

### Bail granted to Qureshi F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: A district and sessions court in Islamabad on Saturday accepted bail application of former foreign minister and PTI Vice Chairman Shah Mehmood Qureshi in the May 9 vandalism case. Additional Sessions Judge heard the May 9 mayhem case registered against the PTI vice chairman in the Khana police station in Islamabad.



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LAHORE: President PPP, Asif Ali Zardari called on Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif.

## PPP to promote industries in country

### Bilawal laid foundation stone of Dhabeji economic zone

#### F.P. Report

KARACHI: Chairman of Pakistan People's Party (PPP) and Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari Saturday said that his party would spread the industrial revolution starting from Karachi and Thatta to the whole country.

Addressing the foundation stone laying ceremony of the Dhabeji Special

change". Bilawal pointed out that PPP was criticized even then, when President Asif Ali Zardari was making frequent visits to China during his tenure, adding that at that time it was said that the visits of the president put a burden on the country's exchequer.

"Due to visits of then President Asif Ali Zardari, the China-Pakistan

been ranked 6th among the best projects in Asia," he pointed out. Bilawal, while referring to the unique performance of the Sindh government, said that in the public health sector, the existing projects in the form of NICVD, SIUT, GIMS and emergency treatment for children with the collaboration of Child Life Foundation, Poverty Reduction Programme, measures taken during the Covid-19 pandemic and recent floods, people had seen its performance and now they had accepted that the role of PPP was earlier undermined.

He further said that when youth were given responsibility, they would perform and appealed the people of the country to support the PPP and assured that if his party was successful in the upcoming general elections, it would perform in the same way as it had done for public health, infrastructure and development of Sindh. Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah, Information and Transport Minister Sharjeel Inam Memon, Minister for Local Government Syed Nasir Hussain Shah, Sindh Cabinet Members Gianchand Essrani, and Sajid Jokhio, Mayor Karachi Murtaza Wahab, Special Assistant to Chief Minister Sindh for Investment and Public Private Partnership Syed Qasim Naveed Qamar, MPA Ali Hassan Zardari, diplomats, senior government officials, business community representatives and dignitaries were also present.



Economic Zone (SEZ) project involve an investment of more than \$5 billion, to be built under Public Private Partnership, he said that his party's provincial government had started another milestone project. He said that the SEZ would create more than 150,000 employment opportunities and help eradicate poverty and unemployment.

The foreign minister said that the Sindh government working under the leadership of Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah for welfare of the people adding " the masses has also seen the destruction in the name of

Economic Corridor (CPEC) project came into existence," he contended. The minister said that Public-Private Partnership was the vision of Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto, which was being carried forward by the Sindh government. He said that projects like Karachi-Thatta Dual Carriageway, Jhirik Bridge on River Indus and Thar Coal Mining were completed ahead of schedule under PPP-mode, adding that the projects run by the Sindh government were recognized worldwide.

"Sindh government's PPP mode projects have

### Shehbaz, Zardari discuss current situation

#### F.P. Report

LAHORE: Former President and President Pakistan Peoples Party Parliamentarians Asif Ali Zardari met Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif here on Saturday. During the meeting, they discussed in detail the political situation in the country.

Meanwhile, the newly elected office bearers of Old Ravian Union called on Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif here on Saturday and discussed matters of mutual interest.

Minister for Law and Justice Azam Nazeer Tarar who was an alumni of Government College University was also present on the occasion. The prime minister said Government College University had undoubtedly rendered invaluable services in the field of education.

Government College University was a prominent educational institution which produced many famous personalities and the students who received education from the university were performing important roles in different walks of life. The office bearers said it was a matter of pride for them that the prime minister himself was educated at the Government College.

The prime minister cheerfully remembered the teachers and students of his student life days. He expressed resolve to provide all possible support to the Old Ravian Union in its projects for spread of education and welfare of people. The delegation of the Old Ravians presented a commemorative shield and photograph to the prime minister.

Moreover, the Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Saturday said that Pakistan joined the brotherly people and the government of Turkiye in commemorating the seventh anniversary of Democracy and National Unity Day being observed on Saturday, today.

On his Twitter handle, the prime minister said that while recalling the supreme sacrifices of the brave Turkish people, they paid their rich tribute and respects to the martyrs who valiantly resisted the heinous attempt to deprive them of democracy and basic rights. "This historic & epoch-making day in 2016 also represented unwavering faith & profound trust in the dynamic leadership of my brother President Recep Tayyip Erdogan", he added.

The prime minister further observed that the take-away of the Day was that the nations could overcome any challenge with the power of unity, fraternity and deep bonds.

Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif also visited the residence of chief of Istehkame-Pakistan party Jahangir Tareen and condoled over the death of his brother.

# The Frontier Post

### PTI's ex-MPA quits politics

LAHORE (INP): Former PTI MPA Neelum Hayat Malik condemning the May 9 vandalism has announced to quit politics. In a statement issued on Saturday, she said that after arrest of chairman PTI, they were called for liberty protest and I heard the party's president of marching towards Jinnah House. Neelum said that she don't believe in politics of vandalism and what was took place at Core Commander House should not have been done.

## Reforms inevitable to cope with challenges: Shehbaz

#### F.P. Report

LAHORE: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif said on Saturday that there was no other way but to initiate drastic structural and economic reforms, for which unity, sacrifices and struggle of all stakeholders including business community was need of the hour, to face the prevailing challenges and steer Pakistan out of economic and other problems.

He expressed these views in a meeting with office-bearers of Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LCCI) and renowned businessmen and industrialists here at Governor's House, Punjab Governor Muhammad Balighur Rehman, LCCI President Kashif Anwar, Senior Vice President Zaffar Mehmood Chaudhry, Vice President Adnan Khalid Butt and a number of former LCCI presidents and business tycoons including Shahzad Ali Malik, Mian Misbahur Rehman, Almas Haider, Muhammad Ali Mian and Mian Anjum Nisar attended the meeting. Federal Finance Minister Ishaq Dar participated in the meeting through video-link while high-ups of various departments were also present.

The PM said the government was taking all possible measures for promotion of industry and agriculture; however, in the given circumstances and in the face of grave challenges, industrialists and business community would have to play their role even more actively for enhancing exports and stabilising the economy.

He said that industrialists and business community had vast experience in production and they were playing a pivotal role in the country's economy. The business community should also consider the facts that despite having rich resources, why Pakistan's economy was unable to achieve the desired targets and its full potential, he said, citing that Bangladesh textile sector totally rely on imported cotton, but it was developing fast and gaining a niche in the global market, while Pakistan's textile was losing competition in the export markets. He asserted that Pakistan had been producing 14-billion-cotton bales, but today, it had decreased to mere five-billion bales and it was a collective failure.

"We are living in a regime where industry has become nothing but rental income, as we are not ready to face challenges or to adopt modern technology," he regretted and added that support and subsidies from the government had not been materialised properly," he observed.

The prime minister recalled that as the Punjab chief minister, he had constructed farm-to-market roads in the province with a cost of Rs 100 billion, and these roads should have been constructed through the Sugarcane Cuss Fund. He added that in 1990, the then prime minister Nawaz Sharif had started economic reforms, which produced the best results, and the other countries also adopted that reforms model and progressed. He said that the developmental projects, initiated by Nawaz Sharif during his tenure, were delayed and their costs increased by 30 to 40 billion rupees, which could be spent on research centres of various crops and industrial sectors development.

Shehbaz Sharif said that the government was well aware of the problems being faced by industrialists and businessmen, asserting that no government could alone make a difference, but with an active support of business community. He called upon the industrialist and business community to play their due part and support the government's initiatives aimed at promoting R&D (Research and Development); ensuring low cost of production; curbing power theft and tax evasion.

He also stressed the need for promoting Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) which was backbone of the economy, citing that Japan, Germany, South Korea, China and other developed countries achieved hallmarks on economic front just by focusing on the SMEs sector. He said that SMEs sector deserved the most for loans but the major industrial sector took away those loans and now they should tell the nation that how much exports they had enhanced.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif said that it was a collective responsibility of the government, business community and affluent people of the country to think about the poverty-stricken and impoverished strata of society and take effective measures to

improve their living standards. He said that all institutions would have to work and coordinate while remaining in their respective constitutional ambit, and the politicians, judiciary, businessmen, industrialists and other stakeholders would have to run the state affairs with collective wisdom.

Sharing his telephonic conversation with IMF Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva with the business community, the PM said that she expressed her reservations about the mistrust created in the past. He added that unfortunately, the Pak-US relations were hit hard by the ill-conceived decisions and remarks by the previous government, but the present coalition government, with collective efforts, had normalized and improved ties with the USA. He mentioned that the US also welcomed and acknowledged government's efforts and it was also eager to see development and economic wellbeing of Pakistan. During the previous government, he said, national interests were compromised for personal interests, and the economic situation had become even worse when the IMF pact was violated in the past.

Shehbaz Sharif said that the IMF MD appreciated his wisdom and praised him for fulfilling the agreement in Paris by saying that a strong partnership and mutual trust had now been established between Pakistan and the IMF. He commended Federal Finance Minister Ishaq Dar and his entire team for realising the IMF deal and tackling all its stages in a better way. He told the IMF MD that the incumbent government would complete its constitutional term on August 14, and after that the interim government would continue honouring the agreement. The PM said that the incumbent government had saved the country from default, adding that now Pakistan reserves had reached up to US\$14 billion, as the country had received US\$2 billion from Saudi Arabia, US\$1 billion from UAE and US\$1.2 billion from the IMF. He mentioned that China had rolled over US\$5 billion of commercial and sovereign loans, which also saved Pakistan from default. He said, "We have to take optimum benefit from the IMF deal by utilising the amount on economic development and people's prosperity."

## Pak-Iranian top generals take up mily-security coop

TEHRAN (Agencies): Chief of the Army Staff General Asim Munir held detailed talks with the top Iranian commander in Tehran on Saturday, on a raft of issues including bilateral defence cooperation and regional security. The Iran's top general during the meeting has stressed the need to boost military-security cooperation between Tehran and Islamabad at the regional level.

Pakistani Army Chief Asim Munir, at the head of the high-ranking military delegation, met with Chief of Staff of the Iranian Armed Forces Major General Mohammad Baqeri in Tehran on Saturday morning. Iranian Chief of General Staff Major General Bagheri welcomed Gen Asim Munir at the headquarters, the Iranian media reported.

The meeting was held with the aim of increasing bilateral interactions to expand military, educational, defence, and security cooperation. Major General Bagheri pointed to the his-

torical background of two neighbouring countries as a basis for the expansion of bilateral relations and cooperation in various fields, especially military. During his trip, the Pakistani Army Chief is slated to meet other Iranian officials. Earlier in the day, Iran's Embassy in Pakistan has confirmed the arrival of General Asim Munir in Iran while extending warm welcome to him.

In post loaded on Twitter Saturday morning, the Iranian Embassy said the visit indicates firm determination of top officials of Iran and Pakistan to promote all-out ties. "A long stride towards comprehensive expansion of ties and the achievements will prove to be tangible and positive," the embassy added.

During his two-day official visit, the Pakistani army chief will hold in-depth talks with Iranian civil and military leadership with focus on bilateral matters related to defence and security cooperation. In a related development, President Arif Alvi has

underscored that the development of Iran despite sanctions is eye-catching and source of happiness. The Pakistani President made the remarks at a ceremony of receiving the credentials of the new Iranian Ambassador to Islamabad Reza Amir Moghadam in Islamabad the other day, emphasizing the great importance of relations between the two neighbouring countries.

The ambassador emphasized that Iran attaches special importance to expansion of all-out collaborations with Pakistan. Amir Moghadam also pointed to the latest bilateral relations and his plans for expanding ties between Tehran and Islamabad, particularly the improvement of economic and trade cooperation. The envoy conveyed warm and sincere greetings of Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi to his Pakistani counterpart, adding that interaction with friendly and Muslim nations, especially with neighboring states such as Pakistan, is a priority in Iran's foreign policy.

## US to send F-16 fighter jets to Gulf amid Iran shipping tensions

WASHINGTON (Agencies): The United States is deploying additional fighter jets around the strategic Strait of Hormuz to protect ships from Iranian seizures, a senior US defence official said, according to a news report.

Speaking to Pentagon reporters, the official said the US will send F-16 fighter jets to the Gulf region this weekend to augment the A-10 attack aircraft that have been patrolling there for more than a week. Washington's increase in

military assets in the region comes after Iran tried to seize two oil tankers near the strait last week, the Associated Press (AP) news agency reported.

The defence official, who spoke on condition of anonymity to provide details of US military operations in the region, said the F-16s will give air cover to the ships moving through the waterway and increase the US military's visibility in the area, as a deterrent to Iran, AP reported. The US Navy said that in two recent instances,

Iranian naval vessels backed off when the USS McPaul, a guided-missile destroyer, arrived on the scene.

The defence official also told reporters the US is considering a number of military options to address increasing Russian aggression in the skies over Syria. The official declined to detail the options but said the US will not cede any territory and will continue to fly in the western part of Syria as part of operations against ISIL (ISIS) fighters.

## Siraj rejects increase in power tariff

#### F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: Ameer Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) Sirajul Haq rejecting the increase in electricity tariff has demanded the government make public the IMF agreement.

Talking to different delegation here on Saturday, he said that per unit price would touch Rs55 after inclusion of different taxes in electricity bills. The rulers, Siraj said, were bent upon sucking the blood of the poor masses instead of making small sacrifices of their own luxuries and protocols. The ruler of the poor country, he said, lived like kings, utilizing state resources and leaving nothing for the poor. The two percent elite, he said, captured 90 percent of the national wealth.

Amid the unprecedented financial crunch, he said, the number of prime minister's federal cabinet was 85. Could a country caught in a worst debt trap afford this size of the cabinet, he questioned. He said the government had planned to collect Rs500 billion from the poor people with the recent increase in power tariff.

The JI chief said the PDM and the PPP had taken out the rallies and the long marches against inflation before coming into power. The 15 months rule of the 13 parties' alliance, he said, broke all records of inflation but none of them raised any concern. He said the current government was the continuation of the PTI rule. There was no difference among the policies of the ruling parties, he said, adding the trio was failed to provide any relief to the masses. He added the status quo keepers could not put the country on right path even after remaining in power for 100 years.

## Three killed in rain related incidents

#### F.P. Report

LANDI KOTAL: First downpour of monsoon created havoc in the area and including a child two persons were killed besides events of collapse of boundary walls and rooms collapsed were filed in heavy rain and storm in Landi Kotal, subdivision of Khyber on Saturday morning.

In the first fatal incident took place in Durma Kor, Loy-Shelman village of Landi Kotal, a small boy, Ahmad son of Khan Wali was killed in flood flash.

In the same way as per police sources informed that a tribal youth namely Inzepam Khan son of Zever Khan, resident of Charbagh, Pased Khel was on his way to Peshawar from Landi Kotal when he was washed away by a heavy flood while crossing the spell way.

The body of the

deceased was later found in Ali Masjid and was shifted to Headquarter Hospital, Landi Kotal for medic-legal formalities. After confirming identification, the body was handed over to its heir for burial purposes.

The rain demolished boundary walls and houses in Piro Khel, Loy-Shelman and adjacent localities. According to the locals, torrential rain washed away link roads in Kando Khel, Fatmi Khel, Shiekhmal Khel etc.in addition with two vehicles were also washed away by the flood water.

Landslides near the Anzari checkpoint cut the territorial connection of Landi Kotal with Loy-Shelman, police informed. Tribal Electric Supply Company (TESCO) official said that approximately six pylons fell down in the rain that suspended power supply to Sultan Khe, Mirdad Khel and Shelman areas of

Landi Kotal and soon electricity would be restored.

Deputy Commissioner Khyber announced a compensation package for the deceased and said those who lost their property in rain would also be facilitated as per the procedure. It is to be mentioned here that the Provincial Disaster Management Authority has issued a monsoon alert for Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, predicting heavy rain and thunderstorms in the month of July and the authorities concerned have urged residents to take necessary precautions.

Heavy rain lashes several areas in Pakistan: Heavy rain lashed Rawalpindi, Islamabad and other parts of upper Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on Saturday. The rain started early in the morning in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, including Peshawar, and the adjoining areas of Punjab.



# PAKISTAN PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

## INVITATION OF BIDS

### (SINGLE STAGE TWO ENVELOPES)

Sealed tender/bids on the basis of "Single Stage Two envelopes Procedure" are hereby invited for execution of the following works from eligible contractors/firms duly enlisted/register with Pakistan Engineering council (PEC) in relevant specialization technical category and financial limit Category C-5 & above is required on percentage rates basis on Pak. PWD Schedule of Rates 2022, w/o process valid renewal with PEC, having renewal upto 30/06/2024.

S#	Title of Work	Approved Cost	Earnest Money	Tender Cost
	<b>DISTRICT SWAT</b>			
1	Construction of Mosque/Janazagah and Rehabilitation of Mosque Janazagah at UC Chargagh-II & III District Swat	Rs.50.00Mln	2% of bid amount	Rs.5000/-
2	Construction of Mosque/Janazagah and Rehabilitation of Mosque Janazagah at UC Chargagh-I & III District Swat	Rs.50.00Mln	2% of bid amount	Rs.5000/-
3	Construction of Mosque/Janazagah and Rehabilitation of Mosque Janazagah at Kot Manglaor Sangota District Swat	Rs.50.00Mln	2% of bid amount	Rs.5000/-
4	Construction of PCC at School Colony to River Swat at UC Charbagh-I Shinkad Mattai Pakhton Wali District Swat	Rs.30.00Mln	2% of bid amount	Rs.5000/-

#### Terms and Condition for Bidding

- The contractors/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 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 09/08/2023 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 10/08/2023 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.
- Under Rule 33(1) of PPRA Rules 2004, the under signed reserves the right to accept/reject any or all bids/proposals at any time prior to acceptance of a bid or proposal.
- 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.
- METHOD OF PROCUREMENT**
  - As per PPRA rule 36(6), open competitive Bidding with "Single Stage Two Envelope" 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,**

**PID(P) 246/23**

**Pakistan Public Works Department Shami Road Peshawar**

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





PESHAWAR: Chairman Qaumi Watan Party Aftab Ahmad Khan Sherpao addressing a public gathering.

## MBBS & BDS: Tribal students demands distribution of seats

### F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: The tribal students demanded distribution of Bachelor of Medicine, Bachelor of Surgery (MBBS) and Bachelor of Dental Surgery (BDS) in respect with population because more than million population Bajaur and Khyber has equal seat in comparison with lowest populace district Orakzai.

The students claimed that highest scorers in MBBS and BDS tests of populace districts deprived from admission in the disci-

plines but lower score candidate obtained enrollments at the colleges. They claimed that it will impact future hundreds of aspirants to join the field.

According to 2017 census, the highest populace district with resident of one million, ninety thousands and 987, Khyber with second number of residents stands at 0.984224 million. South Waziristan 675215 population, Orakzai as two lakh 54 thousand 303 and Mohmand district with four lakh 74 thousand 345 resident. However, the district

with highest population has 42 seats and the lower populace district has obtained 41 which negligible difference.

The students requested Chairman Senate, Ministry of Safron Chief Minister, Chief Secretary, health department Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, president Pakistan Medical and Dental Council and Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa to distribute MBBS and BDS seats among merged district in accordance with population to ensure maximum seats for highest populace districts.

## CM's aide inaugurates furniture expo

PESHAWAR (APP): Special Assistant to Caretaker Chief Minister on Labour, Malik Mehar Elahi here Saturday inaugurated three-day Pakistan Furniture Expo and visited its various stalls.

Speaking on the occasion, he highlighted potential of furniture industry and said that provincial government in extending cooperation to stakeholders to promote this industry that has lot of potential.

He said that furniture items produced by skilled workers of KP are well known for excellent quality. He said that wood is imported in the country to make furniture but wooden furniture prepared in KP can be exported to earn foreign exchange.

He also lauded efforts of organizers for holding the exhibition and suggested that these events should be arranged in future to benefit people associated with furniture making industry.

## Power supply affected due to heavy rain

PESHAWAR (APP): Power supply was affected due to heavy rain in the PESCO region, a spokesperson of the PESCO told media men here on Saturday.

He disclosed that 150 feeders of Pesco tripped immediately due to rain while 110 feeders in Pesco region suffered from technical fault due to heavy rain.

PESCO Chief Executive Officer Arif Mahmood Saduzai has put the field staff on high alert, he added.

As soon as the rain stopped, the power restoration process started, the spokesperson of PESCO said.

The repair work on the technical fault feeders is going on, he informed.

The electricity will be completely restored in the next few hours, he said. He also requested the people to cooperate in view of bad weather.

However, there are reports that in the whole of Peshawar the power supply was discontinued and people have been facing great difficulties.

# QWP calling for electoral reforms to ensure holding of free, transparent elections

### F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: Calling for electoral reforms to ensure the holding of free, fair and transparent elections, Qaumi Watan Party (QWP) Chairman Aftab Ahmad Khan Sherpao on Saturday said the next general election should be held on time and whoever won the polls should be allowed to run the country.

Addressing a gathering at Tangi tehsil in Charsadda district, he welcomed the government's agreement with the International Monetary Fund (IMF), saying the bailout package would help bring economic stability to the country.

"We want Pakistan to become financially stable so that the issues of unemployment and inflation

could be tackled," he said.

He said Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader Imran Khan and his associates were hell-bent upon sabotaging the IMF's agreement, but they did not succeed in their designs.

"Imran wanted the country to go bankrupt," he remarked. He added Imran Khan's style of doing politics not only caused harm to the country, but also undermined his own party.

Blaming Imran Khan for the country's economic woes, he said the PTI chairman had violated the IMF agreement, which created problems for the country.

Enumerating the blunders made by the PTI leader, Aftab Sherpao said Imran Khan left the

National Assembly after his ouster from power as prime minister through the no-confidence motion in addition to getting the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Punjab assemblies dissolved.

He recalled that the May 9 incidents proved the last nail in PTI's political coffin, adding that the ones, who were behind the mayhem, would continue facing the courts.

"Even the country's enemies could not dare attack its military installations the way the PTI arsonists and rioters did. This was unprecedented in Pakistan's political history," he maintained, adding that the PTI tarnished the country's image at the international level.

"Fresh evidence is emerging with each passing

day and the masterminds and the perpetrators of the May 9 violence would not be able to escape from the clutches of the law," the QWP leader believed.

Seeing a Zionist conspiracy against the country, Aftab Sherpao said only Israel was supporting Imran Khan, who ruled like a dictator and created unrest for the sake of power.

He said the government should focus on the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor related projects.

The QWP leader said that the government should pay attention to the issue of poor law and order in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan. He said peace was a prerequisite for development and attracting foreign tourists and investors.

## Minister condoles death of Khyal Muhammad wife

PESHAWAR (APP): On the death of wife of legendary Pashto musician Ustad Khyal Muhammad, Special Assistant to Chief Minister on Revenue Pir Haroon Shah visited Ustad Khyal Muhammad's residence in Dabgari Garden Peshawar.

The Special Assistant expressed deep sorrow over the death of the deceased and expressed his sympathy to the bereaved family and prayed for the repose of the deceased's soul. On this occasion, the Special Assistant also condoled with the sons of Ustad Khyal Muhammad, Wasal Khyal and Anwar Khyal.



PESHAWAR: Special Assistant to Chief Minister on Labour Malik Mehar Elahi cutting a ribbon to inaugurate three-day Pakistan Furniture Expo.

