

FO condemns Israeli raids
F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan on Wednesday strongly condemned the raids and airstrikes carried out by the Israeli occupation forces in Jenin in the occupied West Bank, which killed 10 Palestinians and injured some 50 others. The Foreign Office spokesperson in a statement said this latest episode of violence against the occupied people of Palestine by the occupying power must end immediately.

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PM felicitates US President
F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has extended greetings to the US President Joe Biden and American people on their Independence Day. In a tweet on Wednesday, he said Pakistan has always deeply valued its relationship with the United States. He said bilateral ties between Pakistan and the United States have continued to expand and deepen over the past 75 years.

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India should benefit from CPEC: PM

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, on the completion of 10 years of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), Wednesday asked neighbouring India to take benefit of the mega project instead of creating obstacles in its way.

Highlighting the significance of project, he said Iran, Afghanistan, the Middle East and the whole region would also benefit from it. "CPEC is a beautiful plan to connect not only regions and areas but also people's hearts," he said in a statement issued by the PM Office.

The prime minister vowed to double the pace of the development as it was not only for improving roads, rail, sea ports and air routes, but it would also help health, education and skill development areas, besides masses' participation in the process. Terming it a game changer for the whole region, the prime minister said CPEC would have a positive impacts on the people's living standards in the region.

PM Shehbaz congratulated the leadership and the people of Pakistan and China on 10 years completion of CPEC, which was a new chapter of the evergreen and trusted strategic cooperative partnership between the two iron brothers. He said the project was a tremendous example of great Chinese leader Xi Jinping and PML-N Quaid Muhammad Nawaz Sharif's vision of "development for all".

"The Belt and Road initiative is the manifestation of Chinese President Xi's vision of peace, friendship, and economic partnership." He regretted that during the four years of previous government, hurdles were created in the way of the project, besides levelling baseless allegations against a great friend like China. "The enemies of CPEC are against peace, development and prosperity in Pakistan and the region, as they do not want to eradicate poverty from the country," he added.

CPEC, he said, also initiated a new era of mutual partnership between Pakistan and China, and fortified their bilateral relationships. PM Shehbaz said CPEC encompassed multiple projects ranging from provision of water to education, and technical and skilled-based training. With the construction of nine Special Economic Zones (SEZs), new technology would be transferred to Pakistan, which would ultimately help increase local production, he said.

The prime minister also highlighted the impacts of the project on the effectiveness of the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) and early warning system for natural disasters as they were parts of CPEC. Similarly, he said, the agriculture related projects had also been included in CPEC to ensure food security.

PM praises President Xi, Nawaz Sharif for augmenting 'Iron Brotherhood': Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday said that the last ten years were an inspirational story of how President Xi Jinping's vision of "Iron Brotherhood" converted into the completion of projects under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) framework.



WEST BANK: Palestinians trying to move a damaged car after the Israeli army's withdrawal from the Jenin refugee camp.

3 people die in rain-related incidents in KP

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: At least three people were killed in various areas of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa due to rain-related incidents, specifically tree falls, local authorities said.

According to Provincial Disaster Management Authority KP, two fatalities were reported in Shangla, and another individual lost his life in Karak. The statement said that seven individuals sustained injuries, and more than six houses were partially damaged as a result of the rainfall.

Considering the forecast of further downpours, the PDMA said it had directed the Rescue 1122, and district administration to remain on high alert. Relief Secretary Abdul Basit issued instructions to officials to assess the losses caused by rain-related incidents, the statement added. Heavy rains forecast for Lahore, other areas

Meanwhile, the Pakistan Meteorological Department has predicted heavy rainfall for Lahore and other areas of the province, including Sialkot, Narowal, Gujranwala, Gujrat, Jhelum, Rawalpindi, Attock, Chakwal, Toba Tek Singh, and Mandi Bahauddin. The department highlighted the infiltration of moist currents from the Arabian Sea into the upper regions of the country. Additionally, an impact from a westerly wave is being observed in the upper and central parts of Pakistan, it added.

"Rain-wind/thunder-shower is expected in Kashmir Murree, Galliat, Rawalpindi/Islamabad, Jhelum, Attock, Chakwal, Sargodha, Mianwali, Faisalabad, Jhang, T T Singh, Bahawalnagar, Narowal, Sialkot, Sahiwal, Gujranwala, Gujrat, Mandi Bahauddin, Hafizabad, Lahore, Bhakkar, Layyah, Multan and Dera Ghazi Khan districts," the Met office said. The Met Office has predicted more such spells later in the day and tomorrow.

In KP, rain and thunderstorm is expected in Chitral, Dir, Swat, Kohistan, Mansehra, Abbottabad, Malakand, Balakot, Char-sadda, Mardan, Peshawar, Kohat, Kurram, Bannu, Waziristan and Dera Ismail Khan. In its forecast issued yesterday, the PMD had also warned of urban flooding as a result of expected heavy rainfall in low-lying areas of Punjab, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Gilgit-Baltistan and Balochistan in the next two days.

The National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) had issued directives for all relevant departments to stay vigilant due to predicted rainfall until July 8. Additionally, it advised tourists and visitors to stay informed about weather conditions before travelling, while urging farmers and livestock owners to take necessary precautions considering the current weather conditions. "Rain, wind and thundershowers are expected in Azad Jammu and Kashmir, GB, KP, Islamabad, the Potohar region, upper and central Punjab, and northeast Balochistan. Isolated heavy falls are also expected in upper Punjab, Islamabad, Kashmir, and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa during the period. Hot and humid weather is expected in other parts of the country."



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, Charge d'Affaires of Chinese Embassy Ms Pang Chunxue and Federal Ministers cutting a cake to mark 10th anniversary of signing of agreement for CPEC.

3 soldiers martyred in suicide attack

F.P. Report

MIRAN SHAH: A vehicle borne suicide bomber exploded himself in general area Miran Shah, North Waziristan District on Wednesday, says an ISPR press release.

Resultantly, Naib Subedar Sahib Khan (age 41 years, resident of Mianwali), Naik Muhammad Ibrahim (age 40 years, resident of Dera Ismail Khan) and Sepoy Jehangir Khan (age 24 years, resident of Mardan) embraced shahadat, while, three innocent civilians got critically injured.

The suicide bomber intended targeting the security forces' post, however, timely interception of the suicide bomber on suspicion by on-duty soldiers

prevented a major catastrophe. Security forces of Pakistan are determined to eliminate the menace of terrorism and such sacrifices of our brave soldiers further strengthen our resolve.

Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday expressed his deep grief and sorrow over the Shahadat of security personnel who were martyred in a terrorist suicide attack in Miran Shah, North Waziristan.

The prime minister paid tribute to the martyred personnel including Subedar Sahib Khan, Naik Muhammad Ibrahim and Sepoy Jehangir Khan, PM Office Media Wing said in a press release. The prime minister prayed for bereaved families to bear

the losses with fortitude.

Praising the valour of Shaheed Jawans, the prime minister said that they had saved the nation from huge damage by sacrificing their lives. The nation would never forget the sacrifices of its Shuhada. The brave Jawans of the armed forces had been sacrificing their lives for the sake of their motherland, he added.

The prime minister also prayed for the early recovery of those injured in the attack. According to an ISPR press release, three soldiers of the Pakistan army embraced 'Shahadat', while three innocent civilians got critically injured when a vehicle-borne suicide bomber exploded himself in the general area of Miran Shah, North Waziristan District.

PM, son move pleas for acquittal

LAHORE (INP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and his son, Hamza Shehbaz, on Wednesday filed pleas for acquittal in a money laundering case, according to sources.

Advocate Amjad Pervaiz, representing Shehbaz Sharif and Hamza Shehbaz, submitted the applications on their behalf, emphasizing that the NAB reference was baseless and lacked substantial evidence. The pleas stated that all their assets were lawfully declared and transparently recorded with the Federal board of Revenue (FBR) and the Election Commission, in compliance with the law.

The legal team argued that the NAB failed to provide concrete evidence to support the allegations of money laundering. Furthermore, they asserted that there was no possibility of proving the case against Shehbaz Sharif and Hamza Shehbaz, and strongly urged the court to acquit them due to the lack of substantial evidence.

It is worth mentioning that the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) had named Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and his family members in a money laundering reference. The NAB submitted a supplementary report on the money laundering reference against the PM and his family in the accountability court.

Two more leaders quit party

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: Former provincial minister and PTI president from Tank district Habibullah Kundi along with Irfan Kundi expressing strong reservations over May 9 mayhem announced to quit the party.

Addressing a press conference in Islamabad on Wednesday, he said that May 9 was the darkest chapter in the country's history as monuments of martyrs were attacked by the protesters. Habibullah Kundi said that security personnel of our armed forces rendered supreme sacrifices for defence of the country.

'They can't break our spirit': Jenin residents after Israel siege

WEST BANK (Agencies): Waled Rashed Mansour's arm is blue where an Israeli military dog attacked him, the memory as raw as the wound. "They came into our home, they blew up the doors," the 65-year-old recalled, in the Jenin refugee camp in the occupied West Bank. "They unleashed their dog at me. The dog ran and attacked me on my chest."

"They" are the Israeli military, which on Wednesday morning announced that it was pulling out of the camp after two days of an intense aerial and ground assault in which at least 11 Palestinians were killed, and dozens wounded. As Israel's biggest siege on Jenin in two decades wound down, tales of trauma and devastation emerged from the small settlement that has been home to three genera-

tions of Palestinians who had to flee their ancestral land during the Nakba (catastrophe) in 1948.

But also evident was a firm resolve, and a defiance aimed at Israel and its international allies. "The message to the world and the occupation is that this camp will keep on going," said 56-year-old Ahmed Abu Hweileh, a resident of the refugee camp. "They tried to destroy it and it came back up." The two-day siege involved Israeli troops, missiles and earthmoving equipment – which was used to destroy roads and other civilian infrastructure. Israel has justified the attack as targeted at armed groups operating out of Jenin, which has become a symbol of resistance to Israel's illegal occupation of the West Bank.

But residents of the camp said it was civilians, not armed fighters, who bore the brunt of the Israeli assault. Raed Jameel Mohammed Taleb, 39, said Israeli snipers entered his home on Monday and used it as a pad from which to launch attacks. Taleb lives with his wife, mother and two children.

Meanwhile, missiles flew outside. Then, armoured tractors came and levelled everything on the street – including Taleb's car. "I used this car to go to work every day," he said. "We weren't expecting the size of this destruction." The goal is to ruin and destroy. "Around sunset on Tuesday, Israeli troops told 46-year-old Ayman Saadi and his family that they needed to evacuate because the soldiers wanted to blow up a neighbouring

home.

Saadi has six children, including a daughter with special needs and a three-year-old – both of whom he carried as the family fled the violence. "They flipped over the cars, the entire area is destroyed," he said. That is no coincidence, according to Hweileh.

"They said they came for the armed men, but instead they punished the people," he said. After Israeli soldiers finally pulled the dog off Mansour, they razed his house, he said. "They blew up the doors," Mansour said. "They turned my house upside down. They kept asking 'Are there guns?'" For older residents, the siege revived memories of 2002, when Israel launched an enormous days-long attack on Jenin

camp, killing more than 50 Palestinians.

"In 2002 they destroyed half the camp, it was more than this," recalled Mansour. "But what we didn't expect is how they destroyed the roads with the tractors." Mohammad Obaid, 33, said Israeli soldiers also destroyed a memorial to killed resistance fighters near his home.

"It bothered them so much – they tried to remove the picture (of martyrs on the memorial) but they couldn't," he said. Some residents believe that Israel's military targeted roads and other public infrastructure in the hope that this would make the camp's residents pressure resistance fighters to surrender. "But that will never happen, not a single person will put pressure on the resistance, even if they

destroy all the homes," said Mansour.

On the contrary, said residents, Israel's siege will only embolden their unwillingness to buckle in the face of aggression. "They are taking their anger out on the camp," said 48-year-old Anaam Awwad. "They are unable to destroy the resistance, or our camp, or to break our spirits, or make us afraid." Hweileh said that it was the "generation of 2002" that was continuing the battle.

Meanwhile, Obaid was trying to open the damaged door to his home, where he returned after Israeli troops left on Wednesday. The door wouldn't open, but it had survived the assault. As, he said, would the resistance. "Inshallah, we will remain a thorn in their eyes."

PPP observes Black Day on July 5

LAHORE (APP): The Pakistan Peoples Party observed Black Day on Wednesday, July 05 to mark General Ziaul Haq's Martial Law 1977. Several programs were organized in the city to observe the day. Secretary Lahore High Court Bar Sabahat Rizvi presided over a meeting of the lawyers in which tribute was paid to the PPP workers who sacrificed their lives for democracy and against the dictatorship.

In a statement on the day, PPP Central Punjab Acting President Rana Farooq Saeed said a dictator attacked the elected democratic government on July 05, 1977 and PPP founder Zulfikar Ali Bhutto's democratic government was removed. He said that the Bhutto family and workers endured the hardships of Zia's martial law with determination and courage. He said that the dictator made extreme oppression against the leader of the people and his henchmen.

Paying homage to the PPP leadership, he said that today the whole nation salutes Bhutto's people-friendly thinking and struggle. Rana Farooq added that on the 46th Black Day, the PPP pledged to protect the constitution, parliament and democracy.

Small loan program for livestock farming reviewed

LAHORE (APP): A meeting chaired by Caretaker Provincial Minister for Livestock and Dairy Development Ibrahim Hasan Murad reviewed small loan program for the development of livestock farming. Secretary Livestock Masoud Anwar and officials of the Bank of Punjab attended the meeting. Consideration was given to increase the share of livestock sector in Punjab Government's easy loans program. Under rupees 10 billion program, Bank of Punjab will provide loans to livestock farmers on easy terms.

Addressing the meeting, the provincial minister stated that the loans of up to one million rupees at low markup will encourage livestock farming in rural areas. He directed the Bank of Punjab officials to conduct a mass level and effective awareness campaign about the loan scheme. He expressed his satisfaction over the facility of dedicated online portal for online applications.

Ibrahim Hasan Murad urged that it should be ensured that the loan is used for the specified purpose only.

Politics of dynasty caused huge loss to democracy, public interests: Siraj

LAHORE (INP): Ameer Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) Sirajul Haq has said that the politics of dynasty has caused huge loss to democracy, adding the decisions about the future of Pakistan made within the families would never gain public trust.

Presiding over a meeting of central leadership at Mansoorah on Wednesday, he said the rule of law and democracy would only strengthen when the people would be provided the opportunity to elect their representatives through transparent elections.

The meeting condemned the Israeli forces' brutal action and terrorism against Palestinian and expressed solidarity with the Palestine freedom movement.

The leadership also reviewed preparations for the "international condemnation day", which the JI is organizing on Friday in different countries, including Pakistan, with the cooperation of worldwide Islamic movements. Haq appealed to the prayer leaders of mosques to lead the protests demonstrations in all cities.

Sirajul Haq said the JI was fully prepared for the elections and it held successful conventions of the candidates in KPK and Punjab. The election conventions would be held in Balochistan after the event in Sindh on July 16, he added. The leaders and workers must expedite Dastak Movement, he said, vowing the JI would not accept any delay in the elections. The government tenure would end on August 12, and there must be a caretaker set up on the very next day, he added. Even a single day delay in the national poll would cause irreparable loss to the country, he warned.

The JI chief said the government of the 13 parties also failed to deliver after the experience of the PTI. It also proved the ruling parties lacked the ability to bring the country out of prevailing crises, he added. The people must get rid of the status quo and vote for the JI to bring real change, he said. If voted to power, he added, the JI would abolish the interest-based economy and introduce a strict system of justice and accountability.

Faryal Talpur visit Dargah Raharki Sahib

F.P. Report

GHOTKI: President of Pakistan People's Party Women's Wing and Member of Provincial Assembly, Faryal Talpur, arrived at Dargah Raharki Sahib for a one-day visit.

MNA Sardar Khalid Khan Lond, Provincial Minister Jam Ikram Dhario, Provincial Minister Bari Patafi, Provincial Minister Mukesh Chawla, Gianchand Asrani, MNA Khurshid Junejo, Mayor Sukkur Arslan Islam Sheikh, MPA Shahryar Shar, District Council Ghotki Chairman Bangal Khan, District President of People's Party Babar Lond, and other important political

and government personalities were present. Faryal Talpur met Sain Sadhram, the head of Dargah Raharki Sahib, and assured him that the PPP government always believes in protecting the rights of minorities, and any kind of negligence will not be acceptable.

On this occasion, Sain Sadhram thanked Faryal Talpur for visiting Dargah Raharki Sahib and expressed gratitude for the PPP government's consistent efforts in addressing the issues faced by the minority community, particularly the Hindu community in Sindh.

He further stated that Faryal Talpur's presence has bolstered their confidence in the PPP.

'Despite the difficult economic conditions, we have collected a total of 2076 billion rupees in tax'

F.P. Report

KARACHI: Commissioner Inland Revenue Girdhari Mal Large Tax Payers Office Karachi, while giving a media briefing on tax collection during 2022-2023, said that despite the difficult economic conditions, we have collected 2076 billion rupees in tax in 2022-2023.

When last year they managed to achieve the

target of 1685 billion rupees. He further said that this year due to floods, the economic loss was about 30 billion dollars, trade deficit, depreciation of rupee, decrease in exports and despite the tough economic conditions, they were able to collect taxes of 2076 billion rupees.

Commissioner Inland Revenue Girdhari Mal further said that the inflation

rate had come to a dangerous situation at the international level that the countries like USA and UK were hard pressed to control it.

