease the ongoing uncertainty and stop hoarding of dollars which will stabilize the economy, increase the value of the rupee and improve the confidence of investors.

Mian Zahid Hussain said that the hike in prices of petroleum products, electricity and gas as a result of the IMF agreement will increase the cost of doing business, but it is better than bankruptcy, therefore we support it.

Pakistan has to repay loans of about 25 billion dollars every year for the next three years, for which it was very important for Pakistan to get more loans, he added.

The business leader said that after the agreement with IMF, Pakistan will be able to get more cheap loans from other international institutions.

He said that the IMF's main conditions include ending electricity subsidies, keeping debt within serviceable limits, keeping the value of the dollar in line with the market, improve governance, increase revenue, end corruption, reform the energy sector and making country resilient to climate change. Next installment will be possible only after quarterly review of operational progress on these issues.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar chaired a meeting on the establishment of Pakistan Sovereign Wealth Fund, at Finance Division.

Tractor production decrease 46% during FY 23

ISLAMABAD (APP): The production of farm tractors in the country witnessed a decrease of 46.11 percent to 31,726 units during the fiscal year 2022-23, against the production of 58,880 units during the last year 2021-22.

During July-June 2022-23, the production of trucks also witnessed

decreasing trend as it went down from 5,659 units as compared to 3,072 units, showing a decline of 45.71 percent, according to Pakistan Automobile Manufacturing Association (PAMA) revealed. Production of pickups, Light Commercial Vehicle (LCVs) and Jeeps also

dipped by 19.58 percent to 31,333 units during the period under review from 44,421 units during fiscal year 2021-22.

However, the production of buses witnessed an increase of 6.05 percent from 661 units to 701 units during fiscal year 2023, the PAMA added.

Meanwhile, the produc-

tion of passenger cars also declined to 101,984 units against the production of 226,433 units during July-June 2021-22, the data revealed. The manufacturing of motorcycles and three wheelers in the country plunged to 1,188,087 units from 1,826,467, showing decrease of 34.95 percent, it added.

PSX loses 198 points

ISLAMABAD (APP): The 100-index of the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) witnessed bearish trend on Friday, losing 198.98 points, a negative change of 0.44 percent, closing at 45,067.98 points against 45,266.96 points the previous trading day.

A total of 267,514,280 shares were

traded during the day as compared to 489,176,319 shares the previous day, whereas the price of shares stood at Rs 6.783 billion against Rs 14.543 billion on the last trading day.

As many as 323 companies transacted their shares in the stock market; 98 of them recorded gains and

196 sustained losses, whereas the share price of 29 companies remained unchanged. The three top-trading companies were Telecard Limited with 31,107,092 shares at Rs 8.28 per share; WorldCall Telecom with 20,052,363 shares at Rs 1.29 per share.

Chairman FBR holds E-Khuli Kachehri to listen taxpayer's grievances, recommendation

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairman Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) Asim Ahmad here on Friday held E-Khuli Kachehri to directly received telephone calls from taxpayers and listened to their grievances and recommendations.

He was addressing E-Khuli Kachehri held at the board's headquarter under the government vision as part of the FBR drive to facilitate taxpayers, said a news release.

The occasion provides an opportunity to taxpayers to directly communicate with Chairman FBR for resolving their tax-related

issues and promote culture of tax compliance in the country.

The chairman gave on-spot directions to relevant officers to resolve issues of the taxpayers at the earliest.

He also advised the taxpayers to visit their nearest Regional Tax Office and Collectorate of Customs for speedy redressal of their concerns. He appreciated the suggestions given by the taxpayers for further improving the tax-related services for better facilitation. The chairman assured that their valued input would be considered and expressed the resolve

to further improve the services and mechanism of taxation to facilitate all taxpayers and generate more revenue for the betterment of the national economy.

He said that FBR was undertaking various measures and initiatives to promote tax culture across the country and urged upon eligible taxpayers to fulfil their national duty by filing their tax returns in time.

Asim Ahmad has already directed all Field Formations to timely resolve the taxpayers' concerns through improved service delivery.

Chinese Companies keen to set up joint ventures in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Chinese manufacturers companies on Friday visited Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) and showed keen interest to set up joint ventures in Pakistan in various fields. A delegation of Chinese companies led by Gan Meilin, Chairman, Xiandeng Hi-Tech Electric Co. visited Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and

Industry (ICCI) and showed keen interest to set up joint ventures in Pakistan in various fields including machinery manufacturing, electric vehicles, equipment industry, drilling, magnetic wire manufacturing, commercial concrete, equipment installation and department store sales, said a press release issued by ICCI here. The delegation exchanged

views with the business community to explore areas of mutual collaboration and business partnerships. Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) briefed the Chinese delegation about the potential areas of joint ventures and investment in various sectors of Pakistan's economy.

OFFICE OF THE MEDICAL SUPERINTENDENT MOULVI AMEER SHAH MEMORIAL HOSPITAL, PESHAWAR TENDER NOTICE

Sealed bids are required through single state one Envelope bidding procedure from the bidders registered with Income Tax, Sales Tax departments and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Revenue Authority for the supply of following items for the year 2023-24. Complete quotations in all aspects should reach to the office of the Medical Superintendent Moulvi Ameer Shah Memorial Hospital Peshawar, though registered courier before 29-07-2023 at 10:00am, which shall be opened at 10:30am on the same day in the presence of the members of the purchase committee and bidders or their representative in the office of the Medical Superintendent Moulvi Ameer Shah Memorial Hospital Peshawar:

S.NO	NAME OF ITEM	CALL DEPOSIT
1	Local Purchase of Medicines (for Hospital Store)	Rs 80,000/-
2	Local Purchase of Medicines (FOR SEHAT SAHULAT PROGRAME)	Rs 90,000/-

TERMS AND CONDITIONS:

1. Procurement would be carried out through KPRA Rules 2014. 2. Preference will be given to the local firm/supplier (nearest firm/supplier) for Early response. 3. Firms/supplies/companies can obtain the list along with terms and conditions from the office of the Medical Superintendent Moulvi Ameer Shah Memorial Hospital Peshawar during office hours, which will be provided after written request. 4. Firms/Supplier must have a valid Income Tax, Sales Tax Certificate and KPRA Certificate/Registration. 5. The Bidders are requested to give their best and final unit prices as per specifications as mentioned in other terms and condition and no negotiations in the process are allowed and the lowest quoted price based on the specification shall be accepted. 6. The bid must be valid for 30-days after its submission. 7. Bids/quotation having alternate rates shall be rejected. 8. The Competent Authority has the right to accept or reject any or all bids as per KPRA Rules, 2014. 9. Quotations received without specification shall be rejected. 10. Rates should be valid till 30-06-2024. 11. Bid documents must be computerized along with the stamp and signature of the authorized person of the firm and those with hand written, open tag, non-bidding, loose paper and doubtful (misprinting, overwriting and manipulation) will not be accepted. 12. Income Tax must be quoted separately along with the price payment will be released only after the submission of proof of the Income Tax amount by the supplier to the Income Tax Department. 13. Supply must be completed within the stipulated period as specification in the supply orders. 14. The successful bidder shall sign an agreement deed with the Medical Superintendent. 15. Address name of contact person and Phone/Cell Numbers should be clearly mentioned on the envelope. 16. Other terms and conditions are attached with the list of items. 17. Envelopes must be marked Confidential clearly. 18. In case of missing any of the above mentioned and other prescribed terms and condition the bid should be rejected.

INF(P) 1614/23

Medical Superintendent Moulvi Ameer Shah Memorial Hospital, Peshawar 091-92253531

Terms and Condition for Bidding

- The constructors/firms/companies who will receive bidding documents are required to submit their bid in two separate sealed envelopes, i.e., one envelop containing technical information/data and documents of the contractor/firm required for post qualification, clearly marked as "Technical Bid", while the second envelop containing bid price clearly marked as 'Financial Bid'.
- The application must be accompanied with bid security @2% of the NIT amount in shape of CDR/deposit at call from any Scheduled Bank of Pakistan, in favour of Executive Engineer, Central Civil Division-II, Pak.PWD, Peshawar, clearly mentioning the name of firm, whereas the difference of the tendered amount must be accompanied with Financial Bid with its sealed envelop.
- Bidders may purchase the Bidding Documents from the office of Executive Engineer, Central Civil Division-II, Pak. PWD Peshawar at cost of Rs.5,000/- (Non refundable upto 10/08/2023 during office hours.
- Envelopes of Technical Bid & Financial Bid shall be submitted in the office of the Executive Engineer, Central Civil Division-II, Pak. PWD Shami Road Peshawar on 11/08/2023 by 12.30 PM The envelope containing Technical Bid shall be opened on same day at 01.00 P.M in the presence of Bidders representatives who opt to be present, Bids received after the prescribed date and time shall not be accepted.
- Bidders will be Technically Qualified on the basis of information provided with the Bids as per the criteria prescribed in the Bidding Documents. Once a Technical Bid received and opened in this office, no addition/subtraction/alteration of any sort of document will be acceptable.
- Pay Order/Demand draft will not be acceptable.
- All CDR once received will be credit into the Government Account and will be re-funded through Government Cheque.
- No tender will be entertained without bid security @ 2% of the bid amount if not found will be declared as non responsive.
- Every firm/contractor must provide the affidavit on stamp paper regarding the non litigation with the department.
- The documents provided by the bidders will be verified and in case found ambiguous/fake one, the firm will face immediate / appropriate penal action as per rules and law.
- Under Rule 33(1) of PPRA Rules 2004, the under singed reserves the right to accept/reject any or all bids / proposals at any time prior to acceptance of a bid or proposal.