# Speakers highlight importance of E-commerce, online businesses

### F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: Speakers at an awareness seminar highlighted the importance of E-commerce, online businesses and trade promotion in the emerging world and asked the business community, especially young male and female start-ups to adapt modern techniques and tools to harness benefits of growing digitization in businesses and trade.

The awareness seminar on 'E-commerce' was organized by Sarhad Chamber of Commerce and Industry in collaboration with the Ministry of Commerce (MoC), and Trade Development Authority of Pakistan (TDAP) here at the chamber's house on Saturday.

The SCCI's acting president Ijaz Khan Afridi presided over the awareness session while TDAP Director General Nouman Bashir was chief guest on the occasion.

Besides, the TDAP officials Zahid Muhammad, Aamir Khan, members of

the SCCI's executive committee Naeem Qasmi, Laal Badshah, and Aurangzeb, Ihsanullah, Fazal e Wahid, Saddam Gul, Ishtiaq Muhammad, traders, importers and exporters, digital leaders, innovators, and male and female entrepreneurs were in attendance in a large number on the occasion.

Ijaz Khan Afridi in his opening remarks stressed the need for equipping modern knowledge and techniques for business and trade promotion.

He said the business community, start-ups, and young entrepreneurs should take full advantage of online businesses, especially with advent of Amazon in Pakistan.

The chamber's president said Pakistan has ranked fourth in freelancing in the world and will soon improve and consolidate its position by consistent and vigorous efforts.

He noted Pakistan's IT exports are gradually increasing over the passage of time. He said E-com-

merce is ideal for young male and female entrepreneurs, especially start-up businesses.

He went on to say that the Trade Development portal has provided assistance for Pakistan's share in global trade. He, however, urged the traders to register themselves with the portal to take full benefits from online businesses and trade.

Praising the TDAP for organizing the awareness session on E-commerce, the SCCI chief expressed hope that the session would be helpful to the male and female entrepreneurs for promotion of their online businesses and making their share in global trade.

Ijaz Afridi said TDAP will continue to organise more training/awareness sessions on E-commerce in future.

Earlier, the TDAP Director General Nouman Bashir while speaking on the occasion informed the participants that the authority is holding seminars and training workshops on E-commerce throughout the

country.

He said the purpose of sessions was to promote online businesses and trade through adapting modern techniques and tools in the emerging and technological advancement across the country.

Nouman Bashir apprised that besides other potential sectors, TDAP was organizing more than 32 exhibitions in IT. He disclosed that TDAP is going to organise an international IT conference/Expo in Lahore next year and invited the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa business community to fully participate in the international event.

Later, officials of TDAP gave training to participants regarding Amazon through a multimedia presentation which was lauded by SCCI president Ijaz Khan Afridi, executive members, especially young male and female entrepreneurs and start-ups.

They urged the TDAP to organise further trainings and awareness sessions on E-commerce.



PESHAWAR: Vehicles passing through accumulated rain water after heavy rain in provincial capital.

# PIDE and RASTA jointly launch book/report

### F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE) and RASTA jointly launched book/report on "Power, Profit and Plans: The Political Economy of Housing in Pakistan" and "Traffic Management & Congestion Mitigation: Parking Policy for Islamabad."

In this regard, the book/reports launching ceremony was held Planning Commission of Pakistan, Islamabad, said in a press release issued. The highly anticipated gathering brought together esteemed experts, policymakers, and stakeholders to address the urgent challenges surrounding the housing sector in the country.

Dr. Nadeem Ul Haque, Vice Chancellor of the Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE), addressed the audience and highlighted key challenges and opportunities in the sector.

"Power, Profit & Plans"

dives into the political economy of housing in Pakistan, uncovering the unequal development patterns and socio-economic disparities prevalent in the urban landscape. The Book underscores the pressing need for institutional and policy reforms, highlighting the role of improved governance in addressing the housing crisis. The Book offers a comprehensive analysis and roadmap for addressing Pakistan's housing challenges.

Mr. Nasir Javed, Editor of the book, apprised the participants by presenting key features of the Book titled: "Power, Profit & Plans: The Political Economy of Housing in Pakistan" is a multi-author book that highlights that urbanization in Pakistan, addition to the Slow and Steady flow of economic migrants from a rural area, had added at least six spikes starting with the migration of 1947, wars, floods, terrorism, etc. These unusual spikes placed pressure on

urban housing, coupled with rapid population growth and institutional inefficiencies and complexities, described as 'institutional spaghetti', has led to the housing crisis.

While speaking at the occasion, Mr. Pervaiz Latif Qureshi, Urban Development Expert, said that the Book offers a number of policy, institutional, financing, and taxation reforms that are likely to improve housing affordability, especially for the middle and lower classes.

PIDE has also proposed introducing paid Parking in Islamabad to mitigate traffic congestion in the city. The Pakistan Institute of Development Economics also launched a study on introducing paid Parking in Islamabad at the occasion.

Speaking at the book launch titled "Traffic Management & Congestion Mitigation: Parking Policy for ICT", in his presentation by Dr. Idrees Khawaja, Former Chief of Research, PIDE, said that the study

undertaken on the demand of the Capital Development Authority argues that free Parking is, in a sense a subsidy to car owners and encourages car use beyond the optimal limit. The idea of the study emerged in a meeting between VC PIDE Dr. Nadeem Ul Haque and the then Chairman CDA, Mr. Amer Ali Ahmed, in January 2022.

## Wall of Jinnah Parks collapsed due to heavy rain

PESHAWAR (APP): The wall of Jinnah Park collapsed due to heavy rain, however, there was no loss of life due to the fall of the wall but the beauty of the Park will be lost, a gardener of the Park told APP during a visit. There was no loss of life due to the fall of the wall, but the beauty of the park will be lost and we did a lot of hard work for the development of flowers and green pitches, Muhammad Saki said. In Peshawar, half of the Jinnah Park was submerged in water due to heavy rain with swings in the Park, sitting benches in the pool of water inside the Park. The park administration is engrossed in the release of water from the Jinnah Park. Jinnah Park has been closed for the public for two-day due to safety measures taken by the district administration and after the completion of the work, the Park will be opened for the public, the Mali Baba of the Park said.

### F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: A three-day training workshop on the Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) system concluded at Peshawar, involving dozens of officials from North Waziristan District, influential personalities, and education department representatives.

The non-governmental organization, CRA, organized the training, which saw active participation from administrators, influential figures, and education department personnel from various subdivisions of North Waziristan.

The workshop also provided training to the participants from North Waziristan in ADR. The attendees expressed their commitment to play their role in the community.

During the workshop, participating officials praised the ADR system as

a modern and effective approach to ensuring swift and affordable justice, which also includes the satisfaction of the parties involved.

The workshop participants extended their gratitude to the organizers, acknowledging that the introduction of the police and judiciary system in tribal areas is a new experience, and it is essential for

leaders and officials to be aware of its different aspects.

Nisarullah, the representative of CRA, stated that through workshops like this, they aim to empower tribal officials, men, women, and minorities with knowledge about ADR, enabling them to become stronger and more aware of their fundamental rights.



PESHAWAR: A view of fallen wall of Jinnah Park due to heavy rain.





## In brief

### Poetess Noora demands security Shafi Ullah

MINGORA: Renowned poetess and social activist Noora Ihsas, fed up with threats, reached press club to provide protection from the government. Addressing a press conference at Swat Press Club, she said that a person named Syed Wali Shah from Dir, who lives currently in Saudi Arabia, is harassing and threatening to kill me on social media, due to which I and my family are passing through delicate situation and suffering from mental agony. "I am a Pashto poet and apart from this, I am working in social media as well as human rights, and I am insecure due to repeated threats of Syed Wali Shah and in this regard I contacted the Saudi Embassy Islamabad to take action against him and hopefully action will be initiated against him very soon," she said. Noora Ihsas said that I had contacted and met the family of Syed Wali Shah many times, but they are siding with his son, instead of explaining to them, misbehaves with me, so Now I am fed up with their threats and demand the government through a press conference that legal and stern action should be taken against the person and provide me protection.

### Police recovers Rs6 million F.P. Report

MARDAN: Police officials here claimed to have recovered more than Rs. 06 million and other valuable items in 81 different cases registered by people in various police stations concerned. Talking to journalists in a press conference held in police lines Mardan, the SP operation Rokhazib Khan told that the 81 different cases were included robberies, theft and dacoities of which 24 cases in city circle, 23 in Sheikh Maltoon circle, 09 in Takhtbai circle, 08 in Katlang circle and 07 in rural circle were registered by the complainants. On the strict instructions of DPO Mardan Najeeb-ur-Rehman, he said that they conducted successful operation with recoveries included cash amount Rs. 6269500 rupees, 04 motor-cars, 37 motorcycles, 32 different types of mobile sets, 05 tola gold ornaments, 03 loader-rickshaws, 03 pistols. SP operation claimed that the police had arrested members of the robber-gang who were involved in these cases. He said that they were further interrogated so that to dig out important relevant information. He claimed that police also arrested an alleged killer of persons during the operation. He vowed that they would keep continue their operations against alleged criminals as there was no place for criminals to roam freely in Mardan district.

### Five killed, six injured F.P. Report

LARKANA: At least five people were killed in a clash between different parties in Larkana and its surroundings, while more than 6 people were injured due to gunshots. According to farooq, 35-year-old Farooq Ahmed Jeho was killed by the firing of people, and the body was shifted to Nodero after necessary action. 55-year-old Mehran Khatan was killed on the spot, while 55-year-old Mehran Khatan was killed on the spot. While Ameer Ali Ghulam Hussain Rehmat Ali was injured in a clash between two parties of the Gadhi community in the village Raban Gadhi of Nasirabad taluka.



**HYDERABAD: Provincial Minister Ismaeel Rahu, Vice Chancellor LUMHS Professor Ikram Uddin Ujjan giving away medals and degrees to students during 19th Convocation of Liaquat University of Medical and Health Sciences Jamshoro.**

## Dr Aafia convention held in Lower Dir

### F.P. Report

LOWER DIR: Jamaat-i-Islami former provincial chief and senator Mushtaq Ahmad Khan has said that Pakistan and its citizens are facing frequent turmoil due to incompetent rulers and one per cent elite class that has turned the country into an elites' republic. He was addressing the 'Dr Aafia Siddique Convention' as chief guest at the Chakdara Fishing hut here on Saturday.

The JI workers from different parts of Lower Dir and general public attended the event. The JI district general secretary Hafiz Yaqub ur Rehman, Adenzai tehsil chief Dr Bashir Muhammad, JI deputy provincial chief Noorul Haq and others also spoke on the occasion.

Mushtaq Ahmad said the JI would soon announce its countrywide agitation against the imprisonment of Dr Aafia Siddique in an American prison and would

mobilize the public for her safe release. The JI leader alleged that the then chief of army staff and President General Pervez Musharraf had sold her to the American forces. He said that Dr Aafia was arrested from Karachi and shifted to the Bagaram airbase in Afghanistan and handed over to the American.

Ahmad said that he had been raising his voice for missing persons and oppressed on the senate floor as a lone JI representative. Condemning the desecration of the Holy Quran in Sweden the JI leader said that former COAS General Raheel Sharif was leading the army of 26 Muslim countries but he too did nothing to expel the Swedish ambassador from any Muslim country. He said the Pakistan foreign office had also failed to force the Swedish government take legal actions against the person involved in burning a copy of the Holy

Quran.

The JI lawmaker said that he had recently met with Dr Aafia along with her sister Dr Fozia and her lawyer and she told heart-breaking stories. He said that it was a shame for the whole Muslim community that it had done nothing to free the innocent Pakistani female citizen. He said the Pakistani rulers had kept criminal silent on her imprisonment for the last 20 years.

The JI leader said that Dr Aafia was leading a miserable life and it was the responsibility of every Pakistani to stand for her release. He asked the participants to join hands with his party so that the rulers could be forced to take concrete actions for her release. Mushtaq Khan said that he would soon give a call of protest sit-in in Islamabad for the release of Dr Aafia. He said the brave people of Dir should positively participate in that sit-in.

## SAJ demands action against loan-apps Syed Waliullah Shah

NEWSHERA: Subai Aman Jirga (SAJ) Chairman Syed Kamal Shah Bacha said that social media platforms are extensively using for interest-based loan Schemes and drug dealing while argued competent authorities to take stern actions against culprits involved in the scams.

This he said while addressing a press conference at Nowsheera press club along with district chairman Zulfiqar Badshah, Amjad, Fida Khan and Riaz Khan while added that these scams including interest-based loan schemes and drug dealings on social media are causes of hike in suicide rate, sexual rape cases and other moral evils in the society.

SAJ chairman Syed Kamal Shah Bacha argued Federal Investigation Agency (FIA), District Administration and police along with other concerned authorities for crackdown against the scams and ensure to brought responsible persons before law. He claimed that SAJ will held meeting with Director General FIA to request stern actions against loan apps on social media platforms.

Syed Kamal Shah Bacha also demanded stern against drug dealers because hashish, heroin, Ice-drug and opium are available in every nook and corner which has impact every household. He requested prosecution, police and judiciary especially judges to ensure convictions of drug dealers because drug addictions at unprecedented height.

SAJ also demanded stern actions against culprits involved in usury, land mafia and under-paly which has compelled respectable families for suicide while pride and dignity was manipulated by the criminals.

## Flour, ghee prices hiked artificially in South Waziristan

### F.P. Report

WANA: In the district of South Waziristan Lower, the price of flour and sugar has gone up due to the negligence of the food department.

According to public opinion, the prices of flour and sugar in the district of Lower South Waziristan have become uncontrollable for the past several weeks, like other areas of the country. In the district of Lower Waziristan, the price of 80 kg of flour has reached Rs. 150 per kg, has become out of purchase of people.

On the other hand, it has been revealed from reliable sources that 10 to 15 trucks full of sugar and flour are coming to Lower South Waziristan district from Punjab and other districts on a daily basis, but they are either stored in different warehouses or transported to the neighboring country of Afghanistan in different ways. Public circles have informed the local district about the fact that smuggling is taking place.

The food department along with the administration and other law enforcement agencies have been demanded to take notice of this pressing demand, if notice is not taken then people will be forced to protest.

Meanwhile, Station House Officer (SHO) Alamgir Khan and Additional SHO Usman Khan of Azam Warsak Police Station successfully apprehended drug dealers and confiscated weapons during their patrol. Acting on secret information, the vigilant officers swiftly responded to reports of drug trafficking on the Varsik Bypass Road.

The police conducted a thorough search and skillfully apprehended a drug dealer identified as Apna Sheerin, son of Niaz Muhammad Sakna from Khora Wana. During the search, a quantity of hashish weighing 550 grams was recovered. The

suspect was immediately taken into custody and handed over to the closed police station after necessary documentation. In another incident, while conducting a routine blockade, the Azam Warsak police stopped a suspicious individual for questioning.

Upon searching the person, identified as Saifullah, son of Jahangir, a significant amount of hashish weighing 800 grams was discovered. The suspect was promptly arrested and taken to the closed Hawalat police station after the completion of the required legal procedures. Additionally, during the patrol, the police noticed an individual openly displaying a weapon. Acting swiftly, they disarmed the person and confiscated the weapon. The suspect, identified as Muhammad Bilal, son of Niaz Khan from Sakna Karizkot, failed to provide a valid justification for possessing the weapon.

Consequently, he was taken into custody and handed over to the police station after being issued a 15AA sheet, documenting the possession of a Kalashnikov with a 25-round magazine and the exhibition of weapons. In recognition of their exemplary actions, the District Police Chief South Waziristan Lower, Mr. Farmanullah Sahib (PPM), commended SHO Alamgir Khan and Additional SHO Usman Khan of Azam Warsak Police Station.

The DPO stated that recommendations for rewards would be made to higher-ranking officials to acknowledge and encourage such efforts by the police force. Furthermore, he emphasized that strict measures would be taken against individuals involved in the display of weapons and drug dealing. The Azam Warsak Police Station's proactive stance against criminal activities serves as a testament to their commitment to maintaining law and order in the region.

## RPO stresses on tolerance, interfaith harmony

### Saqib Mushtaq

MULTAN: Regional Police Officer (RPO) meeting with the scholars of Fiqh Jafaria regarding the security arrangements of Muharram. All possible measures are being taken in Multan region for religious harmony in Muharram. Promote religious tolerance of all religions. Captain (retd) Muhammad Sohail Chaudhary

Regional Police Officer Captain (Rtd) Muhammad Sohail Chaudhary held a meeting with the scholars of Fiqh Jafaria regarding the security arrangements of Muharram. The purpose of which is to control the law and order situation during Muharram in Multan Region Multan, Wahari, Khanewal and Lodhran. The participants in the meeting pointed out the problems to the RPO. RPO issued immediate orders to solve them.

On this occasion, RPO said that necessary steps

are being taken to maintain religious harmony in Multan region. Promote religious tolerance of all religions and make Multan region a cradle of peace. He further said that the administration and the police are trying to solve your problems. The scholars of Fiqh Jafaria can meet me whenever they want. Solving your problems is one of our duties.



In the meeting Meher Abdul Khaliq Mirali, Member of Peace Committee Khanewal, Qaiser Abbas Member of Peace Committee Khanewal, Makhdom Zahoor Shamsi, Maher Muzeen Abbas Jam

Divisional Member Peace Committee Multan, Raza Hussain Joya, Member Peace Committee Lodhran, Syed Asghar Abbas Naqvi, President Anjuman Tahafuz Azadari South Punjab, Syed Mubasher Naqvi Chairman Anjuman



Tahafuz Azadari, Syed Zaman Abbas City President Anjuman Tahafuz Azadari, Haji Sabir Hussain City President Anjuman Tahafuz Azadari, Malik Tawkir Sikandar General Secretary City Multan, Sardar Ejaz Hussain Baloch senior member and other dignitaries were also present.

## Meeting on GPGC Boys, AWKUM land dispute held

### F.P. Report

MARDAN: Under the Chairmanship of Additional Deputy Commissioner Finance and Planning Sami ur Rehman, a meeting was held between Government Post Graduate College (GPGC) For Boys Mardan and Abdul Wali Khan University Mardan regarding the ongoing dispute over government land/college building in which Additional Secretary Colleges Syed Mazhar Ali Shah, Director

Higher Education Dr. Farid Ullah Shah, Assistant Commissioner Mardan Ayesha Tahir, Principal Government Post Graduate College Mardan Muhammad Ibrar, Deputy Registrar Establishment Abdul Wali Khan University and other related officers participated.

On this occasion between Government Post Graduate College Mardan and Abdul Wali Khan University a detailed briefing was given regarding the dispute over government land/college

building and necessary orders were issued by the meeting participants regarding the college building.

Later, in view of the meeting held at the DC's office, Additional Secretary Colleges Higher Education along with Assistant Commissioner Mardan and other participants of the meeting visited the college building used by the university. Important decisions were taken and necessary instructions were issued to the concerned officers.

## Courts' an authority to interpret statutes

### Zia-ur-Rehman Tajik

As per Mariam Webster Dictionary, statutes mean a law enacted by the legislative branch of a government and the Oxford Dictionary defines statute as a law passed by a government and formerly, written down.

Blacks' law dictionary define statute as a particular law enacted and established, by the well of the legislative department of the government. In Pakistan, statute means an Act passed by the Parliament or provincial assembly and in the case of a money bill by the National Assembly. Interpretation of statute means the ascertainment of the meaning and well of the Lawmaker. In other words, interpretation of statute means the process or act of explaining the meaning of the legal text.

While construction of a statute means building the statute over time through arguments from history, precedent, consequences, structure ethics, and successful social and political movements which change the mind of the court. For interpretation the text is considered as a whole and for ascertaining the meaning of the statute the court looks to the language and design of the statute. Interpretation gives effect to the drafter's subjective intent and also uses legislative history when the text is ambiguous.

The world used in the statute are to be understood in the ordinary meaning unless the context indicates that they bear a technical sense. If any section of the law is intricate or doubtful then the proper mode for ascertaining of its true meaning is by comparing it with other sections of the statute. The courts always

try to discover the intention of the Legislature. Judiciary has vast power and interprets the laws as enacted and cannot depart from the plain meaning of the expression used in the statute. Aristotle says that to seek to be wiser than the law is the very first thing which is Forbidden by every good law.

But before the implementation of the law, it has to be interpreted by the court which is the function, role and authority of the judges. It is the ability and power of the judges to clarify the unclear law because the absence of clarity is destructive of the rule of law. (According to President Roosevelt that the chief lawmakers in America may be and often are the judges because they are the final seal of authority. Every time they interpret Law, contracts, Property rights, vested rights, due process of law, and Liberty. They enact into parts of a system of social philosophy and as such interpretation is fundamental they give direction to all the law-making. understanding statutes by S M Zafar page 999)

For the interpretation of statutes, the principle of textualism is applied and it means exclusive Reliance on the text and it begins and ends with what the text says and no meaning is given to a word or sentence that itself cannot bear, words are given the meaning they had when the text was adopted. Judges are the cooperative partners of the legislature in making Law and the basic function of a judge is to interpret the law and not to make the law. The Preamble of the statute also plays an important role in the interpretation of the statute because Preamble provides an introduction, purpose and object

of the statute and it is also considered a key to opening the mind of the maker. For the interpretation of the statute, the parliamentary debate at the time of passing the bill is also considered. Through the side debate, the court explores the intent, spirit and reason of the Lawmaker at the time when the law was made.

But some Jurists oppose the use of parliamentary debate for interpretation and their view is that a law must be construed from the fact of it and nothing extraneous to it could be admitted and the view of the Legislature could not be derogated from the nature of the law.

Furthermore, the court derives the meaning from the text and not from outside sources such as legislative history and parliamentary debate. parliamentary debates are not the appropriate source of information for discovering the meaning of the language of a statute passed by the Parliament. parliamentary debate cannot be considered the opinion of the whole house because the Act is passed by the majority of the Parliament. The job of the court is to discover the true intention of the law rather than the meaning of the statutory text. The purpose of parliamentary debate on the floor of the house by the member of parliament is to inform the other members who will vote in favour or against the bill. Those statements are also considered authoritative expressions of legislative intent.

Legislative history supplements the traditional principles of interpretation. But before Reliance on the legislative history, it is the basic duty of the court to look primarily to the statute itself to find out the leg-

islative intent because the court is not governed by the Parliament's intent but by the Parliament's enactment.

When Pakistan came into existence the courts in Pakistan applied various rules of interpretation. we can see that until 1955 the approach was mainly lateral. But as the legislation increased with the writ jurisdiction a large number of statutes were brought under challenge and scrutiny. The literal rule was replaced and the Mischief rule was adopted in several cases. presently our judges are relying more on more on the mischief rules and purposive approaches. In an extension of the above the basic principle of Natural Justice is required to be read into every statute irrespective of whether the same is incorporated therein or not. understanding statute by SM Zafar page 29).

Casus omisus is a doctrine of Law which is also applied in the interpretation of statutes and it means case omitted. It refers to a situation that is not covered by a statute and is governed by case law or judge-made law. Casus omisus could in no way be supplied by the court of law as that would amount to altering the provision. Court of law was not entitled to read words into the statute or constitution unless a clear reason was found within the four corners of either of them. 2013 SCMR 1062.