He further informed that the major contributors of Large Tax Payers Office Karachi are more than 40 sectors mainly including Banks, Airline industry, Auto Sector, Insurance, Oil Refinery, Sugar and Textile etc.



GHOTKI: PPP Women Wing Faryal Talpure meeting with Sain Saadh Raam at Dargaah Raharki Sahib Ghotki.

DC visits city areas, reviews drainage of rainwater

LAHORE (APP): Deputy Commissioner Lahore Rafia Haidar visited various parts of the provincial capital on Wednesday early morning after heavy rain spell and reviewed the drainage operations in Waris road, The Mall, Qartaba Chowk, Captain Mubeen Shaheed Underpass, Gulbarg, Makkah Colony and Ferozpur road.

She said that WASA had made all 105 disposal stations and MCL 109 water pumps operational to ensure the speedy disposal of rainwater during the current Monsoon rains in the city. She said that citizens could also call Wasa helpline in case of any

emergency or may tag on our social media page. She directed the officers concerned to remain present in the field, ensuring the prompt drainage of stagnant or rainwater from low lying areas and underpasses. She said the process of drainage of rainwater continued through suction machines, excavators and de-watering sets.

Meanwhile, Assistant Commissioners also remained present in the field and monitored the process of drainage of rainwater in their jurisdiction. AC Raiwind Khurram Hameed visited Multan road, Sunder and Raiwind area;

Assistant Commissioner city Wasiq Abbas visited the Qartaba Chowk, GPO and Islampur; Assistant Commissioner Shalimar Sharina Janjua visited Bibi Pak Daman and Mehmood Booti road; Assistant Commissioner Model Town Sahibzada Yousaf visited Central Business District, Qaddafi and surrounding areas and Assistant Commissioner Cantt Muhammad Murtaza visited Sadr Cantt and R.A Bazar. "All the officers and officials concerned should work together to cope with rainwater during the Monsoon season", she added.

LWMC deputed 891 workers for smooth drainage

LAHORE (APP): Lahore Waste Management Company (LWMC) has deputed 891 workers in nine towns of the provincial capital to ensure smooth drainage of rainwater.

According to LWMC spokesman, operation about drainage of rainwater remained continue even during the light and heavy rains in the city.

On the direction of LWMC CEO Babar Sahib Din, officers and workers were present in the field to ensure timely disposal of rainwater for the convenience of citizens. Special directions have been issued to the field staff to remove shopping bags and wrappers from the streets, he added. He said the LWMC was ensuring special cleanliness measures at 81 choking points of nine towns of the city. As many as 891 workers had been deputed in three shifts. In the first shift, 405 workers, in the second and third shifts 243 workers would be stationed at the choking points to ensure drainage of rainwater, he said.

PSCA releases statistics of calls received on 15

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Safe Cities Authority (PSCA) released the statistics of calls received on emergency helpline 15 from Punjab including Lahore for the month of June 2023, here on Wednesday. As per details, the 15 Emergency Helpline received 2,865,198 calls, out of which 1,748,278 calls were considered irrelevant and 229,426 calls with genuine concerns, and the Dispatch Control Center generated cases for further action. As many as 47,258 of the calls received sought information, consultancy, and 10,577 calls for traffic management & city traffic police help.

IGP directs CPOs, DPOs to monitor relief activities

LAHORE (APP): Under the direction of IG Punjab Dr. Usman Anwar, Punjab police personnel are at forefront for helping rain-affected citizens, traffic flow on the roads and other relief activities across the province.

During heavy rains in different areas of Punjab including the provincial capital Lahore, Punjab police officers and personnel performed their duties in the spirit of service and

helped hundreds of cities stranded on the roads during relief activities.

IG Punjab Dr Usman Anwar said that Punjab Police are in constant touch with rescue agencies regarding rescue and relief activities. He further directed the CPOs and DPOs to personally monitor the relief activities in the rain affected areas. He said that the details of the damages caused by rain are also

being obtained from the control rooms of Punjab Police. Reviewing the relief activities, he said that police officers and officials are helping out WASA and other departments in the drainage of water from roads in cities affected by heavy and continuous rain, including Lahore. Similarly, affected citizens who met accidents due to massive rains are being rescued and taken to hospital.



KARACHI: Secretary Information Department Govt of Sindh Mr Nadeem ur Rehman Memon presiding over a meeting with the Directors of Information Department today in Sindh Archives Complex Clifton.

'July 5 is a black day in the history of Pakistan'

F.P. Report

KARACHI: Minister for Information, Transport and Mass Transit, Sharjeel Inam Memon, expressed that had there not been a conspiracy against Shaheed Bhutto, Pakistan would have emerged as a global superpower today.

He stated that if there had been no conspiracy against Shaheed Bhutto, it would have resulted in the unity of Islamic countries and Pakistan would have attained the status of a developed nation.

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Mayor of Karachi and Saeed Ghani

Mohammad Khan Abro

Since 1970, the Pakistan People's Party has aspired to emerge as the largest party in Karachi, but when the Pakistan People's Party tried to spread its wings in Karachi, its workers and leaders were killed in broad daylight. Be it the era of Ziaul Haq or the era of Pervez Musharraf, every dictator prevented the Pakistan People's Party from flourishing in Karachi. PPP leaders who was popular in Karachi was killed, Popular leaders like Najeeb Ahmed, Usman Ghani, Munawar Suhrawardi, Abdullah Murad, etc. were martyred in Karachi. It has also been the misfortune of Karachi that the people of Karachi were never given the opportunity to vote freely after 1970.

Even in the 1970 elections, the Pakistan People's Party emerged as the most popular party in Karachi. 7 of the seats were won by PPP candidates, while the other 8 seats went to different parties, while Jamaat-e-Islami also won one seat from Karachi in 1970 and one seat in 2018 elections (that too in charity). Jamaat-e-Islami has never been a popular party in Karachi and if Jamaat-e-Islami ever got a mandate from this city, it was only when a dictator was in power in Pakistan.

When the elections were held under the shadow of the democratic government, Jamaat-e-Islami could not get more than one seat from the city of Karachi. This time, if Jamaat-e-Islami got seats in the local body elections, it was only because of MQM's boycott. But if we compare it with PPP's victory in Karachi then we shouldn't forget that before local body elections in Karachi, last year cantonment body elections were held where MQM was contesting elections along with PTI and JI and in those elections too, PPP emerged as victory party and the most popular party of cantonment areas.

This time in the local body elections, the anti-PPP vote bank was given to Jamaat-e-Islami because MQM had boycotted which benefited Jamaat-e-Islami. The leadership



of Pakistan peoples Party also had not imagined this massive victory of PPP in local body and cantonment boards elections in Karachi. No one ever had thought that Pakistan People's Party will emerge as the largest party in cantonment elections where MQM was party as well. In local government elections despite the MQM boycott, the general perception and surveys conducted, felt that Karachi would not vote for the Pakistan People's Party, and all polls conducted before the 2023 local elections indicated that the Jamaat-e-Islami in the city of Karachi will make its mayor.

But Pakistan Peoples Party Karachi President Senator Saeed Ghani used to say in every speech for the last two years that Pakistan Peoples Party will emerge as the largest party in Karachi in the upcoming elections whether these are local body or general elections. There are records of Saeed Ghani's speeches in which he seems to be making these claims for the last two years.

Saeed Ghani's own constituency is also Mini Karachi from where he was first elected MPA in 2017. Before that, the PPP candidate got only around 2000 votes from this constituency, but Saeed Ghani got 26 thousand votes. After Saeed Ghani won the election in his constituency, he realized that it is not impossible to win the election in Karachi on PPP ticket, if the candidate is selected properly at the organizational level. Because every ethnic group including Punjabis, Pakhtuns, Kashmiris, Urdu speaking Sindhis live in Karachi and Saeed

Ghani knew what the voters of Karachi wanted and how the voters of Karachi could be tamed to vote for PPP. As the President of PPP Karachi Saeed Ghani had won cantonment elections and almost all the candidates won who he had recommended to his party for cantonment board elections, and Bilawal Bhutto Zardari knew that Saeed Ghani is the son of Karachi and for last 30+ years part and parcel of PPP's organization in Karachi.

Bilawal Bhutto Zardari continued to trust Saeed Ghani and issued tickets to local body candidates recommended by Saeed Ghani and in the 2023 local body elections Saeed Ghani was being labelled as political engineer in political circles. When the campaign for local body elections started in Karachi Saeed Ghani did not participate in many TV talk shows once he was part of from dawn to dusk, he used to be part of meetings with his local body candidates. Saeed Ghani completely disappeared from the TV talk shows of many talk show hosts because his focus was local body elections in Karachi.

After winning the LG elections as President PPP Karachi he remained in touch with PML-N, Jamaat-e-Islami, JUI and other parties to somehow get a consensus mayor in Karachi, but when Jamaat-e-Islami did not agree, Saeed Ghani called other parties and started his team work along with his other party colleagues. During this time Saeed Ghani was also contacted by some elected UC chairman's of PTI and Saeed Ghani became more convinced that it is not impossible to get PPP's mayor in Karachi after which Saeed Ghani used to say this in every show that Hafiz Naem can't be Karachi's mayor and ultimately PPP is winning Karachi's mayor-ship. Saeed Ghani's hard work has paid off and PPP is having Karachi's mayor but we the citizens are hopeful that if the party can make its mayor in Karachi then why can't the CM Punjab? Hope the Punjab organization of PPP do have few Saeed Ghani's as well.



PAKISTAN RED CRESCENT SOCIETY
TENDER NOTICE
Sealed bids are invited from eligible firms / suppliers with adequate relevant past experience and financial capability for the below mentioned.

SR.#	ITEM DESCRIPTION	QTY	SPECIFICATION
1	Installation of 5KW Solar System at DI Khan	3	
2	Installation of 3KW Solar System at DI Khan	1	Detail mentioned in Tender Documents
3	Installation of 6KW Solar System at Tank	1	
4	Installation of 3KW Solar System at Tank	1	

	DATE	TIME
COLLECTION DATE & TIME	06.07.2023 TO 12.07.2023	09:30 AM TO 04:30 PM
SUBMISSION DATE & TIME	13.07.2023	TILL 12:00 PM
BID OPENING DATE & TIME	13.07.2023	12:30 PM ONWARDS

- The Bidding Documents along with specifications/details of above mentioned items can be obtained by submission of request on official letterhead of the bidder from Procurement Department of PRCS NHQ, Islamabad @ Rs. 1000/- in shape of Pay Order/Demand Draft (Non-Refundable).
- Competent Authority of PRCS reserves the right to accept/ reject any/all applications with/without assigning any reason.
- This advertisement is also available on PRCS website www.prcs.org.pk, PRCS NTN# 2843005-7

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PRCS, NHQ, Sector H-8, Islamabad. Ph: 051-9250404-05



PAKISTAN RED CRESCENT SOCIETY
TENDER NOTICE
Sealed bids are invited from eligible firms / suppliers with adequate relevant past experience and financial capability for the below mentioned.

SR.#	ITEM DESCRIPTION	QTY	SPECIFICATION
1	Renovation of Boundary Wall and Building at Tank	1	
2	Construction of Toilets at BHU Gara Baloch Tank	1	
3	Construction of Labour Room at Tank	1	
4	Water Boring and Installation of Submersible Pump at Tank	1	Detail mentioned in Tender Documents
5	Reconstruction of Boundary Wall with Main Gate at BHU Mumraiz Pathan	1	
6	Construction of Toilets and Washing Area at Mumraiz Pathan	1	
7	Repair and Renovation of Existing Building at Mumraiz Pathan	1	
8	Construction of Labour Room at DI Khan	1	
9	Establishment of Outdoor Child Friendly Space at DI Khan	1	
10	Establishment of Outdoor Child Friendly Space at Tank	2	

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SUBMISSION DATE & TIME	13.07.2023	TILL 12:00 PM
BID OPENING DATE & TIME	13.07.2023	12:30 PM ONWARDS

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HEC, China Window arranges seminar to mark ten years of CPEC, BRI



PESHAWAR (APP): Higher Education Commission (HEC) and China Window on Wednesday organized an international seminar titled "Decade of CPEC and BRI" to mark the ten-year completion of the project.

The event among others was attended by international delegates, investors, stakeholders, businessmen and people from a cross-section of society.

Speaking on the occasion, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor, Haji Ghulam Ali paid tributes to Amjad Aziz Malik for organizing the event and said that we should analyze the factors that made China one of the

growing economy of the world.

He said that we must revisit our policies and planning that negatively impacted the country's progress and development. "We must work in cohesion to lead the country on the way of progress", he said and added that "political parties of the country should also work to attain the goal of progress and prosperity".

KP Governor said that the business community should devise a comprehensive plan to benefit from CPEC and tap the potential of our talented youngsters for promoting business activities. He said that we must venture into new fields of emerging technologies and explore the opportunities in existing global scenarios.

The seminar was also addressed by the caretaker information minister, Barrister Feroz Jamal Kakakhel who highlighted the importance of CPEC for Pakistan and China.

Meanwhile, Provincial Caretaker Minister for Information Barrister Feroze Jamal Shah Kakakhel on Wednesday said that China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) was providing employment opportunities to youth of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, enabling them to find sustainable livelihoods.

Addressing an international seminar, he said that it was aimed to highlight the significance of the project.

The seminar which was attended by Chinese delegates and investors,

the minister said that the speakers highlighted the importance of CPEC and the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) during the event.

Feroze Jamal emphasized the enduring friendship between Pakistan and China, adding that CPEC's first glimpse was evident in the Silk Route.

Rozee Jamal Kakakhel said that six major projects had been initiated in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and highlighted that in the past government's tenure, several CPEC projects faced delays.

Efforts were being made to eliminate delays and obstacles in CPEC projects, he added.

The national development projects should not be affected by political matters, he asserted.

The minister said that leaders were the reflection of their nation but unfortunately the past government ignored such a mega project. Ten years ago, there was no policy for overseas Pakistanis, he pointed out.

The country needed to move forward with sincerity, he said and regretted that our culture and traditions had been deteriorated over the past few years.

He said that proper upbringing of the young generation was essential to compete other nations. The minister emphasized the need to provide a conducive environment to children from schools to universities.



PESHAWAR: A delegation of UN Aid led by Country Director meeting with Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Muhammad Azam Khan.

Problems of minorities to be solved on priority basis

PESHAWAR (APP): Mayor of Peshawar Haji Zubair Ali said that the problems of minorities will be solved on a priority basis and proper allocation of funds would be for the development of the areas dominated by minorities.

"We are allocating money in the budget for the minorities so that they can do development work in their areas," Haji Zubair Ali said. The doors of his home and office are open to serve the people, he added.

Zeeshan Ishtiaq, the Principal of St. John Wahani High School, congratulated Haji Zubair Ali, Mayor of Capital Metropolitan Peshawar, on Eid-ul-Adha, while presenting flower bouquets. Member Metropolitan Pervez Iqbal was also present on this occasion.

Zeeshan Ishtiaq invited Mayor Peshawar for an official visit to John Wahani High School Peshawar, which was accepted by Mayor Peshawar.

Mayor Peshawar said we will solve all the problems of minorities. Principal Zeeshan Ishtiaq, assuring all possible support from the Christian community, said that our schools are rendering services without caste and colour to equip education with the jewel of missionary spirit.

"We wish that no one is illiterate in Pakistan and we are working day and night for the development of our beloved country Pakistan."

Desecration of Holy Quran: Legal fraternity issues letter to Swedish PM, CJ argues to stop such acts

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: The legal fraternity has written a letter to Prime Minister and Chief Justice of Sweden on desecration of Holy Quran on Eid-ul-Azha and argued to play their role to stop such events in future.

The letter was written by former general secretary Peshawar High Court Bar Association Yasir Khattak, Adil Khalil, Daud Jan, Tauqir Ahmad, Yaqoob Shah, Fahim Hassan, Nauman Khattak, Marina Asif, Hina Ali Khan, Zartara Khan, Uzair Zaman, Kashif Rafiq, Amir Nawab and Arbab Waqas

Khalil condemned burning of Holy Quran in front of Masjid.

The letter stated that desecration of Holy Quran has hurt sentiments of Muslims across the globe and stated that Swedish government has granted permission for the act which is condemnable.

Pakistan, Egypt, Syria, Turkey Organization of Islamic Countries as well as Pope Francis also condemned the act. The desecration of Holy Quran will further deepen division among Muslim Ummah and west, the letter added.

However, Turkey has issued an official condemnation statement stated that

such act and deeds cannot be tolerable because it is matter of belief and faith which has hurt sentiment of more than billion Muslims across the globe.

The letter stated that in the name freedom of speech no one has right to make permit for making mockeries of other religions which cannot be tolerable. The letter argued Swedish PM and Chief Justice to take concrete step that such incidents didn't appear future because dignity of The Prophet Muhammad Peace Be Upon Him and Quran top priority and ground of Islamic belief to be a Muslim.

Caretaker Minister inaugurates new building of TEVTA

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Caretaker Minister for Industries, Commerce and Technical Education, Muhammad Adnan Jilil inaugurated new building of Technical Education and Vocational Training Authority (TEVTA) in Hayatabad here on Wednesday.

The office of TEVTA established in a rented building and now after shifting to its own building of the authority will help benefit the authority up to Rs.1.8 million on monthly basis.

Beside, the Managing Director (MD) TEVTA, Abdul Ghaffar, Director Finance (TEVTA) Munir Gul, Director (HR) Abid Nawaz, Economic Advisor Department of Industry Abdul Rehman, Coordinator Federation of Pakistan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI), Sartaj Ahmed Khan and other officers and staffers of the authority were also present.