METHOD OF PROCUREMENT

- As per PPRA rule 36(b), open competitive Bidding with "Single Stage Two Envelop" Procedure- One envelop containing Technical Proposal and the other Financial Proposal and both sealed in separate envelopes.
- After conducting evaluation of Technical Bids, qualified firms shall be informed accordingly for opening of their Financial Bids whereas bids of unqualified firms shall be returned unopened.
- non-compliance of Instructions to bidders in the Tender Documents will lead to disqualification/non-responsiveness of the bid/firm.

Abdul Rashid , Executive Engineer

Central Civil Division No.II,

Pakistan Public Works Department Shami Road Peshawar

Phone/Fax: 091-9211471/091-9211471, Email: ccd1pwdpsh@gmail.com

PID(P) 242/23



In brief

Surrey confident on Iftikhar & Haris

BRAHAMPTON (INP): Team Surrey Jaguars, participating in the Global T20 Canada tournament for the first time, has pinned hopes on Pakistani players. Before the tournament, head coach Lal Chand Rajput expressed confidence in his squad and said that we have international players with high skills like Iftikhar Ahmed and Mohammad Haris who will play a significant role in bringing success in the tournament. We have got a very good mixture of seniors and juniors like Alex Hales, Ben Cutting and Litton Das, he added Lal Chand further added that the team has several strong players from the Associate Nations as well as from Canada. "The tournament is a unique opportunity for players from Associate Nations and Canada to rub shoulders with international players and develop their skills. I am sure they will be eager to make their mark on the game and showcase their talent. We have a good mixture of players from Associate Nations including Ayan Khan and Jatinder Singh from Oman, Bernard Scholtz from Netherlands and Sandeep Lamichhane, the leg spinner from Nepal," he remarked. The Surrey Jaguars will begin their campaign against the Montreal Tigers on the 22nd of July at the CAA Centre in Brampton. Surrey Jaguars: Alex Hales, Iftikhar Ahmed, Ben Cutting, Litton Kumar Das, Karim Janat, Mohammad Haris, Sandeep Lamichhane, Ayaan Khan, Jatinder Singh, Bernard Scholtz, Paragat Singh, Dillon Heyliger, Ammar Khalid, Sunny Matharu, Sheel Patel, Kairav Sharma

FIFA ban Al Nassr

LONDON (Agencies): Cristiano Ronaldo's Saudi Arabian club, Al Nassr, are banned from registering new players until they settle a debt with Leicester City, FIFA said on Thursday. Al Nassr were ordered to pay Leicester 460,000 (\$513,000) plus annual interest of 5% in an October 2021 ruling by a FIFA-appointed judge at its players' status committee. Leicester filed the complaint in April 2021 because of unpaid additional clauses due from the 18m (\$20m) sale of Nigeria forward Ahmed Musa in 2018. Al Nassr -- which was taken under majority ownership last month by the \$700 billion sovereign wealth Public Investment Fund -- can still sign new players though not register them to play. "The club Al Nassr is currently prevented from registering new players due to outstanding debts," FIFA said Thursday. "The relevant bans will be lifted immediately upon the settlement of the debts being confirmed by the creditors concerned." Al Nassr's signing of Ronaldo as a free agent in January sparked an unprecedented spree of spending by clubs in the Saudi Pro League, with four now majority-owned by PIF. The fund is chaired by Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed Bin Salman. Al Nassr signed Croatia midfielder Marcelo Brozovic this month from Inter Milan in a transfer reportedly valued at 18m (\$20m). Al Nassr are in Portugal on a pre-season training camp. On Aug. 22, they have a qualifying playoff in the Asian Champions League. Al Nassr will host Shabab Al Ahli of United Arab Emirates or Jordan's Al Wehdat.

Wimbledon 2023: Djokovic beats Sinner in semi-finals

LONDON (Agencies): Novak Djokovic reached the Wimbledon men's singles final for the fifth successive year with a dominant win in the last four over Jannik Sinner.

Second seed Djokovic won 6-3 6-4 7-6 (7-4) against the Italian eighth seed, leaving him one victory away from a record-equalling eighth men's title.

The 36-year-old Serb could also earn a record-equalling 24th major title. Djokovic will play Spanish top seed Carlos Alcaraz or Russian third seed Daniil Medvedev in Sunday's final.

The pair, who contest the second semi-final later on Friday, are bidding to reach their first final at the All England Club. By contrast, Djokovic has reached his ninth Wimbledon showpiece.

It will also be a record 35th Grand Slam final appearance after he surpassed the tally he previously shared with American Chris Evert. Djokovic has not lost a completed match at Wimbledon since 2016 and has not been beaten on Centre Court since 2013.

"In the semi-finals, it was always going to be a very close and very tense match," said Djokovic, who is 14 years older than Sinner. "That was the case and the scoreline doesn't give the reality of what was happening on the court. It was super close."

"Jannik has proven why he is one of the leaders of the next generation and one of the best players in the world. I tried not



Novak Djokovic celebrates winning in the Wimbledon semi-finals.

to look at age as a hindrance or a factor of the outcome. I guess 36 is the new 26."

Experience prevails over youth - again

The contrast between Djokovic and Sinner in terms of experience was laid bare by the statistics before the match - and borne out in reality during it.

Sinner, 21, was playing his first Grand Slam semi-final, while Djokovic was contesting a 46th major semi-final - equalling Roger Federer's all-time men's record.

Djokovic, who turned 36 in May, was bidding to become the third oldest man in the Open era to reach the final. Sinner was aiming to become the youngest since 2007. Knowledge of how to succeed on the biggest occasions in the sport, plus the ability to execute when it matters the most, proved to be the key.

In a lengthy opening game of the match, Sinner demonstrated his firepower with two forehand winners which teed up break points. But he could not take either of them in a six-

minute game and paid the price when Djokovic took his only break point of the set in the second game.

A third break point came Sinner's way at 3-1, but he dragged a poor cross-court forehand wide, allowing Djokovic to survive again after finding his first serve. Sinner, who led Djokovic by two sets before losing in five when they met in last year's quarter-finals, was not playing badly.

But, having not faced a seed in his run to the last four, Djokovic

was a considerable step up in class. It told in the moments of fine margins. Djokovic demonstrated his ability to clinically close out sets, hitting three aces and a service winner from 0-15 down at 5-3 in the opener.

Djokovic had never lost at Wimbledon when he had won the first set, a run spanning 77 matches. Things looked increasingly ominous for Sinner when he handed over a break early in the second set.

A fourth chance to take Djokovic's serve went begging at 2-1 - in a game where the Serb was docked a point for hindrance, judged by British umpire Richard Haigh to have disturbed Sinner with a long grunt, and then warned for taking too long to serve.

After his jaw dropped in disbelief and had words with the official, Djokovic quickly regained focus to hold. The former world number one went on to serve out the second set without facing a further break point and few would have backed Sinner to turn the match around at that point.

The Italian refused to wilt like many expected and instead raised his level to push Djokovic in a tight third set. Djokovic was becoming increasingly tetchy as a result. He had an exchange with a fan after saving two set points at 5-4, sarcastically telling them to stop crying, then smiling in the same direction after securing victory in the tie-break.

Kwiatkowski wins stage 13 as Pogacar cuts lead

GRAND COLOMBIER (Agencies): Michal Kwiatkowski gave British team Ineos Grenadiers their first stage win of this year's Tour de France at the summit finish to stage 13.

The Polish rider, 33, broke away on the gruelling 17.4km climb up the Grand Colombier and stayed clear to claim an unexpected second Tour stage win. Two-time race winner Tadej Pogacar launched a thrilling attack on overall leader Jonas Vingegaard near the line.

That saw the defending champion's lead cut from 17 seconds to nine. Pogacar was expected to attack on Friday's 137.8km route from Chatillon-Sur-Chalaronne - the first of three successive mountain stages set to be crucial in the battle for this year's yellow jersey.