But where the language of the statute is such that it leads to a manifest contradiction of the apparent purpose of the enactment then the meaning of the word may be modified because where the intention is clear it cannot be Nullified on the mere basis of the inability of the

draftsman to be articulated. PLD 1969 SC 241. For the interpretation of statutes, three different rules are used, Literal, Mischief and Golden rules and it is the sole discretion of a judge to apply any one of the rules for interpreting any clause of a statute. Literal rules mean Words of a statute were to be first understood in their natural, ordinary or popular sense. The praise and sentences were to be construed according to their grammatical meaning unless that leads to some absurdity or unless there was something in the context or in the object of the statute to suggest the contrary by necessary implication. PLD 2012 SC 1089. Under the literal rules statute has to be read literally by giving the words used therein, ordinary, natural and grammatical meaning. PLD 2011 Supreme Court 260.

Mischief rules. Under the said rules the court attempted to determine the legislature's intent and history which suppressed the Mischief and provided the remedy. The judge considered what was the common law before the Act was passed and what was defect for which the common law did not provide, what was the reason for the remedy and what remedy the Parliament hath resolved and appointed to cure the disease of the Commonwealth? In other words, the Mischief Rules have encouraged the court to give the widest meaning to the statute for protecting the rights of the parties.

Golden rules of interpretation are the modification of the literal rules and allow a judge to depart from a word's normal meaning to avoid an absurd result. under the said rules the

judge is allowed to choose the most sensible meaning where there is more than one meaning to the words in the statute. It also provides an escape route where there is a problem with using the literal meaning. Under the said rule the judge technically changes the Law by changing the meaning of the word in the statute and the drafting error in the statute can be corrected immediately.

In other words, golden rules also mean that if the language of the statute is not clear or leads to more than one meaning or not showing the intention of the Legislature then the language used in the statute could be reformed and the other rules of interpretation can be used for the help. The basic object of the interpretation is to provide justice to the litigants and to ascertain the intention of the Legislature about matters which has been left unexpressed. The court does not resort to the interpretation when the text itself is clear and self-evident. Through interpretation, the cracks and gaps in the law are filled up by the court.

Interpretation guides courts in future cases, Interpretation also guides legislatures, drafters and implementing agencies. Interpretation also allowed judges to apply their minds and consider the social and economic changes. under the process of interpretation, the judge is better placed to deal with the issues that Parliament did not consider when it was drafting and passing the legislation.

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# Syria conditions for cross-border aid ‘unacceptable’: UN



NEW YORK (AFP): The United Nations is concerned about "unacceptable conditions" set by Damascus for allowing aid to flow through its Bab al-Hawa crossing to rebel-held areas in northwest Syria, according to a document reviewed by AFP.

The delivery of humanitarian aid through the crossing has been stalled since Monday, when a 2014 UN deal expired. A letter this week from Syrian authorities allowing use of the border crossing between Turkey and Syria "contains two unacceptable conditions," according to a document sent to the UN Security Council from the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA).

OCHA said it was concerned that the Syrian government had "stressed that the United Nations should not communicate with entities designated as 'terrorist.'" The second condition it bridled at was that the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and the Syrian Arab Red Crescent (SARC) should "supervise and facilitate the distribution of humanitarian aid" in northwest Syria. The UN says more than four million people in northwest Syria are in need of food, water, medicine and other essentials.

Through an arrangement that began in 2014, the UN largely delivers relief to northwest Syria via neighboring Turkey through the Bab al-Hawa crossing. Syria announced on Thursday that it would authorize the UN to use Bab al-Hawa to deliver vital humanitarian aid to millions of people in rebel-held areas for six months. Syria's ambassador to the UN Bassam Sabbagh told reporters on Thursday that his country had taken a "sovereign decision" on allowing the aid to continue.

That announcement followed the expiration on Monday of a mechanism that has allowed UN convoys to use the crossing to rebel areas without authorization from Damascus. UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres's spokesman Stephane Dujarric said that "there's been no crossings in Bab al-Hawa with United Nations humanitarian aid," adding that authorities were reviewing Syria's authorization.

"We're taking a look at... what exactly was expressed in the letter," he said. "These things need to be studied carefully," he added, reiterating the UN's "commitment to delivering humanitarian assistance guided by humanitarian principles of non-interference, of impartiality." The OCHA document seen by AFP also called for the need to "review" and "clarify" parts of Damascus' letter, saying the deliveries "must not infringe on the impartiality... neutrality, and independence of the United Nations' humanitarian operations."

Damascus regularly denounces the UN aid deliveries as a violation of its sovereignty, and major ally Moscow has been chipping away at the deal for years. Russia on Tuesday vetoed a nine-month extension of the agreement, and then failed to muster enough votes to adopt a six-month extension. The 15 UN Security Council members had been trying for days to find a compromise to extend the cross-border aid deal.

Syria's conflict has killed more than 500,000 people, displaced millions and battered the country's infrastructure and industry. "The scale of needs in Syria requires a comprehensive and unrestricted approach to humanitarian aid," the ICRC delegation in New York told AFP. "We stand ready to support in ways that fall within our capabilities and with the consent of all parties involved."

## Jacob Zuma in Russia for medical treatment

MOSCOW (BBC): South Africa's ex-President Jacob Zuma travelled to Russia last week for health reasons, his foundation says. "He will be returning to the country once his doctors have completed their treatment," its statement said.

The announcement comes a day after the Constitutional Court upheld a ruling that Zuma was granted medical parole unlawfully in September 2021. He had been released from prison after serving less than eight weeks of a 15-month sentence. Zuma, now aged 81, had been jailed for failing to attend an inquiry into corruption during his presidency. He was forced to resign because of the allegations in 2018 after nine years in office - but has repeatedly maintained he is the victim of a political conspiracy.

Mzwanele Manyi, spokesperson for the Jacob G Foundation, said it was issuing the information about Zuma's trip to Russia because of media speculation. "Although the trip was private, it was not a secret as incorrectly suggested," he said, adding that Zuma and his team had travelled "on a commercial flight full of passengers". The statement ended without saying when the former president would be returning to South Africa: "The foundation wishes its patron good health and a safe return home whenever the doctors release him." At the end of last week, Zuma was in Victoria Falls in Zimbabwe, attending a conference on carbon credits where he represented a Belarusian company.

It is not clear whether the former South African leader will return to jail following the Constitutional Court's ruling. The prison service had gone to court for leave to appeal against an earlier ruling that he be sent back to prison. It said it was studying the judgement and would comment after seeking legal advice. Zuma was initially given parole for an undisclosed medical reason by the former head of the prison service, Arthur Fraser, who is regarded as an ally of the former president. The main opposition Democratic Alliance (DA) has welcomed the ruling, saying that it confirms that Zuma "belongs in jail".

It said it was drafting a letter to the former president asking him to voluntarily surrender himself for arrest "within a reasonable time frame". He did hand himself in two years ago after he was sentenced for contempt of court following a public stand-off. His jailing then sparked widespread unrest - the worst scenes of violence since the end of apartheid in 1994 when Nelson Mandela became the country's first democratically elected president.

## Brazilian school awarded

RIO DE JANEIRO/BRASILIA (Reuters): A group of Brazilian school children gleefully remove pieces of plastic and trash on the sand of a Rio de Janeiro beach during an outing to teach them about the importance of protecting the environment.

Their school, called Notre Dame, is located on the city's tourist hot spot of Ipanema beach and has just received a Blue School stamp from the United Nations cultural agency UNESCO as part of an initiative to protect the Atlantic Ocean. The stamp recognizes school programs around the world in aim of protecting oceans.

The initiative comes at a time scientists fear that over 90% of the world's marine food supplies are at risk from environmental changes such as rising temperatures and pollution. "It's to educate, it's to develop awareness, it's the formation of a generation that understands that we need the ocean to continue to exist as a species on this planet," says head of NGO Instituto Mar Urbano Ricardo Gomes. The stamp takes into account 16 countries located near the Atlantic Ocean and follows the UN's decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development initiative, which started in 2021 and will end in 2030.

# Extreme heat sweeps the world from Europe to the US and Japan

TOKYO (Agencies): Record heat is forecast around the world from the United States, where tens of millions are battling dangerously high temperatures, to Europe and Japan, in the latest example of the rising threat from global warming.

Italy faces weekend predictions of historic highs with the health ministry issuing a red alert for 16 cities including Rome, Bologna and Florence. The meteo centre warned Italians to prepare for "the most intense heat-wave of the summer and also one of the most intense of all time". The thermometer is likely to hit 40 degrees Celsius (104 Fahrenheit) in Rome by Monday and even 43C (109F) on Tuesday, smashing the record 40.5C (104.9F) set in August 2007.

The islands of Sicily and Sardinia could wilt under temperatures as high as 48C (118F), the European Space Agency warned - "potentially the hottest temperatures ever recorded in Europe". "Parts of the country could see highs as much as 44C [111F] on Saturday," according to the national weather service EMY. The central city of Thebes sweated under 44.2C (111.6F). The Acropolis, Athens's top tourist attraction, closed for a second day straight Saturday during the hottest hours with 41C (106F) expected, as did several parks in the capital.

Regions of France, Germany, Spain and Poland are also baking in searing temperatures. Parts of eastern Japan are also expected to reach 38 to 39C (100 to 102F) on Sunday and Monday, with the meteorological agency warning temperatures could hit previous records. Meanwhile, the northern city of Akita saw more rain in half a day than is typical for the whole month of July, Japan's national broadcaster NHK reported. The downpours also triggered at least one landslide, forcing 9,000 people to evacuate their homes.

Torrential rains described by the meteorological agency as the "heaviest rain ever experienced" have also hit southern Japan in recent weeks, leaving at least 11 people dead. Relentless monsoon rains have reportedly killed at least 90 people in

northern India, after burning heat. The Yamuna River running through the capital New Delhi has reached a record high of 208.66 metres (685 feet), more than a metre over the flood top set in 1978, threatening low-lying neighbourhoods in the megacity of more than 20 million people.

Major flooding and landslides are common during India's monsoons, but experts have said climate change is increasing their frequency and severity. Americans are watching as a powerful heatwave stretches from California to Texas, with its peak expected this weekend. In Arizona, one of the hardest-hit states, residents face a daily endurance marathon against the sun.

State capital Phoenix was to record its 15th straight day above 43C (109F), according to the National Weather Service. Hannah Safford, White House climate policy adviser, told Al Jazeera that low-income communities were hardest hit by heatwaves. "People have been experiencing record-breaking heat for weeks now. It's not just a geographic region where we're seeing communities being disproportionately affected," Safford said.

"We know that the lowest income, the most vulnerable Americans who have historically borne the brunt of climate change are also bearing the impacts of heat. These are people who have to work outside, who don't necessarily have coolings in their homes, so we're paying special attention to those communities." Authorities have been sounding the alarm, advising people to avoid outdoor activities in the daytime and to be wary of dehydration. The Las Vegas weather service warned that assuming high temperatures naturally come with the area's desert climate was "a DANGEROUS mindset! This heatwave is NOT typical desert heat".

"Now the most intense period is beginning," it added, as the weekend arrived with record highs threatening on Sunday. California's Death Valley, one of the hottest places on Earth, is also likely to register new peaks Sunday, with the mercury possibly rising to 54C (130F). Southern

California is fighting numerous wildfires, including one in Riverside County that has burned more than 3,000 acres (1,214 hectares) and prompted evacuation orders.

Morocco may be used to hot weather, but it was slated for above-average temperatures this weekend with highs of 47C (117F) in some provinces - more typical of August than July - sparking concerns for water shortages, the meteorological service said. In the Middle East, water-scarce Jordan was forced to dump 214 tonnes of water on a wildfire that broke out in the Ajloun forest in the north amid a heatwave, the army said.

In Iraq, where scorching summers are common, along with power cuts, Wissam Abed told AFP he cools off from Baghdad's brutal summer by swimming in the Tigris River. But as Iraqi rivers dry up, so does the age-old pastime. With temperatures near 50C (122F) and wind whipping through the city like a hair dryer, Abed stood in the middle of the river, but the water only comes up to his waist.

"I live here ... like my grandfather did before me. Year after year, the water situation gets worse," said the 37-year-old. While it can be difficult to attribute a particular weather event to climate change, scientists insist global warming - linked to dependence on fossil fuels - is behind the multiplication and intensification of heatwaves in the world. The heatwaves come after the EU's climate monitoring service said the world saw its hottest June on record last month.

Richard Allan, professor of climate science at the University of Reading told Al Jazeera "weather patterns are more severe than they usually would be, because of the greenhouse gases we've been pumping into the atmosphere due to human activity." "This extra heat is kind of supercharging these weather extremes ... We need to treat the cause, which is the increases in greenhouse gases that are heating our planet up and making heat waves hotter but also making intense rain and flooding more severe."

# Alleged Russia agent pleads not guilty to smuggling US tech, arms

NEW YORK (Agencies): An alleged Russian intelligence officer has pleaded not guilty in the United States to charges of violating sanctions, US export controls and money laundering for smuggling US-origin electronics and ammunition to Russia to help its war against Ukraine.

Russian citizen Vadim Konoshchenok, who was extradited on Thursday from Estonia to the US, entered the plea at a hearing in federal court in Brooklyn, New York. US Magistrate Judge Ramon Reyes ordered Konoshchenok to be detained pending trial after prosecutors called him a flight risk.

Sabrina Shroff, a US-based lawyer for Konoshchenok, declined to comment, and the Russian embassy in Washington did not respond to a request for comment. Konoshchenok, 48, was detained by Estonian authorities in October 2022 while trying to cross into Russia carrying 35 types of semiconductors and electronic components, some of which were subject to US export controls. He was also accused of smuggling US-made ammunition commonly used for sniper rifles, according to charges filed against him. "Konoshchenok has also been repeatedly stopped by Estonian border officials attempting to smuggle hundreds of thousands of American-made and export-controlled rounds into Russia, including 6.5 mm, 7 mm, .338 and .308 mag-

num rounds, which are commonly used by snipers, as well as military-grade .223 rounds," the US Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of New York said in a statement.

"To date, over half a tonne [450kg] of military-grade ammunition linked to Konoshchenok has been recovered or interdicted before being smuggled into Russia," the statement added. Konoshchenok was allegedly a central figure in a seven-person smuggling ring, which included five Russians and two Americans who operated "under the direction of Russian intelligence services" to obtain US electronics and other goods restricted by US export controls. He faces up to 30 years in prison for conspiracy, violation of export controls, smuggling and money laundering. The US justice department's Andrew Adams said Konoshchenok "allegedly provided cutting edge, American-developed technologies and ammunition to Russia for use in their illegal and unprovoked invasion of Ukraine".

According to prosecutors, the suspect told his co-conspirators in electronic communications that he charged a 10 percent fee for dealing in controlled items. "Can't do less. Sanctions," he wrote, according to prosecutors. Konoshchenok's extradition to the US comes as Washington seeks to negotiate the return of US

citizens held by Moscow.

They include Paul Whelan, a corporate security official convicted in a Russian court of espionage, and Wall Street Journal reporter Evan Gershkovich, who is facing charges of espionage. The US denies either was involved in spying, but has been in negotiations to see if they could be swapped for Russians that it holds. Last December, Washington traded jailed Russian arms smuggler Viktor Bout for US basketball star Brittney Griner, who was jailed in Russia months earlier on drug charges.

In April 2022, Russia released Trevor Reed, a former Marine imprisoned two years earlier for assaulting Russian police officers. At the same time, the US freed a Russian pilot jailed for drug trafficking. The US also holds Alexander Vinnik, a Russian money launderer extradited from Greece last year, and Vladimir Dunaev, a malware and ransomware hacker extradited from South Korea in 2021. And Washington is seeking the extradition from Brazil of Sergey Cherkasov, an alleged Russian spy who attended graduate school in Washington under deep cover. Konoshchenok's prosecution comes as US authorities seek to ramp up enforcement of export controls and sanctions designed to hamper Moscow's war in Ukraine. His next scheduled court appearance is July 31.

## Xi calls for 'solid' security barrier around China's internet

BEIJING (Reuters): Chinese President Xi Jinping said China must build a "solid" security barrier around its internet under the supervision of the ruling Communist Party, in his latest call to safeguard online data and information. China must persist in managing, operating and ensuring access to the internet in accordance with the law, Xi said in instructions delivered to officials attending a two-day cybersecurity meeting in Beijing that ended on Saturday.

"We must adhere to the Party's management of the internet and adhere to (the principle of) making the internet work for the people," state-run Xinhua news agency cited Xi as saying. In the past decade, Xi has made preserving security a priority, with his concept of security covering everything from politics and the economy to the environment and cyberspace.

In 2015, China passed a national security law with a broader scope to include its cyberspace. A year later, a law was passed that contained requirements for security reviews and for data to be stored on servers in China.

# UN 'very concerned' on protests in Kenya

NAIROBI (Agencies): The United Nations said it was "very concerned" about the widespread use of violence by police against protesters in Kenya, after clashes against tax hikes reportedly turned deadly.

Protests broke out across the country on Wednesday, including the capital Nairobi, where Opiyo Wandanyi, who leads the opposition in Kenya's parliament told CNN that demonstrators were forcefully dispersed by police. "Reports say up to 23 people have been killed and dozens injured in the demonstrations in the past week," UN Human Rights Office spokesperson Jeremy Laurence said in a press release.

Laurence called for "prompt, thorough, independent and transparent investigations into the deaths and injuries.

Those responsible must be held to account. Effective measures to prevent further deaths and injuries must be adopted." "In light of calls for further protests next week, we call on the authorities to ensure the right to peaceful assemblies as guaranteed by the Kenyan Constitution and international human rights law.

The policing of protests must seek to facilitate peaceful assemblies, and any use of force must be guided by the principles of legality, necessity, proportionality and non-discrimination.

Firearms should never be used to disperse protests," Laurence said. Laurence also appealed "for calm and encourage open dialogue to address social, economic and political grievances, with the aim of identifying lasting solutions in the

interests of all Kenyans."

Demonstrations have flared in Kenya over a raft of unpopular tax hikes proposed by the national government. Kenyan opposition leader and former prime minister Raila Odinga has led calls for protests over the increases. Odinga lost the election in August last year and believes the results were manipulated and has since led civil disobedience protests against his political rival.

A Kenyan court temporarily halted the implementation of the Finance Act 2023 touted by President William Ruto as a measure to shore up public finances and increase domestic revenue. However, the Ruto administration defied the court order and increased tax on fuel prices, which has led to a rise in cost of transport and staple goods.

# US, Japan, S Korea, flay NK missile launch

WASHINGTON (Reuters): North Korea's firing of an intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) this week violates multiple UN resolutions and threatens peace and stability in the region, the United States, South Korea, and Japan said in a joint statement condemning the launch.

The missile, fired off North Korea's east coast on Wednesday, flew for 74 minutes to an altitude of 6,000 km (3,728 miles) and a range of 1,000 km, according to Japan, in what would be the longest-ever flight time for a North Korean missile. "This constitutes a clear, flagrant violation of multiple UN Security Council resolutions and poses a grave threat to peace and stability on the

Korean Peninsula and beyond," the top foreign officials of US, South Korea, and Japan said in the joint statement.

The countries urged North Korea "to cease its unlawful and escalatory actions and promptly return to dialogue," the statement added. The officials - US Secretary of State Antony Blinken, Japanese Foreign Minister Yoshimasa Hayashi and Foreign Minister Park Jin of South Korea - met on the sidelines on the sidelines of the ASEAN Regional Forum in Jakarta, Indonesia.

Blinken reaffirmed the United States' "ironclad commitments" to the defense of Japan and South Korea in that meeting, according to a

separate statement from the US State Department. North Korea's "continued development of its nuclear and ballistic missile capabilities will only bolster the resolve of the three countries and the international community to achieve the complete denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula," the joint statement released after the meeting said.

The launch came after heated complaints from North Korea in recent days, accusing American spy planes of flying over its exclusive economic zone waters, condemning a recent visit to South Korea by an American nuclear-powered cruise missile submarine, and vowing to take steps in reaction.



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# Menace of terrorism in AfPak region

**R**ECENTLY, Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Syed Asim Munir has said that the Armed Forces of Pakistan had serious concerns on the safe havens and liberty of action available to the banned Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) in Afghanistan. The Army Chief made these remarks in the context of Zhob terrorist attack during which several soldiers got martyrom and a few others get injured during a terrorist attack on a military installation . The COAS expressed hope that the interim Afghan Government will 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. According to him, the involvement of Afghan nationals in acts of terrorism in Pakistan was another important concern that needed to be addressed. The Army Chief declared that such attacks are intolerable and will elicit an effective response from the Security Forces of Pakistan. Pak Army Commander Inchief observed that military operations against terrorists would continue unabated and the Armed Forces would not rest till the menace of terrorism was rooted out from the country.

There had been a sharp uptick in terrorist activities by the proscribed Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) after the banned outfit called off ceasefire in November last year and resumed its terrorist activities against the state of Pakistan in most parts of the country particularly in Erstwhile FATA and Balochistan. The senior commander and the reins of the banned group took refuge to neighbouring Afghanistan during the successful Counter Terrorism operations of Pakistani Security Forces during 2015-2016. The banned group currently camped inside Afghanistan and wage a war against Pakistani state institutions in the recent months. Meanwhile, the bilateral relations between Pakistan and Afghanistan suffered a brief setback over the issue of terrorism stems out of border regions of neighboring Afghanistan. The Pakistani authorities had urged Kabul to eliminate terrorist safe havens and take action against the banned terror outfits camped and operate out of Afghanistan. However, Afghan interim authorities displayed hesitation in taking stern action against their ideological brothern and came up with multiple plans to facilitate the TTP, which includes previously fractured peace deal between the TTP and Islamabad, and recent offer for settlement of TTP fighters in Northern Afghanistan with monetary assistance from Pakistan.

Presently, the TTP has become a thorny issue between Pakistan and the Afghan Taliban. Despite efforts, the two sides could not find a common ground to deal with the issue. After continuous bilateral engagement through diplomatic channel, the recent China-Pakistan and Afghanistan trilateral Summit urged Afghan interim rulers to remove terror safe havens and do not allow terrorist groups to use it's soil for cross border attacks against other nations. Although, Afghan authorities agreed to uphold their commitments under Doha agreement and Islamabad Summit, but failed to take any appropriate action against TTP miscreants staying in their country. Meanwhile, a Taliban spokesperson has recently claimed that the interim government was not allowing its soil to be used against any country and that TTP was a problem of Pakistan to deal with, that further disappointed Islamabad in this regard.