The provincial minister inspected the various sections of the new office of



TEVTA and expressed his satisfaction on the availability of all necessary facilities in the building.

He said that strengthening and equipping TEVTA with facilities is of higher importance, saying with improvement in the system and structure will enable the institution to bring improvement in quality of training and its professional approach.

He said that efforts are being made to put TEVTA on the right track to make possible the preparation of market-oriented skilled

workforce. He further said that a comprehensive action plan is being evolved to enable TEVTA to impart technical skills to the youth of the province.

The initiative, he said could help the institute to prepare such skilled persons, which will get best means of employment in the industry and market of the province. He said that beside contemporary education, the promotion of the technical and vocational trainings is also essential for eradication of the unemployment.

He said that that several developed countries on the map of the world have achieved development on the basis of their technical and vocational trainings.

He expressed the hope that the staff of TEVTA will now perform their professional responsibilities in a better manner.

During the ceremony, a shield was also presented to the provincial minister by TEVTA to recognize his tireless efforts and steps for the promotion of the technical education sector in a short period of time.

Death of Liaquat Shabad condoled

PESHAWAR (APP): Expressing deep sorrow and grief over the demise of Liaquat Shabad, Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Peshawar Division President and Former Provincial Minister, the Special Assistant to caretaker Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on Prisons Hidayat Ullah Khan Afridi has said that the services rendered by late Liaquat Shabad for the KP people will always be remembered.

He said that Shabad was a veteran and experienced politician, saying Liaquat did politics aimed at serving the people, with his demise the province lost a well experienced politician while creating a vacuum in the politics field that took a long time to fill.

"May the deceased be granted a high place in Jannat al-Firdous and may the bereaved family be blessed with patience," he prayed.

Minister inaugurates library

PESHAWAR (APP): Caretaker Minister for Relief, Rehabilitation and Settlement Taj Mohammad Afridi on Wednesday inaugurated the establishment of a Digital Library in Government High School Jamrud District Khyber here.

He said with the inauguration of the Digital Library, the education system in merged districts requires innovation.

The minister said that there is an urgent need for innovation in the educational system in the merged tribal districts including a better educational environment, provision of staff and other necessary facilities in the institutions.

He expressed these views while addressing the ceremony organized to inaugurate the digital library in Government High School Jamrud District Khyber.



PESHAWAR: Caretaker Minister for Information and Religious Affairs Barrister Feroz Jamal Shah Kaka Khail giving shield to Chinese Official during International Seminar on DECADE of CPEC & BRI.

KP witnesses surge in terror incidents: CTD

PESHAWAR (APP): The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa has witnessed a surge in incidents of terrorism during the first four months of 2023, said a report of Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) on Wednesday.

According to the report, the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa reported 49 incidents of terrorism in the month of January 2023, while during the same period in 2022, the province witnessed 33 terror incidents.

In February 2022, a total of 24 cases of terrorism were reported while during February 2023, the province reported 50 incidents of terrorism.

The report said that in March 2023, the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa witnessed 34 incidents of terror while in April 2023, a total of 42 terror incidents were reported.

During the first four months of 2023, a total of 309 cases of terrorism were registered in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Most of the terror incidents were reported from Dera Ismail Khan, Bannu and Peshawar regions.

The CTD has arrested 81 terrorists and 158 other accused involved in these terrorism cases in 711 intelligence based operations. Besides, several commanders of banned TTP, involved in terrorism activities were also killed by the law enforcing agencies.

Those killed in encounters included 71 key terrorists carrying head money of hundreds of thousands of rupees.

During its actions, the Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) also recovered 150 hand-grenades, 47 kilogram explosives, one suicide jacket and hundreds of cartridges, the report said.

Ex-president PPP KP pays tributes to late comrade

PESHAWAR (APP): Former President of Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Engineer Muhammad Humayun Khan has expressed profound grief and sorrow over the sad demise of senior party leader Liaquat Shabad.

In a condolence message issued here on Wednesday, Humayun Khan paid tributes to the services of late Liaquat Shabad for the party and his role in spreading Bhuttoism in the province.

He said that the late Liaquat Shabad remained loyal to the PPP throughout his life. He said that his colleagues in the party could not even think of continuing their political journey without him.

The PPP leader said that late Liaquat Shabad will always remain alive in their memories as a brave party leader. He said that the party is in the grip of grief and mourning his death.

Hot, humid weather likely in KP

PESHAWAR (APP): The Provincial Meteorological Center Peshawar on Wednesday predicted hot & humid weather in most districts of the province during the next 24 hours.

However, it said that scattered rain/wind-thunder showers with a few heavy falls and hailstorm is likely to occur in Abbottabad, Mansehra, Haripur, Battagram, Torgar, Kohistan, Shangla, Chitral, Lower & Upper Dir, Swat, Buner, Malakand, Bajaur, Mohmand, Mardan, Swabi, Nowshera, Charsadda, Peshawar, Khyber, Kohat, Hangu, Karak, Orakzai, Kurram, Bannu, Lakki Marwat, Tank, D. I. Khan, North & South Waziristan districts.

During the last 24 hours, hot & humid weather occurred over most districts of the province. However, scattered rain/wind-thunderstorms occurred in DI Khan, Bannu, Kohat, Malakand, Hazara and Peshawar divisions.

Rain recorded (in mm): Bajaur (Pashat 36, Khaar 22), Kakul 33, Malam Jabba 28, DI Khan 25, Balakot 20, Timergara 19, Bannu 18, Mamad Gat 17, Saidu Sharif and Buner 13 (each), Parachinar 05, Pattan and Dir 04 (each), Kohat Airbase 02, Landikotal Trace.

The maximum and minimum temperatures recorded in centigrade at different stations of the KP were Peshawar City 39/27, Chitral 39/23, Timergara 38/21, Dir 31/19, Mirkhani 41/20, Kalam 26/11, Drosch 39/24, Saidu Sharif 37/19, Pattan 38/22, Malam Jabba 25/13.

Commissioner assures to resolve 33-year old dispute of Regi affectees

PESHAWAR (APP): Commissioner Peshawar Division, Muhammad Zubair on Wednesday said the dispute of three zones of Regi Model Town has been pending for the last 33 years and will be resolved impeccably very soon.

Announcing to visit the disputed zones of the area, the Commissioner said he would meet the people of Koki Khel and Peshawar Development Authority (PDA) officers to resolve this long-standing issue.

He said this during a grand meeting, held to review the 33-year-old pending issues of the land ownership of Regi Model Town zones 1,2 and 4. The meeting was attended by Deputy Commissioner

Khyber, Additional Deputy Commissioner Peshawar, Additional Director General Regi Model Town and officers of PDA and affectees of the Regi Model Town.

At the meeting, the ADG who is also in-charge of the Regi Model Town gave a detailed briefing on issues related to the disputes of land ownership of the town.

The affectees told the Commissioner that they had purchased plots in Regi Model Town some 33 years ago however due to the disputes between the PDA and Koki Khel tribe, they were still not awarded the ownership of their plots. They appealed to the Commissioner to take a personal interest in resolving this issue.

The Commissioner

while addressing the meeting expressed the resolve that he will take a personal interest in resolving this long-standing issue. He announced that next week he would personally visit the disputed 1, 2 and 4 zones of the town. He said he would also meet with representatives of Koki Khel and officers of the PDA to resolve this issue on an urgent basis.

He said that a joint meeting of the PDA administration and Koki Khel would also be called so that the point of view of both sides could be heard. He assured the affected people that their due rights will be given to them and no injustice would take place in this case.



PESHAWAR: Project Director Fahad Wazir presenting a shield to Caretaker Minister Pir Haroon Shah.



In brief

Police arrest 4 drug peddlers

BAHAWALPUR (INP): Police have appended four alleged suspected drug peddlers in separate operations conducted in different areas and have successfully seized narcotics and liquor from their possession on Wednesday. According to a spokesman for Bahawalpur, the police received a tip-off which led to the arrest of two individuals involved in drug trafficking. The operations were carried out by police parties from PS Cantt and PS Qaimpur. As a result, 1,070 grams of hashish were recovered from the suspects. The suspects were identified as Imran and Shafique. The police of PS Baghdad-ul-Jadid have arrested a suspect recognized as Aarsalan and recovered 25 grams of crystal ice from his possession. Meanwhile, Derawar Police apprehended a suspect identified as Balam and recovered 50 liters of liquor from his possession. The police have registered separate FIRs against the suspects, respectively and initiated further investigation. Meanwhile, in a series of successful operations, the police arrested three suspects and seized three pistols along with ammunition in separate areas including Yazman, Dera Nawab, and Uch Sharif on Wednesday. According to a spokesman for Bahawalpur police, acting on valuable information received, police teams from PS Yazman, PS Uch Sharif, and PS Dera Nawab conducted raids within their respective jurisdictions. As a result, three suspects were taken into custody.

Two shooters, an absconder killed

SHEIKHUPURA (INP): Police claimed on Wednesday that two shooters were killed and an absconder was gunned down in separate encounters in Sheikhupura district. According to police sources, the two shooters identified as Fahad and Ahsan were fatally shot at by their accomplices during an alleged encounter. The suspects were being taken to recover certain items and were ambushed by their partners who opened fire on the police party. In response to the attack, the police force retaliated. Sadly, the under custody suspects, sustained injuries and later succumbed to their wounds caused by the gunfire from their own associates. In a separate incident, an under-custody absconder was killed in an Abdiyan road encounter, under the jurisdiction of Narang Mandi police station in Muridke Tehsil of Sheikhupura district. Police reportedly took the suspect for recovery when his partner riding a motorcycle opened fire on a police van. The suspect was killed during the cross fire, however, the attackers managed to flee the scene using the advantage of the darkness. Police say a search operation is being underway to arrest the fleeing suspects. The deceased suspect was wanted by police in more than 100 criminal cases including heinous crimes such as murder, robbery and other serious nature crimes.

Man kills sister

OKARA (INP): A man killed his sister after prolong domestic issues in district Okara, Police confirmed on Wednesday. The tragic incident unfolded in the native village of Nehal Mahar, located within the jurisdiction of Baseerpur police station in Okara district. Upon being informed about the incident the police teams reached the scene and took the body into custody.

Complete wheel jam strike observed against policemen killing



F.P. Report

ZHOB: A complete wheel-jam strike was observed on Wednesday here in Zhob against the cold-blooded murder of three policemen including a station house officer in the hilly Dhan Sar area on national highway earlier this week. The strike call was given by the All Parties Action Committee that was supported by the transport union and trade union.

During the strike national highway N-50 connecting Balochistan with Khyber Pakhtoonkhwa was blocked at various places and hundreds of vehicles stuck in long queues.

Simultaneously, a sit-in against the incident is also continued on the fourth consecutive day in front of Commissioner Zhob office, in which representatives of all political parties are protesting. They demand that the incident should be investigated transparently

and the people responsible for the attack should be brought to justice and punished.

It is to be mentioned that three police men including a sub-inspector and two constables were martyred following a pre-dawn attack on a police check post in the hilly Dhan Sar area on Zhob-D.I Khan national highway N-50 on July 02 night. Officials at the district administration said that the gun battle between the security personnel and the terrorists continued for almost two hours.

One 'attacker' was also killed while two others injured in the retaliatory firing with the forces. The attackers had fled the scene taking the advantage of darkness with their wounded accomplices. A search operation was launched in the area following the incident cordoning off the highway and adjacent areas.

Station House Officer Dhana Sar police sub-inspector Bahadur Khan Babar, constables Baz Khan Hariphal and Muhammad Afzal Sherani were among the martyred police men. Following the incident, local people and relatives of the deceased had blocked the highway and started protest against the attack and said that their protest will be continued until the government traces the attackers and brings them to justice.

Meanwhile, Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Abdul Qudus Bizenjo has condemned the attack, saying terrorists couldn't demoralize security forces with such cowardly acts. 'The security forces are ensuring the security of the homeland and the nation with firm determination and courage,' a press release stated. Taliban have claimed responsibility for the Dhan Sar check post attack.

Blood test machine stolen from MMC

F.P. Report

MARDAN: A unique incident of theft of a blood test machine in Mardan Medical Complex Hospital (MMC), a question mark on the performance of the hospital administration.

The thief carrying the machine in a bag was caught by CCTV cameras. According to the details, an unknown medical student from the laboratory of Mardan Medical Complex Hospital took advantage of the negligence of the laboratory store and stole small machine worth lakhs of rupees from the laboratory.

Hospital sources said that the machine was stolen from the laboratory, but with the help of CCTV cameras, the thief was identified and the thief will be arrested and handed over to the police. It should be noted that there is a full security setup including the circle DSP of the police in the MMC hospital, but the hospital administration has kept the police unaware of the theft.

Food Authority seizes 12800 liters adulterated milk: The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Food Safety

Authority (FSA) with the help of its latest state-of-the-art mobile lab was successful in seizing/discarding up to 12,800 liters/kilograms of adulterated food items in Mardan district during the last three months, says Deputy Director Kamran Khan in a press release issued.

He said most of the seized / discarded food items were counterfeited cold drinks of multinational brands, juices and ice-cream prepared with saccharin, adulterated Gurr (Jaggery) prepared from sugar and chemicals, adulterated milk, spices etc. He said during the period from April 2023 to June 2023, a collective fine of Rs1.56 million was recovered along with Rs1.714 million collected under license registration.

"Most of the fines were imposed on traders after their products results were found violating the food standard," he added. The deputy director said with the help of mobile lab, different food items can be tested on spot within a few minutes thus enabling the traders to witness by themselves the quality of food they were

selling.

Deputy Director said the mobile lab was equipped with highly sophisticated apparatus and can be ranked among the best in the world. Quality of different food items like milk, water, oil and ghee, beverages, ice-cream, meat and fish, spices, black tea, salt, flour, Gurr, honey etc can be tested in the mobile lab.

The official said during the last three months six factories producing fake beverages of multinational brands and adulterated Gurr units have been permanently sealed. He vowed that they would remain committed for the provision of safe and hygienic food to the people of Mardan at all costs.

Former Advisor arrested: Former special assistant to the chief minister Abdul Karim Khan was arrested from the court under the anti-terrorism cover. Abdul Karim Khan appeared in the court of ATC judge Syed Ubaidullah Shah. The court heard arguments that when Abdul Karim Khan came out of the premises, the anti-corruption authorities arrested him in the case of alleged illegal recruitment.

PPP condoles death of Shabab

F.P. Report

TIMERGARA: The senior leader of Pakistan People's Party Lower Dir, Haji Nasrullah of Hayasre, expressed deep sorrow and regret over the sudden death of former provincial minister and leader of Pakistan People's Party, Liaquat Shabab Khan, on Wednesday.

PPP leader said that Liaquat Shabab Khan was a valuable ideological asset of People's Party. The worker was a sincere human being, the gap created by his death cannot be filled even after centuries. He worked with the Pakistan People's Party and the Bhutto family honestly. He was always proficient in politics, from his student days till today, his loyalty to the People's Party is a living and clear example of him.

It will be specified with intensity because Liaquat Shabab Khan was the only person who raised the voice of the worker and the workers also used to support the voice of Liaquat Shabab Khan. May Allah give him a place in the tide of mercy and give him a high place in Jannah al-Firdous and grant patience to the bereaved in this hour of sorrow and difficulty.

AC seals coal mine in Dara

F.P. Report

KOHAT: Assistant Commissioner Dara Aamir Nawaz on Wednesday paid visits to three coal mines in Old Bazi Khel Zahid and Fazal Ahmad lease area.

The Assistant Commissioner sealed Mine No-19 in Zahid lease area which was built over a rainwater channel with no proper arrangement for water drainage. Apart from this, safety measures, labor facilities, first aid and accommodation arrangements were found to be satisfactory.

Similarly, he visited Civil Hospital Dara and Civil Dispensary Zargun Khel and inspected the staff attendance register of various medical units, OPD and medicine stock. On this occasion the patients were inquired about the facilities available and found satisfactory.

Necessary instructions were issued to the concerned authorities regarding ensuring cleanliness on a daily basis and providing the best facilities to the public. Assistant Commissioner Dara Amir Nawaz also visited Dara Bazar and inspected the price, quality and expiry of various food items in Dara Bazar and fined the violating shopkeepers on the spot and issued a warning to several shopkeepers regarding poor cleanliness and encroachments.

Karnal Sher Khan 24th martyrdom anniversary observed



F.P. Report

SWABI: The 24th martyrdom anniversary of Captain Karnal Sher Khan Shaheed, Nishan-e-Haider observed at his ancestral village in district Swabi, on Wednesday.

Commander Peshawar Corps along with Inspector General Frontier Corps (North) and Commander Force Command Northern Areas laid floral wreath at Captain Karnal Sher Khan Shaheed's mausoleum in

his native town Swabi. A smartly turned out contingent of Pakistan Army presented guard of honor. People from every walk of life, civil and military officials and relatives of Shuhada attended the wreath laying ceremony.

Tarar pays tribute to Captain Sher Khan

F.P. Report

SWABI: Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Interior, Attaullah Tarar here Wednesday visited the grave of Captain Karnal Sher Khan Shaheed (NH) as mark of respect on his 24th martyrdom anniversary and paid glowing tributes to his indomitable courage and heroic battlefield performance during Kargil War in 1999.

Attaullah Tarar offered Fateha for eternal peace for the lion of Kargil and met with his family. He said Captain Karnal Sher Khan Shaheed fought bravely during Kargil war and the Indian Army also praised his indomitable courage and unmatched valour besides leadership qualities.