The Slovenian had three UAE Team Emirates teammates with him on the final climb, with Dane Vingegaard right behind. Although they decided against trying to reel in Kwiatkowski, Pogacar made his move 400m from the finish and crossed in third spot to gain four seconds on Vingegaard on the line, plus four bonus seconds. Britain's Tom Pidcock was fifth over the line, with compatriots Simon and Adam Yates crossing in ninth and 10th, respectively, to keep all three in the top eight of the general classification standings.

Pakistan's squad for Hockey Asian Champions Trophy announced

LAHORE (Monitoring Desk): Pakistan Hockey Federation (PHF) selection committee on Friday, unveiled an 18-member squad for the upcoming Asian Hockey Champions Trophy, scheduled to take place from August 3 to 12 in Chennai, India.

According to the details, the 18-member squad with seven stand-by players were finalised after the conclusion of two-day trials and was approved by PHF President Brigadier Khalid Sajjad Khokhar.

Umar Bhutta will continue to lead the national men's hockey team while Abdul Waheed Ashraf will serve as his deputy in the Asian Champions Trophy.

The recently-announced squad includes Akmal

Hussain, Abdullah Ishtiaq Khan, Muhammad Abdullah, Muhammad Sufyan Khan, Ehtisham Aslam, Osama Bashir, Aqeel Ahmed, Arshad Liaquat, Muhammad Imad, Abdul Hanan Shahid, Zakaria Hayat, Rana Abdul Waheed Ashraf (vc), Muhammad Umar Bhatta (c), Roman, Muhammad Murtaza Yaqub, Muhammad Shahzaib Khan, Afraz and Abdul Rahman.

Meanwhile, Ali Raza, Muhammad Baqir, Muhammad Nadeem Khan, Abdul Wahab, Waqar Ali, Muhammad Arsalan and Abdul Qayyum have been included in the stand-by players' list.

Last month, the Asian Hockey Federation (AHF) unveiled the schedule of the upcoming Asian Hockey

Champions Trophy.

As per the statement released by the AHF, the six-team tournament will run from August 3 to 12 in Chennai. The tournament will begin with Korea and Japan playing the first game, while hosts, India will play the third game of the opening day when they take on China.

The six-team tournament will see Korea, Malaysia, Pakistan, Japan, China, and India battle it out for top honours. All the participating teams are placed in one pool and the positions on the points table will be decided by a league system.

Pakistan will start their Asian Hockey Champions Trophy campaign against Malaysia on August 3 before taking on Korea on

August 4, Japan on August 6 and China on August 7.

The green shirts will then lock horns with arch-rivals India in their last round fixture on August 9.

The final of the Asian Hockey Champions Trophy will be held on August 12.

Notably, Pakistan and India are the most successful sides of the tournament, having won the title thrice each while Korea will participate in the upcoming edition as the defending champions, who won the previous edition in 2021.

The training camp of the shortlisted players for the national team to participate in the upcoming edition of the Asian Hockey Champions Trophy was held at National Hockey Stadium, Lahore.

Shahid Afridi believes 'Pakistan can beat any team' in World Cup

KARACHI (Monitoring Desk): Former Pakistan captain and star all-rounder Shahid Afridi expressed his confidence in the current national team's ability to beat any team in the upcoming ICC Men's World Cup 2023 in India.

Shahid Afridi, while speaking to the media after the MoU signing ceremony of Sindh Premier League (SPL)'s franchise Benazirabad Lals, praised the Babar Azam-led side's current form and claimed that they can beat any team.

"Pakistan team is in good form. They are strong in every department and they have the ability to beat any team," said Afridi.

Meanwhile, Pakistan players have a rigorous task of dealing with a

packed before heading into the World Cup.

The national team are currently in Sri Lanka for a two-match series and will return home for the initial fixtures of the Asia Cup at home before travelling back to the Island for the continental event. Consequently, Shahid Afridi thinks it will be crucial for the players to retain their fitness for the World Cup.

"They have to play continuous cricket for which they'll have to maintain their fitness. There will be a lot of cricket with Test series, Asia Cup and World Cup," said Afridi. Shahid Afridi further called for the need of preparing two teams in a bid to get back up if the national team loses

the services of any first-choice player due to injury.

"If the main bowlers are not in the team, who will be their backup? Therefore, I've been saying for a long period of time that we should focus on building two teams," Afridi said.

"Our bench strength should be strong. Pakistan team should run even without Babar and Shaheen," he reiterated. It is pertinent to mention that Shahid Afridi will participate in the inaugural edition of the Sindh Premier League, scheduled to commence on September 19.

The star all-rounder will lead Benazirabad Lals while another veteran Shoaib Malik will lead Hyderabad Bahadurs.

Pakistan stun Iran in Asian Int'l CAVA Men Volleyball C'ship

PESHAWAR (APP): Spirited Pakistan stunned a strong Iran team in the Asian International CAVA Championship, which is underway in the capital city of Uzbekistan on Friday.

According to details available here, the Pakistan team played with an excellent performance by stunning strong Iran team by 3-2 in a thrill-packed encounter that lasted for almost two hours, the score was 20-25, 29-27, 19-25, 25-17 and 15-13.

Pakistan failed to click in the first set won by the Iran team at 20-25 wherein the set was tied at 5-5, 7-7,

11-11, 12-12, 13-13, 14-14, 18-18, 19-19, 20-20 and Iran got the set by 20-25.

After facing a tough fight, the Pakistan team staged a strong comeback and stamped their superiority in all departments.

Team smashers played well along with excellent blocking and did not give much time to the Iranian main smashers to strike back at the net.

Iran failed to click in the second set in which both the teams stretched to 29-27. The set was tied right in the start at 8-8, 9-9, 10-10, 11-11, 12-12, 14-14, 17-17, 20-20, 21-21, 22-22, 23-23,

24-24, 25-25, 26-26, 27-27.

Both have point-to-point struggles in the set. Pakistan after levelling the tally 1-1, failed to click in the third set won by the Iran team at 19-25 and after that Pakistan again succeeded in levelling the tally 2-2 when winning the fourth set and thus marched into victory after winning the decisive set by 15-13.

It is worth mentioning here that the Pakistan U16 Volleyball team is in Uzbekistan for the Asian U16 Volleyball Championship and CAVA International Volleyball Tournament being played

in the capital city of Tashkent, Uzbekistan.

Surprisingly, the selection committee headed by the Chairman Pakistan Volleyball Federation and former Inspector General of Police Ch. Muhammad Yaqoob, out of 12 members of the Pakistan U16 team, 11 players including team coach Liaq Zaman, hailing from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

The team comprises Ajmal Khan, Muhtad, Awais Khan, Asad Khan, Anas, Hassan, Ismail Khan, Yahya Khan, Amin Jan, Talal, Farooq and Khizar and Coach Liaq Zaman.

14th National Men, Women Ju-Jitsu C'ship begins at Abbottabad

PESHAWAR (APP): The 14th edition of the National Men and Women Ju-Jitsu Championship got under way at Post Graduate College Abbottabad for Boys No. 1 here Friday in which male and female teams from all over the country are taking part.

An additional Commissioner Hazara Arshad Khan formally inaugurated the Championship in an indoor hall of the College. Regional sports Officer Ahmad Zaman, Chairman Pakistan Ju-Jitsu Federation Khalil Ahmad Khan, Secretary Tariq Ali, District Sports Officers Aqib (Haripur), Muhammad Bashir (Abbottabad), Organizing Secretary Tehseen Ullah Khan, Ex-Director Sports Tariq Mehmood and a large number of players and spectators were also present on the occasion.

The Men and Women teams from Pakistan Army,

Pakistan Navy, Pakistan Wapda, Pakistan Police, Punjab, Sindh, Balochistan, Islamabad, Gilgit-Baltistan, Azad Jammu and Kashmir and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa are taking part in different weight categories of the Teams and Individual Weights events.

The Championship will continue for three days. President Pakistan Ju-Jitsu Federation Khalil said that Pakistan is good seeding in the Asia and most of the players that are part of the Championship are either Asian gold, silver and bronze medalists or South Asian Champion. He said Pakistan is among the top two countries of the world. He said Pakistani Men and Women players are ranked two in the World which is great achievements on the part of the game of Ju-Jitsu, a Japanese Martial Art. He said Ju-Jitsu is actually the major game through the game like Judo, Karate

came in. He said Ju-Jitsu has techniques of all other Martial Arts currently being played in the World.

Secretary Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Ju-Jitsu Association Tahseenullah Khan in his welcome address, thanked the district administration Abbottabad, Directorate General Sports Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Regional Sports Officer for sponsoring the Championship.

He said the Championship is being played under the aegis of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Ju-Jitsu Association, Abbottabad District Ju-Jitsu Association and with the collaboration of Pakistan Ju-Jitsu Federation.

He said, in the 14th edition of the National Championship, Punjab, Sindh, Teams from Balochistan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Departmental teams are taking part for which all arrange-

ments have been made well before the commencement of the Championship.