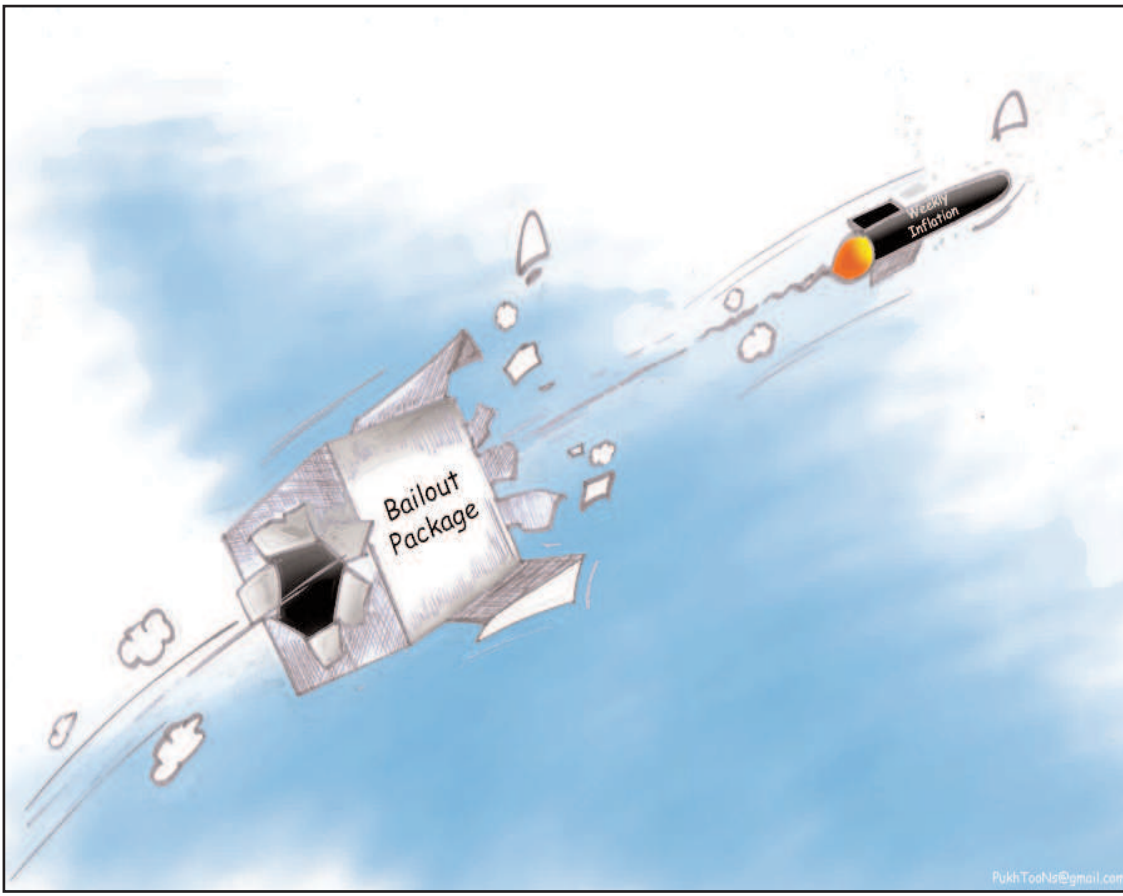
Presently, the bilateral relations between Islamabad and Kabul are at the record low because of terrorism issue. Recently, the TTP has demanded the Pakistan government to reverse FATA merger with Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, so it can establish Afghanistan style Khalafit in tribal area. This situation rang the bell in the policy making circles in Islamabad and recent statement by the Army Chief clearly illustrates frustration on part of Pakistan due to the lack of cooperation from the Afghan Taliban to tackle the TTP threat. Constitutionally, the TTP and Pakistan can't go hand in hand as TTP agenda is totally opposite of the Constitution and fundamental essence of state of Pakistan, meanwhile, tolerating terrorism undermines negational Sovereignty of Pakistan. Historically, Pakistani leaders had always advocated on behalf of Afghan authorities at all global forums out of love for Taliban, but Kabul recent attitude over terror issue has trashed the hopes and unreal fascination of Pakistani Strategists about Taliban, who always enjoyed a close association with Islamabad.

The current scenario, present a grim situation of the entire AfPak region where several multilateral regional connectivity, and energy projects and transnational cooperation marred by the issue of terrorism. The people of the region had suffered utmost from unceasing hostilities and this movement of cooperation and mutual benefits had been visualized after countless sacrifices and a long journey that must not be lost for unrealistic agenda, that would not only have unbearable cost for it's propellers but will surely destroy the peace of the region. At the same time, the Pushtun nation would be the biggest loser in case of any Pak-Afghan conflict because Pushtuns live on both sides of durand line and linked with close historic bonds.

Interestingly, New Delhi and Washington had worked tirelessly over the past two decades to create such situation between Pakistan and Taliban but failed, that has been created by some insane individuals from both sides of Durand line. In fact, both parties must not fall prey to the conspiracies of their common foe and demonstrate passion and wisdom to resolve their issues amicably. However, the Taliban regime must take initiative to clear doubts and reset it's relationship with Islamabad so both nations move toward peace, greater cooperation and shared growth in the future.

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## For the sake of the planet, stop the attacks on COP28 hosts

Nathalie Goulet

**T**HE UAE, which will host the COP28 climate change conference in November and December, is not the first state in the Middle East to host the Conference of the Parties. Indeed, COP18 was organized in Doha and last year's COP27 took place in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt. It was in Sharm El-Sheikh, in fact, that an alarming study pointed to the fact that the Middle East was experiencing global warming twice as much as the global average.

The study estimated an average increase of 0.45 degrees Celsius per decade in the Middle East and Eastern Mediterranean, based on data collected from 1981 to 2019, when the global average increase was 0.27 C per decade. This observation is appalling and alarming.

The Middle East is experiencing global warming head-on, at almost twice the global average rate, with potentially devastating effects for its people and economies. Some 400 million people in the region are at risk of extreme heat waves, prolonged droughts and rising sea levels. According to the aforementioned study, "virtually all" areas of life will be "seriously affected" by hotter and drier climates. This will potentially contribute to an increase in the death rate and exacerbate "inequalities between the wealthy and the poorest populations" in the region.

The Middle East is not only likely to suffer severely from climate change, but also to be a major contributor to it, the study continued. It stated that this oil-rich region could soon become one of the world's major sources of greenhouse gas emissions. The choice of Dubai to host COP28, as aberrant as it may appear at first glance, is not meaningless. On the contrary, the organization of the conference includes in the foreground a Middle Eastern state that should be at the heart of the solution to the problem of global warming. The UAE has been a victim of its own success in terms of its exponential economic growth since the 1980s. Dubai in particular has been and still is the city of excess. However, in recent years, the UAE has changed path and sought to become a pioneering image

of ecotourism. About 20 km from Abu Dhabi city center, a sandy expanse is now the construction site for Masdar City (Masdar means "source" in Arabic). This "ecocity," which is scheduled for completion in 2030, is guided by renewable energy, a low-carbon transport network and a zero-waste strategy. Critics of the choice of venue for COP28 have probably for-

Jaber has served two separate terms as the UAE's special envoy for climate change, making it his mission to fulfill the country's commitment to net-zero carbon emissions by 2050. This commitment was made following the 2015 Paris Agreement, with the UAE becoming the first country in the Middle East to take a decisive step toward climate action. Al-

field of renewable energy and its place as the first country in the region to deploy nuclear energy. Furthermore, pursuant to Article 4, Paragraph 4 of the Paris Agreement, the targets for progress are fueled by partnering and engaging with other nations to make today's energy system cleaner, while investing in the clean energy of tomorrow.

The Paris Agreement stipulates: "Developed country parties should continue to lead the way in taking on economy-wide absolute emission reduction targets. Developing country parties should continue to increase their mitigation efforts and are encouraged to move progressively toward economy-wide emission reduction or limitation targets in the light of different national circumstances." The appointment of Al-Jaber has frequently been criticized because he is CEO of the Abu Dhabi National Oil Company and an oil tycoon. However, it should be emphasized that the Conferences of the Parties bring together not only the representatives of the states parties, but also of nonstate actors, including local authorities, nongovernmental organizations and scientists. Thus, it is in the DNA of each conference to include the widest possible spectrum of stakeholders to address the climate emergency. This variety targets a single and unique goal: accelerating and strengthening collective climate action. Al-Jaber's professional capacity should not be seen as a conflict of interest, but rather he should be viewed as an energy specialist who can act in the interest of the ecological transition.

And the UAE - a member of the UN Security Council, an important member of the international community, an actor in the fight against religious extremism and the Muslim Brotherhood, a victim of global warming and a major consumer of energy - is fully justified in hosting and chairing COP28. "Our house is burning and we are looking elsewhere," These words uttered by then-French President Jacques Chirac in 2002 remain relevant today. We must stop the sterile polemics because the fate of our planet depends on it.

Arab News

***In 2009, then UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon appointed him to his advisory group on energy and climate change. They published a major report the following year. At the same time, Al-Jaber obtained permission to set up the headquarters of the International Renewable Energy Agency in Abu Dhabi. Since 2010, Al-Jaber has served two separate terms as the UAE's special envoy for climate change, making it his mission to fulfill the country's commitment to net-zero carbon emissions by 2050.***

gotten that, like a pandemic, global warming has no borders.

COP28 President-designate Sultan Al-Jaber announced last year: "The fundamental challenges of the energy transition are as follows: First, how to make economies grow, while curbing emissions. Two, how to maintain energy security and climate progress at the same time. Three, how to ensure no one is left behind. I believe we can, we must, and indeed we have no choice but to solve these challenges together." Note the unflinching determination of the president who will be in charge of directing the debates at COP28. Back in 2006, Al-Jaber founded the renewable energy company Masdar when only 33 years old. In 2009, then UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon appointed him to his advisory group on energy and climate change. They published a major report the following year. At the same time, Al-Jaber obtained permission to set up the headquarters of the International Renewable Energy Agency in Abu Dhabi. Since 2010, Al-

The approach adopted by the UAE reflects its position as a pioneer in the

## Israel wants to turn Jenin into another Gaza

Belén Fernández

**O**NE of the protagonists of Palestinian actor-director Mohammad Bakri's 2002 documentary *Jenin, Jenin - which deals with that year's Israeli military attack on the Jenin refugee camp in the occupied West Bank - is a young Palestinian girl with brown bangs and no-nonsense eyes.*

Picking her way in her school uniform through the rubble of the onslaught that killed 52 Palestinians, she swears: "We will not give up. Yes, they destroyed everything but we will rebuild it." She also warns: "We'll keep on having children. They'll become stronger and braver than ever." Fast forward 21 years, and Jenin is once again on the receiving end of Israel's fetish for destruction.

On June 19, Israeli combat helicopters fired missiles into the camp, ostensibly as part of an arrest operation that ended up killing five Palestinians, including a 15-year-old girl named Sadeel Naghniyeh. Then in early July, in the worst attack on the West Bank since 2002, the Israeli armed forces terrorised the inhabitants of Jenin for two days and killed at least 12 people, including children. The massive aerial and ground assault involved helicopter gunships, missiles, drones, armoured vehicles, bulldozers and more than 1,000 Israeli soldiers. That is what happens, it seems, when Palestinians keep rebuilding - and keep existing. Indeed, Al Jazeera quoted 56-year-old camp resident Ahmed Abu Hweileh on the takeover from the bloody escapade: "The message to the world and the occupation is that this camp will keep on going. They tried to destroy it and it came back up." Israel's recent compartment in Jenin - and particularly the sudden use of air strikes in the West Bank for the first time in years - has invited comparisons to the Israeli modus operandi in the Gaza Strip, another location that has come to symbolise Palestinian resistance.

Gaza, of course, is quite well-acquainted with the ins and outs of aerial punishment: buildings annihilated in one fell swoop; people massacred by the tens or thousands in military operations of varying duration; hospitals, power plants, and other critical infrastructure damaged or destroyed. In May 2021, in the midst of the coronavirus pandemic, an Israeli air strike devastated Gaza's only COVID-19 testing and vaccination centre in the context of an 11-day assault that killed some 260 people, including 67 children.

And while Jenin has hardly been exempt from Israeli antagonisation in the years since 2002, it has tended to be of a more hands-on variety than in Gaza. Just recall last year's killing of Al Jazeera journalist Shireen Abu Akleh, shot in the back of the head by a soldier while covering an Israeli military raid on the camp. With Israel's latest deadly incursions, though, the Palestinians of Jenin are being reintroduced to the joys of airborne terror in confined and densely populated spaces. And like in Gaza,

we are talking about people who are already refugees being displaced again due to aerial bombardment.

On account of the 48-hour July raid, thousands in Jenin were forced to flee their homes; according to the United Nations, about 900 houses were damaged, many to the point of uninhabitability. The UN also found that Israel's deployment of "heavy machinery that ripped up large sections of the roads" had resulted in the destruction of nearly 8 kilometres (5 miles) of water pipes and 3km (1.8 miles) of sewage lines. In the aftermath of the July episode, which Israeli officials have underscored can be replicated at any moment, observers have increasingly drawn parallels between Israel's new approach to Jenin and its good old strategy of "mowing the lawn" in Gaza. As The Washington Post noted back in May 2021 - during the aforementioned 11-day operation that saw 67 children put through the lawn mower, as it were - the grass-mowing terminology "implies the Palestinian militants in the Gaza Strip and their supply of crude but effective homemade weapons are like weeds that need to be cut back". Around the same time, the vice president of the Jerusalem Institute for Strategic Studies David M Weinberg penned an opinion piece for The Jerusalem Post, praising the strategy's effectiveness because, in the absence of lawn mowing, "weeds grow wild and snakes begin to slither around in the brush". This, to be sure, was not the first occasion on which Zionists had undertaken to liken Palestinians to snakes. In the lead-up to Operation Protective Edge - the 51-day lawn-mowing session in 2014 that dispensed with 2,251 Palestinians in Gaza, among them 551 children - then-Israeli parliamentarian Ayelet Shaked took to Facebook to post the text of an article suggesting that the mothers of Palestinian fighters also be eliminated, as well as "the physical homes in which they raised the snakes".

Otherwise, the article went on, "more little snakes will be raised there". Shaked, for her part, went on to be the justice minister of Israel. For now, it remains to be seen whether Israel's new approach to Jenin will eventually lead to a Gaza-esque siege - Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's branding of the refugee camp as a "terrorist nest" could certainly help do this.

One recalls Bakri's film *Jenin, Jenin*, and the schoolgirl with brown bangs who pledged to rebuild and resist. Citing all of the "dead bodies, houses in ruins, and undecipherable atrocities" she witnessed in the camp in 2002, the young girl promised to "never make peace" with Israel. Shaking her head with an awareness beyond her years, she reasoned: "After all I've been through, what will become of my life? After they shattered my dreams, what is left for me to say?" It is hard to argue with that logic. And 21 years later, it is clearer than ever that, for Israel itself, peace was never the point.

Aljazeera

## Global survey reveals that US soft power remains strong

Kerry Boyd Anderson

**A** recent survey of 23 countries found that a majority of people polled had a favorable view of the US. This finding suggests that US soft power - non-coercive influence, such as cultural and economic appeal - remains strong.

The Pew Research Center's 2023 Global Attitudes Survey found that a median of 59 percent of people polled had a favorable view of the US, compared to 30 percent with an unfavorable view. In 20 of the countries, views of the US have improved since 2019; only in Italy and Hungary have they declined, while there is no 2019 data for Australia. The 2023 survey found that only Hungary had a majority (51 percent) that views the US unfavorably.

Positive attitudes toward the US were especially common in Poland (93 percent), Israel (87 percent) and South Korea (79 percent). The Pew report noted that positive views among Poles of the

US, NATO and the EU increased after Russia's 2022 invasion of Ukraine. At the same time, Polish views of Russia turned markedly more negative. The Polish people are clearly choosing the West over Russia. The very high level of the US' popularity in Poland was especially notable when compared to the other Eastern European country included in the survey: Hungary. Only 44 percent of Hungarians expressed favorable views of the US. This result is at least partly linked to Washington's difficult relations with Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban; his supporters were likely to express more negative views of the US and particularly of President Joe Biden. Often, there is a close link between global views of the US and global perceptions of the American president. This continued to hold true in the 2023 survey, which found that a median of 54 percent of respondents in the 23 countries expressed

confidence in Biden, compared to 39 percent who expressed no confidence in him. Interestingly, Biden appears to be more popular in the global attitudes survey than he does among Americans. The FiveThirtyEight poll tracker recently found that 54 percent of Americans disapprove of Biden's performance, compared to 40.5 percent who approve.

In 14 countries, a majority said they have confidence in Biden "to do the right thing regarding world affairs," compared to seven countries where majorities expressed a lack of confidence (opinions in Brazil and Indonesia were split). The survey also found that Biden in 2023 is more popular than Donald Trump was in 2019 in all of the countries except Hungary (with no 2019 data for Australia). In multiple countries, Biden is significantly more popular than Trump was. For example, 13 percent

of Germans expressed confidence in Trump in 2019, while 67 percent expressed confidence in Biden in 2023. Hungary is the only exception, as 33 percent of Hungarians had confidence in Trump in 2019 but only 19 percent expressed confidence in Biden. Another important finding is that people interviewed for the survey were more likely to say that the US - rather than China - is the world's leading economic power, compared to 33 percent who put China in the top spot. This view was especially strong in South Korea, Japan and Israel, where 83 percent, 64 percent and 61 percent, respectively, named the US as the leading economic power. Only a majority in Italy (55 percent) said that China is the world's top economy, although half of Australians agreed. The Pew report

noted that the percentage who perceive the US as the top economy increased over the last three or four years in 10 countries. The survey's findings also suggest that many people around the world have a nuanced view of the US' role in global politics and security. While 82 percent agreed that the US interferes in other countries, 61 percent also said that it "contributes to peace and stability around the world." Indeed, 50 percent of respondents said both that the US interferes and contributes to peace and stability. Black-and-white views of US global policy as either fully good or wholly bad do not represent many people's understanding of the country's role in the world.

The Pew Global Attitudes surveys are always fascinating and offer important insights into public perceptions of world affairs. Of course, no poll is ever perfect. The Pew poll does a good job of including a variety of countries in terms of

geographic and economic diversity. However, it is overly dependent on countries that are US allies, including European states, Japan, South Korea and Australia, and countries that have long sought a positive relationship with Washington, such as India. Key hostile countries - such as China, Iran and Russia - are not included. No Arab countries are represented in the survey. The exclusion of these and other states appears to be due to resource constraints and difficulties conducting high-quality polling in some countries; therefore, noting their omission is not a criticism of the survey but nonetheless is an important observation to make when interpreting the survey's usefulness to understanding global perspectives. While taking such caveats into account, the survey should be reassuring for US political and business leaders. US soft power and economic power remain strong - for now.



# America would be destroyed in a fully hypersonic war

David Axe

**YES, the Ukrainian military has had remarkable success with its American-made Patriot surface-to-air missiles - and has even shot down some of Russia's vaunted Kinzhal hypersonic missiles. No this does not mean the Patriot, or any other air-defense system, is ready to protect the United States and its allies from the most serious missile threats. It's especially important to appreciate this reality in the aftermath of North Korea's test-launch of a nuclear-capable intercontinental ballistic missile on Wednesday.**

Even after plinking a few Russian hypersonic munitions, Western missile-defense systems are still more effective in theory than they are in reality. If Ukraine's repeated shoot-downs of incoming Kinzhals are any indication, Russia's non-nuclear hypersonic missiles aren't as scary as they may have appeared at first. When the Kinzhal - a 24-foot air-launched missile that travels up to 10 times the speed of sound - first appeared in 2018, Russian president Vladimir Putin declared it impervious to all existing air-defenses on account of its high speed. Putin was wrong or lying. Shortly after deploying their first Patriot batteries in May, the Ukrainians reportedly tweaked the Raytheon-built missile's software to improve its interception capability - then got to work making the case against the Kinzhal and other Russian super-weapons. On May 13, a Patriot battery shot down five Russian warplanes and helicopters in the span of just a few minutes while the aircraft were flying over southern Russia near the border with Ukraine. The crew of the same battery also claims to have shot down Russian drones, cruise missiles and - yes - Kinzhals. Kill markings are visible on the Patriot's side in a Ukrainian air force promotional video. "Ukraine's defense suc-

cess here may also help to correct perceptions regarding the necessity and value of hypersonic weapons, which have been touted by some as essential at any price," missile experts Alexander Montgomery and Amy Nelson wrote for the Brookings Institution in Washington DC. It might be tempting to conflate high-speed hypersonic missiles with ICBMs that also fly really, really fast. If a Patriot can shoot down a Mach-10 Kinzhal, surely it or some other air-defense system - the US Army's Ground-Based Midcourse Defense (GMD) missile or the US Navy's ship-launched SM-3 - can also defend against a North Korean Hwasong-18 ICBM, and protect American and allied cities from nuclear attack. Right? Wrong, most probably. Unlike Kinzhal style in-atmosphere hypersonic missiles, an ICBM warhead boosts completely out of the atmosphere before reentering it and speeding down toward its target at 20 times the speed of sound.

That's at least twice as fast as a Kinzhal during the final descent, and the extra-atmospheric part of the journey is much higher. Of all US interceptors, only the GMD can get high enough to stop ICBM warheads in the middle part of their flight up in space, hence its name. It does this by lobbing an "exo-atmospheric kill vehicle" (EKV) up into the warhead's path. The EKV manoeuvres itself precisely so that the speeding warhead crashes into it, destroying itself as much by its own kinetic energy as the EKV's. But the GMD has had a spotty test record at best. Even when the US Missile Defense Agency successfully tested one of its 55-foot GMD missiles against what the agency claimed was an ICBM-like target over the Pacific Ocean back in 2017, critics were quick to point out that the tar-

get wasn't actually very realistic.

According to Laura Grego, an analyst with the Union of Concerned Scientists in Massachusetts, the target reached a top speed of just Mach 17. That's thousands of miles per hour slower than a real ICBM. The unreliability of the GMD has led some US politicians and officials to favour the Navy's SM-3. This is launched from Aegis warships, and like the GMD it deploys an EKV into the target's path outside the atmosphere. When the US needed to shoot down one of its own spy satellites which had broken down in 2008, the SM-3 got the job - and it delivered, destroying the satellite as planned. But the SM-3 is limited on the height it can get its EKV up to: it was only intended to beat intermediate-range missiles when it was built, though it has been tested against "ICBM class" targets in recent years. In any case, threats have changed. Rather than regular ICBM warheads soaring ballistically through space, the new menace today is hypersonic "boost glide" warheads such as Russia's "Avangard".

These are launched on an ICBM rocket stack, but spend much less time in space and much more time gliding through the atmosphere at high hypersonic speeds, jinking and manoeuvring unpredictably as they come. Space EKVs can't deal with these, and they are much harder for in-atmosphere interceptors like the Patriot or the naval SM-2 to deal with. That's not to say that US interceptors are useless. They might offer a defence against a very limited ICBM attack of the sort that North Korea might be able to make against the continental USA or US allies such as Japan. But nobody seriously believes they could stop Russia's thousands-strong nuclear fleet, or China's rapidly-growing ICBM

force.

Nonetheless, after spending hundreds of billions of dollars over many decades on ever-more-sophisticated missile-defenses, the US military and its allies possess hundreds of air-, sea- and ground-based launchers and many thousands of munitions that can intercept incoming enemy missiles of various capabilities. They can shoot down low- and slow-flying cruise missiles, shorter-range ballistic missiles and, of course, aircraft. They can even hit hypersonic missiles, as the Ukrainians proved. That makes missile defenses a key component of American and allied war plans for, say, a conflict with China over Taiwan. The Chinese People's Liberation Army Rocket Force has aimed thousands of non-nuclear cruise and ballistic missiles at Taiwan and US and Japanese bases near Taiwan. Beijing's plan is to bombard Taiwanese defenses in order to soften them up in the early hours of a Chinese attempt to invade Taiwan - and to bombard American and Japanese bases in order to slow an American-led intervention on Taiwan's side. Patriots and other surface-to-air missile systems could swat away many of the Chinese missiles, blunting that key early bombardment and giving Taiwanese and allied troops a fighting chance to defend the island democracy. Just don't expect those SAMs to make any difference if a war over Taiwan, or a major war between the two Koreas which drew in China, or a war between Nato and Russia in Europe, escalates to a major strategic nuclear exchange. Both sides would still be destroyed. It's still as true now as it was in 1949, the year the Soviet Union tested its first fission warhead and joined the United States as a nuclear power: the only way to win an atomic war is to not fight one in the first place.