He said the courageous feat of Captain Sher Khan has impressed an Indian

Army's brigadier, M.P.S Bajwa and wrote a citation letter requesting Pakistan that Captain Sher Khan Shaheed had fought bravely and deserve recognition. Attaullah Tarar said that it was very rare that an enemy commander praised battlefield performance and indomitable courage of a rival army officer.

Attaullah Tarar said that the entire nation stands with our brave army and martyrs of the armed forces of Pakistan. He said that martyrs never died but alive but we could not understand. He said that those nations who forget the sacrifices of martyrs have no future. He urged people to ask their children to lay floral wreaths on the graves of martyrs like Captain Sher Khan Shaheed (NH) and informed them about their sacrifices for protection of the motherland.

The Prime Minister's aide said that it was the sacrifices of our martyrs of armed forces, police and other law enforcement agencies besides civilians that today we live in a peaceful atmosphere. He deplored that a handful of elements involved in the May 9 vandalism did not even spare the statue of the lion of Kargil. Attaullah Tarar said that he came here to express sympathies with the family of the Shaheed Captain Karnal Sher Khan.

He said that martyrs of Pakistan live in our hearts and the entire nation thanked their families. He said that his family had special relations with the family of Karnal Sher Khan Shaheed and former President Rafiq Tarar awarded the highest gallantry award to the hero of Kargil war Captain Sher Khan Shaheed.

City hospital directed to clean wards within 2 days

F.P. Report

LAKKI MARWAT: The district administration has asked the management of Government City Hospital to clean wards, emergency departments and other portions of the hospital within two days and submit a compliance report.

The deadline was given by assistant commissioner Tariq Mehmood during a visit to the health facility on the directives of local deputy commissioner Abdul Hadi when a video circulating on social media showed poor cleanliness conditions and hospital's waste scattered in the wards.

The deputy commissioner took notice of the poor hygiene conditions and tasked AC to visit the facility and take up the matter with concerned health authorities to improve the situation. The assistant commissioner paid a detailed visit to different portions of the hospital to check attendance of doctors, paramedics and other staffers, cleanliness conditions, availability of medicines and quality of healthcare services.

He directed the medical superintendent to improve hygiene conditions in wards and carry out overall cleanliness of the hospital within

two days. A health official said that the waste material was disposed of on a daily basis. "A large quantity of waste (shown in a video clip) is due to a high number of patients' influx in the city hospital", he maintained, saying that a sweeper was absent from duties only for three hours which resulted in accumulation and scattering of waste material in wards. He said that the absent sweeper would face stern disciplinary action. Also in the day, assistant commissioner Tariq Mehmood inspected construction work on an earth dyke and a drain in Daal Mill area near Lakki city.

2023 general elections: Internal rifts, divisions of leading political forces likely to cause hung parliament in KP

Shamim Shahid

A MIDST closing to 2023 General Elections, there exists wide range internal rifts amongst all leading political parties at central level in general and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa level at particular. Such internal rifts and groupings would defiantly pose bad impacts on polls results and would repeat the past of scattered or disintegrated parliament in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

One may differ but it is a fact that popularity of Imran Khan is intact despite quitting of Pakistan Tehrik Insaaf by former Chief Minister Pervez Khattak and prolong silence on the part of another Chief Minister Mahmud Khan and several others like ex-Governor Shah Farman, ex-Speaker Asad Qaisar and several others. PTI common workers are still attaching great hopes with Imran Khan and hopeful for his return in power with much more heavy mandate. Though it may be a "dream" on the part of these sentimental lovers of Imran Khan and "no one can ban dreams."

Though ruling coalition partners in Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) are jubilating draft agreement and huge receipts of around three billion

US dollars from IMF but it (Federal Government) yet make satisfy the common men who are made helpless by growing price hike, unemployment, poverty and increasing trend of violence and terror. Along with odds economic, politico-administrative and social issues, common men in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa are also helpless before the mysterious and prolong trend of terrorism and extremism. Except a few nationalist and progressive minded political parties, almost others especially PDM partners like PML(N) and JUI F are playing a silent spectator role over mysterious and imposed trends of extremism and terrorism.

No doubt to mention that neither Kabul governing nor Pakistan banned Taliban are trusting Maulana Fazal Ur Rahman's JUI F but the later is considered "sleeping partner" of all those US led allies fuelling "continuation of violence" across the border in Afghanistan. Whereas almost other religious parties and factions are wholly solely supporting Taliban regime in Kabul and banned TTP as well. And the issue of Talibanisation would play a key role in 2023 general polls like previous polls since 1988. All these "vocal and silent" supporters of US sponsored Jihad and Taliban are

always joining hands against nationalist, progressive and democratic minded political forces in general polls.

One may can differ but despite its internal rifts and divisions, Pakistan People's Party is making gains in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and getting benefits of PTI's tussles with military establishment. In recent days, it attracted many big wigs of PTI both in Swat and Peshawar. Kundi brothers from Dera Ismael Khan are also making strengthen positions as they have to face their traditional rival Maulana Fazal Ur Rahman, his family and party in almost southern districts.

So far almost leading figures of PML(N) are divided into two main groups including Engineer Amir Muqam and anti-Amir Muqam. Couple of days back, a large number of leading and diehard PML(N) stalwarts like Sardar Mehtab Ahmad Khan, Senator Sahibzada Sabir Shah, Engineer Iqbal Zafar Jaghra, Abdul Subhan and several others have publicly refused to go along with Amir Muqam. The PML(N) having strong position in almost Hazara division and a few points of Malakand region. Without Sardar Mehtab and Sahibzada Sabir Shah, it could be hard for PML(N) to regain its lost position in coming general elections.

No one can neglect the fact that JUI(F) of Maulana Fazal Ur Rahman is dominating not only PDM government in center but also the existing set up in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. The government yet to make satisfy the common men in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa like rest of the country. Almost top and leading figures of JUI(F) are engaged in influencing of government decisions like execution of developmental, non developmental and welfare projects, posting and transfers of government employees in all public institutions especially in education department and others. Instead getting good image, such involvement of its workers are badly affecting the JUI(F) image throughout the country in general and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa in particular. However, in the light of 2021 Local Government polls results, Maulana Fazal Ur Rahman and his aides are make tall claims regarding 2023 general polls. But at the same time, the JUI(F) likely to face tough time in almost Southern districts where influential Saif Ullahs are working on formation of a powerful "Awami Ittehad."

After JUI(F), Jamaat Islami of Siraj Ul Haq was at once considered an effective politico-religious force in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa but it was badly

affected by Tsunami of PTI in 2013 and 2018 general polls. Party high command's policies of "attaching and detaching with JUI(F) in so-called MMA revival" in 2018 general polls had made further complications and hardships for Jamaat Islami. At the moment, the JI is considered on complete "solo flight", despite Siraj Ul Haq's extra ordinary activism. In the light of its such "solo flight" politicisim, it could be hard for JI to make improvements in coming general polls.

Amongst the nationalist politico forces, Awami National Party is considered much more effective and popular amongst its workers and followers. But ANP is also ahead with stock of issues especially internal rifts and growing "involvement of US led allies including Pakistan in internal affairs of Afghanistan." One thing is very clear that spy agencies of US led allies including Pakistan is reluctant to let ANP in governing position in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, bordering with Afghanistan. The ANP is not only opposing Taliban regime across the border in Afghanistan but its leadership voicing for free-movement on Pak Afghan borders. On the other hand, the ANP made meaningful achievements since 2003 after constituting of Think-Tank, comprising

almost top leaders. But this Think Tank doesn't exist anymore. Likewise some of its top leaders are being sidelined by central and provincial leadership. Most recently some of its top figures from Swat entered into physical clashes with each others during a meeting. Instead settling the issue or reconciliation, the party high command is backing one of the faction which might be definitely enhance hardships for its candidates in coming general elections.

Quami Qatan Party of Aftab Ahmad Khan Sherpao is gradually recovering its 2018 general polls losses in some parts and parcels of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa especially in Charsada district. No one can neglect the fact that Aftab Ahmad Khan Sherpao is known for his "Political Strategies" and he always gaining much more from "heals and deals" with other contemporaries. Like of 2002, no one can neglect chances of QWP seat to seat adjustments with other parties especially JUI(F) in Charsada, which might be sever threat to no other than ANP leadership. Beside others QWP likely to get maximum benefits from the divisions of Pushtoon Tahafuz Movement (PTM), Mazdoor Kissan and other smaller nationalist and progressive groups.



Iran maintains crackdowns, executions over protests: UN probe

UNITED NATIONS (AFP): Iran is still meting out harsh punishments on people suspected of involvement in mass protests, including "chilling" executions, a United Nations fact-finding mission said Wednesday.

Iran was rocked by demonstrations sparked by the September 16 death of Mahsa Amini, a 22-year-old Iranian Kurd who had been arrested for allegedly violating the strict dress rule for women based on Islamic sharia law. At a special session in November, the UN Human Rights Council voted to create a high-level investigation into the deadly crackdown.

Reporting to the council, Sara Hossain, chair of the independent international fact-finding mission, said that 10 months on, the Amini family's "right to truth and justice remains unfulfilled". "The lack of transparency around the investigations into her death is further evidenced by the arrest and continued detention of the two women journalists, Nilufar Hamedani and Elahe Mohammadi, who first reported on the event," she added.

Iran has said that 22,000 people have been pardoned in connection

with the protests -- which "suggests that many more were detained or charged", Hossain said. No official data exists on the nature of the allegations against them, or on those convicted, detained or charged in connection with the protests, she said.

Hossain said pardoned protesters were reportedly made to express remorse -- "to effectively admit guilt" in signing written undertakings not to commit "similar crimes" in future. "Harsh punishments continue to be meted out to those involved in the protests, including for exercising rights protected under international human rights law," she said. "Most chilling, seven men have already been executed following hasty proceedings marred by serious allegations of fair trial violations, including confessions extracted under torture."

The fact-finding mission called on Tehran to stop the executions of individuals sentenced to death in connection with the protests, and urged Iran to release all those detained for peaceful assembly and reporting on the protests. Hossain also urged Tehran to cooperate with the investigation. In response, Kazem Gharib

Abadi, secretary general of Iran's high council for human rights, said Western countries fomented the protests and "terrorists entered the scene".

"More than 75 law enforcement forces and people were martyred by the rioters, and over 7,000 law enforcement forces were also injured," he said. "The policy of Iran vis-a-vis the riots was to use the minimal legal powers," he insisted, while branding the establishment of the UN investigation "politically motivated and unacceptable".

He claimed that one social media channel "taught how to make bombs", and another "created more than 50,000 fake Farsi accounts to act against Iran", while foreign "anti-Iranian" TV channels "dedicated their capacities to notorious terrorists for interviews". He also pointed to the recent riots against police violence in France, which he said was "witnessing the use of excessive force against peaceful protesters, widespread arbitrary arrests, and restrictions on the internet and social media". "It would be prudent for the Human Rights Council to convene a special session to examine the situation in France," he said.

Putin ally appointed to head TASS news agency

MOSCOW (Reuters): Russian President Vladimir Putin's former election spokesman has been appointed to run the state news agency TASS, according to a government order published on Wednesday.

The Kremlin has tightened its control over the media since the start of the Ukraine war, forcing the closure of leading independent news outlets and designating many journalists and publications as "foreign agents".

Prime Minister Mikhail Mishustin signed an order dismissing Sergei Mikhailov as general director of TASS and appointing Andrei Kondrashov in his place. Mikhailov had served as general director since 2012. Kondrashov, 50, is a state television journalist who in 2018 worked as the press secretary of Putin's election headquarters. TASS traces its history back to 1904 when it was founded as the St Petersburg Telegraph Agency, the first official news agency of Russia. It has retained its Soviet-era name, whose initials stand for Telegraph Agency of the Soviet Union.

Court intervenes in presidential race

GUATEMALA CITY (Agencies): After an unexpected finish to the first round of Guatemala's presidential election, the country's Constitutional Court has suspended its certification of the results, citing complaints from rival political parties. But the temporary suspension has raised fears the court might overturn the outcome of the vote, threatening Guatemala's already fragile democracy.

"This is unprecedented," said Edgar Ortiz, a constitutional lawyer with the Guatemalan think tank Fundación Libertad y Desarrollo. "Never in history has there been a problem with the vote count, much less one where the Constitutional Court — which has nothing to do with this — has intervened in the system." The court's decision came late on Saturday in the wake of a surprise victory for the progressive Seed Movement.

Its dark-horse candidate Bernardo Arevalo emerged from a crowded field to win one of two seats in the final round of the election, with 11.8 percent of the vote. The only candidate with more votes was conservative Sandra Torres of the National Unity of Hope (UNE) party, with 15.8 percent support.

But Arevalo's surprise upset provoked complaints from 10 political parties, including the UNE. They argue a "great quantity" of the votes show "inconsistencies, alterations and other discrepancies". But according to Oswaldo Samayoa, a constitutional lawyer and professor at San Carlos University, none of the evidence presented by the parties supports their arguments. "There are around 600 of 24,000 polling stations that have to be reviewed to see if there were any disputes," Samayoa said. "The parties should have evidence of those disputes, but not one political party presented evidence of such irregularities."

Nevertheless, the Constitutional Court responded to the complaints with the suspension and a review of the vote tallies, which included congressional and municipal races as well as the presidential one. Samayoa and Ortiz said they believe the review will not change the final match-up in the presidential contest. But, they warned, it could shift the results in lower-level contests, where the margins for victory were much tighter.

In the mayoral race in Guatemala City, for instance, the incumbent earned only about 500 more votes than his closest competition. Arevalo's Seed Movement, meanwhile, has failed to stop the election review. On Sunday, Guatemala's Supreme Electoral Council denied its request for an annulment of the process. "It sets a completely negative and disastrous precedent for the rule of law in Guatemala," Juan Guerrero, the Seed Movement's national poll observer, told Al Jazeera. Critics point out that at least six of the parties that issued complaints face cancellation after failing to obtain the minimum number of votes required to remain a legally recognised political party.

IAEA chief visits Fukushima before radioactive water released

FUTABA (AP): The United Nations nuclear chief toured Japan's tsunami-wrecked nuclear power plant Wednesday, including some of the key facilities that will release treated radioactive water into the sea, the day after his agency affirmed the safety of a contentious plan.

On the coastal observation "green deck," International Atomic Energy Agency chief Rafael Mariano Grossi observed where the water is treated before being transported through a black pipeline from sampling and mixing tanks to the coastal facility for dilution by at least 100 times using seawater. It will then be released into the Pacific Ocean 1 kilometer (1,000 yards) offshore through an undersea tunnel. Tomoaki Kobayakawa, president of the plant operator, Tokyo Electric Power Company Holdings, escorted and briefed Grossi, explaining that the seawater for dilution will be taken from the area further away from the area of the damaged reactors and that the water in the final dilution shaft can also be tested before it gets to the Pacific.

Grossi's tour of the Fukushima Daiichi plant, which was set to end with a trip by boat to view the water release point, was a highlight of his four-day visit in Japan as a guest of the Foreign Ministry. The Japanese government has been trying to gain credibility for the water release, which still faces persistent opposition in and outside Japan.

Earlier Wednesday, Grossi joined a meeting of government and utility officials, as well as local mayors and fishing association leaders, and stressed the continuous presence of this agency throughout the water discharge to ensure safety and address the residents' concerns. "What is happening is not something exceptional, some strange plan that has been devised only to be applied here, and sold to you," Grossi said in his opening remarks in Iwaki, about 40 kilometers (25 miles) south of the plant. "This is, as certified by the IAEA, the general practice that is agreed by and observed in many, many places all over the world."

"We are going to stay here with you for decades to come until the last drop of the water which is accumulated around the reactor has been safely discharged," he added. That means IAEA will be reviewing, inspecting, checking the validity of the plan in the decades to come, he said.

The IAEA, in its final report released, concluded the plan to release the wastewater — which would be significantly diluted but still have some radioactivity — meets international standards, and its environmental and health impact would be negligible. Grossi said the agency is "very confident about it." But local fishing organizations have rejected the plan because they worry that their reputation will be damaged even if their catch isn't contaminated. It is also opposed by groups in South Korea, China and some Pacific Island



nations due to safety concerns and political reasons.

Fukushima's fisheries association adopted a resolution on June 30 to reaffirm their rejection to the treated water discharge plan. During Wednesday's meeting, Fukushima fishery association chief Tetsu Nozaki urged government officials "to remember that the treated water plan is pushed forward despite our opposition." In an effort to address concerns about the treated water on fish and marine environment, Grossi and Kobayakawa signed an agreement on a joint project to see if or how marine life is impacted by tritium, the only radionuclide officials say is completely unremovable.

Much of the Fukushima wastewater contains cesium and other radionuclides, but it will be further filtered until the water is below international standards for all but tritium. During a briefing Wednesday, South Korean officials said it's highly unlikely that water with risky contamination levels would be pumped out into the ocean. Officials also stressed that South Korea plans to maintain tight screening across seafood imported from Japan and that there were no immediate plans to lift the country's import ban on seafood from the Fukushima region. Park Kuyeon, first vice minister of South Korea's Office for Government Policy Coordination, said Seoul plans to comment on the IAEA findings when it issues the results of the country's own investigation on the potential effect of the water release, which he said will come soon.