He said all arrangements have been made for the players to accommodate them accordingly and for this purpose, he said, accommodation has been made in the hotels for the teams coming from all the other provinces including Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. He also thanked the Principal of the Post Graduate College Abbottabad No. 1 Mumtaz Ali for extending all out support to the players during the Championship.

Tehseen Ullah thanked two times gold medals Karate player and coach Khalid Noor and internationally qualified karate coach Shah Faisal for extending all out support to him for the smooth conduct of the Championship along with all the Technical Officials who came and supervised the Championship.



GRAND COLOMBIER: Michal Kwiatkowski of Poland and Team INEOS Grenadiers celebrates at finish line as stage winner during the stage thirteen of the 110th Tour de France 2023 a 137.8km stage.

Dahani's five-fer leads Shaheens to four-wicket win

COLOMBO (Monitoring Desk): Shah Nawaz Dahani's five-wicket haul led defending champions Pakistan Shaheens to a four-wicket win over Nepal in their first match of the ACC Men's Emerging Teams Asia Cup 2023 at the Colombo Cricket Ground in Sri Lanka on Friday.

After opting to bat first, Nepal were bundled out for 179 in 37 overs. Right-arm pacers Dahani and Mohammad Wasim Jnr headlined the stellar bowling display as they scalped nine of the 10 wickets to fall. Dahani took five wickets for 38 from 10 overs, while Wasim managed four wickets 51 in his

allotted 10 overs.

Earlier, the losing team were reeling at 72 for eight in 15.4 overs before Sompal Kami and Pratis GC (26, 24b, 1x4, 2x6s) got together and added 58 runs for the ninth wicket. After the departure of Pratis, Kami knitted a 49-run partnership for the 10th wicket. Kami was the last batter to return back to the hut after scoring 75 off 101, which included nine fours and two sixes.

Chasing 180 to win, Tayyab Tahir's 51 off 67 balls which included six fours led Shaheens to victory inside 33 overs. Omair Bin Yousuf (36, 40b, 4x4s) and Kamran Ghulam (31, 26b, 1x4,

2x6s) were other contributors with the bat.

Shaheens will now face UAE A on 17 July at the P Saravanamuttu Stadium in Colombo.

Scores in brief: Pakistan Shaheens beat Nepal by four wickets.

Nepal 179 all out, 37 overs (Sompal Kami 75, Pratis GC 26; Shah Nawaz Dahani 5-38, Mohammad Wasim Jnr 4-51).

Pakistan Shaheens 181-6, 32.5 overs (Tayyab Tahir 51, Omair Bin Yousuf 36, Kamran Ghulam 31; Lalit Narayan Rajbanshi 3-50).

Player of the match - Shah Nawaz Dahani (Pakistan Shaheens).



In brief

IRSA releases 269,400 cusecs water

ISLAMABAD (APP): Indus River System Authority (IRSA) on Friday released 269,400 cusecs water from various rim stations with inflow of 312,200 cusecs. According to the data released by IRSA, water level in River Indus at Tarbela Dam was 1517.02 feet and was 119.02 feet higher than its dead level of 1,398 feet. Water inflow and outflow in the dam was recorded as 143,300 cusecs and 150,000 cusecs respectively. The water level in River Jhelum at Mangla Dam was 1201.60 feet, which was 151.60 feet higher than its dead level of 1,050 feet. The inflow and outflow of water was recorded 59,500 cusecs and 10,000 cusecs respectively. The release of water at Kalabagh, Taunsa, Guddu and Sukkur was recorded as 170,700, 191,800, 157,300 and 87,800 cusecs respectively. Similarly, from River Kabul, a total of 37,200 cusecs of water released at Nowshera and 44,100 cusecs released from River Chenab at Marala.

ANF recovers over 24 kg drugs

RAWALPINDI (APP): Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) while conducting four operations across the country managed to recover over 24 kg drugs and arrested five accused, said an ANF spokesman here on Friday. He informed that in an operation on M-1 Motorway Toll Plaza Islamabad, five kg hashish was recovered from the possession of two accused, residents of Bhakkar and Mianwali, traveling in public transport. In another operation near Kamalpur Interchange Faisalabad, 3.6 kg hashish was recovered from the possession of an accused resident of Faisalabad was also arrested during the operation. The spokesman said that in fourth operation, 3.3 kg hashish was recovered from the possession of a motorcyclist, resident of Mianwali arrested near Jhambra Bridge Mianwali. Separate cases have been registered against the accused while further investigations are under process.

STO to ensure merit, transparency

RAWALPINDI (APP): Senior Traffic Officer (STO) City, Traffic Police, Rawalpindi Munir Ahmed Hashmi here on Friday visited CTP Headquarters Licensing Branch and directed the officers concerned to ensure merit and transparency. According to a spokesman, the CTP are issuing computerized driving licenses under a transparent procedure. He informed that the citizens appreciated solid steps taken by CTP on the directives of Inspector General of Police, Punjab and Deputy Inspector General, Traffic Punjab to facilitate them. The STO during the visit also inspected sign and driving test system. He instructed the authorities to further improve facilitation at the licensing hall of CTP Headquarters. Munir Ahmed Hashmi said that CTP under the supervision of City Traffic Officer, Rawalpindi Tamoor Khan were working round the clock to provide licensing services to the citizens. He informed that the driving licensing services were being monitored through CCTV cameras and vigilance team to ensure merit and transparency. He said that the CTP Licensing Branch was providing all services under one roof at One Window Operation of CTP headquarters.



ISLAMABAD: Speaker NA Raja Pervez Ashraf in a meeting with Ambassador of Türkiye Dr. Mehmet Pacaci on the Margin of Event organized in connection with 7th Anniversary of National Unity and Democracy Day.

Sheikh Rashid calls upcoming elections decisive for politicians

RAWALPINDI (NNI): Awami Muslim League (AML) chief Sheikh Rashid Ahmed says the upcoming elections will be decisive for politicians, saying the ruling coalition will face a political crisis. Taking to Twitter, the former interior minister said the government secured the loan deal with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) when the tenure of the "guest actors" was nearing its end. He said the ruling partners wasted a whole year while claiming to have a "Plan B and Plan C", but in reality, they had no viable plan at all. He said Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) had granted a generous sum of \$3 billion at the nod of

someone else as no one was ready to trust them. "Whenever they visit any country, people label them beggars," Rashid said. Lashing out at Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, the AML chief said the premier spent his day delivering speeches and having photo-ops. The sole achievement of Shehbaz Sharif's 15-month government was the first installment of a \$1 billion loan from the IMF, he quipped.

The world and the IMF respected the voice of the people, he said, adding that the design for disbursement of the loan in three installments was made in a way that ensures elections in the country.

He said the power tariff

would go up after the loan deal, adding that the withdrawal of subsidies would put additional burden on the masses. Lamenting high inflation, decline in remittances and exports, he said overseas Pakistanis were dissatisfied with the government. He said PPP co-chairman Asif Ali Zardari had kept mum and Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari's US trip was not coming to an end. He said PDM chief Fazlur Rahman was also fed up with the partners. He also slammed the ruling partners for their claims that they put their politics at stake for the state, saying: "They have saved themselves from corruption and money-laundering cases".

HEC asks students, parents to check recognition of institution before taking admission

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Higher Education Commission (HEC) has urged students to ensure the accreditation of professional degree programmes and the recognition of admitting university/sub-campus from HEC before taking admission.

According to HEC, the professional degree programmes include Engineering, Medicine & Dentistry, Veterinary

Education, Nursing, Architecture and Town Planning, Pharmacy, Law, Homoeopathy, Tibb, Agriculture, Business, Computing, Teacher Education, and Technology. The programmes required accreditation from the respective professional councils, it said.

To verify the accreditation status of your desired programme, HEC asked students to reach out to the

concerned professional councils' website hec.gov.pk/site/accredita.

The commission further added that for professional and non-professional programmes, it was equally essential to ensure that the admitting university or sub-campus was recognised by the HEC. The HEC also asked the students to check the recognition status, visit: hec.gov.pk/site/HEIs.

‘World Youth Skills Day’ to be marked today

ISLAMABAD (APP): 'World Youth Skills Day' will be marked on July 15 (Saturday) across the globe including Pakistan.

The purpose of celebrating the day is to encourage youth to celebrate the value of acquiring skills like building, making, and creating to achieve personal success and fulfillment.

"By empowering young people, they can better advance the broader mission of the United Nations (UN) for lasting peace, sustainable development, and human rights for all," according to UN Secretary-General António Guterres.

A UN resolution to estab-

lish a World Youth Skills Day was adopted by the General Assembly on December 18, 2014. "On the UN's website, they stated, "Education and training are the keys to success in the workforce. However, unfortunately, existing systems are failing to address the learning needs of many young people," he added.