The Telegraph

## As NATO shows unity, Putin has himself to thank

Frida Ghitis

**EVEN before NATO members officially kicked off their two-day summit in Vilnius, Lithuania, this week, the alliance dealt a painful blow to Russian President Vladimir Putin. On Monday evening, the leader of the bloc's most contentious member, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, lifted his long-standing refusal to allow Sweden to join NATO.**

Putin's invasion of Ukraine had persuaded two formerly neutral countries, Sweden and Finland, that the only path to security when you live near Russia is to join the Western alliance. Both Nordic countries started working to join what was then a 30-country military alliance since May of last year, just about two months after Russia's invasion of Ukraine. Putin had two objectives with his war. One was taking control of Ukraine, which he claimed has no right to exist; the other was weakening NATO. Russia's unprovoked invasion of its neighbor strengthened Ukrainians' sense of nationhood and led to the expansion of NATO on Russia's border. Finland, which already lost territory to the Kremlin after it launched an invasion decades ago, has the longest European Union border with Russia at 832 miles. And this past spring, the country started building a fence at the border amid security concerns. It officially became NATO's 31st member in April. Putin can still take some solace in the intense disagreements inside NATO prior to the summit over whether or not Ukraine should be granted membership. NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg announced on Tuesday that allies agreed to remove some of the requirements for accession, making Ukraine's process much faster. He said Ukraine "will become a member of NATO" but "when conditions are met."

And although NATO leaders did not formally invite Ukraine to join the alliance, much to

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy's disappointment, they did agree to sharply boost Ukraine's military strength and step up their commitment in helping it defeat Russia's unprovoked invasion. "We're going to help Ukraine build a strong defense across land, air, and sea," US President Joe Biden promised, saying it was "a force of stability in the region to deter against any and all threats," a not-so-veiled reference to Putin. Overall, the summit - held near Russia's border, in a country once invaded, absorbed and controlled by the Kremlin - is a show of force for Ukraine's friends, bringing bad news for the Russian strongman. Despite the delay in ushering Ukraine into the alliance, there is no question that the Vilnius summit is strengthening ties with Kyiv, even if earlier on Tuesday, Zelenskyy had bitterly questioned the wisdom of postponing his country's accession. On his way to Lithuania, he tweeted a message arguing that any delay gives Russia "motivation to continue its terror." In an interview with CNN's Fareed Zakaria before he left the US, Biden said admitting Ukraine now would be "premature," while the country is in the midst of a war. Under NATO's Article 5, an attack on one is an attack on all. There's a strong case to be made that if Ukraine joins while Russia's invasion continues, NATO allies could be required to enter the war. That's something Biden has sought to avoid, and it would enjoy little support.

The argument that Ukraine should not be allowed into NATO because it would provoke Putin holds little sway. Putin attacked Ukraine in 2014, prompting Kyiv to abandon its official neutrality, and he attacked again in 2022 when it was not a member of NATO. In fact, there is a mountain of reasons to bring in Ukraine. Even if Ukraine pushes Russian

invaders out and the war ends, there is a high likelihood that Russia will try it again, a danger that could outlast Putin. Russia's extreme nationalists consider Ukraine part of their fatherland. Putin's lengthy 2021 manifesto, making the case that Ukraine is part of Russia, will likely remain their bible long after its author leaves the scene. Ukraine clearly belongs in NATO, an alliance that has secured the peace of all its European members since it was created after Moscow launched its expansionist campaign across Central Europe in the aftermath of World War II, triggering the Cold War. Imperial, anti-Western ambitions resurfaced with Putin. Biden told CNN that "Putin had an overwhelming objective from the time he launched 185,000 troops into Ukraine, and that was to break NATO." That goal has failed just as miserably as the plan to swiftly capture Kyiv.

Biden cited the need to maintain NATO's cohesiveness, with disagreements over Ukraine's immediate accession as one of several reasons for not doing it now. Another decision that has divided the allies is Biden's move to provide Ukraine with cluster munitions, whose scattering of small bombs over a wide field can lead to civilian casualties after conflicts end. Ukraine requested them, and Biden said it was a tough decision, but approved them despite criticism. Russia, which has been using cluster munitions inside Ukraine for many months, can take satisfaction in the disagreement among the allies, but the new tool will make Moscow's invasion of Ukraine more difficult to sustain. Among NATO's members, any acrimony about the controversial weaponry is barely a ripple next to the tidal wave of rejoicing over Sweden's impending accession. Erdogan's decision, after a Sunday phone call with Biden an after months of extracting conces-

sions, is a major reversal for Putin for two reasons: Yes, it bolsters the alliance, but it also marks an extraordinary reversal for Erdogan, who, only a few weeks ago, was defiantly touting Turkey's "special" and growing relationship with Putin.

It was only one of a series of astonishing moves by Erdogan that undoubtedly caused anger and worry in the Kremlin. On Friday, after a two-hour meeting with Zelenskyy in Istanbul, Erdogan called the Ukrainian president a "dear friend" and, while underscoring his commitment to peace talks, he declared himself in favor of Ukraine's membership in NATO and strongly defended the country's independence. Adding to the slight against Putin, Erdogan allowed Zelenskyy to bring home Ukrainian prisoners of war who were being held in Turkey as part of a prisoner exchange deal with Russia. Before being taken prisoner, the soldiers from the Azov battalion had spent months fighting from deep inside a steel plant, defending the now mostly-destroyed city of Mariupol, where thousands died. They were welcomed home as heroes. The Kremlin reacted with fury. Erdogan's apparent change of heart about Putin may be the first concrete ramification of the Russian president's loss of international stature after the short-lived mutiny by mercenary chief Yevgeny Prigozhin. The mercurial Erdogan may reverse course again, but the events of the past few days add to the relentless string of bad news for Putin. After Prigozhin's uprising, and his apparent flouting of the deal that ended it, Putin's efforts at international diplomacy faltered badly last week. Then came the news on cluster munitions, the Sweden bombshell and the reaffirmation of a stronger, unified and expanding NATO. Many will want to take credit. But the one most responsible for making all this happen is none other than Putin himself.

CNN

## Let's talk about Jenin

M Muhannad Ayyash

**LAST week Israel invaded the Jenin refugee camp in the occupied West Bank with hundreds of soldiers, terrorising Palestinians living there with helicopter gunships, rockets and armoured vehicles for over two days. At least 12 Palestinians, including three children, were killed.**

The international media has begun to show some of the tragic human consequences of Israel's assault on Jenin refugee camp." Birzeit University researchers Rita Giacaman and Penny Johnson wrote in an article titled "Who lives in Jenin Refugee Camp?" "Yet Israeli officials persist in a rhetoric that brands [the] Jenin refugee camp as a 'terrorist camp', with all of its inhabitants, men, women and children of any age, thus also marked as terrorists and all actions taken against them thus justified."

Most observers of Palestine would agree this is an accurate description of Israel's - and thus most Western governments, media and intelligentsia's - framing of the latest episode of settler colonial violence in Jenin. But this article is not from last week. It was first published in April 2002, in the aftermath of another deadly Israeli assault on the camp. Let that sink in: 21 years later, we are still dealing with the same situation, having the same discussions and being forced to contend with the same tired lies and myths about Jenin, the Palestinians living there, and Israel's attacks on them. But, as Israel and its allies still remain determined not to provide honest answers to the most basic questions people around the world may have about Jenin, let's try and answer them once again here. Who lives in Jenin? Why are they engaged in armed resistance against Israel? Since Israelis are also dying as a result of this violence, is Israel just "defending itself"?

As Giacaman and Johnson explained over 20 years ago, the answer Israel and its apologists in Euro-American media and governments give to this question is that Jenin is a "wasp's nest", a "hotbed of militants", a factory that produces "terrorists" who unleash wanton, mindless violence on unsuspecting Israelis who just want to live in peace and quiet. Sure, their media organisations are occasionally forced to admit that Israeli "operations" into the camp kill Palestinian children, but they quickly frame these deaths as being a consequence of Palestinian resistance rather than Israeli aggression and violence. For example, in a recent interview, a BBC host asked Al-Shabaka senior policy analyst and Al Jazeera contributor Yara Hawari: "Why would militants risk the lives of innocent civilians by having [their command-and-control centre in the heart of a densely populated area]?" Hawari excellently shifted the terrain of the conversation to the nature of life in the refugee camp, and explained how Israel is working to dehumanise Palestinians, decontextualise the violence

and present its own aggression as an act of "self-defence".

But the fact that the host even tried to follow that line of questioning was proof enough that Israeli propaganda is still shaping the conversation about Jenin in Britain and beyond. After all, it should not take any journalist more than five minutes of basic internet research to learn that "the Jenin refugee camp has a population density more than 70 times that of Israel - 14,000 people crammed into a plot of land about 0.42sq km [0.16 square miles]". It is in fact impossible for those who have taken up armed struggle to create a "command-and-control centre" away from the rest of the population. This takes us to another basic question about the camp and the situation it is currently in. Israel came into existence through the violent expulsion of the Palestinian people from their lands and homes in 1948. The refugees in the Jenin camp are descendants of those expelled in 1948. This camp has never been a real "home" for them, and they are yearning to return to their ancestral lands. Residents of Jenin were born into a violent structure of oppression, and have been subjected to different forms of colonial aggression and violence all of their lives. But they are neither helpless nor do they lack the will to be free. They have practiced all forms of unarmed resistance over this long experience of suffering: strikes, protests, popular committees, dialogue, legal instruments, international advocacy and so on. Despite the enormous sacrifices that they have made, not only have they made no progress in reaching their goal of returning home, but the prospects of that return have continuously dimmed, their economic hardships have deepened, the levels of violence they experience have increased, and their ability to see the possibility of a dignified and free life has diminished. They are dehumanised by the Israeli regime, forgotten by the international community, isolated from Palestinians in the Gaza Strip, Jerusalem, and other parts of their 1948 homelands, and they do not enjoy any real support from a Palestinian Authority that does not represent their aspirations for liberation and return.

In such a context of suffering and despair, and with nothing to lose, it is hardly surprising that some of the Palestinians in Jenin resorted to taking up arms against their oppressors. They saw how violence has enabled the Israelis to achieve their colonial aims, so they resorted to violence in the hope that it can help them achieve their aims for liberation as well. Loss of human life, whether that person is Palestinian or Israeli, is always regrettable and a tragedy. But Israel cannot use the harm suffered by its citizens due to its relentless oppression of the Palestinian people to legitimise more violence and oppression. Israeli violence

against the Palestinians is much greater in terms of scope, scale and intensity than any violence Palestinian armed resistance of any form ever inflicted on Israelis. As there is no balance of power between the two parties engaged in "conflict", Israel cannot point to Israeli victims of the violence to say it is "acting in self-defence". These answers are not meant to instill hopelessness in Palestinians and their allies. Answering the most basic questions about Jenin as honestly as possible, repeatedly, is perhaps the only way to break this cycle of devastation and find a better way forward. And there is a better way forward.

Once we dispense with the propaganda and the false narratives, settle the questions about who is to blame for the violence, why are Palestinians fighting and whether Israel is indeed "defending itself", we can start talking about solutions - for Jenin and wider Palestine. Zionists view the current situation in historic Palestine as a zero-sum game: Either Israelis will have complete and exclusive sovereignty over all of the land, and exert complete control over all of the remaining Palestinians there, or Jews everywhere will be without a "home" and vulnerable to anti-semitic violence like they suffered in Europe in the past. This is a twisted perception. Israel is not just a "haven" for Jews but a settler colony that is replicating European colonial racism and violence against the indigenous population in Palestine. This Zionist ideology created Jenin, and is ensuring there is no end to violence and suffering in Palestine. A different Israel-Palestine is possible. It is possible for Israelis and Palestinians to work together in a project of true decolonisation that would abandon all the hang-ups of Euro-American colonial modernity and create something new. We can create a new reality where we live under multiple sovereignties, as equals. A reality where both Israeli Jews and Palestinians are free, and there is no need for camps like Jenin. Palestinians can return to their lands, without that meaning the end of Jewish safety or Jewish expulsion from these lands. We can have a shared homeland, and create political and social systems that express the aspirations of all who wish to be free of the shackles of colonialism and racism.

Unfortunately, Israel's settler colonial project is so advanced and has faced so little pushback from the international community for so long that the majority of Israelis refuse to entertain - let alone participate in - an honest conversation about building a just peace. Israelis need to be pressured into having these honest conversations. So let's make sure that we support BDS and that we talk the truth about Jenin. Otherwise, we will continue writing the same articles, making the same arguments and suffering from the structural violence of Israeli settler colonialism for another 20 years.

## US military bases

Xin Ping

**WE were forced to fight for a long time, hoping that people would understand our situation." Under the hot sun, dozens of residents on the Japanese island of Okinawa held signs expressing their anger at the United States military base there. Every day there is a large number of military aircraft training at the US military base in Okinawa.**

To the local people, the loud noise generated by various military equipment is not only unbearable but also causing health problems such as sleep disorder. However, the US authorities do not seem to care about what local people think. Actually they don't need to, since the US forces in Japan are not subject to Japanese jurisdiction. Local people's concerns are all in vain.

Protests by local Japanese have been going on for more than a decade. Over the years, American soldiers based on this island have committed countless crimes. According to the statistics of the Okinawa police, from 1972 to 2020, US soldiers committed 6,000 crimes in the local area, and one in 10 was serious. A series of sexual assaults by US soldiers in Japan in 2016 sparked widespread outrage among local people. But the journey to upholding justice and punishing the criminals is too long to embark on: the complex litigation process often makes victimized

local women swallow their pride. According to survey results, the prosecution rate of crimes committed by US soldiers in Japan is less than 20 percent. Even if the victims won the case, their compensation will be mostly borne by the Japanese government, and the US authorities will do little.

According to statistics by the Quincy Institute for Responsible Statecraft, a US-based think tank, the US has 750 overseas military bases in 80 countries, which host a large number of US troops all year round, costing more than \$55 billion a year. Not long ago, the New York Times published an article titled "A Brutal Sex Trade for American Soldiers" that exposed the suffering of Korean women at US military bases in Korea: in the 1980s, with the connivance and even assistance of the South Korean government, about 19,000 South Korean women were sexually exploited by the US troops in its host country and many of the victims still live with memories of fear and humiliation.

The US bases abroad are not just a pain for local residents but also a political problem for the host countries. What comes with the US military bases is not peace and security, but clouds of war and endless fear. Over the decades, the US has continued to wage military

strikes and even wars of aggression from its overseas military bases against other sovereign countries with different political views. From Latin America to the Middle East, from East Asia to Eastern Europe, with the help of its global military bases, the US was behind almost every major military conflict since the Second World War.

Earlier this year, the Pentagon announced a deal with the Philippines that it will add four more military bases in this country. Some worried that this marks a return to the 1980s, when the Philippines was home to 15,000 US troops and two of the largest American military bases in Asia. "We have a long history of inequality in our relationship," said Renato Reyes, secretary-general of New Patriotic Alliance. "The Philippines has been forced to shoulder the social costs. There's a history of rape, child abuse, and of toxic waste." The US action was also criticized for escalating regional tension and undermining regional peace and stability in the Asia-Pacific.

The worldwide military bases of the United States have not made the world or even the US any safer. The US needs to stop finding excuses to further expand its military hegemony and drag the world into more conflicts. The biggest threat to world peace and stability is none other than the US itself.

The China Daily

## NATO shows its true colors as a war machine

Chen Weihua

**THE just-concluded NATO Summit held in Vilnius, Lithuania, does not bode well for global peace for the simple reason that none of the participants bothered to talk about peace and instead focused on war - how to prolong the Russia-Ukraine conflict to be precise. The United States' announcement on July 7 to provide Ukraine with cluster munitions, which are banned by more than 120 countries, cast a shadow over the meeting of the 31 NATO member states even before it started. The deafening silence of the leaders of the NATO member states on the US' decision exposes the cowardice and hypocrisy of the military alliance led by Washington.**

NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg, whose term has been extended for one more year due to his absolute obedience to the US, has indeed earned his reputation as a "supreme fool" given by former Australian prime minister Paul Keating in an op-ed on Monday. All the talks by Stoltenberg and most other NATO leaders were about swearing to support Ukraine against Russia by, for example, providing Ukraine with more

munitions and training Ukrainian pilots to fly F-16 fighter jets. No one talked about or showed any interest in helping negotiate a cease-fire in the Russia-Ukraine conflict, or seeking a diplomatic solution to the crisis, which is what the rest of the world wants. Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban is one of the few exceptions among the Western leaders.

He tweeted on Tuesday that "instead of shipping weapons to Ukraine, we should finally bring peace", a message he has repeated many times. Stoltenberg stressed that NATO members will hike their military spending by 8.3 percent in 2023 and called for raising the NATO budget even further despite the fact that the US alone spends more on defense than the next 10 countries put together. In essence, Stoltenberg called for an arms race at a time when the biggest challenge facing humanity is climate change and pursuing sustainable economic development. NATO, despite its flowery rhetoric, is by no means a defensive alliance given its notorious record in Libya, Iraq and Afghanistan.

These wars, invasions and occupations have resulted in the deaths of countless innocent civilians and economic losses worth billions of dollars. No wonder the vast majority of countries have not followed the US, the European Union and the United Kingdom in imposing economic sanctions on Russia because no Western political leader has ever called the killing of innocent civilians in Afghanistan, Iraq and Libya and other countries by foreign forces war crimes. NATO in its communique on Tuesday groundlessly accused China of "employing a broad range of political, economic and military tools to increase its global footprint and project power". The fact is, it is NATO that has been trying to subjugate the world militarily, in sharp contrast to China's efforts to help build roads, bridges and other infrastructure facilities in developing countries and China's record of not engaging in any war for decades.

NATO has refused to learn any lesson from the wars, invasions and occupations, and the deaths of tens of thousands of innocent





# Business leader calls for steps to restore confidence of expatriates

ISLAMABAD (INP): Former Vice President of Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industries (FPCCI) Atif Ikram Sheikh has called for concrete measures to restore the confidence of the expatriates.

In a statement issued here, he said that resolving problems and restoring the confidence of expats was 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.

Atif Ikram Sheikh who has also served as President ICCI and Chairman PVMA said that we lost four billion dollars in remittances, which is much higher 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.

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 resultantly 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.

He informed that the highest remittance inflow was from Saudi Arabia, but it fell by 16.9 percent to \$6.445 billion in FY23. In percentage terms, remittances from the UAE wit-

nessed a contraction of 20.5 percent to \$4.468 billion.

Remittances from all important destinations noted a decline except the US, which recorded a slight growth of 0.1 percent to \$3.090 billion in FY23. The inflows from the UK dipped 9.7 percent to \$4.056 billion, he said.

The inflows from Gulf Cooperation Council and European Union countries fell by 12 percent and 7 percent to \$3.191 billion and USD 3.12 billion, respectively, during the outgoing fiscal year.

Pakistan's economy has been in free-fall mode for the last many years, bringing untold pressure on the poor masses in the form of unchecked inflation, making it almost impossible for a vast number of people to make ends meet.

## Strong academia-industry linkages vital to revive economy: Ahsan

ISLAMABAD (INP): The President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (ICCI) Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari has said that the developed countries have achieved phenomenal economic growth by promoting strong academia-industry linkages and urged that we have to adopt the same approach to promote industrialization and revive the economy.

This was stated by him while speaking as chief guest at the inaugural ceremony of TECHSPARK Exhibition organized by the Industrial Liaison Office of the Faculty of Engineering & Technology (FET) of the International Islamic University Islamabad (IIUI).

Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari said that the close academia-industry linkages would help produce demand-driven students, improve the

efficiency, productivity and competitiveness of industry and manufacture value-added products to boost exports. He along with Dr. Hathal Hamoud Alotaibi, President of IIUI and delegation of ICCI visited the various stalls set up by the final year students in the exhibition and said that the students had prepared the projects according to the needs of society.

He assured that ICCI will help introduce these students to the concerned industries so that their projects should benefit the society. He further said that ICCI is ready to provide opportunities of internships to the IIUI students. He also appreciated the role of the Saudi Government in promoting industry and education in Pakistan.

Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari held meeting with the

President, IIUI Dr. Hathal Hamoud Alotaibi and discussed with him matters pertaining to mutual cooperation and initiatives for academia industry linkages. The President IIUI said that the universities must address the requirements of society and IIUI is focusing on research in the light of contemporary trends. He said that exhibitions such as TECHSAPRK provide opportunities to students to get introduced to industry. He said that IIUI shall focus on initiating joint ventures with ICCI to build a strong bond between academia and industry.

Speaking on the occasion, Prof. Dr. Nadeem Ahmed Sheikh, the Dean of the Faculty of Engineering and Technology, IIUI congratulated the organizers for putting up such a remarkable exhibition. He

emphasized the significance of providing a platform for students to showcase their abilities and practical skills while offering industries an opportunity to discover and recruit exceptional talent.

The exhibition provided a good platform to the students to demonstrate their innovative projects and foster their professional development. It also offered an opportunity to stakeholders from various industries, institutes, and community members to visit the Faculty of Engineering and Technology at IIUI. The event showcased final year design projects (FYDP) of students from the Department of Mechanical Engineering (DME) and the Department of Electrical, Computer Engineering (DECE) and Department of Civil Engineering.



ISLAMABAD: A vendor selling Jambolan at his roadside setup in Federal Capital.

## SCCI welcomes direct flights to Kazakhstan

SIALKOT (APP): Sialkot Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SCCI) President Abdul Ghafoor Malik has said that launch of direct flight from Pakistan to Kazakhstan will enhance economic, social and cultural integration between the two countries.

In a statement issued on Saturday, he said that business community of Pakistan had been very keen to enhance business-to-business relations with Central Asian Republic, especially Kazakhstan. He said the direct flights, which started on July 8, would provide for a wonderful opportunity for promoting trade through people-to-people linkages.

He said the direct flights were crucial for regional economic and trade integration and connectivity.

"On behalf of the business community of Sialkot, I thanked the ambassador of Kazakhstan in Pakistan over his role in getting the milestone achieved," he added.

## Financial Minister chaired meeting

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar on Saturday chaired a meeting of the Steering Committee to review the progress of work related to outsourcing of airports' operations, at Finance Division.

Federal Minister for Aviation and Railways

Khawaja Saad Rafique, Special Assistant to Prime Minister (SAPM) on Finance Tariq Bajwa, Secretary Aviation, CEO Public Private Partnership Authority, DG Pakistan CAA, IFC team and other government officials attended the meeting, said a press release issued here.

During the meeting, IFC,

the transaction advisor, briefed the meeting on the latest status and progress on the matter.

The meeting discussed the broad parameters and issues to be resolved for fast-tracking the outsourcing of the first airport in order to improve service delivery in line with best industry practices.

## Flour price up in Lahore

LAHORE (INP): In another jolt to suffering masses, the mill owners in Lahore have announced an abrupt hike in the price of wheat flour by Rs50, bringing the cost of a 20kg bag to Rs2,850.

Flour Mills Association Chairman Asim Raza justified the price increase by citing the soaring cost of wheat in the open market, which has reached a staggering Rs4,800 per maund.

Raza explained that the surge in wheat prices has

forced the association to adjust the price of flour accordingly.