A massive earthquake and tsunami on March 11, 2011, destroyed the Fukushima Daiichi plant's cooling systems, causing three reactors to melt and contaminating their cooling water, which has leaked continuously. The water is collected, treated and stored in about 1,000 tanks, which will reach their capacity in early 2024. The government and the plant operator, Tokyo Electric Power Company Holdings, say the water

must be removed to prevent any accidental leaks and make room for the plant's decommissioning. Japanese regulators finished their final safety inspection last week, and TEPCO is expected to get the permit for the release in coming days. It could then begin gradually discharging the water any time, as the start date is undecided due to protests at home and abroad.

China doubled down on its objections to the release in a statement, saying the IAEA report failed to reflect all views and accusing Japan of treating the Pacific Ocean as a sewer. "We once again urge the Japanese side to stop its ocean discharge plan, and earnestly dispose of the nuclear-contaminated water in a science-based, safe and transparent manner. If Japan insists on going ahead with the plan, it will have to bear all the consequences arising from this," the Chinese Foreign Ministry said in the statement.

Japan should work with the IAEA to establish a "long-term international monitoring mechanism that would involve stakeholders including Japan's neighboring countries," the ministry said. Grossi said treating, diluting and gradually releasing the wastewater is a proven method widely used in other countries — including China, South Korea, the United States and France — to dispose of water containing certain radionuclides from nuclear plants. Some scientists say the impact of long-term, low-dose exposure to radionuclides remains unknown and urge a delay in the release. Others say the discharge plan is safe but call for more transparency in sampling and monitoring.

Prime Minister Fumio Kishida, after meeting with Grossi, said Japan will continue to provide "detailed explanations based on scientific evidence with a high degree of transparency both domestically and internationally," Grossi is also expected to visit South Korea, New Zealand and the Cook Islands after his visit to Japan to ease concerns there.

North Korea satellite had 'no military utility': South Korea

SEOUL (Reuters): South Korea's military said on Wednesday it had retrieved the wreckage of a North Korean spy satellite that plunged into the sea in May after a botched launch and found it had no meaningful military use as a reconnaissance satellite.

The military last month also recovered parts of the rocket used in the failed launch; the booster and payload crashed into the sea soon after takeoff. "After detailed analysis on major parts of North Korea's space launch vehicle and satellite which were salvaged, South Korean and US experts have assessed that they had no military utility as a reconnaissance satellite at all," the military said in a statement.

The South's military said it had on Wednesday ended salvage operations, which

began immediately after the debris splashed down off South Korea's west coast on May 31. Aircraft, the navy and deep-sea divers were involved in the effort. It is the first time South Korea has secured a satellite launched by the North, South Korean military experts said.

The initial assessment indicated the reconnaissance capability of the equipment was poor in terms of resolution and tracing targets, said Lee Choon-geun, an expert at South Korea's Science and Technology Policy Institute. Yang Uk, a fellow at the Asan Institute for Policy Studies in Seoul, also said "the resolution of the optical device loaded on the satellite was not suitable for military use".

South Korea's military tracked the launch of the space vehicle and identified

a large, cylindrical piece of debris in the water just hours after the launch, but the object sank to the seabed. It was recovered two weeks later.

North Korea last month made a rare candid public admission of the botched launch, saying it was the "gravest failure" but vowing to soon succeed in its orbital quest. The nuclear-armed North has pursued a satellite launch programme since the 1990s and has said it would launch its first reconnaissance satellite to boost monitoring of US military activities. In 2012 and 2016, North Korea launched objects that still remain in orbit. Pyongyang said they are observation satellites, but there has been no confirmation they were functioning or transmitting signals.

The May 31 launch was

widely condemned by South Korea, Japan, and the West as a violation of international law and UN Security Council resolutions that ban the use of ballistic missile technology by the North. Pyongyang rejects such criticism as an infringement of its sovereign right to self-defence and space exploration.

In a key policy address in January 2021, North Korea's leader, Kim Jong Un, pledged to develop military reconnaissance satellites. In recent months, Pyongyang appears to have upgraded its Sohae satellite launch station, potentially for another attempt. At a ruling Workers' Party meeting in June, North Korea blamed the failure on loss of thrust in the second-stage engine and criticised the "irresponsible" preparations by officials and engineers involved.

UK, Canada, Sweden, Ukraine take Iran to top UN court over downing of jet

THE HAGUE (AP): The United Kingdom, Canada, Sweden and Ukraine launched a case against Iran at the United Nations' highest court Wednesday over the downing in 2020 of a Ukrainian passenger jet and the deaths of all 176 passengers and crew. The four countries want the International Court of Justice to rule that Iran illegally shot down the Ukraine International Airlines plane and to order Tehran to apologize and pay compensation to the families of the victims. Flight PS752 was traveling from Tehran to Kyiv on Jan. 8, 2020 when it was shot down soon after takeoff. The people killed included nationals and residents of Canada, Sweden, Ukraine and the United Kingdom, as well

as Afghanistan and Iran. Their ages ranged from 1 year to 74 years old. "Today's legal action reflects our unwavering commitment to achieving transparency, justice and accountability for the families of the victims," the countries said in a joint statement Wednesday. They said they filed the case after Iran failed to respond to a December request for arbitration.

Following three days of denials in January 2020, Iran said its paramilitary Revolutionary Guard mistakenly downed the Ukrainian plane with two surface-to-air missiles. Iranian authorities blamed an air defense operator who they said mistook the Boeing 737-800 for an American

cruise missile. An Iranian court this year sentenced an air defense commander allegedly responsible for the downing to 13 years imprisonment, according to the country's official judiciary news outlet.

But the countries that filed the case with the world court in The Hague called the prosecution "a sham and opaque trial." According to the court filing published Wednesday, the U.K., Canada, Sweden and Ukraine argue that Iran "failed to take all practicable measures to prevent the unlawful and intentional commission of an offense" and "failed to conduct an impartial, transparent, and fair criminal investigation and prosecution consistent with international law." The filing alleges that

Iran withheld or destroyed evidence, blamed other countries and low level Revolutionary Guard personnel, "threatened and harassed the families of the victims seeking justice" and failed to report details of the incident to the International Civil Aviation Organization. The downing happened on the same day Iran launched a ballistic missile attack on US troops in Iraq in retaliation for an American drone strike that killed a top Iranian general. Last week, Iran filed a case against Canada linked to the downing, accusing the North American nation of flouting state immunity in allowing relatives of terrorism victims to seek reparations from the Islamic Republic.

Burundi walkout in UN: Rights group raise alarm

GENEVA (Reuters): Civil society groups decried Burundi's decision to walk out of a review of its human rights record and voiced concerns about a perceived slide in countries' cooperation with UN bodies.

States' compliance with legally-binding human rights treaties that guarantee important freedoms are reviewed regularly by the United Nations. But in a rare move, Burundi's 15-member delegation walked out of a UN Human Rights Committee meeting in Geneva because of the presence of what it called "criminals" posing as civil society members. The incident follows Nicaragua's refusal to participate in a torture review and Russia's absence from two reviews last year, amounting to what UN Human Rights chief Volker Turk described in June as "a significant lack of cooperation" with the human rights system.

"There's a trend and it's becoming a real problem. Before, states were convinced this was important, but there's been a recent degradation in cooperation with the UN treaty bodies," Patrick Mutzenberg, Director of the Centre for Civil and Political Rights, told Reuters. Marc Limon, director of Universal Rights Group, called the incident a "serious escalation".

UN committee member Helene Tigroudja said Burundi's actions were "deeply regrettable" said she did not have broader concerns about compliance. "The vast majority of state parties to the Covenant fulfil their reporting obligations..." she said. Burundian lawyer and human rights defender Armel Niyongere said government officials quit the Human Rights Committee a few minutes after it began over his presence at the meeting. Niyongere lives in

exile after taking part in 2015 protests.

"It's a real shame. This was an opportunity for them to express themselves," he told Reuters. A UN document showed that the review, which continued without Burundi, brought up arbitrary detentions of political opponents as well as torture. "We deplore that the committee could not concede to the Burundi delegation request," Burundi said in a statement, referring to its call to remove "criminals" from the room.

The HRC monitors the 1966 International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights — a legally binding treaty that guarantees freedom from discrimination and the right to assembly, among other measures. Iran and Venezuela are among countries up for examination by the same committee in October-November.

N Korean satellite wasn't advanced enough: Seoul

SEOUL (AP): The satellite North Korea failed to put into orbit wasn't advanced enough to conduct military reconnaissance from space as it claimed, South Korea's military said Wednesday after retrieving and studying the wreckage.

North Korea had tried to launch its first spy satellite in late May, but the long-range rocket carrying it plunged into the waters off the Korean Peninsula's west coast soon after liftoff. The satellite was to be part of a space-based reconnaissance system North Korea says it needs to counter escalating security threats from South Korea and the United States. South Korea mobilized navy ships, aircraft and divers to recover debris from the rocket and satellite in a 36-day operation that ended Wednesday, the South's Joint Chiefs of Staff said in a statement.

"Numerous" and "key" parts of the rocket and the satellite were recovered and the South Korean and US experts who jointly exam-

ined them concluded the satellite wasn't capable of conducting military reconnaissance works at all, the statement said. North Korea didn't immediately respond to the South Korean announcement.

The day the launch failed, North Korea's state media said the rocket lost thrust following the separation of its first and second stages, then crashed into the sea. At a ruling party meeting last month, North Korea called the failed launch "the most serious" shortcoming this year and harshly criticized those responsible. Top North Korean officials have repeatedly vowed to attempt a second launch after learning what went wrong with the failed launch.

North Korean leader Kim Jong Un has said acquiring a military spy satellite is crucial to beef up his country's defense capability. He's said North Korea also needs to introduce other high-tech weapons systems such as

multi-warhead nuclear missiles, solid-fueled intercontinental ballistic missiles and nuclear-powered submarines. Months before its failed satellite launch, North Korea launched a test satellite and publicized photos showing South Korean cities as viewed from space. Some civilian experts said at the time the photos were too crude for a surveillance purpose and that they were likely capable of only recognizing big targets like warships at sea or military installations on the ground.

North Korea had responded to that skepticism by saying there was no reason to use a sophisticated camera for one test. The US, South Korea and others denounced North Korea's rocket launch as a security risk and a violation of UN Security Council resolutions that ban the country's use of ballistic missile technology. But further sanctions are unlikely since permanent council members Russia and China oppose new action.

South Sudan president says he will be a candidate in elections

JUBA (AP): President Salva Kiir of South Sudan says his country's long-delayed elections will take place in 2024 and that he will be on the ballot. Kiir, who has led South Sudan since the territory became independent of Sudan in 2011, accepted the endorsement of the ruling party at a stadium event in Bahr el Ghazal.

"I am deeply touched by your endorsement and your

continued support to our historic party," Kiir told tens of thousands of supporters at the Wau Stadium. Kiir is expected to face his longtime rival, First Vice President Riek Machar, who has yet to confirm his candidacy.

The opposition has accused the government of lacking the political will to hold elections. But Kiir said he was committed to free and

fair elections. The vote would be the country's first and the culmination of a peace agreement signed nearly five years ago to pull the young nation out of fighting that killed some 400,000 people. While large-scale clashes have subsided, violence in parts of the country persists, killing 2,240 people last year, according to the Armed Conflict Location & Event Data Project.

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Gigantic perks and average performance

THE acting President and Senate Chairperson Sadiq Sanjrani has recently issued an order notifying an increase of 20% in the monthly salaries of Supreme Court judges. According to a spokesperson of the law ministry, the monthly salary of the Chief Justice of Pakistan has been increased to Rs1.2 million while the monthly salary of other Supreme Court judges has been raised to Rs1.1m. As said, the changes are to come into effect immediately and this will mark an increase of around Rs2,04,865 in the top judge's remuneration.

Judges and the judiciary play an important role in the administration of justice, protection of the constitution, and maintenance of the law and writ of the state in the country. As a reward, the nation pays them hefty salaries, gruesome perks, mammoth allowances, luxurious accommodations, modern vehicles, special security, and extraordinary protocol along with a suitable number of domestic helps, to provide them with a conducive environment to discharge their duties. At the time, Pakistan's senior adjudicators are drawing several times more salaries, service perks, and other entitlements as compared to the judges of other nations in the region including India, Bangla Dash, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Afghanistan etc. Unfortunately, despite enjoying uncommon incentives and stunning amenities in an economy-ridden country, the world justice projects Rule of Law Index Report 2022 listed Pakistan as 129th out of 139 countries in the world. That is a slap on the face of our entire judicial system including the Police, bar, and bench as well as district and top judiciary in the country which fails to bring reforms, eradicate corruption, and end nepotism from this highly important and most sacred institution in the country. Ironically, Pakistani influentials had been more conscious about their public rating, media coverage, monetary interests, and luxurious family life instead of official responsibilities, institutional prestige, and service delivery to the public. Factually, numerous successive chief judges earned the utmost media attraction through flashy announcements, and involvement in government and political affairs but failed to deliver justice and reform their institution over the past seven decades.

Historically, the judiciary has always been an important state organ and a thumbnail of democracy in any country. In most nations across the globe, the people wearing black robes often remain off the camera, fulfilling their sensitive responsibility in a calm atmosphere while their verdicts speak loud and have long-lasting effects on their nation and beyond. The Universal Human Rights Declaration and UN Human Rights Office (UN OHCHR) categorically endorsed the independence of the Judiciary and also called for judicial legitimacy, public trust, efficiency, and accountability of the adjudicators/Judges. The role of the judiciary and administration of justice is very crucial, as that addresses contemporary legal and administrative challenges and responds to broader social needs. Thus, the judiciary sets on top of a political system in a democracy, avails autonomy, and enjoys high prestige, but always remains under strict scrutiny from the media and civil society for its service delivery and performance.

Unfortunately, Pakistan's judicial system derailed from its track after its failure in defending the country's democracy in the face of the first Martial law just years of the nation's independence. Later, the discovery of the theory of necessity and judicial recognition of recurrent dictatorial rules further weakened the courts while institutional cartelization, corruption, nepotism, and political affiliation of adjudicators completely collapsed the judicial system in the country. Currently, a majority of cases are being settled by the parties out of the court, and no criminal or civil case concludes without paying bribes to investigators, prosecutors, and judicial staff while judges announce decisions to appease relatives, colleagues, a civil or military establishment for appeasement or favor.

Historically, Pakistan's superior judiciary has sometimes moved beyond its constitutional jurisdiction after the lawyers' movement and sometimes it is arbitrating political disputes to play a power broker role within the existing political system in parallel to parliament and military. The role of the judiciary becomes more crucial after judicial activism, and judicialization of politics, that is the expansion of judicial decision-making into political arenas, and the interplay between the institutions or political groups. According to reports, currently more than 52, 000 cases are pending trial in the apex court while these numbers are in millions in the lower/district courts and prolonged delays in under-trial cases badly shattered the public trust in the judiciary. There is a dire need that the judges sitting in the top courts to pay back to the nation by feeling their responsibility regarding the delivery of unbiased, fearless and timely justice to the public, which will not only restore their respect in the country but elevate their ranking at the global forums.

Important Notice

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



Six months after Rishi ‘Mr Fix-It’ Sunak issued his five pledges, here is his scorecard: complete fail

Andrew Rawnsley

PEOPLE who work with him at Number 10 depict Rishi Sunak as a workaholic nerd who is most alive when he's scrolling through a spreadsheet or burrowing into the appendix of a briefing document. Critics mean it as an insult when they call him "a technocrat", but he takes it as a compliment.

He has no gift for poetic oratory. Nor any talent for clever wisecracks or sizzling zingers. He can't do what George HW Bush once called "the vision thing". The Tory leader thinks of himself as a problem-solver and that's how he's been projected to the public since he arrived in Downing Street. Competence and delivery were supposed to be the motifs of his premiership. In his early months in post, Labour people got a bit windy when polling suggested his managerial image had some appeal to voters repelled by the debaucheries of Boris Johnson and the mayhem of Liz Truss. Here's the snag. If you are going to market yourself as someone who is good at fixing stuff, you had better be good at fixing stuff. You need to be especially successful at tackling the challenges that you personally identified as mission critical.

It is almost exactly six months since the prime minister produced a to-do list of his "priorities" and asked the country to judge him by them. The most common criticism of his "five pledges" at the time he unveiled them was that he had picked unambitious performance indicators and set goals that seemed like the bare minimum people ought to be able to expect from their government. As it turns out, the critics were wrong, but wrong in a way that does not flatter the prime minister. Mr Sunak has found it anything but easy to hit the targets that he hand-picked. The scorecard currently reads five pledges made, zero pledges fulfilled. On the exam he set for himself, he's a total fail. His promise to "stop the small boats" was the most reckless. Migrants continue to cross the Channel in substantial numbers. The only people the government has managed to put on a plane

to Rwanda have been the home secretary and her bodyguards. Critics who said the scheme would not just be inhumane but also incredibly costly now have a figure to attach to that charge. The Home Office's own assessment, which it finally divulged last week, reckons the bill will come in at £169,000 per person deported. The same document also admitted that "it is not possible to estimate" - in other words, we don't have a clue - whether the scheme will even achieve its stated objective of deterring those desperate enough to hazard their lives crossing the channel. Critics who said sending asylum seekers to east Africa was unlawful can now say their opinion is shared by the appeal court. The only consolation for the government is that voters were already extremely cynical about an oath they did not trust. Before the court ruling, pollsters reported that less than a quarter of the public believe that anyone will ever be sent to Rwanda. Voters have even less faith that the government can bring down NHS waiting lists, a Sunak pledge that key people at Number 10 regard as vital to their party's chances of being competitive at the election. The government never entertained any hope of clearing the massive backlog of patients needing treatment, more than 7 million on the latest count. Mr Sunak's much more meagre ambition was to get the numbers on the waiting list down in time for the election. Here he is in serious trouble.