"A large number of youth have low levels of achievement in basic literacy and numeracy," according to surveys. Skills and jobs for youth feature prominently in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Both the resolution and the United Nations

Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) quote an International Labour Organization (ILO) publication which stated that 73.4 million young people were estimated to be unemployed in 2015, which equated to a 13.1% youth unemployment rate. The figure was expected to increase in most regions by 2017.

UNESCO stated, "One reason for youth unemployment, which affects all regions around the world, is a mismatch between the skills, workers can offer and the skills that are in demand. This is known as structural unemployment."

FIA arrests nine for blackmailing citizens

ISLAMABAD (NNI): The Federal Investigation Agency has arrested nine suspects and booked another 19 in connections with alleged blackmailing of citizens through loan-giving mobile phone applications.

The arrests followed after the FIA launched an investigation into the death of a man in Rawalpindi, who apparently committed suicide after getting "threats" from loan apps company over his inability to repay the ever-increasing interest on his debts. On Thursday, a team of FIA's Cybercrime Wing raided two offices of the loan app in G-8 sector of Islamabad, sealed the offices and confiscated laptops and other material. In a statement issued on Friday, an FIA spokesperson said the cybercrime cell, along with the financial services.

‘PML-N to win election on performance basis’: Rana Tanveer

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Education and Professional Training Rana Tanveer Hussain Friday expressed confidence that his party would win the general elections on the basis of its commendable performance.

"PML-N takes practical steps taken for the welfare of the countrymen and rules the hearts of the public." "PML-N do politics for public service and the development of the nation," he said while talking to a Private news channel. He said, "Baseless allegations of opponents have no value before the politics of public service."

The minister said, "Those doing politics of allegations, lies, and dual standards are not the well-wishers of the country."

"Selfless service to the public is the mission of his leadership and we will continue discharging the duty of the public service till our last breath," he added.

Replying to a question, he said that Pakistan was on the verge of bankruptcy when the Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) coalition government took over the country through a no-confidence move against Imran Khan.

"Coalition-led government cleaned up the mess of four years," he said.

"The confidence of investors is slowly being restored", he added.

To another query, he said, "I personally don't like the interim government set up and denied the seat adjustment agreement between any other political party yet now."

Rain lashes capital city

ISLAMABAD (APP): Rain of moderate to high intensity lashing different parts of the federal capital, like other cities, on Friday's evening turned the weather pleasant and provided the much needed respite to the heat-stricken people.

The rain-wind/thundershower started in the capital around 5:00 pm after the day long intense hot and humid weather and broke the intensity of hot weather conditions. The residents of capital city especially youngsters were seen out of their houses and balconies enjoying the rainy evening.

The rain occurred due to the continuous penetration of monsoon currents from the Arabian Sea in upper and central parts of the country which is likely to continue in coming days. While a westerly wave also entered the upper parts of the country on Friday night. According to the Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD), rain-wind/thundershower is

expected in Kashmir, Potohar region, Islamabad, upper Punjab and upper Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

Heavy Falls are also likely at isolated places in Potohar region, Kashmir and upper Khyber Pakhtunkhwa during the forecast period. Hot and humid weather is likely elsewhere in the country. During the last 24 hours, the weather remained hot and humid in most parts of the country.

However, rain-wind/thundershower occurred at isolated places in central/south Punjab.

The rainfall recorded during the period was Punjab: Faisalabad, Bahawalpur (Airport) 29mm, Dera Ghazi Khan 06 and Sahiwal 01mm.

The highest maximum temperatures recorded were Dadu, Dalbandin and Nokkundi 45 C. According to the advisory issued by the PMD about the ongoing monsoon rain spell, rain/wind-thundershower with few heavy falls is

expected in Kashmir, (Neelum valley, Muzaffarabad, Poonch, Hattian, Bagh, Haveli, Sudhanoti, Kotli, Bhimber, Mirpur), Murree, Galliat, Islamabad, Rawalpindi, Attock, Chakwal, Jhelum, Mandi Bahauddin, Sialkot, Narowal, Lahore, Gujranwala, Gujrat, Kasur and Okara during the next two days (till July 17) with occasional gaps.

Rain/wind-thundershower with few heavy falls is expected in Gilgit Baltistan (Diamir, Astore, Ghizer, Skardu, Hunza, Gilgit, Ghanche, Shigar), Chitral, Dir, Swat, Shangla, Buner, Mansehra, Kohistan, Abbottabad, Haripur, Peshawar, Mardan, Swabi, Nowshera, Kurram, Lakki Marwat, Kohat, Dera Ismail Khan, Bannu, Karak, Waziristan, Mianwali, Khushab, Sargodha, Hafizabad, Sheikhpura, Faisalabad, Jhang and Toba Tek Singh during the next two days (till July 17).

Rekindling a bygone custom for healthy, cheaper living

ISLAMABAD (APP): At a time when health standards are falling due to sedentary lifestyle a man in his mid 70s is promoting a fun way to get fit through cycling - an active way of commuting. Zaheerudin Khawaja, who celebrated his 74th birthday last Sunday along with dozens of his admirers, strongly believes cycling still an appreciable mode of exercise to keep oneself healthy.

"Unfortunately, we have turned into a vehicles-dependent society. There's a fairly large number of single occupancy vehicles, plying on our city arteries adding to carbon footprint and polluting our environment," the cycling freak said.

"I have a strong conviction that cycling makes people healthy both physically and mentally being also necessary for emancipation," said Khawaja, surrounded by dozens of cyclist belonging to Early Bird Riders (EBR) - a club founded by him to promote cycling.

The Islamabad-based "old young man" (a title the age-defying Khawaja uses for himself), has registered hundreds of men and women with the EBR club that also holds volunteer bicycle rodeos in the Capital and other parts of the country to promote clean environment. It uses social media platforms to announce cycling event, mostly taking place on weekends. "I believe women can be socially more responsive if they switch to cycling. The power of two wheels will ultimately help in achieving women empowerment," added Khawaja, who has so far taught peddling to around 200 'sheroes' - a word he has coined for women cyclists of EBR and kids aging between 8-12 years. Khawaja noted that in the West, efforts were being made to fit

cycling in people's daily routine by motivating them to peddle out to the parks, markets, schools or work. But in Pakistan it is largely considered as a conveyance of gardeners, vendors and poor class.

"This is pathetic. These are social taboos indeed, which need to be done away with. I believe we should convince people to give up cars for short trips and opt for cycling instead. It will be a good omen for our health and planet's environment," he said referring to global warming.

"The changes are already evident. Today the earth is warmer than a century ago and besides other factors, transport is a major contributor. I believe by using non-motorised vehicles we can reduce carbon emissions as well as save money," he added.

Also keeping an eye on fuel prices, Khawaja says given the current fuel prices, if anyone drives his vehicle from five to seven kilometers, it may cost around Rs 300 to Rs 400 depending on the type of vehicle one is driving. "Cycling is a very cost-efficient mode of transport for short journeys. Imagine how much we can save every month if we switch short drives to a bicycle," he said.

If any proper research is conducted to tally economic benefits of cycling in our country, we will come to know how much money could be saved by promoting this single habit.

"We can reap its benefits individually and as a nation once we shift to this active mode of commuting at least for short trips," he stated. "By saying this I do not mean for people to totally replace their cars with bicycles. I am not asking them to out rightly ditch their cars for every journey. I want them to make small changes by incorporating cycling in

their daily lives." Health experts and researchers all over the world continue to link cycling with improved fitness and lower risks of certain conditions. The World Health Organization (WHO) recommends that adults perform at least 150 minutes of moderate aerobic physical activity, such as cycling, every week.

"When you are in doubt peddle it out," Khawaja said emphasizing to turn to cycling when they start experiencing some health problems.

"As you grow older, especially when you reach the middle age several health issues - such as heart disease, obesity, diabetes, hypertension, depression and anxiety begin to crop up. But cycling on regular basis can stave off these health hazards," he added. Khawaja urged a proper infrastructure to make people feel comfortable and confident that they would be safer while driving on roads even during rushes.

Obviously, Pakistan will have to go a long way to match the European countries such as Denmark, the Netherlands, UK and Germany but lessons can be learnt from them as how to improve the safety, comfort of cycling and convenience.

Better traffic management and separate tracks should be designated for cycling to ensure that those desiring to opt for this mode of communication reach their destinations safely.

Then there is also a challenge of changing our mindset as we always show off air of magnificence due to classes division, seeing anybody riding a cycle with scorn. Therefore, it is direly needed that the elected representatives, affluent, top ranking government officials, academia and jurists must come forward to revive this culture.



ISLAMABAD: Dr. Ramesh Kumar Yankwani Chairman/Minister of State Prime Minister's Task Force and Gandhara Tourism important press conference at Sir Syed Building 19 Atta Turk Avenue, G5.