Flour Mills Association Chairman further stated that the current market conditions have led to a significant rise in the price of 40kg of wheat, which now stands at Rs4,725.

He also placed blame on the food ministry for the recent escalation, alleging that their ban on the storage of more than 200 maunds of wheat has contributed to

the overall scarcity and subsequent price surge.

In response to these claims, Secretary of Food Zaman Wattoo refuted any justifications for the increased price of flour in Lahore.

Wattoo expressed his belief that certain vested interests are deliberately manipulating the market to their advantage, resulting in the unfortunate consequences faced by the public.

## Global stocks mixed as WS rally begins to tire

NEW YORK (AFP/APP): World stock markets were mixed Friday as a Wall Street rally showed signs of fatigue, despite solid bank earnings and improving inflation data.

The European single currency meanwhile struck \$1.1248, the highest level since February 2022, and oil prices slid before the weekend.

The US corporate earnings season entered full swing with big-hitting banks Citigroup, JPMorgan and Wells Fargo all reporting better-than-expected results or outlooks.

Their reports showed a lift from the industry's ability to charge higher rates on

credit cards and other loans, while not yet suffering as much of a hit from elevated interest payments to depositors.

But while JPMorgan and Wells Fargo both scored jumps in earnings, Citi's profits fell 36 percent to \$2.9 billion as it suffered due to weakness in its investment banking division.

The broad-based S&P 500 closed at 4,505.42, down 0.1 percent for the day but up 2.4 percent for the week.

After US stocks ended higher for four straight days, Friday's mixed session "should be expected," said Adam Sarhan of 50 Park Investments.

He considers the lackluster session the result of "a little bit of profit taking after a very strong rally."

This week, traders welcomed more data showing falling US inflation, giving the Federal Reserve room to bring the curtain down on over a year of rate increases.

Global equities have been bubbling on hopes for an end to monetary tightening aimed at taming inflation -- which was fueled by the post-Covid reopening, supply chain snarls and Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

That came just as China pledges to introduce measures to kickstart its stutter-

ing economy and bring an end to a painful crackdown on the huge tech sector.

Wall Street cheered news Thursday that wholesale prices rose less than expected in June. That followed Wednesday's report showing the consumer price index came in below forecasts.

While the CPI remains above the Fed's target, analysts said there is growing confidence that officials were winning their battle and the economy could avoid a feared recession.

Fed governor Christopher Waller said Thursday that he still expects two more interest rate hikes this year.

But despite Waller's remarks, the "market still believes it is one-and-done for the Fed," said Briefing.com analyst Patrick O'Hare.

Thursday's upbeat mood filtered through to Asia, where Hong Kong rose for a fifth successive day thanks to a bounce in Chinese tech giants.

Shanghai, Sydney, Seoul, Singapore, Taipei, Mumbai, Bangkok, Manila and Jakarta also gained.

However, Tokyo struggled owing to a pick-up in the yen against the dollar, which has come under pressure against its peers on lower expectations about US rates.

## Gold rates declined

ISLAMABAD (APP): The per tola price of 24 karat gold decreased by Rs1,300 and was sold at Rs213,200 on Saturday against its sale at Rs214,500 previous day.

The price of 10 grams of 24 karat gold also decreased by Rs1,115 to Rs182,785 from Rs183,900 whereas the price of 10 grams 22 karat gold went down to Rs167,553 from Rs168,574. All Sindh Sarafa Jewellers Association reported.

The price of per tola and ten gram silver remained constant at Rs2,650 and Rs2,271.94.

The price of gold in the international market decreased by \$4 to \$1,955 from \$1,959, the association reported.

## Home prices slightly down

BEIJING (APP): Fewer Chinese cities reported month-on-month increases in home prices in June, official data showed Saturday.

Last month, 31 out of 70 large and medium-sized cities saw month-on-month increases in new home prices, down from 46 in May, according to the National Bureau of Statistics.

Meanwhile, seven cities witnessed higher resale home prices, down from 15 in May. New home prices in four first-tier cities -- Beijing, Shanghai, Shenzhen, and Guangzhou -- stayed flat in June, compared with a 0.1 percent growth in May.

In 31 second-tier cities,

prices of new homes were unchanged from May, while new housing prices in 35 third-tier cities went down 0.1 percent.

Compared with June last year, new home prices in first-tier cities and second-tier cities increased by 1.3 percent and 0.5 percent, respectively, while prices of new homes in third-tier cities decreased by 1.4%.

Home prices in the second-hand market also saw a year-on-year decline in June. Resale home prices in first-tier cities dipped 0.4 percent from a year ago, while those in second and third-tier cities dropped 2.4 percent and 3.4 percent, respectively, the data revealed.

### F.P. Report

KARACHI: US-Pakistan Center for Advanced Studies in Water, Mehran University of Engineering and Technology, Jamshoro, Pakistan organized the 1st virtual international seminar to disseminate the outcomes of the Higher Education Commission (HEC) funded project named "Eco-innovation for the sustainable industrial growth of the major industrial sector in the special economic zones (SEZs) under CPEC" on the successful completion of one year of the project (February 2022 to February 2023). The virtual seminar was attended by project stakeholders, industrial experts, and national and international researchers from Pakistan, Australia, China, and Malaysia.

Professor and head of the environmental engineering-science department at USPCAS-W, Mehran University, and principal investigator of the project, Prof. Dr. Zubair Ahmed, said that "among three phases of the project, the first phase, i.e., situational analysis report on the environmental status of six different industrial sectors, has been completed." Over 800 industries of five sec-



tors (Textile, Steel, Food, Chemical & Pharmaceutical, and Automobile & Allied) were surveyed to capture the status of existing eco-innovations in industries, and 113 industries responded. Among respondent industries, 57% were export-oriented, and 43% were local manufacturers.

A few industries in Pakistan have adopted eco-innovations, primarily export-oriented. Besides, most small-scale industries need to be more environmentally sustainable. Industries remained neutral toward environmental regulation in Pakistan as there is a lack of a conducive environment for effectively enforcing environmental regulations. Moreover, the high cost of eco-innovation options is a significant barrier for industries. They perceive environmental investments as a liability rather than a step toward value addition. Insufficient collaboration between industries and research institutes is also a barrier to environmental sustainability

which industries are facing. Thanks to the speakers who brought the seminar to a new level of productivity and engagement by sharing detailed insights into their research and ongoing works with the participants.

Prof. Dr. Zubair Ahmed, professor and head of the environmental engineering department from USPCAS-W, MUET, Jamshoro, started by introducing the seminar. As a principal investigator, he disseminated the outcomes of the first year of the project "Eco-innovation for the sustainable industrial growth of the major industrial sector in the special economic zones (SEZs) under CPEC," having a total duration of three years.

Dr. Rasool Bux Mahar, Vice Chancellor from Benazir Bhutto Shaheed University of Technology and Skill Development Khairpur Mirs, discussed wastewater recycling and reuse. He highlighted available wastewater recycling and treatment technologies that can be used in Pakistan. Besides, he explained

the concept of water circular economy in detail.

Dr. Xianlai Zeng, an associate professor from Tsinghua University, China, captivated the audience by sharing his visionary insights on reshaping the global policies of the circular economy. With his profound understanding and expertise, he thoroughly discussed the transformative potential of adopting innovative strategies and frameworks, paving the way for our planet's sustainable and regenerative future.

Dr. Hemant Ojha, an associate professor from the Australian National University, Australia, delivered a talk on managing climate risks to water security: Advancing coproduction in socio-ecological zones. He emphasized the importance of advancing coproduction in socio-ecological zones, highlighting the need for collaborative efforts between communities, policymakers, and researchers.

Dr. Muhammad Ali Yuzir, an associate professor from

Universiti Teknologi Malaysia, shed light on the water supply for the underprivileged community in Johor, Malaysia, in his insightful presentation. With a deep sense of social responsibility, he shared innovative strategies to address the water challenges marginalized populations face, advocating for equitable access to clean and sustainable water resources to improve the livelihoods of the underprivileged community.

Dr. Sadaf Khan, a faculty member from Sunway University Malaysia, presented on environmental disclosure practices in South Asian countries. With her expertise, she delved into the current state of reporting and disclosure mechanisms, exploring the challenges and potential solutions to enhance environmental transparency and accountability, ultimately promoting sustainable practices in the region.

Dr. Tanveer Ahmed Gadh, an assistant professor from USPCAS-W, Mehran

University of Engineering and Technology, Jamshoro, Pakistan, talked about opportunities for eco-innovation in the textile industry. Through his presentation, he explored the untapped opportunities to integrate sustainable practices, technologies, and materials into the textile sector, promoting environmental stewardship and fostering a more sustainable future for the industry.

Ghazala Akbar, a Ph.D. student from USPCAS-W, Mehran University of Engineering and Technology, Jamshoro, Pakistan, delivered a compelling presentation on Eco-innovation in the Steel sector in Pakistan-situation analysis. Her presentation topic was part of Eco-innovation's project for the sustainable industrial growth of the primary industrial sector in the special economic zones (SEZs) under the CPEC. She shared the status of eco-innovation in the steel sector in Pakistan.

Satesh Kumar, a research assistant from

USPCAS-W, Mehran University of Engineering and Technology, Jamshoro, Pakistan, briefly discussed the Situation analysis of the Marble Sector in Karachi. His topic was part of an Eco-innovation project for the sustainable industrial growth of the major industrial sector in the special economic zones (SEZs) under the CPEC. He shared the status of eco-innovation in the marble sector in Pakistan.

Nazia Mughal, a speaker at the seminar, is the Sustainability & Water Management Manager at Soorty Enterprises Pvt Limited, a leading denim industry in Pakistan. Her talk topic was "Sustainable Industrial Growth through Eco-innovation: an industry perspective." she presented various eco-innovation measures adopted by the industries. She emphasized industrial collaboration for environmental protection.

Pooja Devi, an MS student from USPCAS-W, Mehran University of Engineering and

Technology, Jamshoro, Pakistan, delivered an engaging presentation on Eco-innovation in the food sector in Pakistan-situation analysis. Her presentation topic was part of Eco-innovation's project for the sustainable industrial growth of the major industrial sector in the special economic zones (SEZs) under the CPEC. She shared the status of eco-innovation in the food sector in Pakistan.

Adeel Ahmed Memon, an MS student from USPCAS-W, Mehran University of Engineering and Technology, Jamshoro, Pakistan, discussed environmental actions in existing chemical & pharmaceutical industries in Pakistan. His presentation topic was part of a project named Eco-innovation for the sustainable industrial growth of the major industrial sector in the special economic zones (SEZs) under the CPEC. He shared the status of eco-innovation in the chemical & pharmaceutical in Pakistan.





In brief

Football team to leave for Singapore

KARACHI (NNI): Pakistan women's football team will leave for Singapore tomorrow (Sunday), for the friendly match, instead of Saturday. The schedule was changed since there was no flight available from Karachi to Singapore on Saturday. The team will now leave for Singapore via Lahore tomorrow morning. The women's team's departure was initially delayed due to late issuance of No Objection Certificate (NOC) and visas. The girls in green were scheduled to play two friendly matches against Singapore but, due to aforementioned delays, they will only be able to play a single match on July 18. It is worth mentioning that the Football Association of Singapore sent official confirmation of the tour to PFF on 26th June, and PFF wrote the letter for NOC on 27th, which was delivered to PSB soon after Eid Holidays. The Pakistan football squad for Singapore tour will be led by midfielder Maria Khan. Pakistan Squad: Goalkeepers: Nisha Ashraf, Rumaysa Khan; Defenders: Mishaal Bhatti, Kayla Siddiqui, Sophia Qureshi, Nizalia Siddiqui, Sara Khan; Midfielders: Maria Khan (c), Suha Hirani, Kayanat Bokhari, Rameen Fareed, Marvi Baig, Aliza Sabir and Forwards: Sanober Abdul Sattar, Zahmena Malik, Zulfia Nazir, Aliya Sadiq, Anmool Hira, Naqiyah Ali, Isra Khan.

Bangladesh beat Afghanistan

SYLHET (Agencies): Karim Janat claimed a hat-trick in the final over of the run chase but Bangladesh kept their nerves calm to claim a thrilling two-wicket victory over Afghanistan in the first T20I on Friday. Bangladesh needed just six runs off the final over with five wickets in hand and were clear favourites for a comfortable victory in the T20I series opener against Afghanistan. However, Karim Janat, who conceded a boundary on the first delivery, hit back to remove Mehidy Hasan Miraz, Taskin Ahmed and Nasum Ahmed on consecutive deliveries, leaving the hosts requiring two runs in as many deliveries. Shoriful Islam, coming at number 10, displayed nerves of steel to hit Janat for a boundary which sealed a dramatic victory for Bangladesh. Bangladesh's top-scorer in the run chase Towhid Hridoy remained unbeaten on 47. He conceded 32 deliveries and hit three boundaries and two sixes. Hridoy's fifth-wicket partnership with Shamim Hossain (33) had Bangladesh cruising for an easy victory before Rashid Khan removed the latter in the 18th over to force a late twist. Afghanistan's hat-trick star Karim Janat returned 3/15 while Rashid Khan, Fareed Ahmad, Azmatullah Omarzai, Mujeeb Ur Rahman and Fazalhaq Farooqi all claimed one wicket apiece. Put into bat first, Afghanistan finished at 154/7 in the allotted 20 overs at the back of a cautious half-century by veteran all-rounder Mohammad Nabi. The touring side, after getting off to a dismal start, soon lost half of their side in the 14th over with just 87 runs on the scoreboard before Nabi launched an astounding recovery. The right-handed batter top-scored for Afghanistan with a 40-ball 54 which featured six boundaries and a six.

Vondrousova stuns Jabeur to win Wimbledon title

LONDON (Agencies): Marketa Vondrousova became the first unseeded woman to win Wimbledon in the Open era as the Czech swept to a shock 6-4, 6-4 victory over Tunisia's Ons Jabeur in Saturday's final.

As the first unseeded woman in the Wimbledon final in 60 years, Vondrousova was a heavy underdog against sixth-ranked Jabeur.

But the 24-year-old upset the odds on Centre Court to win her maiden Grand Slam title at the second attempt after losing to Ash Barty in the 2019 French Open final.

"After everything I've been through - I had a cast on this time last year - and now I can't believe I'm holding this trophy," said Vondrousova who was sidelined with a wrist injury in 2022.

"I don't know what's happening now."

Vondrousova joins Jana Novotna and Petra Kvitova as the only Czech women to win a Wimbledon title.

She is just the ninth unseeded champion at a Grand Slam tournament.

Vondrousova's triumph completed a remarkable comeback after a rash of injuries stalled her promising career.

Just 12 months ago, she was an injured bystander at Wimbledon, reduced to watching her best friend Miriam Kolodziejova



attempt to qualify for the main draw.

Vondrousova's second wrist surgery had ruled the Olympic silver medallist out for six months, although her absence from the tour at least allowed her the space and time to get married. She was the second-lowest ranked player to reach the Wimbledon final - only Serena Williams in 2018 was lower at 181.

So unexpected was her run that she told her husband Stepan Simek to stay at home in Prague to look after their cat Frankie until the final, when a pet sitter was found to allow her partner to make the trip to Wimbledon.

The defeat was another heartbreaking blow for world number six Jabeur, who wept during an emotional post-match trophy presentation.

Jabeur was the first Arab woman to reach a Grand Slam final last year at

Wimbledon, but losing to Elena Rybakina in three sets took the shine off that achievement.

She endured more misery just weeks later when she lost to Iga Swiatek in the US Open final.

"It's going to be a tough day but I am not going to give up," she said while wiping away her tears.

"It's the most painful loss of my career, but we're going to make it one day, I promise you I'm not going to give up."

- Ice-cool Vondrousova - Jabeur's bid to become the first African and Arab woman to win a Grand Slam singles title has ended in bitter failure once again.

Even for a player known as the 'Minister of Happiness', Jabeur's positive personality will be tested by her latest disappointment. She fell well short of the standards shown in victories over four former Grand Slam champions on

her way to the final.

Jabeur had already lost twice in 2023 to Vondrousova, at the Australian Open and in Miami, and she had no answer to the big-hitting left-hander despite the support of 15,000 partisan fans on Centre Court.

Under the closed roof, Jabeur drew first blood with a break in the second game when Vondrousova netted a nervous backhand.

But she immediately surrendered the initiative as Vondrousova broke back in the next game. Jabeur's anxiety was clear as her unforced error total reached double figures in another wild game that gave Vondrousova a 5-4 advantage that she gratefully seized to serve out the set.

Vondrousova made it five games in a row when Jabeur's weak forehand gifted her a break in the opening game of the second set. Breaking twice in three games, Jabeur moved 3-1 up, only to falter again as the ninth break of the match allowed Vondrousova back into the set.

It was an opportunity the Czech was not going to spurn as Jabeur's unforced errors reached 31 by the final game. In contrast to Jabeur's meltdown, Vondrousova remained ice-cool and sealed her unexpected triumph with a perfect volley before falling to the turf in delight.

Another honor for Pakistan, claim one gold, four bronze

PESHAWAR (APP): Pakistan's six members Taekwondo team, all of them hailing from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, participated in the International Taekwondo Championship held in Bangkok, Thailand and bagged one gold medal and four bronze medals on Saturday.

Team manager Nasir Khan Mohmand told APP that the six members team of Pakistan took part first in the Tirak and KDM Taekwondo International Championship in which 500 players from 10 coun-

tries of the world including Pakistan took part.

Pakistan won one gold and four bronze medals.

According to the results so far, the team won one gold and four bronze medals. Wania Hassan won the gold medal in Kyroungi, Ayan claimed two bronze medals in Poomsae and Kyroungi and Muhammad Waqar won a bronze medal in Tirak.

Nasir Khan Mohmand appreciated the players of the Pakistani team for winning one gold and four bronze medals in the first interna-

tional Tirak and KDM Taekwondo International Championship. He said the team did hard work for winning the medal and especially the performance of Wania Hassan was excellent as she bagged the gold medal.

Chairman Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Taekwondo Association expressed his satisfaction with the team's result. He said the junior players have very excellent performances in their first international appearance and if provided more such opportunities they would win back more medals.

More six matches decided in 4th Gatorade Basketball tournament

KARACHI (APP): More six matches have been decided in the ongoing 4th Gatorade Trophy 3x3 Under-21 Basketball Tournament being held under the supervision of Commissioner Karachi Muhammad Iqbal Memon at International Abdul Nasir Basketball Court Arambagh.

In the first match, Peterston Star Club defeated Iqra Green 4-3 in a close fight, said a communicate here on Saturday. In the second match, KBBC overcame NEF Club by 6-5 while in the

third match, KBBC beat Quaid-e-Azam Rangers School Blue 13-9; in the fourth match Osman Club beat Iqra Green 6-4, in the fifth match NEF Club beat Quaid-e-Azam Rangers Blue 8-5 and in the day's last sixth match, Usman club easily defeated Peterston Star Club 11-4.

In these matches Syed Yahya, Ikram Rasool, Hasan Ali, Abdul Samad, Lennon, Zenon, Saad Sarwar, Nauman Naveed, Hamza Khawaja, Abdullah, Yash Kumar, Irfan, Rasool, Saeed Ahmed, Andre Michael,

Hadi Ali, and Saeed played well and showed excellent game on the courts.

The chief guest of the matches was ACG Abid Qamar Shaikh.

KBBA President Ghulam Muhammad Khan and others were also present On the occasion.

The matches were supervised by Zahid Malik, Aamir Sharif, and Rajkumar Lakhwani while Michael Turner, Daniyal Chaudhary, Usman Khan and Naem Ahmed performed the duties of technical officials.

England star Rice completes record transfer to Arsenal

LONDON (Agencies): Declan Rice became the most expensive British player in history on Saturday as Arsenal signed the England midfielder from West Ham for a reported £105 million (\$137.5 million, 122.4 million euros).

Rice's fee surpassed the previous record £100 million that Manchester City paid Aston Villa for Jack Grealish in 2021 as Arsenal continue their spending spree in a bid to challenge for the Premier League title next season.

The sum is just below the British record transfer fee Chelsea paid Benfica in January to bring Enzo Fernandez to Stamford Bridge for £106.8 million. Neither club officially announced the fee, but West Ham said they would receive a record transfer fee between two British clubs for Rice, 24.

Rice said in a farewell letter to West Ham supporters his desire to play at the "very highest level" lay behind his decision to join Arsenal.

His switch to the Emirates Stadium on a five-year contract comes after he lifted West Ham's first major trophy since 1980 in the Europa Conference League final against Fiorentina.

Having moved across London, Rice will now be competing for the Champions League rather than Europe's third tier trophy. "In football, amazing opportunities arise. Big clubs, like Arsenal, have come for me and it's really hard to turn down," Rice told Arsenal's website.

"You only ever get one career and I really believe in



what Mikel (Arteta) is building here and the squad he's building. I'm really looking forward to the future with Arsenal."

Fuelled by their agonising failure to hold off champions Manchester City in the Premier League title race last term, Arsenal have already spent around £200 million this summer in a bid to improve on their second-place finish.

Arsenal have not won the title since Arsene Wenger's 'Invincibles' in 2004, but they made huge strides under Arteta last season.

They led the Premier League table for much of the season before collapsing in the final weeks as City's deep squad overhauled them.

Rice is confident the future is bright for a young Arsenal team featuring emerging stars like Bukayo Saka, William Saliba and Gabriel Martinelli.

- 'Really hungry' - "With Mikel and how he works, the squad, how young everyone is, the energy around the club and also the challenge of getting Arsenal back to where they belong, that means a lot to me," Rice said.

"I know the fans really want that. For me as a player, I've come here really hungry to have more success and to spend my best years at this great club.

"I know he (Arteta) is going to get the best out of

me. I know I've got more levels to go up in my game and I feel like he's the manager to take me to those next levels."

Jude Bellingham's transfer from Borussia Dortmund to Real Madrid could eventually beat Rice's record as depending on add-on clauses it might reach £115 million.

For now Rice has a gigantic fee to justify after he joined Germany forward Kai Havertz and Netherlands defender Jurrien Timber as the new recruits in Arteta's squad.

With Granit Khaka leaving to join Bayer Leverkusen, Rice's arrival will bolster Arteta's midfield options.

"Declan is bringing undoubted quality to the club and he is an exceptional talent who has the potential to be very successful here," Arteta said.

Rice, released as a 14-year-old by Chelsea, went on to make 245 appearances for West Ham.

Hammers joint chairman David Sullivan insisted Saturday the club had wanted to keep Rice but were hamstrung by an agreement allowing him to leave after he rejected the offer of a lucrative new deal.

"I would like to make it clear to our supporters that we did not want to sell Declan," said Sullivan. "We wanted to build our team around him and made a series of improved, long-term contract offers to secure his future."

Hammers manager David Moyes added: "Obviously it is sad when we say goodbye to someone who has been with us for so long but we must now look forward."

1,560 cricketers to compete in districts senior tournament

LAHORE (APP): The Regional Inter-District Senior tournament 2023-2024 will commence on Sunday (tomorrow) in which 104 sides of 101 districts/ zones will take part. Top performers from this tournament will enhance their chances of representing their regions in the PCB's major domestic events, which are scheduled to start in September.

As many as 259 matches will be played across the country with matches in the Abbottabad, AJK, Bahawalpur, Dera Murad Jamali, FATA, Hyderabad, Karachi, Larkana, Quetta and Sialkot Regions to start from 16 July, Multan to host matches from 19 July while matches in the Faisalabad, Islamabad, Lahore, Peshawar and Rawalpindi to be played from 24 July.