Since he made that promise, the list has ratcheted up to ever-higher records, a trend that will be hard to arrest for so long as the NHS is convulsed by strikes and suffers from chronic understaffing. According to the government's workforce plan published on Friday, the health service in England is 112,000 people short of the personnel it needs, a figure that includes more than 8,000 missing doctors and more than 40,000 vacant nursing posts. The recruitment and training drive it is now promising comes far too late to have any impact in the time left before the voters will give their verdict on the

Conservative record. The "number one priority" identified by the prime minister is to halve inflation by the end of this year. Once seen as the most achievable of his pledges, this increasingly looks like one of the most resistant to his desires. Core inflation, which excludes more volatile items such as the cost of fuel, is rising at a faster clip than it was when he made that vow. Worse, this inflation is at its highest in more than three decades. Interest rates will rise to a more elevated level and stay higher for longer than the Tory leader anticipated back in January. Sir Keir Starmer is branding this the "Tory mortgage bombshell", an echo of the "tax bombshell" tag that the Conservatives stuck on Labour to greatly damaging effect in the run-up to the 1992 election. For those remortgaging next year, annual repayments are expected to rise by an average of £2,900. The "mortgage catastrophe", as even some Tory MPs are calling it, is the deadliest of the threats facing their party. It is terrifying Conservative MPs in all geographical locations and of all ideological persuasions because this is a dagger to the heart of their core vote. Current market expectations are that the Bank of England will be able to gradually start trimming interest rates in the back half of next year. Even if this happens - and that's a very iffy if - it is going to be too late to spare a huge number of people from a lot of pain.

Labour is seizing on the opportunity to feed the belief among many voters that the Tory leader is too out of touch to understand the misery being inflicted on people who don't enjoy his kind of wealth. At a recent PMQs, Sir Keir mocked the prime minister for having a rose-tinted view of the world because he only sees it "from the vantage point of his helicopter". Someone on the Labour leader's gag-writing team is earning their wages. Persistent inflation and higher interest rates endanger Mr Sunak's chances of meeting two more of his pledges. National debt is not coming down - it is surging both in cash terms and relative to the size of the economy. It recently hit

more than 100% of GDP, the highest level in more than 60 years. This makes it less likely that Jeremy Hunt will have the scope to give scared Tory MPs what they most clamour for, which is some meaningful tax cuts before the election. As for the pledge to "grow the economy", it is flatlining and higher interest rates increase the probability that we will tip into recession. Some Tories are casting around for scapegoats. Blame inflation on the Bank of England for letting it get out of control. Blame the failure to produce a workable policy to address cross-Channel migration on obstructive judges. Blame the crisis in the NHS on its staff. This won't work for them because it just sounds like pathetic responsibility swerving.

The five pledges, originally conceived as a way for the Tories to regain some credibility and trust, have boomeranged on the prime minister. Pollsters report that fewer than one in 10 voters think the government is doing well on reducing inflation, cutting NHS waiting lists, bringing down the national debt or removing asylum seekers who cross the Channel. Mr Sunak's personal approval ratings, which looked quite good in the circumstances when he took over at Number 10, have tumbled into deeply negative territory. The prime minister hoped to give himself positive definition as a problem-solver. He is instead being defined as a man who can't even achieve the goals he set for himself. There is no plan B available to him. Having staked the reputation of his premiership on these vows, he has no choice but to pray that his score will be better than nil out of five by the time of the election. Yet even if he gets very lucky and somehow manages to claw his way to five out of five before he has to face the country, he shouldn't expect to be congratulated. Millions will still be stuck on NHS waiting lists and millions more will have suffered a colossal crunch to their living standards. At the beginning of the year, Mr Sunak promised he would bring people "peace of mind". That's another of Mr Fix-It's pledges that have come completely unstuck.

US and its allies building a wall around North Korea

Dr. Theodore Karasik

NORTH Korea is continuing to escalate its confrontation with the growing alliance of countries around it. Backed by China and Russia, Pyongyang is once again building its nuclear and space capacity, as well as its rhetoric. But the threat environment is changing and a new wall to contain North Korean military activity is rising.

This wall is metaphorical of course, as it is made up of sensors, rockets and other technologies rather than bricks. The barrier is made up of various layers of defense armaments and sensor systems that aim to protect countries such as South Korea, Japan, the Philippines and even Taiwan. These are not all interoperable but the fact that the alignment is occurring is significant to Western Pacific Ocean security. To be sure, the escalation ladder in the Northeast Asia sector is rising and, likely regardless of what happens in Russia, will continue.

China does not like these technological linkages and advances and is implementing strategies to fracture or complicate the US/Western-backed relationships. Beijing is taking advantage of a political rift in South Korea, attempting to throw a wrench in its relationships with the US and Japan. It has aligned with South Korea's opposition in an effort to sway public sentiment and prevent those three countries from moving closer together.

Relations between Japan and South Korea and security cooperation among Japan, South Korea and the US have greatly improved under Yoon Suk-yeol's presidency in Seoul, but the progress could be reversed just as quickly. Importantly, South Korea's new national security strategy highlights what it sees as the danger posed by Beijing's diplomatic maneuvers. In a balancing act because of the nature of Northeast Asian politics, South Korea's new national security strategy, which was released this month, said it would maintain relations with China "in a consistent and resolute manner, based on national interests and principles."

But South Korea's population mix and the sentiment toward North Korea among various Seoul-based interest groups complicates the social media environment. This fact gives Beijing leverage and the phenomenon is not static but growing. China knows that South Korea's foreign policy, especially its stance toward China and North Korea, often shifts dramatically when a new president takes office, which happens every five years.

Much of what is driving North Korea's foreign policy today is the aftermath of last month's failed launch of the Mallygyong-1 military intelligence rocket. Pieces of debris, believed to be the Chollima-1 rocket used for the mission, were recovered by South Korea's navy this week — a huge embarrassment for the North Korean regime. Pyongyang said this event

was the worst failure ever for the North Korean state and immediately began to escalate rhetoric about "nuclear war." Much of this talk is just rhetoric, but Pyongyang needs to be taken very seriously because of the technological developments that keep it as a perennial global threat. Hence, closer US cooperation with Western Pacific states is important and evolutionary, while attempting to box in any potential threat.

In response, South Korea-US relations are becoming closer and more integrated than ever before. North Korea's anger at the rocket failure is based on the fact that Seoul and Washington in April signed the Washington Declaration, in which the two countries committed to engaging in deeper dialogue and information-sharing efforts via a new nuclear consultative group aimed at strengthening nuclear deterrence efforts on the Korean Peninsula.

The Washington Declaration focuses on expanding intra-alliance consultations on nuclear weapon matters and further integrates the forces of the US and South Korea in ways that can limit unintended escalation and buttress deterrence, as part of the larger conceptual aspect of building a wall against nuclear use. The integration of South Korean military capabilities into US nuclear strategy is part of the current security milieu. This activity mirrors NATO's nuclear planning.

Meanwhile, in the overall military sphere, the Washington Declaration also calls for closely connecting the capabilities and planning activities of Seoul's new strategic command and the two countries' Combined Forces Command. As South Korea's conventional deterrence capabilities grow ever more advanced and capable, ensuring intra-alliance integration will be key.

The thinking is to take this model and apply the same template to other pro-US allies in the Pacific Ocean region, while recognizing the sensitivities of this topic to local parties and interest groups in Japan, the Philippines and Taiwan. But the road is long and negotiations will be necessary, but not impossible. The long-term outlook is to create a network of allies that are as unified as possible using high-tech, interoperable measures for both nuclear and conventional warfare scenarios.

Overall, the security situation in Northeast Asia is evolving into an escalating standoff in a changing geostrategic environment. What happens next in Russia matters globally and North Korea fully supports Moscow. China-Russia relations are also stable and likely to grow stronger in the coming months as various threats heat up. While the Gulf region itself may be de-escalating, there is no doubt that the Western Pacific could become as hot as the Ukrainian-Russian battlefield.

The ICJ can slow down Assad's normalisation drive

Mark Kersten

FOR the most part, Syrian President Bashar al-Assad has gotten away with it. Rather than being held to account for the countless atrocities his regime has committed against civilians, the Syrian dictator has been busy reconciling with world leaders. The Syrian civil war erupted in 2011. Since then, it is likely that every single human rights violation and international crime enshrined in international law has been perpetrated - most repeatedly. There was a time when these atrocities and the desperate plight of civilians fleeing Syria earned the world's attention. In recent years - not so much.

It is therefore little surprise that accountability for atrocities committed in Syria has been fleeting. China, Russia and, initially, the United States all thwarted efforts to allow the International Criminal Court (ICC), which has

jurisdiction over war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide, to investigate atrocities in Syria. There has been a steady stream of cases of European states exercising their legal powers to prosecute Syrian war criminals in their own courts, although these cannot hope to adequately tackle the widespread and systemic nature of atrocities committed in Syria. Canada, for its part, has pointedly refused to do the same - neglecting to prosecute even its own citizens who joined the Islamic State in Syria for their alleged participation in war crimes and crimes against humanity. In this context, the announcement that Canada and the Netherlands have begun legal proceedings against Syria at the International Court of Justice (ICJ) is especially noteworthy. Ottawa has said it is seeking to hold Damascus accountable under the United Nations Convention Against Torture,

"for the countless human rights violations it has inflicted on the Syrian people since 2011".

Legal hearings are likely to begin later this summer and offer some hope that the thousands of Syrians brutalised, maimed and murdered by the Assad regime will not be forgotten. This does not mean that Assad will find himself hauled before an international tribunal to answer for atrocity crimes. Rather, Canada and the Netherlands are going to the "world court" in an attempt to ensure that Syria complies with international law in relation to torture. Specifically, the two want the ICJ to issue orders "to preserve and protect the rights" of Syrian civilians "under the Convention against Torture, which Syria continues to violate, and protect the lives and physical and mental integrity of individuals within Syria who are currently, or are at

risk of, being subjected to torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment". How Damascus responds remains to be seen. It could ignore the proceedings altogether or join them in an effort to explain its position, much like Myanmar chose to do when Gambia filed a case with the ICJ in relation to the alleged genocide against the Rohingya.

The move by Canada and the Netherlands may end up being largely symbolic. But symbols matter. Justice is not always measured in outcomes: process also matters. Even with the attention of the West focused on the situation in Ukraine, the ICJ case shows that Canada and the Netherlands are firmly in the corner of the victims and survivors of the Assad regime's violence. That they are keeping justice for atrocities in Syria alive and are refusing to forget the thousands of civilians who have

been - and continue to be - tortured in Syrian prisons is crucial. The sad truth is that Assad has won the war in Syria. Despite more than 300,000 Syrians being killed, states are normalising relations with Damascus. Last month, the Arab League welcomed the Syrian president back with open arms, hoping to get in return his cooperation in cracking down on the drug trade and alleviating refugee crisis.

His proverbial return can also be credited to his close ally, Russian President Vladimir Putin, who has long worked to break his international isolation. Keeping the hope alive that justice will eventually catch up with Assad might not prevent his political rehabilitation, but it could slow it down. The decision to bring Syria to the ICJ over its campaign of torture should help close the political space available to those who might otherwise consider doing business with Assad.

It forces them to justify how they could do so with a man in charge of a Russian client state and mass torture machine. It also sends a message to others, like Putin, that our memory of atrocities does not come with an expiration date.

The Dutch and Canadian move at the ICJ means Assad will continue to be hounded by allegations of atrocities. It means that Syria's victims and survivors will remain relevant in both the public consciousness and the international courtroom. The process of achieving accountability is often winding and painfully slow. But because of efforts like Canada's and the Netherlands', maybe, just maybe, the space around Assad will one day shrink and his friends will grow tired of rubbing shoulders with a war criminal par excellence. When that day comes, justice for Syria will move from a mirage to a distinct possibility.

SCOTUS is ramping up oppression in ‘the land of the free’

IT is that time of year again: when the United States Supreme Court ruins everyone's summer with its sociopathic rulings. Last summer, on June 24, the top judicial body overturned Roe v Wade, the landmark ruling that legalised abortion nationwide in 1973. Hardest hit by the decision were poor women of colour, such being the institutionalised inequality that prevails in the world's self-appointed paragon of justice.

The day prior to the demise of US abortion rights, the Supreme Court enshrined the right to carry a gun outside the home. This came almost one month after a gunman massacred 19 students and two teachers at Robb Elementary School in Uvalde, Texas. Now in 2023, the court has proven equally committed to eroding the potential for wellbeing among significant sectors of the US population.

Take the recent ruling that bans colleges from considering race as a factor in admissions, a reversal of affirmative action policies that were meant to fuel diversity in schools and to atone, to some extent, for the country's lengthy history of racialised socioeconomic oppression. In the court's view, apparently, offering Black and Latino students a mirage of equal opportunity constitutes discrimination against whites and Asian-Americans - which makes about as much sense as saying wheelchair ramps discriminate against non-disabled people or that offering classes of English as a second language discriminates against native

English speakers. Anyway, you cannot sustain the tyranny of an elite minority if you start giving everyone a fair chance at everything.

In another recent education-related stunt, the Supreme Court struck down President Joe Biden's student loan forgiveness plan, which he had magnanimously put forth after having assisted in creating the student debt crisis in the first place. The ruling affects well over 40 million people in the US. The Supreme Court case in question, Biden v Nebraska, hinged on the argument that the Missouri Higher Education Loan Authority (MOHELA) - and by extension the state of Missouri - would suffer revenue losses in the event of debt cancellation.

However, as was revealed back in May in a collaborative exposé by the Roosevelt Institute and the Debt Collective, the first debtors' union in the US, MOHELA's revenues were projected to increase even if the Biden plan had gone through. This information was confirmed in internal MOHELA documents. And yet reality matters little when the future of the plutocracy is at stake. As journalist Julia Rock notes in an article for Jacobin magazine, the conservative officials who have been agitating against student debt relief possess "deep ties to the dark money network that helped construct the Supreme Court's current 6-3 conservative supermajority". According to a series of investiga-

tions by media outlets ProPublica and Lever, this network is led by Leonard Leo, judicial adviser to former US President Donald Trump.

By financially incentivising hardline right-wing positions, the billion-dollar dark money industry has basically spawned the most conservative Supreme Court in nearly a century. And the shameful corruption that passes for "democracy" in the US only becomes all the more nauseating in the context of the battle over student debt, the upshot of which is that it is totally fine to spend astronomical sums of money just to ensure that the non-rich get no economic relief whatsoever. Dark money also had a hand in the Supreme Court's anti-LGBTQ ruling on June 30, which to add insult to injury, took place on the final day of Pride Month. In this case, the court sided on behalf of Lorie Smith, an evangelical Christian web designer in Colorado who is opposed to her state's anti-discrimination law and the possibility that she might someday be asked to create a website for a same-sex marriage.

It is on such occasions that one feels compelled to ask whether the Supreme Court really has nothing else to do with its time and could perhaps take on local parking violations as well. But the outcome of the Smith case is far from a joking matter, setting as it does a dangerous precedent by invalidating nondiscrimination laws. If the

Supreme Court has decided it is now selectively fine for businesses to discriminate based on sexual orientation, how do you ever redraw that line - or any other? Smith's lawyer Kristen Waggoner cast the matter of the hypothetical request for a same-sex wedding website as a violation of First Amendment free speech protections in the US Constitution. In a statement on June 30, Waggoner praised the Supreme Court for having "reaffirmed that the government can't force Americans to say things they don't believe". It is any rational person's guess, of course, how free speech factors into the arrangement at all. Can racist business owners also claim free speech rights and refuse to serve Black people or Muslims?

Biden, for his part, has denounced the current Supreme Court as "not a normal court" - although the oppression of marginalised groups would seem to be pretty much business as usual in the so-called "land of the free". Critiques aside, Biden shot down the option of subjecting the judicial body to some sort of corrective expansion in an interview with MSNBC: "I think if we start the process of trying to expand the court, we're going to politicise it maybe forever in a way that is not healthy." Indeed, it would be most unhealthy to politicise politics. In the meantime, the latest spate of Supreme Court rulings is making the US a very unhealthy place to live - for a whole lot of people.

Aljazeera

The event that will decide next election has already happened

HERE'S a parlour game for the political geek in your life. When did Tony Blair win the 1997 general election? Don't accept the reflex answer - 1 May of that year - because the one you're looking for is 16 September 1992, Black Wednesday, when interest rates were briefly set to 15% and the Conservatives trashed their reputation for economic competence.

Now ask when Gordon Brown lost the 2010 election. The correct answer could be 17 September 2007, with the run on Northern Rock that presaged the financial crash of 2008; or perhaps 6 October 2007, when Brown ducked an early election, allowing his critics to cast the onetime iron chancellor as a botler. Thatcher's victory in 1979? It didn't come on election day in May, but more probably in January, when the binmen and gravediggers went on strike, thereby providing some of the iconic motifs of the winter of discontent, just as James Callaghan was on the front page of the Sun reported (inaccurately) to be asking: "Crisis? What crisis?"

You see, hours of fun for all the family - and not wholly pointless either. Because it was Callaghan who in 1979 mused to an aide: "There are times, perhaps once every 30 years, when there is a sea-change in politics. It then does not matter what you say or do. There is a shift in what the public wants and what it approves of." In those moments, all the noise and toil of an election campaign is so much displacement activity: the public have already made their decision, months or even years earlier.