56 ASIs promoted

ISLAMABAD (APP): A total of 56 Assistant Sub-Inspectors (ASIs) of the Islamabad police have been promoted to the next rank following the recommendations of the Departmental Promotion Committee (DPC) of the force.

On recommendations of DPC, notification for promotion of Assistant Sub-Inspector for the post of Inspectors has been issued.

Islamabad Capital City Police Officer (ICCPPO) Dr Akbar Nasir Khan said, "Welfare of the police force is among the top priorities and each member of the force is a hero for him as he serves the people despite various odds."

Earlier, ICCPO had ordered the Capital Police Officer (Headquarters), the chairman of the Departmental Promotion Committee to call the meeting and fill vacant posts of different ranks as soon as possible. Following the orders, DPCs were

held in which the members of the committee checked the record of the officials thoroughly and recommended 56 Assistant Sub-Inspectors for promotion to their next ranks. ICCPO felicitated the newly promoted officers on the Sub-Inspector ranks and said, "The responsibilities of promoted officers have increased and they have to work with more dedication to accomplish their task." He hoped for better output in the future and urged them to work hard for the protection of the lives and property of citizens. Eight ASIs could not be promoted due to not passing the departmental examination and their cases would be re-evaluated in the departmental examination next month, ICCPO added.

Dr Akbar Nasir Khan said that he along with his team was making efforts to improve law and order in the city and ensure the protection of the lives and property of the citizens.

Construction projects

KABUL (Agencies): The Ministry of Urban Development and Housing (MUDH) says all domestic and foreign investors can invest in Afghanistan's construction projects that are being introduced by this ministry. In a meeting with the official of MUDH, a number of Afghan investors said that they will start investing in projects related to the ministry. Kamal Afghan, a spokesperson for MUDH, has asked all domestic and foreign investors to come and invest in the construction projects of the ministry.

Khaf-Herat railway expands

KABUL (Agencies): A brand new section of the Khaf-Herat railway project has been inaugurated, connecting Khaf in northeastern Iran to Rozanak in Herat. An official ceremony to mark the opening of this strategic railway section, attended by officials from both Iran and Afghanistan. This recently launched railway segment is part of the 222-kilometer-long Khaf-Herat railway project, which commenced in the fiscal year of 2007-2008, with the aim of connecting Iran's Khaf to Afghanistan's Ghorian.

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

US State Dept official: 'I don't think that Afghanistan is a threat'



KABUL (TOLONews): The Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary and Deputy Assistant Secretary for Pakistan Bureau of South and Central Asian Affairs of the US Department of State, Elizabeth Horst, said she believes that al-Qaeda cannot pose a threat to the United States from Afghanistan.

She appeared for a congressional hearing, during which she was also asked about recent remarks of the

US President Joe Biden about al-Qaeda in Afghanistan.

"I am stating that I don't think that Afghanistan is a threat—al-Qaeda can pose a threat to the United States from Afghanistan, and when it does as we saw an example from al-Zawahiri, we are willing to go in and unilaterally take care of that threat," she said.

This comes as political analysts said that the interim government

should engage with the international community, particularly the US, to create a trust-building environment.

"Trust building is very important in this regard. The Taliban should engage in trust building with the world, particularly the US," said Asadullah Nadim, a political analyst.

"Inside the country there should be tremendous steps to counter the terrorism and there should be practical

and beneficial steps," said Wahid Faqiri, international relations analyst.

Earlier, Biden in response to a question about "mistakes in Afghanistan withdrawal," said: "Remember what I said about Afghanistan? I said al-Qaida would not be there. I said it wouldn't be there. I said we'd get help from the Taliban. What's happening now? What's going on? Read your press. I was right."

Return of Afghan refugees from Pakistan has increased: officials

KABUL (Agencies): Local officials in Spin Boldak port of Kandahar province say that dozens of Afghan families return from Pakistan to their country through the port every day. Officials say that they provide temporary accommodation, basic materials and other facilities for the refugees who return to the country. According to them, the return of refugees from Pakistan through the port of Spin Boldak has increased.

"Every day, 30 to 50 refugee families return to their country from Pakistan. About 1,500 families return to their country in one month and about 9,000 families in six months," said Naqibullah, a member of the center for Afghan returnees in Spin Boldak of Kandahar.

Returnees claim that they left Pakistan due to unemployment and harassment by police.

"We are happy that security prevails and the



war has ended. In Pakistan, there is harassment, there is inflation, there is unemployment. The prisons are full of Afghans," Faiz Mohammad, a returnee, said. "There were many problems there.

Commodity prices were high. We did not have a good time there. That's why we decided to return to our country," Abdul Samad, another returnee, said.

Officials of the Ministry

of Refugees and Returnees said that they have talked with international organizations to help refugees who have returned to the country, and that efforts are underway to provide facilities to returnees.

Nehad Radio, Paikan TV stop operations in Balkh due to economic issues

BALKH (Agencies): A radio station and a TV channel, both in Balkh province, have stopped broadcasting due to economic challenges and existing restrictions on media in the province, the officials of the two media outlets said. Nehad radio station has operated for 16 years and Paikan TV channel operated for around 5 years.

With the closing of these media outlets, officials said that at least 25 people have become jobless. "Lack of beneficial support by the media-supporting organizations caused 25 (media workers), including 18 men

and 7 women, to become jobless, they were working in these two media outlets," said Sayed Mohammad Yazdan, director of Nehad station.

The director of Paikan TV Channel, Fardin Abdi, also criticized lack of support by the media-supporting organizations.

"Throughout this period, unfortunately, there has been no serious support by the media-defending organizations or other organizations. We have asked for help many times but we have not received the response which we expected," he said.

This comes as the Afghanistan's Journalist

Safety Committee for the northern zone said that they were unable to address the economic challenges of these two media outlets.

"We have made efforts, but unfortunately we have not been able to address the economic challenges of these two media outlets and they were thus closed," said Abdul Latif Sahak, head of the Afghanistan Journalist Safety Committee.

However, the head of the department of Information and Culture of Balkh, Ata Mohammad Saho, said that they have not imposed "any restriction on the operation of

media." "Many media organizations have halted their operations due to economic challenges. The department of Information and Culture has not imposed any restriction in this regard, and we have always attempted to bring facilities for the media and help them with their broadcasts," he said.

On May 3, on World Press Freedom Day, some media-supporting organizations said that more than 300 media outlets have shut down in Afghanistan in the past two years and that over 5,000 journalists have lost their jobs.

Minister vows Afghanistan will soon reach self-sufficiency in Agriculture

KABUL (TOLONews): The Minister of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock, Ataullah Omari, said that Afghanistan will soon reach self-sufficiency in agriculture, arguing that the country should change from an "import-reliant country to an export country." He made the remarks in an interview with TOLONews.

"Over the past one-and-a-half or two years, we have had good progress in this regard, and we hope to provide Afghanistan's food material inside Afghanistan and become a country that exports instead of one that relies on imports," he said.

Omari said that efforts are underway to manage underground water and other water sources to prevent the shortage of water in the country.

"It is the responsibility of the Islamic Emirate and



minister of agriculture, irrigation and livestock to make preparation for this and manage the water and underground water," he said. The minister told

TOLONews that they had prevented the outbreak of locusts to the agriculture lands in the country.

"The Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and

Livestock and have our preparation in advance in this regard to implement it annually in the provinces where the locusts spread," he said. spread," he said.

Exports to Pakistan reached \$201m in first quarter: Ministry



KABUL (TOLONews): The Ministry of Industry and Commerce said that exports from Afghanistan to Pakistan were worth \$201 million in the first three months of the ongoing solar year.

The spokesman for the MoIC, Akhundzada Abdul Salam, said that fresh fruits, carpets, cotton and coal are the main exported products to the neighboring country.

"The majority of products exported to Pakistan were coal, cotton, beans, stones, carpets and fresh

fruits. Our imports from Pakistan were rice, cement and clothes," he said.

In the meantime, the Afghanistan-Pakistan Joint Chamber of Commerce voiced concern about the reduction of imports from Pakistan.

The head of the Afghanistan-Pakistan Joint Chamber of Commerce, Naqibullah Safi, called banking challenges, transport and problems in issuance of visas as well as financial crisis as the main

reason for the drop in imports from Pakistan.

"There are some reasons which had positive and negative impacts on the trade exchanges. The trade rate between the two countries currently is on a balance," he said.

This comes as some traders expressed concerns about the challenges in custom offices.

"There is a need for bilateral agreement between Afghanistan and Pakistan so we can have

easy access to customs affairs," said Omid Haidari, a trader.

"The car tariffs should be completed on time on both sides of the borders between Afghanistan and Pakistan. The custom offices should be active 24 hours," said Ajmal Safi, a trader.

Based on the statistics of the MoIC, products worth \$150 million have been exported to other regional countries in the first quarter of the year.