Each match will be of three days' duration with first innings limited to 75 overs-per-side. Nine points will be awarded for an outright win with first innings lead, six points will be awarded for a win without first innings lead and three points for first innings lead in a drawn match.

As per the tournament regulations,

each side will be allowed to make a maximum of two changes in their playing line-ups but after every two matches. This is to ensure the players get a fair chance to demonstrate their talent as well as to provide maximum players the opportunity to stake a claim for places in the regional squads.

As Quetta and FATA Regions have 10 districts each, the sides have been equally divided into two groups with the final to be played from 7-9 August. Matches in the other 14 regions will be played on a single-league basis with the table-toppers to be adjudged winners.

The 16 regions include Abbottabad (seven districts), AJK (five districts), Bahawalpur (seven districts), Dera Murad Jamali (five districts), Faisalabad (six districts), FATA (10 districts), Hyderabad (seven districts), Islamabad (four zones and one district), Karachi (seven zones), Lahore (three zones; six teams), Larkana (six districts), Multan (seven districts), Peshawar (five districts), Quetta (10 districts), Rawalpindi (four districts) and Sialkot (seven districts).

The 104 squads have been finalised

Hamza beats Indian rival to reach U21 World Snooker C'ship semis



RIYADH (Monitoring Desk): Young Pakistan cueist Muhammad Hamza Ilyas on Saturday, outclassed his Indian opponent Dhruv Patel 4-2 to storm into the semi-final of the ongoing IBSF World U21 Snooker Championship.

In the quarter-final of the World U21 Snooker Championship,

Muhammad Hamza Ilyas carried on his rich vein of form to thump Dhruv Patel 4-2 in the Best of 7. Hamza completely outclassed Patel in the opening frame by a scoreline of 66-23.

The young Indian cueist soon recollected himself and put on a better show in the next frame but Hamza held his nerves calm to edge him by a mere two points margin and claimed a 2-0 lead. Patel finally made a scintillating comeback in the third frame in a dominating manner but Hamza claimed the next frame to restore his advantage at 3-1.

The next two frames also followed the same pattern

as Patel cut Hamza's advantage with a dominating fifth-set victory but the Pakistan cueist once again hit back to claim the next frame. Thus, Hamza Ilyas carried on his unbeaten run and registered a berth in the semi-final of the ongoing competition.

He next faces Germany's Alexander on Sunday in a bid to reach the final.

Meanwhile, another Pakistan cueist participating in the World Championship, Ahsan Ramzan, succumbed to a shock defeat against Iran's Tirdad Azadipour.

Tirdad, who lost to Ahsan Ramzan on his home ground in the semi-final of

the U21 Asian Snooker Championship, was more cautious and started with an opening break of 54 points to secure the first frame 74(54)-02.

Ahsan Ramzan performed brilliantly and scored a few points in the second session, but Tirdad was once more aggressive and won the game 61-39. Ahsan attempted to make a comeback in the game but remained unsuccessful.

Tirdad, on the other hand, was prepared to make up for any errors and eventually won the third frame 63-27 to pull off one of the biggest upsets of the 2023 World Under-21 Snooker Championship.

Wapda, Navy, Army's gold hunt continue in 14th National Ju-Jitsu Championship

PESHAWAR (APP): Pakistan Wapda, Pakistan Navy and Pakistan Army's gold hunt continued in the ongoing 14th National Men and Women Ju-Jitsu Championship being played at the indoor hall of the Government Postgraduate College Abbottabad No. 1 on Saturday.

The Men and Women players of the Pakistan Wapda, Pakistan Navy and Pakistan Army have been struggling hard to win back gold, silver and bronze medals against each other in the ongoing National Men and Women Ju-Jitsu Championship being organized jointly by the District Administration Hazara, Regional Sports Officer Hazara, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Ju-Jitsu

Association under the aegis of Pakistan Ju-Jitsu Federation in the hilly resort Abbottabad where heavy overnight rain continued, making the weather more pleasant for more than 300 male and female players and officials.

In the provincial teams Khyber Pakhtunkhwa male and female players also excelled by winning two silver medals and six bronze, three each in the male and female.

The performance of the players of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa are par excellent against strong teams from other provinces like Punjab, Sindh and Balochistan.

Islamabad, having a contingent of nine persons including two females, won three bronze

medals in fighting, in the Men Riasat Mehmood, Rashad Mehmood, Nouman Habib claimed bronze medals while Humaira in the Mix show won a bronze medal. Both Riasat Mehmood and Humaira won bronze medals in the Mix show as well for Islamabad.

Assistant Commissioner Saqlain Saleem was the chief guest on this occasion at the medal distributions ceremony. Regional Sports Officer Ahmed Zaman, Khalil Ahmed Khan of Pakistan Ju-jitsu Federation, Secretary Tariq Ali, Organizing Secretary Tahsinullah Khan, other personalities and a large number of fans were present.

Several medals were decided in the Men's -50kg weight cate-

gory, Vijay Sulaiman of Pakistan WAPDA won gold, Kamran of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa won silver medal, Nauman Habib of Islamabad and Irfan Ali of Punjab won browns.

In -56kg, Owais of WAPDA won the first position, Saleem of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa second, Asif Ali of Pakistan Navy and Rashid of Islamabad won the third position. In the -77kg category, Ali Hamza of Pakistan Navy won gold, Hamza of WAPDA won silver, Fahad of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Waqas of Army won brown medals.

In the open weight category, Adil of Pakistan Army won gold, Abid of Police won silver, Naveed of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Hamid of

Pakistan Navy won bronze. In the women's -57 kg category, Rimsha of Pakistan Army won the first position, Arzoo of Pakistan Navy won the second position, Maryam of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Arwa of WAPDA won the third position.

In the women's -63 kg category, Shamila of Pakistan WAPDA won gold, and the Pakistan Navy won gold. Fazilat Silver Medal, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Aden and Army's Asma won brown Medals, Pakistan WAPDA won gold, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa won silver, Pakistan Army and Punjab won bronze medals.

Result: -50kg Men fighting Wapda, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Islamabad, Punjab -56kg Awais

Wapda Saleem KP Asif Ali Navy Rashid Ahmad Islamabad -77kg Ali Nawaz Navy Hamza Wapda Fahad KP M. Waqas Army Men Fighting Open Adeel Army Abid Police Hamid Navy Naveed KP -57kg Women Fighting Rimsha Army Arzoo Navy Arwa Wapda Maryium KP -63kg Shumaila Wapda Fazilat Khan Navy Asma Army Adan KP Duo Men System Wapda, KP Army, Punjab Duo Women System Wapda, Sindh, Army, Punjab Women Nawaz -52kg Wapda, Army, Navy, KP Women Nawaz -44kg Navy, Army, Wapda, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Women -44kg Nawaz Wapda, Army, Balochistan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.





## In brief

### Police conduct search operations

RAWALPINDI (APP): Police have conducted search operations in the jurisdiction of Chontra, Mandra, Kalar Syedan and Rawat police stations, said a police spokesman here on Friday. He informed that Rawalpindi district police, women police and other law enforcement agencies under the supervision of senior police officers participated in the search operations. He said that Rawalpindi district police on the directives of Senior Superintendent of Police, Operations Capt. © Muhammad Amir Khan Niazi conducted search operations and inspected 116 houses, 20 shops, besides checking 197 persons. The supremacy of the law would be ensured and the crack-down against the law-breakers would continue, he added.

### IRSA releases 300,900 cusecs water

ISLAMABAD (APP): Indus River System Authority (IRSA) on Saturday released 300,900 cusecs of water from various rim stations with an inflow of 316,200 cusecs. According to the data released by IRSA, the water level in River Indus at Tarbela Dam was 1515.79 feet and was 117.79 feet higher than its dead level of 1,398 feet. Water inflow and outflow in the dam were recorded as 149,100 cusecs and 180,000 cusecs respectively. The water level in River Jhelum at Mangla Dam was 1203.00 feet, which was 153.00 feet higher than its dead level of 1,050 feet. The inflow and outflow of water was recorded 56,200 cusecs and 10,000 cusecs respectively. The release of water at Kalabagh, Taunsa, Guddu and Sukkur was recorded as 190,500, 186,600, 153,700 and 87,800 cusecs respectively. Similarly, from River Kabul, a total of 38,600 cusecs of water released at Nowshera and 44,100 cusecs released from River Chenab at Marala.

### Street criminal gangs nabbed

RAWALPINDI (APP): Rawalpindi District Police in their ongoing operations against street criminals and robbers on Saturday, managed to bust two gangs and arrested their seven members besides recovering over Rs 500,000, a stolen camera, five mobile phones, five pistols, a motorcycle, and other items from their possession. According to a police spokesman, Sadiqabad police busted the 'Tora' gang and arrested Tamoor alias Tora, Jawad, Zeeshan, and Amir Hamza on recovery of Rs 500,000, three pistols, and other items while Pirwadhai police busted the Catha Khan gang and arrested three members of the gang namely Hassan alias Catha Khan, Haroon Khan, and Abdul Wahab and recovered five mobile phones, a DSLR camera, two pistols, a motorcycle, and other items. The gangs were wanted in various cases. He informed that the police team constituted under the supervision of SHO Sadiqabad and Pirwadhai Police Stations on the directives of the Superintendent of Police Rawal Faisal Saleem conducted raids and managed to net the accused. As per the preliminary police record, the criminals were also involved in other crimes, he said. "The accused have been shifted to jail for an identification parade," he added.



ISLAMABAD: Gypsy boys searching valuables from garbage near Khanna Pul area in the Federal Capital. —APP Photo

## Neelum Jhelum Project resumes power generation by end July

ISLAMABAD (INP): Neelum Jhelum Hydel Power Project will resume power generation by end of July, said a Wapda spokesperson on Saturday. Wapda spokesperson has said that remedial work of the tail race tunnel of the project has been nearing to completion. This was informed during a briefing given to Chairman WAPDA Lt Gen (Retd) Sajjad Ghani by the management during his visit to the project site. It was informed that hectic efforts were underway to complete the remedial

works being carried out in the tail race tunnel of the project. "The concrete lining of the collapsed portion of the tail race tunnel has been completed". "Other affected parts of the 3 1/2 kilometers long tunnel have been strengthened. "The cleaning work will begin next week after removing machinery from the tail race tunnel," chairman Wapda briefed. "Water will be filled in the tunnel after completion of the cleaning work. After filling of the tail race tunnel, power generation will

begin," Chairman Wapda was informed. The Chairman WAPDA directed the project team to ensure restarting of the Hydel Power Station by end of the month without any compromise on its structural integrity. The 969 MW-Neelum Jhelum Hydropower Project had started electricity generation in April 2018. Prior to collapse of its tail race tunnel last year, the project had generated more than 18 billion units of the electricity for the national grid.

## Govt for development of agriculture sector

RAWALPINDI (APP): Commissioner Rawalpindi Division, Liaquat Ali Chatha here on Saturday said that the Punjab government was taking all possible steps for the development of the agriculture sector.

Presiding over a prize distribution ceremony organized by Punjab Agriculture Department (PAD), Rawalpindi Division for the farmers who succeeded to achieve positions in the wheat production competition, the Commissioner hailed the initiative and said that through such competitions, the spirit of hard work and more production would be highlighted among the farmers.

Seminars regarding increasing wheat production should also be organized at the tehsil level, the Commissioner added. A huge amount had been allocated in the current budget, Liaquat Ali Chatha informed.

The Agriculture Department had taken solid steps to solve the problems of the farmers at the tehsil level, he said adding, through this way, the agriculture sector could be improved at the local level. A coordinated campaign should be conducted for better production of wheat in the coming Rabi season, the Commissioner directed the relevant authorities.

He said, the farmers should also take advantage of modern technology to increase the production of the crops. "Pakistan is an agricultural country and the agriculture sector is the backbone of the country's development," Liaquat Ali Chatha added.

## Wanted member of snatcher gang held

ISLAMABAD (NNI): Islamabad capital police Bhara Kahu police team apprehended a wanted member of a snatcher gang involved in numerous snatching activities and recovered a snatched motorbike and arm with ammunition used in crime from his possession, a police public relations officer said.

He said that, following the special directions of Islamabad Capital City Police officer (ICCPO) Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan, the Islamabad capital police has intensified crackdown against the criminal elements in order to eliminate the crime from the city and protect the lives and property of citizens.

Following these directives, the Bhara Kahu police team used technical and human resources and succeeded in apprehending a wanted member of a snatcher gang. The accused was identified as Hassan. Police team also recovered a snatched motorbike and arm with ammunition used in crime from his possession. During the preliminary investigation, the accused confessed to being involved in numerous criminal activities in various areas of the city.

Cases have been registered against the nabbed accused and further investigation is underway. CPO/DIG (Operations) Syed Shehzad Nadeem Bukhari appreciated the performance of the police team and further directed to intensify the crackdown against such elements.

# PPP not to be part of election alliance with PDM

ISLAMABAD (INP): Pakistan People's Party (PPP) has decided against election alliance with the PDM, sources said on Saturday. "People's Party will not be a part, if the Pakistan Democratic Movement will be turned into an election alliance," PPP sources quoted as saying. "An election alliance with the PDM will be a political liability," according to sources.

An inner party consulta-

tion over general elections has been underway in the People's Party, sources said. People's Party leadership has taken opinion within the party over a likely electoral alliance. "Most party leaders have been opposed to an alliance with the Pakistan Democratic Movement," sources said. "An electoral alliance is possible with the Awami National Party. An alliance or seat adjustment can be

made with the ANP. The PPP had good working relations with the ANP in the past," according to PPP sources.

"The party, however, has not the same working relationship with the JUL, as were in the past with it," party sources said. "We had parted ways with the Pakistan Democratic Movement over its partial behaviour. The PDM always remained biased with the PPP," sources opined.

# Agri sector given relief to ensure rural development

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister of State for Petroleum Dr. Musadiq Malik on Saturday said that a major relief was given to the agriculture sector by giving incentives on seeds and fertilizers to ensure development in rural areas.

Talking to a private news channel, he said the incumbent government has primarily focused on the stability of the economy.

To a question about elections, he said the former prime minister Nawaz Sharif will lead the election campaign after his

arrival in Pakistan. He hoped that PML-N would win the general elections with majority votes.

He said that the Opposition parties must follow moral legitimacy as they were bound to abide by the rule of law of the country.

# National Day of France celebrated in Islamabad

ISLAMABAD (APP): The French Embassy in Pakistan celebrated the National Day with a grand event that witnessed the participation of government officials, diplomats from various countries, members of the media, and individuals from diverse segments of society.

Addressing the event, the Ambassador of France to Pakistan, Nicolas Galey acknowledged the positive trajectory of bilateral relations between France and Pakistan and expressed gratitude to various sectors within Pakistan, including government departments, businesses, cultural institutions, and the media, for their active and positive contributions in strengthening these ties.

The ambassador particularly highlighted the notable increase in the number of Pakistani students studying

in France through university cooperation programs. Furthermore, he said, "France's development agency has been actively engaged in major infrastructure projects in Pakistan, with a recent focus on the crucial agriculture sector, as prioritized by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif."

The mutual cooperation and progress achieved in these areas exemplify the ongoing positive engagement between France and Pakistan, signifying a successful resolution to a challenging period, the envoy added.

He recalled that in the multilateral institutions process, France supported the efforts that have led to a favourable outcome for Pakistan by the Financial Action Task Force (FATF).

"The multilateral institution's process received

backing from France, which contributed to this positive outcome" he added. He said, "We're also very happy for the negotiation between Pakistan and the IMF, contributed positively."

"This opens obviously and encouraging prospects for the Pakistani economy and therefore, for increasing international investments in Pakistan," he added.

About the GSP plus free trade program, he said, "We naturally support the fruitful negotiation between the EU and Pakistan over concentration of this essential program for the Pakistani economy." The ambassador emphasized the importance of the relationship between Pakistan and the EU, in particular through the GSP plus free trade program, of which Pakistan is the largest beneficiary in the world.

# Sheikh Rashid says crisis will deepen if poor ignored

RAWALPINDI (PPI): Awami Muslim League (AML) chief Sheikh Rashid Ahmed warned on Saturday that any attempt to manipulate the upcoming caretaker setup in the Centre would make the general election controversial before time.

Taking to Twitter, the former interior minister said if the PDM-led government tried to show cunning in formation of the caretaker setup, it would make the polls controversial. He said the formation of the interim government would make it clear whether the elections would be held in a transparent manner or not.

He warned that the pre-

vailing crisis would deepen if the poor segment of society was ignored by the caretaker government.

Sheikh Rashid said the rulers were busy in power struggle by turning a deaf ear to the inflation-bitten public, adding that the economic crises would intensify if the public was not taken on board in matters of national interest.

Lashing out at the ruling coalition, he said inflation was on the rise while a recent decision of the National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (Nepra) to increase electricity price by Rs5 per unit had also frightened the public.

He also took aim at

Finance Minister Ishaq Dar, saying he had no other plan except begging for the IMF bailout package. He said the default was still staring at Pakistan despite the IMF loan deal as the existing foreign exchange reserves of \$4 billion were barely enough for one-month imports. He also lamented decline in remittances.

The former minister said PDM leader Fazlur Rehman, who was ignored in Dubai meeting by the PML-N and the PPP, was a candidate for the president's slot and demanding more share in the caretaker setup. He also called the silence of PPP co-chairman Asif Ali Zardari "meaningful".

# Construction work on Pakistan's first National Police Hospital starts

ISLAMABAD (NNI): The construction work of Pakistan's inaugural National Police Hospital has commenced, marking a significant milestone in the country's healthcare infrastructure.

Islamabad Capital City Police Officer (ICCPO) Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan personally visited the hospital site, urging swift progress on the project. Recently, Prime Minister Mian Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif laid the foundation stone for the 100-bed hospital, emphasizing its importance for the police force.

The construction of Pakistan's first National Police Hospital, a groundbreaking initiative, has begun with Islamabad Capital City Police Officer (ICCPO) Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan overseeing the project's early stages. Following the recent foundation stone ceremony conducted by

Prime Minister Mian Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, this state-of-the-art hospital is set to accommodate 100 beds, catering specifically to the capital police of Islamabad.

ICCPO Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan personally inspected the hospital site located in Police Lines, assessing the ongoing construction progress and issuing instructions to contractors to expedite the work. The total estimated cost for the comprehensive construction of the National Police Hospital amounts to Rs. 6,479.879 million. A budget allocation of Rs. 1,197 million has been secured during the financial year 2023-2024 to ensure timely completion.

This nine-storey architectural marvel will feature modern facilities, including air ambulances, to serve the medical needs of the police force. The hospital will be equipped with 12 emergency beds,

10 orthopedic beds, 15 cardiology beds, six surgical ICU beds, six cardiac ICU beds, 14 surgical beds, 15 general medicine beds, eight neurology beds, five medical ICU beds, four cardiac care units and five beds for weapon injuries and physiotherapy.

The realization of this vital healthcare facility was made possible through the determined efforts of Federal Minister for Planning Ahsan Iqbal and Federal Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah Khan.

Prime Minister Mian Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif recently inaugurated the hospital during a grand ceremony held at Police Lines. ICCPO Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan and his dedicated team worked tirelessly to secure approval for this project and other essential initiatives benefiting the Islamabad Capital Police Force.

# Court grants FIA four-day remand of loan-offering apps scam suspects

ISLAMABAD (NNI): A Rawalpindi special court on Saturday remanded suspects arrested for allegedly black-mailing citizens through loan offering mobile applications for four days in the custody of the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA).

The Cybercrime Wing of the FIA captured nine suspects and registered a case against 19 others after the agency launched investigation against mobile phone applications (apps) offering online loans as an unemployed man committed suicide on failing to pay interest on a loan he took from an app.

It is reported that the man, who lived in Rawalpindi, was allegedly blackmailed by the operator of the online app. FIA Director General Mohsin Hasan Butt took notice of the incident and ordered the Cybercrime Wing to investigate and arrest the suspects involved in the case.

The FIA team raided G-8 sector and sealed two offices, took into custody laptops and other material and decided to block its online advertisement. The FIA also reportedly sought details of the app company from the Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan.

An FIA official said the Cybercrime Circle had already started an investigation on the request of the relatives of the victim. The FIA is also collecting the record of the calls and emails sent by the app company to the victim, Muhammad Masood, who died by suicide in the wake of the unbearable pressure inflicted by online loan sharks. A resident of Rawalpindi, Masood had borrowed Rs 13,000 through an online application to pay for his children's school fees and house rent.

However, he found himself unable to pay the loan back with the accumulating interest which reportedly

escalated. Masood was unable to pay back to his lenders and following threats decided to hang himself by a fan leaving his two sons orphaned at a tender age.

His wife said that the reason behind her husband's death was the debt he incurred via the online loan-lending application. He lost job six months ago. Muzammil has filed an application with the Federal Investigation Agency's (FIA) cybercrime wing to ensure justice is served for his brother and his family's sake.

"My husband got stuck in the mire of debt and became a victim of mental agony," his wife said in the video. Masood advised his wife to keep his mobile phone switched off for at least a month. She shared that her husband was harassed just a week after taking a loan worth Rs13,000 from the online company and the amount increased to Rs50,000 with interest.



### Railway transportation up

KABUL (Agencies): Afghanistan Railway Authority said that last week 60, 018 tons were transported through the country's railway. The ARA said in a statement that last week, 41,134 tons were transported through the port of Hairatan, 10,976 tons through Aqena, and 7,908 tons of transportation made through the port of Torgandi which is a total of 60,018 tons. This must be noted, that ARA says that the transfer of 71,176 tons through the Afghanistan Railway a week back.

## The Frontier Post

# AFGHANISTAN

Zil-Hajj 27, 1444 — Saturday, July 16, 2023

### Residents to build a bridge

GHOR (Agencies): Residents of Firozkoh City, the center of Ghor province will construct a transportation bridge at their own expense. The bridge will connect several villages with the center of the province of Firozkoh City. The bridge with a length of 14 meters and a width of four meters will be constructed of concrete in a standard manner, and with its construction, including the Qads, several other villages around Firozkoh will be connected.

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

## Drought Crisis: Farmers complain of lack of fodder

BAMIYAN (TOLONews): Livestock farmers in Bamiyan said that animal fodder has decreased due to drought in the province, which has made agriculture, especially feeding livestock, very challenging.

The lack of fodder is not the only problem of livestock farmers in Bamiyan, but the occurrence of various animal diseases has also had a bad effect on livestock farming and has reduced the income of livestock farmers.

Mohammad Kazem is one of the livestock farmers in Bamiyan. He said that he used to keep nearly 100 sheep, but now he cannot provide fodder for his 10 sheep.

"The drought affected me so much that I was

keeping fifty or sixty sheep at that time and that was easy for me. Now that I keep ten sheep, we are in trouble. Now our children are shepherding them. I give them water from the well," said Mohammad Kazem.

Livestock farmers said that in the past they covered their living expenses from livestock farming, but now it has become difficult for them.

"Drought and persistent pests have faced people with challenges, which has reduced the number of people's livestock year by year," said Mohammad Alim, a livestock farmer.

"Eighty percent of the people have sold their livestock because of both disease and drought," said

Mohammad Baqir, a livestock farmer.

Meanwhile, the Department of Agriculture and Livestock of Bamiyan said that during this solar year it has distributed 900 tons of animal feed and 250,000 doses of vaccines to the residents to support livestock.