Of course, we don't know whether Keir Starmer will win, still less whether we are witnessing the

kind of epochal sea-change that Callaghan rightly detected nearly 45 years ago. But if Rishi Sunak's destiny is to lose the coming contest, when might we say his fate was sealed?

The temptation will be strong - especially for many a Guardian reader - to say that Conservative defeat was guaranteed when the public finally recoiled in revulsion from this government. They might even point to Thursday of this very week, and the striking sight of a BBC Question Time audience, carefully weighted to include more Tory voters than supporters of any other party, in which not a single hand was raised in support of Sunak's Rwanda policy. Not one. Perhaps some of those Conservatives were persuaded by the court of appeal's declaration earlier that day that the policy was unlawful or maybe they just thought it repellent to transport people seeking asylum, many fleeing trauma and persecution, to a country that the court had decided was not safe.

Others will wonder if Sunak's appointment in Samarra was made long before he ever reached Downing Street, thanks to the previous occupant but one. In this view, it was fury at Partygate that irreparably broke the bond of trust between government and people, and which Sunak could not shake. Once voters could see that a Conservative prime minister who had set the rules - ones that required heartbreaking sacrifice - also broke them, and extravagantly so, and then repeatedly lied about it, there was no way back.

Or there might have been, had Sunak been able to convince the electorate that these were the sins of Johnson alone. That would always

have been tricky, given that the current prime minister had himself received a fixed-penalty notice for Covid lawbreaking. It would have required a wholesale repudiation of Johnson and all he had done. So perhaps the PM's political demise was foretold on 19 June this year, the day Sunak failed even to vote on the Commons privileges committee report into Johnson's deceptions of parliament - the day Sunak could not bring himself to make the break from a man whose behaviour had disgusted the nation.

As a result, the PM remains haunted by it. On Thursday, the committee hit out at those formerly impassioned defenders of parliamentary sovereignty who, in their devotion to Johnson, had rubbished the panel - created by parliament - as a kangaroo court or witch-hunt. Today one of those named, Zac Goldsmith, resigned his ministerial post, in a scathing exit letter, creating yet more awful headlines for the government.

If the Tories lose, all these events will have played their part - along with Brexit, of course, for which Sunak was such an early enthusiast and which now even Nigel Farage admits is a failure. And yet, the answer to the quiz question of the future may be more prosaic.

It may well be 22 June 2023, when the Bank of England raised interest rates to 5%, their highest level for 15 years. For this is where elections are won and lost: in voters' wallets. "Are you better off today than you were four years ago?" asked Ronald Reagan to devastating effect in 1980. Soon Labour will ask the same question, suitably tweaked, and the answer will be loud and fur-

ious. Every month, people are coming off fixed-rate mortgages only to be charged with vastly increased payments that, for many, are all but unmanageable. It is no use ministers blaming the Bank of England, which sets interest rates and is tasked with managing inflation: Sunak's own five-point plan promises to halve inflation by the end of the year. For voters, this is on him. And by "voters", I mean specifically those who for generations have been the core of the Conservatives' electoral coalition. Last week, an Ipsos poll found that 87% of homeowners with a mortgage were dissatisfied with the government. There is no blue wall without those people. There are no blue foundations without those people.

When Sunak became prime minister last autumn, even non-Conservatives greeted his arrival with a measure of relief. Unlike Liz Truss, at least he had one foot planted on planet Earth and looked as though he knew how to read a balance sheet. That would be his USP: the adult in the room.

But with inflation still so stubbornly high and mortgage rates through the (ever more expensive) roof, Sunak is destroying his own brand. He was meant to be Mr Competence; instead, the interest rate the government has to pay on its own borrowing is now higher than it was in the crazy, Kwasi days of Kwarteng and Truss. And so he is tarred with their brush, making the Conservatives - Sunak included - once again the party of economic mayhem. No predictions, but the event that will decide the outcome of the next general election? It's already happened.

The Guardian

Ukraine shows land warfare still matters

Richard Dannatt

Having confidence in a line of succession is as important for the country as it is for the army. Issues of national security need to be addressed by leaders who can be respected and trusted, and who can work collaboratively with government ministers and fellow service chiefs alike. The threat to our security presented by Russia today is analogous to the threat to our security posed in the 1930s by the rise of Hitler's Nazi Germany. Then, the British Government's response too long followed the path of appeasement; rearmament occurring too late to prevent the defeat of the British Army in France in May/June 1940.

History must not be allowed to repeat itself. Today, the strategic context is different to the 1930s, with Putin not just being a theoretical threat like Hitler, but an actual threat, locked in combat with Ukraine which is fighting on behalf of us all. The Ukrainians are buying us in blood time to decide how to respond to the new challenges to European security.

The UK has led the way within Europe in supporting Ukraine. British NLAW anti-tank weapons were at the forefront of stopping the early Russian assault on Kyiv; Stormer anti-aircraft systems helped, and still help, protect Ukrainian skies; and Britain was the first country to pledge main battle tanks. But this comes at a cost. 1st Regiment Royal Horse Artillery, one of 3rd (UK) Division's close support artillery regiments, has no guns. We have gifted a large majority of our AS90 armoured self-propelled artillery to Ukraine.

Does this matter? The answer to that question depends entirely on what our plans are under development to make good our equipment and ammunition shortfall. In the short term, the Ukrainians need our weaponry to defeat the Russians - something firmly in our interest, too. However, there is the medium and the long term to be considered. The Ukrainians will not be giving us our artillery back when the war is over. The AS90 guns serve as an example of the wider challenge.

In his speech at the RUSI conference, General Sanders was able to refer to £35 billion pledged to be spent on new equipment over the next 10 years with 35 of our existing 38 land warfare platforms going out of service and being replaced by new capabilities. So, it could be argued money is not the problem. The challenge to the restoration of our overall land warfare capability is the actual delivery of these new capabilities. To return to our artillery, a contract has been placed very quickly to replace the AS90 guns with a new system called Archer 6x6. But how quickly will

that system be delivered? In the meantime, the Commanding Officer of 1st RHA must keep his gunners focussed and motivated.

Here there are parallels with the lack of modern equipment before WW2. There are those who peddle the old mantra that the Army does not know what it wants, is uncertain about its purpose and lacks institutional confidence. For those listening to General Sanders last week, this could not be further from the truth. With the starkest possible clarity, the war in Ukraine has demonstrated that there are new hi-tech ways of waging warfare, but they do not replace more traditional land manoeuvre-based around armoured vehicles. The new ways of warfare and more traditional ways of warfare combine to describe to us modern warfare. For some it can be fought at arm's length but for others it remains deep, down and dirty.

For the British Army to be able to fulfil its commitments to the nation and to our Nato partners in future, there must be a revolution not so much in technology - that is already roaring on at pace - but in the defence procurement process and its relationship with industry. A domestic defence industrial strategy must become a reality, bureaucratic processes must be stream-lined, and discipline imposed within the overall process not to change operational requirements during the execution of a contract. Furthermore, acceptance that 85 per cent of capability requirement fielded now will invariably be more useful than the pursuit of exquisite capabilities scoring 100 per cent but several years late and at increased cost. War sharpens responses. Today, Russian arms factories are on a war footing with workers taking on extra shifts to keep production lines going. It begs the question - to what extent are we mirroring this acceleration here or are we carrying on with normal jogging?

The refresh of the Integrated Review confirmed the Government's more global foreign policy and defence ambitions and a continued investment in related air and maritime capabilities, but the harsh reality of today is a bloody war on land in Europe. The UK owes it to its Nato allies, to the Ukrainians and to our own citizens to ensure that our Army is equipped and sustained to play its full role in Nato's deterrent mission. The leadership, motivation and training are all there but so too must be the equipment. Of course, the numeric size of the regular and reserve Army matters, but what matters more is placing the right equipment in the hands of those soldiers and delivering it on time. On that, I am sure Ben Wallace and Patrick Sanders have always agreed.

The Telegraph

Putin's downfall is only delayed. It's coming

Richard Kemp

VLADIMIR Putin's short-term Special Military Operation to bring Kyiv to heel has escalated into a two-front war with his control slipping away. He was having enough trouble on the Ukrainian front, with an enemy that refused to buckle, backed by unexpectedly obdurate allies. His own army has been exposed to the world as a rotting façade rendered inadequate by decades of complacency and corruption.

Prigozhin's abortive coup d'etat has now opened up a home front that has similarly exposed the regime's weakness and the vulnerability of the country's internal security. Prigozhin was able to seize and hold Moscow's command centre for the entire Ukraine war without a shot being fired. His heavily armed mercenaries could then advance hundreds of miles towards Moscow, largely unopposed, and with reports of Russian soldiers surrendering in their path. On the way to Moscow, Wagner forces reportedly shot down seven helicopters and a transport plane - if true, one of the deadliest days for the Russian air force since the war in Ukraine began.

As with the recent incursions from Ukraine into Belgorod, the Kremlin lacked forces to secure even key targets inside Russia. They had to depend on another private militia, Ramzan Kadyrov's Chechens, who apparently sent 3,000 men from Ukraine to confront Wagner. Moscow's critical vulnerabil-

ity will not be fixed without withdrawing already stretched forces from the front line.

As we have seen so often in Ukraine, Russian forces are unable to respond to unexpected crises without orders from above. This helps explain why Prigozhin's men could get as far as they did. That those stop orders were not forthcoming exposes Putin's weakness. His desperation to avoid violent clashes between Russian soldiers and Wagner mercenaries led to paralysis in the Kremlin accompanied by a frantic search for a way to shut Prigozhin down without bloodshed, eventually pressing Belarus's Lukashenko into action. It's not likely Putin cared about casualties on either side, but he did care about the potential disintegration at the front line caused by violent insurrection on the streets of Moscow or the roads leading to it. His address to the nation comparing this uprising to the collapse at the front in 1917 revealed his inner fears. Putin brought all this upon himself, most significantly by his ill-judged invasion and an inability to take effective action when it all started to go wrong. But also by his Machiavellian divide-and-rule policy that allowed the convicted criminal Prigozhin to build a powerful private army.

The Wagner leader has for months raged with impunity against government ministers and military commanders responsible for fighting the

war. He went further and further without being checked, and the events of the past few days were the inevitable consequence of the failure to bring him under control or get rid of him. Putin's ill-judgment can surely only be explained by the psychological toll of an unwinnable war taken on a man hitherto thought of by many as a political and strategic genius.

That aura has now vanished. Along with it, the reputation of an iron leader who cannot be crossed has gone, as he pardons the Wagner insurrectionists and, for the time being at least, allows their humiliated leader to scurry off into exile in Belarus. The many Kremlin watchers who until now believed Putin was beyond any internal challenge have been proved wrong. Prigozhin may have left the stage, but his actions have exposed Putin as a mere mortal. The Moscow elites, who have for decades depended on strong leadership, are now watching a regime falling to pieces. Calculations of self-preservation will have taken over from fear and respect for an infallible leader who brought them stability. Some have been hedging their bets with their own private armies. All of this throws the sharpest spotlight on the other front. A successful Ukrainian counter-offensive, that may have greater chances as a result of the turmoil inside Russia, could edge us closer to Putin's downfall, which in turn might lead to the collapse of the Russian army.

Mass migration is killing the Tories and they're now powerless to stop it

THE end of political reigns - when they finally come - tend to be remorselessly uncomplicated. John Major failed to craft Thatcherism with a human face. New Labour was exposed as a vacuous, even sinister, movement based on lies and spin. And now the Tories are set to be booted out ultimately because they have betrayed the country on immigration.

The Conservatives know in their bones that it is over. No?10 has been keen to play down the implosion of its plan to send illegal immigrants to Rwanda. The argument goes that the Court of Appeal ruled against the Government's policy last week on a mere detail about Rwanda's immigrant processing standards; with a bit of diplomatic fudge from Kigali, it is claimed, the Supreme Court could be adequately reassured to overturn the ruling in Downing Street's favour. This smacks of delusion. No doubt, the president of the Supreme Court, Lord Reed - who is said to be more sensitive to claims of "judicial overreach" than his predecessor, Lady Hale - will give the Government a fair hearing. But countering the judgment that Rwanda is not a safe third country will be no easy task.

And even if the Government does win at the Supreme Court, it will come much too late. After 13 years in power, the Tories need to go into the next election with not merely a colourful plan for tackling the small boats, but a demonstrable record of doing so. The party's last hope of building the kind of populist momentum that voters might think twice about jeopardising with a change of administration was a coherent (if ever so cynical) one. It has now been van-

quished. The Rwanda policy is dead - and with it any pretence of a Tory plan for getting control of the country's borders. It is a similar story with legal migration. The Conservatives came to power in 2010 promising to bring net migration down to the tens of thousands. With the figure now over 600,000 a year, the scale of its failure is so preposterous as to verge on parody. True, Boris Johnson did try to edge away from the vow, pledging instead to get a grip on migration by erecting a strict Australian-style points system. But the post-Brexit regime is a self-contradicting shambles. Higher processing fees are counteracted by low salary thresholds for visa sponsorship. Loopholes in the student visa programmes created a backdoor for the effective continuation of low to mid-skilled mass migration. Retail giants have been thrilled to find that they are essentially free to import as many South Asian software developers to run their vast new warehouses as they like. Meanwhile, the Home Office's flagship "Global Talent" visa scheme to fast-track the applications of world-leading scientists has been an embarrassing flop, receiving next to no applications amid uncertainty over science funding.

Some on the Right might charitably commend backbench calls this week for the Government to cut net migration by two thirds as a heroic last-ditch effort to avoid political carnage. But these are the panicked spasms of a party in its death throes. Tory MPs know full well that such a move, in the short term at least, would risk crashing the economy as

well as the social care system and the NHS. They are in utter denial that the party missed its chance to reduce immigration in a steady, sustainable fashion. And now it's game over. Within the Westminster bubble, one hears all too often the fatalistic argument that the problems of the Channel crossings and mass immigration were always too intractable to solve.

That might make MPs feel better about their failure, but it is simply not true. With the right attitude, the Tories could have fixed both. But they failed to grasp, upon coming to power, that their role was not merely to "clear up New Labour's mess". It was to address what has become nothing short of a civilisational challenge in the West: the implosion of an entire model of economic and political governance. After the financial crisis, the consensus that wealthy countries could continue to grow, financing expansive public services with a consumption-based economic model fuelled by cheap credit and cheap labour, came crashing down. The Syrian civil war, meanwhile, exposed the fact that the whole global refugee system is defunct. More people are eligible to claim asylum in Western countries in line with international human rights law than such nations will ever realistically be willing or able to take. Brexit was meant to be the great wake-up call that, in Britain, the status quo is not just economically terminal but politically unsustainable.

The Tories could have risen to this challenge. They could have done a serious deal with France some time ago to help nip the small boats issue in the bud. Paris mandarins have been

Sherelle Jacobs

The Telegraph



Progress on CPEC restored within year: Ahsan Iqbal

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister Planning, Development and Special Initiatives, Professor Ahsan Iqbal said here on Wednesday that progress on the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) has been put back at a position wherefrom the project would become a game-changer for regional development.

Addressing a ceremony here to mark a decade of the signing of CPEC, the minister said that unfortunately the project was scandalized by the previous regime and was totally

ignored.

He said, even the investors left Pakistan which caused huge damage to the game-changer CPEC project, the minister said adding that the incumbent government made efforts during the past one year and got the project back to rhythm.

“For last one year, we tried our best to get CPEC back to rhythm and gain investors’ confidence,” he said.

The minister said that \$29 billion projects under CPEC have either been completed or are nearing

completion adding that next target was to promote industrial cooperation to open up new opportunities for Pakistan.

He said, CPEC was not given proper attention after 2018 and the projects that were left by the previous region during past four years were accorded priority during past one year by the incumbent government.

He said, the issues related to water and power at Gawarar port were resolved during the past one year to address the grievances of people.

He said, as envisaged, by 2030, CPEC would help bring revolution in agriculture, industry, technology sectors, create new opportunities for country’s youth and get a deserving place for Pakistan in the region.

He recalled that ten years before, a MoU was signed in Beijing to strengthen economic relations between the two countries and help make Pakistan geo-economic hub by leveraging its geographical location and become centre for trade, commerce, manufacturing and agriculture centre.



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of United States of America to Pakistan Donald Blome meeting with Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar.

Services’ trade deficit narrows by 88 per cent

ISLAMABAD (APP): The services’ trade deficit shrank by 88.26 percent during the first eleven months of the fiscal year 2022-23 as compared to the corresponding period of previous year, Pakistan Bureau of Statistics has reported.

The services trade deficit was recorded at \$607.67 million during July-May (2022-23) against the deficit of \$5,175.24 million during July-May (2021-22).

The exports of services during the period increased by 3.38 percent by going up from \$6,438.33 million in 2021-22 to \$6,655.82 million in the first eleven months of FY2022-23, according to PBS data.

On the other hand, the imports declined from \$11,613.57 million to \$7,263.49 million in FY2023, showing negative growth of 37.46 percent.

Meanwhile, on year-on-year basis, the export of services increased by 19.77 percent by growing from \$15.14 million in May 2022 to \$16.96 million in May 2023.

However, services imports into the country decreased by 11.84 percent, from \$977.85 million to \$862.11 million.

On month-on-month basis, the export of services increased by 19.78 percent in May 2023 when compared to the imports of \$15.08 million in April 2023.

The imports of services also grew by 31.60 percent in May 2023 compared to imports of \$655.10 million in April 2023, PBS reported.