Female students reiterate call to reopen schools for girls beyond grade 6

KABUL (Agencies): After 660 days since the closure of schools for girls from grade 7 to 12, female students reiterated their request for the Islamic Emirate to reopen their schools. The students said that they are facing an uncertain future.

"We are sad that the schools will be reopened. When we don't go to school we remain backward," said Zahra, a student. "We should together, men and women, improve and take Afghanistan to a position, so that everyone can see us as capable," said Fareshta, a student.

The Islamic Emirate's policies of restricting women from public life, including from education and work, have sparked reactions at international levels. "If this process continues it will cause Afghanistan to go backward and towards less



development and a period like the middle ages will come into effect," said Almatav Rasuli, a women's rights activist.

Speaking to CNN, Malala Yousfzai, a female education activist and Nobel Peace Prize winner,

said that Afghanistan will not have a future if women are kept away from their work and are limited to their houses.

"It has been up to two years now—this year—that girl's education has been banned, women cannot go

to universities anymore, women are banned from work as well. It is just the fundamental right of education is taken away and they are adding more to it like including the salons and other things as well," she said.

Number of malnourished children on rise: Doctors

KABUL (Agencies): Doctors in the Indira Gandhi Children's Hospital in Kabul said that the number of children affected by malnutrition has recently increased in this hospital.

According to the doctors, within the past two weeks, 45 malnourished children have been admitted to the hospital.

"The patients who are

having health issues, we are hospitalizing them. The patients who are not having health issues but are just malnourished, we don't hospitalize them. We give them necessary materials and send them to the clinics until they become well," said Mohammad Sherzad, a doctor. According to official figures, 59 children in Hamal (March 22 2023 to

April 22), 94 children in Saur (April 23 to May 23), 84 children in Jawza (May 24 to June), and 45 malnourished children in the current month have been hospitalized in Indira Gandhi Children's Hospital. The families of these children voiced concerns that they cannot feed their children properly due to poverty and unemployment. Ekram Ullah, who is suffering from malnutrition, has been hospitalized in Indira Gandhi Children's Hospital.

Ekramullah's mother said that due to economic challenges and lack of food, her child is malnourished. "I don't have money. How can I provide him/her with good food," said Gul Sang, the mother of the child. "I don't have money to take care of (him/her). They need good food and

other care. I don't have the capacity to provide (him/her) with something. Anything which is cheap, I buy it for them because poverty is rising," said Shaziya, mother of a child.

Meanwhile, UNICEF tweeted that in the first 5 months of this year, they treated nearly 300,000 children suffering from severe acute malnutrition.

"In the first 5 months of this year, UNICEF supported treatment for 273,000 children with severe acute malnutrition, and around 60,000 in May alone," UNICEF Afghanistan said on Twitter. The Ministry of Public Health declined to comment on the issue but earlier it said that nearly three million people in Afghanistan were suffering from malnutrition in 2022.



PML-N to field candidates from all constituencies of Punjab: Sanaullah

F.P. Report

LAHORE: Interior Minister and Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) Punjab President Rana Sanaullah has said that the party is going to launch its election activities from Friday (today) and it will field its candidates in each constituency of Punjab.

Addressing a press conference at the party secretariat in Model Town, he said the PML-N had strong organisation at division, district and union council level in the Punjab province. He said the party meeting was called to discuss the agenda of effective participation in the upcoming general election, fielding of PML-N candidates in all Punjab and National Assembly constituencies. There are a total of 297 Punjab Assembly and 141 NA constituencies in the province where the PML-N would field its candidates, he added.

The minister said that the PML-N was the creator party of Pakistan, which had covered a long journey, from creation of the country to stabilising it on strong footing. Rana Sanaullah said that PML-N supremo Nawaz Sharif, by conducting the nuclear tests on May 28, 1998, had fulfilled the dream of Pakistan's stability, asserting that the party had always steered the country out of crises. In 1999, after the country became a nuclear power, the whole world created problems for Pakistan by imposing sanctions on it; then it was only Nawaz Sharif who steered the country out of those crises, he added.

The minister said that if October 12, 1999 adventure [Musharraf martial law] had not happened, today Pakistan would have been a developed country and there would have been no unemployed people in the country, saying that when Pakistan

was going to become an Asian tiger, the country was pushed into crisis under a conspiracy by punishing the PML-N and Nawaz Sharif.

The minister said that the PML-N government had overcome various challenges, faced by the country including terrorism and power outage just in four years, but then again Nawaz Sharif was punished for steering the country out of crises, saying that it was, in fact, enmity with the country. After 2017, an 'element' was launched to divide and poison the country's politics again like in 1999, due to which the country's development process was stopped. It also brought the country closer to default, he said and added that Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif's government, under the guidance of Nawaz Sharif, brought the country out of crises in a short time span of one year.

"We promise that after the success in the upcoming elections, we will continue working for development of the country. We will overcome inflation, increase people's income, resolve their issues and ensure supremacy of the law. We will provide a better future for the youth and promote tolerance," Rana Sanaullah added.

He said that the PML-N hoped that this time, there would be no conspiracy against Nawaz Sharif so that the country could continue the journey of development, adding that the PML-N did not believe in revenge and hatred, but taking the country towards development. The minister said that the PML-N would not compromise on its winning candidates, asserting that in 2018, the PML-N tickets were got returned from the candidates, but it still contested elections and established itself as a political party.

Responding to a query, Rana Sanaullah said that the action against

individuals and groups involved in May 9 incidents was not a political revenge. He said action should be taken against those according to the laws of the country. Apart from those responsible for the incidents of May 9, no action was being taken against anyone else. Regarding the arrest of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chief, he said the relevant institutions were continuing their investigation, adding that matters were in progress. He said some miscreants had been caught so far, while the masterminds of May 9 would also be brought to book.

The minister said that in the upcoming elections, people would decide who had done what for the country in the past, and then it would be easy for them to choose the right leadership. The PML-N parliamentary party would decide about prime ministerial or chief ministerial candidate, whereas Nawaz Sharif's consultation would be mandatory in this regard, he added. To a question, he said that political dialogue had been continued for a whole year, but one political party had refused to engage in the talks process, saying that the PML-N, after coming to power again, would steer the country out of all crises besides taking action against those who rigged the 2018 elections.

Later, Rana Sanaullah also chaired the PML-N Punjab party meeting, which was attended by party's senior leader Pervaiz Rasheed, Anusha Rehman and others. During the meeting, it was decided that lists would be sought from all party organisations about the party candidates in all constituencies. The meeting also decided to field the PML-N candidates in each and every constituency, and finalise preparations to accord a warm welcome to party supremo Muhammad Nawaz Sharif upon his arrival in the country.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif distributing certificates among the successful candidates of Prime Minister's Youth Skill Development Program.

Govt focusing on diversifying energy mix: PM

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif Friday said the government was focusing its attention on diversifying the energy mix while tapping of the nuclear power was part of the long-term energy security strategy.

In a post on the social media platform Twitter, he said, "Today I performed the groundbreaking of the eighth nuclear power plant of Pakistan and the fifth nuclear power unit to be built at Chashma. This 1200-MW power project, on completion, will provide clean & affordable electricity to the national grid. Given the increasing energy needs of the country, the government is focusing its attention on diversifying the energy mix and tapping of the nuclear power is part of our long-term energy security strategy."

"Grateful to China for its continued support to Pakistan in almost all areas of development. Like other sectors, Chinese support has been critical to setting up state-of-the-art nuclear power plants in the country," he added.

Marriyum visits NPC

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb, Advisor to the Prime Minister on Kashmir Affairs Qamar Zaman Kaira and Minister of State for Poverty Alleviation Faisal Karim Kundi on Friday visited the National Press Club to offer condolences over the death of mothers of Pakistan Federal Union of Journalists (PFUJ) President Muhammad Afzal Butt and senior journalist Khaleeq Kiani.

They expressed their deep grief and sorrow over their mothers' death. Speaking on the occasion, Marriyum Aurangzeb said a mother was a "priceless gift" from the Almighty. She was deeply saddened over the death of the mothers of Afzal Butt and Khaleeq Kiani, and shared their grief and that of their bereaved families, she added.

Sutlej river water flow declines in Kasur

KASUR (PPI): Sutlej River is coming back to normal flow at Ganda Singh Wala in Kasur district with water flow continuously plunging on early Friday.

The water flow in Sutlej river near Kasur has decreased to 90,000 cusecs from the alarming level of 1,15,000 cusecs. In total, 15 villages were affected by the increased water flow after Indian water aggression. 11 thousand out of 18 thousand total resident of villages under flood threat were rescued to safe spots. Previously, the government issued instructions to PDMA Punjab, security forces and local administration to monitor the situation continuously while maintaining active communication. On the other hand, Interim CM Punjab said River Chenab's outpour submerged 40 villages in Jhang.