"We had distributed 900 tons of animal feed and also had 250,000 doses of vaccines in the province," said Gulabuddin Rab Dost, head of the Department of Agriculture and Livestock of Bamiyan.

After agriculture in Bamiyan, livestock is the second and most important source of income for residents of this province, and livestock owners want the authorities to address their problems.

## Minister Omari meets UNAMA, FAO reps in Kabul

KABUL (Agencies): The Acting Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock Minister, Mawlawi Ataullah Omari met with officials of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) Richard Trenchard and Daniel Anders the Deputy Director of the UNAMA in his office in Kabul.

The two sides discussed the development of agriculture and livestock, water management, protection of natural resources, supporting the farmers, control of plant and animal diseases and pests, and farmers, according to the Ministry statement.

Acting Minister Omari during the meeting thanked the officials of the said organizations and asked for the increase and continuation of their cooperation.

"Afghanistan is in the process of water regulation and management, supporting farmers, animal breeding, land management, research and promotion, construction of dams, forest protection, distribution of improved seeds and trees, modern Agriculture requires cooperation in training, equipping farmers with agricultural machinery and building dairy factories," said Minister Omari quoting the statement.

Mr. Omari asked the international organizations to carry out their missions without any concern here in Afghanistan.

For his part, Daniel Anders, Deputy Director of the UNAMA called sharing the experiences of other countries and investors with the people of Afghanistan as his main responsibilities and stressed that the UNAMA has made useful efforts in the past and is committed to continue its missions.

## Ministry encourages investors

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.

Meanwhile, the Chamber of Commerce and Investment (ACCI) officials welcome the move, saying that more investment in the construction sector can solve the housing problem and reduce the country's unemployment rate.

"The Islamic Emirate is committed to supporting investment, and traders in Afghanistan, and to providing them with the opportunity to do business," said Khan Jan Alkozai a member of ACCI.

In addition, officials of the Association of Construction Material Manufacturing Factories say if investments in the construction sector expand, the manufactured construction goods will also find a good market and positive changes will be made in the regular movement of the country's economic machine.

Officials of the Ministry of Public Works also asked the contracting company to consider the standards in the construction of the road.

Members of the private sector called the reconstruction of the Kabul-Kandahar highway important for the growth of the country's economy and transit and emphasized that the project will be executed in accordance with the contract.

"There has been a significant increase in the transportation of passengers, the export of fresh and dried

fruit, transit and trade, and all criteria will be considered in the implementation of this project," Mohammad Yunus Mohmand, deputy of the Chamber of Commerce and Investment, said.

Najibullah Jalalzai, head of the contracting company said: "The quality of the road will be high. The thickness of bitumen is 21 cm. We will try to complete the project in seven months."

## Afghanistan seeks strong ties with its neighbors



KABUL (Agencies): The Afghan Acting Information and Culture Minister Khairullah Khairkhan said in a meeting with Pakistan's Ambassador Obaid ur Rehman Nizamani that Afghanistan wants strong ties with its

neighbors based on mutual respect, Bakhtar News Agency reported on Saturday.

During the meeting, the sides discussed cultural and handicraft exhibitions between the two countries. Khairkhan said that such

exhibitions could pave the way to strengthen cultural diplomacy.

Khairkhan also stressed the role of the tourism industry in economic development and the creation of traveling opportunities for the citizens of both countries.

For his part, Nizamani mentioning the cultural, historical, and religious similarities between the two countries, and said that Pakistan's government seeks a stable and prosperous Afghanistan.

## USIP report calls for continuation of humanitarian aid to Afghanistan

KABUL (Khaama Press): The United States Institute of Peace (USIP) urged for the continuation of humanitarian aid to Afghanistan in a recent report titled "Afghanistan's Dire Humanitarian Situation", released.

According to the report, since the Taliban took control of the country, the Afghan economy and financial system have largely collapsed, and the international community has decided unanimously not to recognize the Taliban. Donors also have difficulty providing for the population's needs in these

dire circumstances.

"In the two years since the Taliban takeover, the Afghan economy has crumbled, the financial system has largely collapsed, and the international community has opted for unified no recognition of the Taliban," the report said.

It added, "Donors and NGOs now face the immense challenge of meeting the needs of the Afghan people under these dire conditions."

These organizations have had to navigate cautious engagement with an unrecognized administration

while continuing to offer crucial aid and services, given that most Afghans live in extreme poverty.

According to the United Nations estimation, nearly 29 million people in the country need urgent humanitarian aid amid a shortage of funding.

The report also revealed that Since the Taliban tightened its restrictions on Afghan women working for NGOs, the humanitarian situation has only worsened.

The report emphasized the clear and effective response to the country's

dire humanitarian crisis.

Antonio Guterres, the secretary general of the UN, told reporters after hosting a discussion on the Afghan situation in Doha that six million Afghans are "one step away" from starvation conditions and that financing is "evaporating", and that 28 million people will need humanitarian assistance to survive this year.

Guterres also said that only \$294 million, or 6.4 per cent of the \$4.6 billion total requested for the humanitarian response plan, had been received.

## Turkey supports vocational training courses for disabled people

JAWZJAN (Khaama Press): The Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency (TIKA) provided financial support for vocational training courses for people with disabilities in the northern province of Jawzjan, Afghanistan.

The Afghan Disabled Protection Association and the TIKA branch in Mazar-i-Sharif worked together to carry out the project, AA reported.

It will offer training in producing solid and liquid soap for women, as well as shoe manufacturing and repair, carpentry, and metal structure welding for men, with a duration of six months for each course, each with 50 participants.

Mazar-i-Sharif, TIKA The coordinator, Mikail Tasdemir, noted that when students obtain professional skills from the courses,



the time it takes to find employment will be shortened.

In the meantime, TIKA trained personnel from the Afghanistan Central Bank and Ministry of Finance on participation in bank infrastructure.

Earlier, TIKA provided equipment support to the vocational training courses organized for disabled people in the province.

The provided equipment included carpet weaving, electronic device repairing, leather crafting, and

needlework courses organized for disabled people and martyrs' families.

The primary aim of the training is to provide employment, especially for disabled men and women and contribution to their household income.

## Kabul-Kandahar highway's reconstruction gets underway



KABUL (Agencies): Asphalted a section of the Kabul-Kandahar highway began on Saturday in the presence of the Prime Minister's Deputy for Economic Affairs Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar.

A r g h a n d i - B a z a a r Durrani road is 27 kilometers long, 11 meters wide, and has two major bridges and 60 culverts. The project will cost about one billion Afghanis, which is being financed by the Islamic Emirate.

"Our request is that all the contracting companies increase their efforts to speed up their work so that the project will be completed

ed soon and the problems of passengers on this route will be solved," Mullah Baradar said at the ceremony to launch the project.

The project is scheduled to be completed within one year.

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"There has been a significant increase in the transportation of passengers, the export of fresh and dried

fruit, transit and trade, and all criteria will be considered in the implementation of this project," Mohammad Yunus Mohmand, deputy of the Chamber of Commerce and Investment, said.

Najibullah Jalalzai, head of the contracting company said: "The quality of the road will be high. The thickness of bitumen is 21 cm. We will try to complete the project in seven months."

Officials of the Ministry of Public Works also asked the contracting company to consider the standards in the construction of the road.

## Foreign Minister Muttuqi chairs coordination meeting

KABUL (Pajhwok): A coordination meeting has been organized by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) on inter-action between caretaker government and foreign delegations.

MoFA said in a press release the meeting was chaired by Foreign Minister Amir Khan Muttuqi and attended by

heads of departments and foreign relations officials of all ministries, general directorates and independent government agencies.

In line with the latest decree from the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan (IEA) supreme leader and the cabinet decision, government organs were directed to interact with

foreign countries and diplomatic missions.

Procedures for meetings, official trips, signing of agreements and dealing with the coordination problem in the relevant areas were discussed in detail.

Solutions to the issues were shared with the participants in written form along with the leadership's

decree, the ministry added.

The attendees hailed the meeting useful for an integrated approach and streamlining of affairs besides ensuring coordination and understanding.

The participants urged the conduct of more such meetings and called them useful for coordination and familiarisation, the statement concluded.

## Police destroy poppy on 40,000 acres of land in Badakhshan

BADAKHSHAN (Khaama Press): Poppy cultivation had been eradicated from 40,000 acres of land in the northern province of Badakhshan, Afghanistan, in the past three months.

Shafiqullah Hafizi, the director of the counter-narcotics police department in the province of Badakhshan in northern Afghanistan, reported that during the past three months, poppy had been eradicated from 40,000 acres of land.

"The poppy eradication campaign started three months ago, and so far, we have destroyed 40,000 acres of poppy, and the process will continue until the poppy fields are completely demolished in the province," Hafizi said.

The official said the anti-poppy campaign would be over within a few days.

On Wednesday, police in

the Jawzjan province of northern Afghanistan dismantled a drug processing lab and detained its owner. Last week, authorities also destroyed 20 acres of poppies in the eastern province of Ghazni.

Earlier, the Iranian per-

manent representative to the UN, Saeed Iravani, said that the UNSC expressed the expansion of drug production in Afghanistan.

According to Iran's representative to the UN, drug trafficking in Afghanistan

has not been completely abolished, and the illicit trade still thrives there. According to Sharq Daily, Mr Iravani also highlighted concerns about the growth of methamphetamine testing facilities in Afghanistan.







PESHAWAR: A view of accumulated rainwater at Jinnah Park after heavy rain in the city.

## Cross-border attacks Pakistan warns Afghanistan of ‘action’

ISLAMABAD (Agencies): Defence Minister Khawaja Asif has said that Afghanistan is not fulfilling its responsibility of being a good neighborly country as it has become a safe haven for terrorists who are shedding blood of Pakistanis. He said that this situation cannot continue any longer, warning Afghanistan that Pakistan will use all its resources to protect its land and citizens.

Taking to his Twitter handle, the defence minister wrote: “Afghanistan is not fulfilling its responsibility of being a (good) neighbor and brotherly country. It is not abiding by the Doha agreement. 5-6 million Afghans have been living on asylum in Pakistan with all rights for

the last 40 to 50 years. On the contrary, the terrorists who shed the blood of Pakistanis can find safe havens in Afghanistan. This situation cannot continue any longer. Pakistan will use all its resources to protect its land and citizens, God willing.”

On Friday, the Pakistan Army media wing, ISPR, expressed serious concerns about the safe havens and liberty of action available to the banned Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) in Afghanistan, in its statement. The military’s media wing statement came as Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Syed Asim Munir visited Quetta Garrison, where he was briefed on the recent terrorist attack in Zhob in which

nine security forces embraced martyrdom. The ISPR statement said the Armed Forces of Pakistan have serious concerns about the safe havens and liberty of action available to TTP in Afghanistan.

It is expected that the 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 the 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 an effective response from the Security Forces of Pakistan.

## Nawaz takes Fazl into confidence over meeting with Zardari

ISLAMABAD (INP): Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) supremo Nawaz Sharif took PDM chief Fazlaur Rehman into confidence over his meeting with PPP co-chairman Asif Ali Zardari in Dubai.

In a telephonic conversation, the former prime minister, according to sources, told Mr Rehman that he had discussed political matters and national issues with Zardari. Mr Sharif also assured the PDM chief of taking him on board in all key political decisions, saying: “We are still part of the PDM”. They also traded views on the caretaker setup as the current assembly will complete its tenure next month.

Both sides also agreed to hold consultation on key political matters while the PDM chief expressed his views about polls in the country. Following the telephonic conversation, the PML-N supremo had directed Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif to call a meeting of the heads of the ally parties.

## Khadijah’s bail plea fixed for hearing

LAHORE (INP): The Lahore High Court has fixed for hearing the post-arrest bail application of PTI activist and fashion designer Khadijah Shah. A two-member bench of the Lahore High Court will hear Shah’s application on July 20, according to the cause list issued on Saturday.

The bench will be headed by Justice Ali Baqar Najafi. A case has been registered against Khadijah Shah at the Sarwar Road police station. The designer has adopted the stance in her bail application that she is imprisoned in jail on judicial remand, and that no investigation is required from her. It requested the court to approve the post-arrest bail application.

The LHC had on Wednesday dismissed petitions seeking to declare unlawful the detention of Shah and others allegedly involved in the May 9 violence cases. A two-member bench headed by Justice Najafi had heard the case and issued the written verdict. The verdict stated that the detention of the petitioners cannot be deemed illegal at this stage, as the law is currently taking its course.

## Two former MPAs held

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: Former Members of KP Assembly, Arbab Waseem Hayat and Malik Wajid, were arrested on Saturday.

The arrests came after their bail application for pre-arrest relief was rejected by the Anti-Terrorism Court. The court hearing was presided over by Justice Aamir Nazir. Arbab Waseem and Malik Wajid had earlier filed a bail application in an attempt to evade arrest in a case related to inciting violence and vandalism on May 9 and 10. Their bail was rejected and at Khan Razaq Police arrested them in the jurisdiction of court.

# India, UAE sign deal to settle bilateral trade in local currencies

ABU DHABI (Agencies): India and United Arab Emirates (UAE) on Saturday signed agreements for the use of local currencies for bilateral trade and to set up a real-time payment link to facilitate easier cross-border money transfers.

The agreement will allow India to settle trade in rupees instead of dollars, boosting New Delhi’s efforts to cut transaction costs by eliminating dollar conversions. The development came during a visit by India’s Prime Minister Narendra Modi to the UAE wherein the two countries also agreed to set up a real-time payment link to facilitate easier cross-border money transfers.

The two agreements will enable “seamless cross-border transactions and payments, and foster greater eco-

nomic cooperation”, Reserve Bank of India (RBI) said in a statement. The MoU on establishing a framework for the use of local currencies for transactions between India and UAE, aims to put in place a Local Currency Settlement System (LCSS) to promote the use of INR and AED bilaterally, the statement added.

The Indian central bank said the agreement covers all current account transactions and permitted capital account transactions. “Creation of the LCSS would enable exporters and importers to invoice and pay in their respective domestic currencies, which in turn would enable the development of an INR-AED foreign exchange market. This arrangement would also promote investments and remittances between the two countries.”

Use of local currencies would optimise transaction costs and settlement time for transactions, including for remittances from Indians residing in UAE, the RBI added. India, the world’s third biggest oil importer and consumer and whose central bank last year announced a framework for settling global trade in rupees, currently pays for UAE oil in dollars.

Bilateral trade between the two countries was \$84.5 billion in the year from April 2022 to March 2023. An official with knowledge of the details of the agreement said India could make its first rupee payment for UAE oil to Abu Dhabi National Oil Co (ADNOC), Reuters reported. Such arrangements, which are a growing trend in Asia, typically lower the cost of payments.

## South Korea’s Yoon promises \$150m aid after Zelenskyy talks

SEOUL (Agencies): South Korean President Yoon Suk-yeol has made a surprise visit to Ukraine, offering a show of support for the country in its war against Russia. Yoon’s office said on Saturday that he travelled to Ukraine with his wife, Kim Keon-hee, following trips to Lithuania for a NATO summit and to Poland. It is his first visit since Russia invaded Ukraine almost 17 months ago.

After the two leaders met, Zelenskyy thanked Seoul for its “firm support of Ukraine’s sovereignty and territorial integrity” and the “significant political, security, economic and humanitarian aid” it has supplied since the start of Russia’s war.

“Today, during this first visit of the president of the Republic of Korea to Ukraine in the history of our relations, we talked about everything that is important for people to lead a normal and safe life,” Zelenskyy said, adding, “Thank you for the meaningful talks. Thank you for your strong support.” Yoon pledged on Saturday to “expand the scale” of his country’s non-lethal military assistance to Ukraine, adding that humanitarian aid would be increased to \$150m in 2023 from \$100m last year.

He also said that he and Zelenskyy agreed on cooperating on post-war reconstruction efforts in Ukraine. Additionally, South Korea will also launch a scholarship fund named after Yoon and Zelenskyy to expand support for Ukrainian students in South Korea. Earlier, Yoon toured Bucha and Irpin, two small cities near Kyiv where mass graves and bodies of civilians were found in the streets after Russian troops retreated from the capital region last year. He laid flowers at a monument to the country’s war dead.

“The president first toured the Bucha city massacre site near the capital Kyiv and the city of Irpin, where missile attacks were concentrated on civilian residential areas,” Yoon’s senior adviser for press affairs, Kim Eun-hye, said in a statement. In his recent written responses to questions from The Associated Press, Yoon said that the security of the Atlantic and Indo-Pacific regions

## S Korea landslides, floods kill more than 20, thousands evacuated

SEOUL (Agencies): Twenty-two people have died, 14 are missing and thousands have been evacuated in South Korea, according to ministry data, as a third day of torrential rains caused landslides and the overflow of a dam. As of 6pm (09:00 GMT), 4,763 people had been evacuated nationwide, according to the Ministry of Interior and Safety, as water overtopped the dam in North Chungcheong province on Saturday morning. Local governments’ evacuation orders covered more than 7,000 people at various times, according to provincial authorities.

The tally is expected to rise as more heavy rain is expected on the Korean peninsula on Sunday, the Korea Meteorological Administration forecast. The Korea Railroad Corporation said it was halting all slow trains and some bullet trains, while other bullet trains might be delayed due to slower operation, as landslides, track flooding and falling rocks threatened safety.

A slow train derailed when a landslide threw earth and sand over tracks in North Chungcheong province, the transport ministry said. The engineer was injured, but no passengers were on board. In a meeting with government agencies on Saturday, Prime Minister Han Duck-soo called for the military to actively join in rescue activities, working with government officials to mobilise equipment and manpower. The torrential rainfall triggered landslides and temporary power cuts in 13 towns and cities overnight. In the central Goesan district alone, more than 6,000 residents were ordered to be evacuated after the dam overflowed. The weather bureau announced continued heavy rain for large parts of the country. South Korea is currently experiencing the summer rainy season, during which flooding is a regular occurrence.

is closely intertwined, saying: “In particular, the war in Ukraine has reminded us all that a security crisis in one particular region can have a global impact.”

“Ukraine now reminds me of South Korea of the past,” Yoon said, hailing the international assistance that allowed his country to “pull off a miraculous victory” over the North and eventually rise to become one of the world’s major economies.

A United States ally and rising arms exporter, South Korea has faced renewed pressure to provide weapons to Ukraine, which Yoon’s administration has resisted in favour of humanitarian and financial aid, wary of Russia’s influence over North Korea. Yoon had said this week that his administration was preparing to send de-mining equipment and ambulances, following a request from Ukraine, and will join NATO’s trust fund for Ukraine.

Zelenskyy asked Yoon to boost military support when they first met

in May. South Korea’s defence ministry has said it was discussing exporting ammunition to the US. However, in May South Korea dismissed a US media report that its artillery rounds were heading to Ukraine via the US, saying its position on not providing lethal aid to Kyiv was unchanged.

“We view Russia’s invasion of Ukraine as a challenge to the international community’s freedom, human rights and the rule of law,” Yoon said upon meeting Polish President Andrzej Duda on Thursday, adding that South Korea could be a good partner in rebuilding Ukraine. South Korea’s Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport said it planned to support the reconstruction of Ukraine’s infrastructure, such as transport, energy and industry. South Korean companies and companies in Ukraine and other countries signed agreements to cooperate in the reconstruction of Ukraine, the ministry said in a statement.

## SC to hear Musharraf's plea against rejection of papers

ISLAMABAD (INP): A three-judge Supreme Court bench headed by Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Umar Ata Bandial will hear a petition of former president Pervez Musharraf, five months after his death, filed against rejection of his nomination papers for National Assembly seat from Kasur in 2013 general elections.

The bench which also comprises Justice Ayesha A Malik and Justice Hassan Azhar Rizvi will hear the petition on July 17 (Monday). A three-judge Supreme Court bench consisting of Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Umar Ata Bandial, Justice Ayesha A. Malik and Justice Hassan Azhar Rizvi will take up the matter.

The returning officer appointed by Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) in 2013, accepting an appeal filed by Advocate Javed Kasuri against nomination papers of former president and military ruler general Pervez Musharraf, had rejected Musharraf’s papers on six grounds from NA-139 Kasur for the lower house seat.

Consequently, the returning officer had declared the former army chief ineligible to contest the elections from NA-139 seat. As a result, the ECP had debarred him from the polls in Kasur in view of different court cases filed against him for violating the country’s Constitution several times. Mr

Musharraf had approached the Supreme Court and challenged the rejection of his nomination papers by RO in the Supreme Court.

Earlier, despite the former military ruler’s extreme desire, the Supreme Court did not fix Gen (ret’d) Pervez Musharraf’s plea against his conviction in a high treason case for the last three years. After his demise, the appeal is expected to become infructuous. The SC did not fix Musharraf’s plea in an open court challenging the registrar’s decision of not entertaining his appeal, in which he sought to overturn the Dec 17, 2019 death sentence awarded to him by the special court in a high treason case.

## PDM to contest polls on performance basis: Asad

F.P. Report

D I KHAN: Federal Minister for Communications Mufti Asad Mahmood on Saturday said the Pakistan Democratic Movement’s (PDM) parties would contest next general elections on the basis of their 14-months performance.

He stated this while talking to media persons during his visit to Bandkorai Grid Station wherein he was accompanied by Peshawar Electric Supply Company (PESCO) Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Arif Sadozai. The minister said the PDM parties were ready for the general elections as the national assembly was going to complete its tenure in August.

However, he said, it was prerogative of the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) to hold the elections and announce its date. He said the previous government of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) had pushed the country into economic crises while toeing anti-state policies, but the present government saved the country from default.

Asad said the government successfully restored the trust of international community, adding the PTI government was removed in a constitutional manner. The PTI chief, during three

and a half year governmental tenure, repeatedly claimed that he was fighting against corruption but the record corruption was noticed in that period.

The minister said about 1000 employees were made unemployed from his ministry. The performance of PDM government was in front of people on the basis of which they would contest the next general elections. The government had restarted the mega projects which were halted during PTI tenure, he said.

The minister said the Abdul Khel Grid was inaugurated last month adding work on up gradation of Ratta Kulachi and Bandkorai grid stations would be started soon. The 66-KV Bandkorai grid station was being upgraded to 132-KV which would help to permanently resolve the problem of low voltage in the area. Earlier, Director Grid Construction Sardar Aslam Gandapur briefed the federal minister and PESCO CEO about the work of 132-KV Bandkorai grid station.

On this occasion, SE PESCO Dera Circle Nadir Zaman Kundi XEN City Division Hizbullah Khan Mehsud, XEN Rural Division Shaukatullah Khan Mehsud, Zonal Chairman of PESCO Dera Circle Noor Ul Amin

Marwat were also present.

## Khattak may join party

ISLAMABAD (Agencies): Senior political leaders who recently quit the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf after the May 9 violent incidents have started getting in touch with the ruling PML-N, it has been learnt. There are reports of backdoor contacts between veteran politician and former federal minister Pervaiz Khattak and the top leadership of the PML-N. The PML-N has allegedly green-lighted Khattak’s inclusion in the party.

If all the matters are settled, then the former defence minister in the PTI government may announce joining the PML-N in the presence of prime minister and party President Shehbaz Sharif. On Wednesday, the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) had suspended the basic party membership of the former minister with immediate effect.

The notification read that the PTI had issued a show-cause notice to Khattak on June 21 on allegations that he incited PTI leaders to quit the party. “You did not respond to the show cause notice within the stipulated time on which the primary party membership has been terminated,” he added.