Emergency Services

Secretary said 83 boats and over 300 rescue officials took part in flood rescue operations in the affected area after Caretaker Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi ordered sending additional 55 boats and their operators from the districts adjoining Kasur. More than 1100 flood relief workers are providing their services in the affected areas.

Thousands hectares of land have been inundated by the flood caused by increased water flow, however the water levels have started to diminish now. The water level at Head Ganda Singh has now reduced to 22 feet from 25 feet. However, the farmers are advised to plan their activities according to the weather forecast as the monsoon is once again predicted to pour-in. The Met Office says new monsoon will affect Pakistan from July 13 to 17 as monsoon

currents from Arabian sea are likely to penetrate in upper and central parts of the country from July 12 (evening) which are likely to intensify on 14th.

It is being speculated that India is going to release water again into the river because of persistent rains in the catchment areas. It was in 1988 that Pakistan had witnessed worst flooding in the two eastern rivers – Ravi and Sutlej – which devastated crops and livelihoods over hundreds of thousands of acres.

Threats of heavy rains causing urban flooding in low-lying is still alive in the areas of Islamabad, Rawalpindi, Peshawar, Gujranwala and Lahore from July 14 to 17 as well as triggering landslides in Murree, Galliat, Kashmir, Gilgit-Baltistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa during the period.

US wants Pakistan to continue working with IMF

WASHINGTON (Agencies): After the debt-laden Pakistan received the first tranche of \$1.2 billion by the International Monetary Fund, US Secretary of State Antony Blinken praised the move and said that the US stands with the people of Pakistan.

The International Monetary Fund deposited the much-awaited first installment of \$1.2 billion in State Bank of Pakistan as per its \$3 million dollar bailout deal. The deal will help Islamabad avoid defaulting on its debt repayments. In a tweet uploaded on Thursday, Secretary Blinken urged Pakistan to continue working with IMF toward macroeconomic reforms and sustainable economic recovery.

"We stand by the Pakistani people during these hard times and welcome the International Monetary Fund's approval of a program to support Pakistan. We urge Pakistan

to continue working with IMFNews," said US Secretary of State Antony Blinken on Thursday. The financial infusion — part of a \$3 billion new bailout deal — comes ahead of parliamentary elections due later this year.

Earlier this week, the United States had welcomed the nine-month Stand-By Agreement (SBA) between Pakistan and the IMF, saying that it will continue to stand by Islamabad during difficult times. US State Department spokesperson Matthew Miller was asked about reports claiming that the US played a key role in helping Pakistan to secure a \$3-billion package with the IMF. "What I would say is that we stand by the Pakistani people during these difficult times. We welcome the progress that has been made between the IMF and Pakistan in having reached a staff-level agreement."

"Our support for the

country's economic success is unwavering," he replied. Miller further said the US will continue to engage with Pakistan through technical engagements and continue to strengthen its trade and investment ties, "all of which are priorities for our bilateral relationship".

"We believe Pakistan has a lot of hard work ahead to be on a long-term sustainable path to economic recovery and prosperity, but we will continue to stand by them through that process." Blinken's statement comes after the IMF's Executive Board on Wednesday approved a nine-month Stand-By Arrangement (SBA) for Pakistan for an amount of \$3 billion.

Following the Board's approval, IMF deposited \$1.2 billion into the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP), giving a much-needed boost to the economy reeling from dollar shortage and runaway inflation.

Regulating Gold's prices: PHC orders SBP, association to submit comments

Humayun Khan

PESHAWAR: Peshawar High Court (PHC) has ordered State Bank of Pakistan (SBP), Goldsmith Association along with other respondents to submit reply regarding regulation Gold's business as well as uniform sell and purchase policy across the country, on Friday.

The counsel Nazish Muzaffar Advocate appeared before PHC on behalf of Saeed Khan and others while stated that neither rules for gold's business in Pakistan while every goldsmith has fixed rate as per his own nor standards are established for making amalgam/admixture with the gold.

Most of the time goldsmiths claimed for one Crete of amalgam/admixture but in reality, it is found in higher numbers, the writ argued. The goldsmiths are charging customers for polishing but 20-25% are deducting from clients on selling which isn't fair, the counsel added.

The counsel further argued that goldsmiths providing receipts inscribed with all details across the globe and no one can fix rates on his own but unfortunately, in Pakistan no legislation available in this regard.

Every goldsmith has set its own rate while most of the jewelries amalgamated with double rate than the claimed/promised during sale and purchase as well other jewelers didn't purchasing it which can only impacted the customers, the petition stated.

The counsel requested for comprehensive policy for regulating gold prices which can compel goldsmiths/jewelers to inscribe details of amalgamation, Crete and to ensure only 2-3% of deduction from customers return/selling of jewelries or

to be purchase on 2-3% lower rate. PHC's divisional bench comprising of Justice Syed Arshad Ali and Justice Shahid Khan ordered SBP as well as Goldsmith Association along with other respondents to submit reply while adjourned further hearing.

Moreover, PHC's Justice Abdul Shakoor has extended former Advisor to Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa for Law Arif Yousaf till 20th July and ordered respondents to submit record before court.

The counsel Nowruz Khan Advocate argued that petitioner Arif Yousaf booked in case without any strong evidence while added that court has ordered submission of record on previous hearing but the respondents didn't produce the record in this regard.

MTI Tribunal removes Dean Nowshera Medical College: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Medical Teaching Institution (MTI) Tribunal has declared appointment of Dean and Hospital Director Qazi Hussain Medical Complex and Nowshera Medical College (NMC) illegal as well as ordered his removal from both positions.

MTI Tribunal decided appeal of Dr. Hamza Ullah while Shah Faisal Advocate appeared on behalf of petitioner and added that a BDS doctor can't hold dual charges of Dean and Hospital Director as per law. The counsel argued Dr. Muhammad Anwar Khan Wazir has obtained both charges/posts on political affiliations while he had misused his office during recruitment and promotions on political backgrounds.

MTI Tribunal chairman Nisar Hussain headed bench declared the appointment illegal and ordered to

remove the positions after conclusion of arguments. Meanwhile, Special Anti-Terrorism Court (ATC) has granted five days physical remand of two alleged facilitators of terrorisms and involvement in ransom to Counter Terrorism Department (CTD).

Investigation Officer informed ATC that Lateef Ullah and Riaz are involved in ransom and facilitation of terrorists while claimed that one culprit had facilitated the outlaws and the other has demanded ransom using Afghan sims. The officer argued that both alleged culprits had demanded ransom from residents of Bajaur, Mohmand, Peshawar and other areas while requested for physical remand for further investigation. Special ATC Judge has accepted IO plea by granting five days physical remand of two culprits allegedly involved in facilitation of terrorists and demanding ransoms.

ATC extends bail of Afzal Sahi

ISLAMABAD (INP): An Anti-Terrorism Court (ATC) on Friday extended interim bail of PTI leader and former provincial minister Ali Afzal Sahi till July 18 in connection with tragic events that unfolded on May 9 following the arrest of Imran Khan.

The ATC judge, Abul Hasanat Zulqarnain heard the case and Sahi's council Qasim Nawaz Abbasi appeared before the court. While hearing the case, the judge accepting the exemption from the appearance plea filed by the lawyer extended the PTI stalwart's bail till July 18. The court also sought arguments from lawyer in the next hearing.



DHABEJI
SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONE
GROWTH UNSTOPPABLE
A PUBLIC PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP

LIGHT INDUSTRIES | **MEDIUM INDUSTRIES** | **HEAVY INDUSTRIES**

Experience the dawn of an economic and industrial revolution with the arrival of Dhabeji Special Economic Zone (DSEZ). Unveiling the future of industrial triumph, this remarkable and cutting-edge industrial facilitation project offers a meticulously crafted roadmap for advancement and a plethora of industrial prospects for tomorrow.

PAKISTAN'S GATEWAY TO PROSPERITY

GROUND-BREAKING 15TH JULY 2023





SECURED GATED COMMUNITY



SEZ INCENTIVES



GUARANTEED UNINTERRUPTED UTILITIES AT DOORSTEP



QUICK-START INDUSTRIAL INFRASTRUCTURE



ACCESS VIA ML-1



ACCESS TO KARACHI PORTS



CPEC PRIORITY PROJECT




Investment Department
Government of Sindh



ZKB: Bangalow # D-124, Block -4 Clifton Karachi. **I Phone:** +92 021 35140450 **Website:** www.zkb.com.pk/
SEZMC: 2nd Floor, Bahria Complex IV, Choudhry Khaliq Uz Zaman Road, Gizri Karachi, Sindh, Pakistan **I Phone:** + 92 21 99332220, +92 21 99332223
International: +92 21 99332225 **I Email:** info@dhabejisez.com
Website: www.sezmc.qps.pk | www.dhabejisez.com



INF/KRY/2951/2023