It is pertinent to mention here that the merchandise trade deficit a decline of 43.03 percent during the fiscal year 2022-23 as compared to the previous year (2021-22).

The trade deficit during July-June (2022-23) was recorded at \$27.547 billion against the deficit of \$48.354 billion in July-June (2021-22), a decline of 43.03 percent.

The exports during the period were recorded at \$27.744 billion against \$31.782 billion last year, showing a decline of 12.71 percent.

Karachi Port handled 41.85 million tons of cargo in FY 2022-23

KARACHI (APP): The Karachi Port handled 41.85 million tons import and export cargo and 1.93 million TEUs containers during financial year 2022-23, and 51.71 million tons cargo and 2.21 million TEUs containers during the financial year 2021-22.

Dry cargo, both import and export, closed at 30.63 million tons while the liquid bulk cargo, both import and export, closed at 11.22 million tons at the end financial year 2022-23 as compared to 36.64 million tons of dry and 15.07 million tons of liquid bulk cargo during the financial year 2021-22, a press

release said on Wednesday.

The breakup of the port operations showed that the volume of import cargo at the end of FY 2022-23 closed at 29.08 million tons as against 35.54 million tons in FY 2021-22. Similarly, liquid bulk cargo import registered 10.29 million tons in FY 2022-23 as compared to 14.07 million tons handled in FY 2021-22.

Likewise, export cargo of 12.78 million tons was handled at the port during FY 2022-23 as compared to 16.17 million tons in FY 2021-22.

The data of container handling at Karachi Port at

the end of financial year 2022-23 showed that 1.93 million TEUs (twenty feet equivalent unit) containers of the import and export including all private container terminals were handled at the port as compared to 2.21 million TEUs FY 2021-22.

The number of import containers remained 0.97 million TEUs while number of export containers remained 0.97 million TEUs as well during FY 2022-23.

The number of import and export containers was recorded 1.10 million TEUs and 1.11 million TEUs respectively a year ago.

ICCI for enhancing regional connectivity — to accelerate economic growth

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) Ahsan Zafar Baktawari Wednesday emphasized the need to enhance and strengthen regional connectivity to promote trade and business ties with these countries for achieving sustainable economic growth and social prosperity in the country.

In a statement, he said that economic development was not possible without strong linkages with regional and other developed economies of the world, adding that regions like European Union and ASEAN were great examples in this regard.

These regions have accelerated economic growth by improving connectivity through rail, direct air links and road networks.

He urged the need for strengthening regional connectivity through rail, road and direct air links and stressed the need for starting direct flights of Pakistan International Airlines to other countries of the world.

He also urged the government to announce a fast-track privatization program of PIA without wasting more money and capital in order to improve the efficiencies of the national airline.

He said that Pakistan was an important member of several regional and international groups including SAARC, D-8, ECO, SCO, and OIC, adding that due to the lack of railway, road and direct air links the existing trade and commercial benefits were still unexplored.

Training workshops held

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Ministry of National Food Security and Research in collaboration with Central Cotton Research Institute Multan organized pesticide management workshops for cotton growers in order to avoid their harmful impact on human health and the environment.

Meanwhile, about 25 master trainers were also trained for further disseminating training to growers on innovative crop sowing techniques, fertilizers and pesticide management to enhance the per-acre output

of cotton during the current season, said an official.

Talking to APP he said that over 100 farmers from different crop-producing areas were also trained on the latest production technology, which was aiming to attain higher per-acre cotton output to enhance local production of this major cash crop of the country.

Besides, the government was also working to ensure the availability of certified seeds for different crops including cotton, wheat, rice, maize and other major

and minor crops to enhance crop output to achieve sustainable agriculture growth and social development in the country.

In this regard, the track and traceability of certified seed was launched and the traceability data revealed that total cotton seed requirements were estimated at 41,048 metric tons, whereas seed availability was registered at 25,986 metric tons.

The wheat seed availability was recorded at 511,378 metric tons before the processing stage.

LCCI invites political parties to discuss charter of economy

LAHORE (APP): Lahore Chamber of Commerce & Industry (LCCI) has taken a proactive step in addressing Pakistan’s economic challenges by sending invitations to the heads of all political parties. The invitation, sent in the form of a letter, requesting their presence at the LCCI to participate in a comprehensive discussion on the crucial topic of the Charter of Economy (CoE), according to LCCI spokesman here on Wednesday.

In the letter, the LCCI President Kashif Anwar highlighted the daunting economic challenges facing the nation and underscored the need for consistency in economic policies.

LCCI firmly believes that a unified approach is imperative for dealing with

these challenges and transitioning towards sustainable economic growth, said Kashif Anwar, adding that in order to address these concerns, LCCI has formulated a draft of the Charter of Economy, which serves as a guiding framework for economic governance. The aim of this charter is to establish a minimum agenda that all political parties can include in their respective manifestos. By doing so, it ensures a level of consistency and continuity in economic policies, regardless of which party forms the government, he added.

President LCCI said the Charter of Economy is designed to create a working consensus among political parties on key economic issues. It provides a set of guidelines for policy formation and implementation, addressing areas such

as fiscal management, investment promotion, job creation, trade and commerce, and social welfare. By establishing a shared understanding and commitment to these principles, it aims to foster stability and predictability in economic decision-making, which is crucial for attracting domestic and foreign investment, he added.

He said that the objective of this invitation is to provide an opportunity for political leaders to share their views on the Charter of Economy and contribute to its development. The LCCI values their input and insights, as it believes that a collaborative approach is essential in shaping effective economic policies.

The invitation, he said, demonstrates LCCI’s commitment to fostering dialogue and inclusiveness in

economic decision-making. By actively seeking the involvement of political parties, the LCCI aims to create a platform for constructive discussions on economic issues. This collaborative effort will enable a diverse range of perspectives to be considered, leading to a more comprehensive and well-rounded approach to economic governance, he added.

As Pakistan grapples with economic challenges, the initiative taken by LCCI highlights the importance of collaboration and consensus-building between the private sector and political leaders, said Kashif Anwar, adding this dialogue sets the stage for productive discussions that can pave the way for a sustainable and prosperous economic future for the country.

Shipping activity at PQ

KARACHI (APP): Four ships namely, Maersk Chicago, Maersk Brooklyn, Huang Shan-16, Yankul Silver and N-Orhan carrying Containers, Palm oil and LPG, berthed at Container Terminal, Multi-Purpose Terminal, Liquid Terminal and SSGC Terminal respectively on Tuesday.

Meanwhile three more ships, MSC Lisbon, Southern Anoa and Milha Raslaffan carrying Containers, Palm oil and LNG also arrived at outer anchorage of the Port

Qasim during the last 24 hours.

PQA berths engaged by eight ships during the last 24 hours, out of them, three ships, Maersk Chicago, Maersk Brooklyn and Al-Marrouna left the port on Wednesday morning and two more ships, Aruna Berk and Chemroad Hope are expected to sail on same day.

A cargo volume of 116,444 tonnes comprising 90,604 tonnes imports cargo and 25,840 tonnes export cargo including con-

tainerized cargo carried in 2,873 Containers (1,353 TEUs imports and 1,520 TEUs export) was handled at the Port during last 24 hours.

Seven ships are at Outer Anchorage of Port Qasim, out of them, two ships, Milha Raslaffan and MSC Lisbon & two more ships Maersk Pelipas and Eva Usuki carrying LNG, Containers and Chemicals are expected to take berths PGPC, QICT and EVTL respectively on Wednesday.

Patriotism feeling of love, devotion for one’s country

Khawaja Wajih-u-Din

Patriotism is the feeling of love, devotion, and sense of attachment to one’s country. Universally, acceptable qualities of patriotic people are that they obey the law, respect authority, contribute to society, perform civic duties, are courteous and have respect for the rights of others. Other known traits of patriotism are trustworthiness, honesty, tolerance, belief in accountability and moral courage.

How many of us fulfill the aforementioned criteria of patriotism? Is it the socioeconomic frustration or the lack of proper systems in the country? Is it due to the earlier tug of war witnessed by people of my age? Is it because of lack of good governance or due to mudslinging of political rivals?

Serious hiccups in the history of this country have been witnessed recently. The question would be whether these reflect the mindset of people or

whether they fell pray to a poisonous propaganda. Point to ponder would be whether love for our homeland has replenished.

We hear from everybody that Pakistan was created after a lot of sacrifices. Millions left their homes to migrate to a newly built country. We have seen pictures of sea of people on the trains and traveling on foot on the way to the new country. Thanks to technology a lot of information is available online in this regard.

Pakistan television in early 70s had shown a drama on the subject which people of my age would still recall. Especially our younger generation do not have a clue of a life of a slave under imperialists. Similarly, they do not any idea about quantum of sufferings the ordinary people had to endure. Unfortunately, it is neither part of family discussions nor it has the society’s need for a debate. I have not seen any public awareness campaign which would apprise

our younger generation about the magnitude of sacrifices. As we were born in a free country therefore, most of us do not have an idea about the menace of slavery, and it’s impact on one’s mind, thought process and soul.

Millions of ordinary men (both young and old), women and children were maimed, humiliated and mercilessly killed in 1947. Some even preferred to kill their daughters with their own hands to protect their dignity and honor. The caravans of the refugees were plundered and horrific incidents of loot and plunder ever witnessed by the history were seen. Through a prior plan Muslims were disarmed to prevent them to counter use of force at the time of civil disorder ensuing the announcement of partition.

I remember my family elders telling me about the incidents eye-witnessed by them. My late father used to tell me that for days the trains arriving at the city railway station in Peshawar

and other stations in the country had only slaughtered bodies of humans including children. The children bodies were pierced through the sword / arrows or cut by axe. Most men and women had their bodies cut to pieces. Hardly anyone was alive, there was nothing else but blood in the arriving trains for weeks. The trains looked like a mince-meat shop or a slaughter house.

I also remember my parents telling me that there was a huge water supply (well) in the city of Amritsar. The Muslim girls in order to protect their modesty preferred to jump in the well and committed suicide to prevent rape etc. The well soon was filled to the brim. Those who are not fortunate enough to die were picked up by the rioters and plunderers and we’re sold to the prostitution houses after abusing them. No wonder you see many Muslims in the prostitution business in India.

History tells us that a commission was formed

for repatriation of refugees on both sides. One commissions meeting was held at “Waga” border near Lahore. My father’s cousin was posted as Station house officer of that area. He narrated an account which was eye witnessed by him. During the proceedings of the commission an eight months pregnant young lady complained in English. It definitely was very rare at that time. She introduced herself and disclosed that she belonged to a very renowned family. She narrated the horrible account of repeated rape on her, during the partition days, and hence the pregnancy. Neither her family nor anyone else was ready to take her back. The question she asked the commission was what was her fault and what she had done to deserve this fate. Everybody including the foreign dignitaries started crying and had no answer.

Lastly, I want to quote one incident narrated in “Shahab Nama”. In the

book titled “Shahab Nama” the late “Quadrat Ullah Shahab” had discussed about the plight of Muslims at the time of partition. It stated that the women’s private parts were searched as a matter of the routine even before the partition days and they were given the names of different shapes of mangoes and publicly ridiculed. Some unfortunate women had their private parts cut through sword or a knife during the migration. I wish “Shahab Nama” was part of the curriculum for the schools.

We should all pray to the God to save us from such catastrophe, horror, terror, disgrace and embarrassment. It really hurts me when I hear our own countrymen abusing their own country. You would see people saying typically that “this is Pakistan”. Some of those peoples forefathers were servants of the British Raj or were rewarded for siding with the British imperialism during the war of inde-

pendence of 1857.

The spirit of patriotism has to be nurtured. The carrot and stick policy cannot ensure that. Neither patriotism can be drummed down the throat of people. An environment which is conducive has to be created by the powers that be. The future of the country is directly connected with the future of the people of Pakistan. The sooner we understand it better it would be for the country.

No-fault lies with the country. We should assess ourselves to determine whether we fulfill the criteria of patriotism. We must understand that our country comes first and then our political affiliation or ideological thinking. It’s time that we learn to be proud patriotic Pakistanis. We should try to improve ourselves rather than indulging in blame games. All the educational institutions must take a lead in this regard.

(The writer is Ex-Registrar Peshawar High Court)

Court Notice

In the Court of Qaisar Khan Afridi Additional District Judge II/Azafi Zila Qazi Buner at Daggar, Appeal No. 63/13. Institution 7/6/2022. Date of hearing. 24/7/2023. Amanullah etc VS Mst. Taban etc. Notice to No 9. Mst. Sahira d/o Nowshad. 18. Rashedullah Bacha s/o Ahmadullah Bacha. 39/1/1. Mohamad Hasan. 39/1/4. Abdul Hasan sons of Mer Hasan late residents of Ambela tehsel Mandarn district Buner. Whereas in the above mentioned case the mentioned defendants can not be served in the ordinary way, it is, therefore, proclaimed that if the said defendants will/shall not appear personally or through dually authorized agent or pleader in the court at 8. am dated 24/7/2023 the proceeding will be taken ex-parte. Given under my hand and seal of this Court.

Court Notice

In the Court of Qaisar Khan Afridi Additional District Judge II/Azafi Zila Qazi Buner at Daggar, Appeal No. 163/13. Institution 30/8/2021. Date of hearing. 21/7/2023. Mst. Shamsul Huda VS Mst. Zareenai etc. Notice to No 7. Yaqoob Khan. 8. Bakhti Roz Khan. 9. Seraj Khan sons of Fazal Karim residents of Torwarsak tehsel Daggar district Buner. Whereas in the above mentioned case the mentioned defendant can not be served in the ordinary way, it is, therefore, proclaimed that if the said defendants will/shall not appear personally or through dually authorized agent or pleader in the court at 8. am dated 21/7/2023 the proceeding will be taken ex-parte. Given under my hand and seal of this Court.



In brief

Federal Hockey League

ISLAMABAD (PPI): Special Assistant to Prime Minister (SAPM) on Youth Affairs Shaza Fatima Khawaja inaugurated the Prime Minister Federal Hockey League here in Islamabad on Wednesday. Addressing the inaugural ceremony, she said the government is organizing Talent Hunt Youth Sports League across Pakistan under the Prime Minister's Youth Programme. She said around 11000 male and female hockey players participated in the Talent Hunt programme for the hockey league of federal areas, including Islamabad Capital Territory, Gilgit-Baltistan, and Azad Kashmir. Shaza Fatima Khawaja said the selected players will represent Islamabad and participate in the upcoming National Games next month along with other provincial teams. She said all possible facilities will be provided to young players to promote healthy activities among the youth. She said we have completed Talent Hunt Programmes in volleyball, wrestling, and weightlifting, while trials in football are continuing.

Man Utd seal swoop for Chelsea Mount

LONDON (AFP/AP): Manchester United signed England midfielder Mason Mount from Chelsea for a reported fee of £55 million (\$70 million) on Wednesday. Mount, who agreed a five-year contract, said he "can't wait to be part of this group's drive to win major trophies" at Old Trafford. The 24-year-old graduated from Chelsea's youth academy and made 129 Premier League appearances, scoring 27 goals. "It's never easy leaving the club where you grew up, but Manchester United will provide an exciting new challenge for the next phase of my career," Mount said. "Having competed against them, I know just how strong a squad it is that I'm joining, and I can't wait to be part of this group's drive to win major trophies."

England rest Anderson, Tongue

LEEDS (Agencies): England have made three changes for the third Ashes test against Australia which begins in Headingley on Thursday with Moeen Ali, Chris Woakes and Mark Wood named in the side as the hosts look to overturn a 2-0 deficit in the series. Fast bowlers James Anderson and Josh Tongue have been rested while vice-captain Ollie Pope has been ruled out of the rest of the series after dislocating his shoulder, which requires surgery. With Pope not in the squad, Harry Brook will be promoted to number three. Moeen came out of retirement for the first test but the spinner injured his finger, sitting out the second encounter at Lord's. Wood was not picked for the first two tests and England will welcome his fiery pace while Woakes's all-round ability will give the hosts depth in their batting lineup. Anderson is England's leading wicket-taker in tests (688) but the 40-year-old struggled to make an impact in the series with just three wickets in the first two matches. Tongue made his test debut against Ireland last month where he impressed with a five-wicket haul in the second innings and made his Ashes bow at Lord's, where he took five in two innings. ENGLAND SQUAD: Zak Crawley, Ben Duckett, Harry Brook, Joe Root, Jonny Bairstow, Ben Stokes (captain), Moeen Ali, Chris Woakes, Mark Wood, Ollie Robinson, Stuart Broad.



LONDON: Jodie Burrage of Great Britain plays a forehand against Daria Kasatkina in the Women's Singles second round match during day three of The Championships Wimbledon 2023.

Asian Rugby matches a welcome sign for future of rugby in our country: Wahab

LAHORE (APP): The holding of Asian Rugby Division 1 matches in Lahore is a welcome sign for the future of rugby in our country. This was stated by Adviser to Chief Minister Punjab on Sports and Youth Affairs Wahab Riaz while talking to media at the first match of Asian Rugby Championship between Pakistan and UAE at the Punjab Stadium on Tuesday night. It may be noted here that Sports Board Punjab is hosting Asian Rugby Division 1 matches between Pakistan and UAE in Lahore under the auspices of Pakistan Rugby Union (PRU). UAE outplayed Pakistan by a huge margin of 95-0 in the first match of 2-match series. Wahab Riaz was also introduced to both rugby teams and interna-

tional match officials prior to the rugby encounter. Director General Sports Punjab Dr. Asif Tufail, Director Youth Affairs Syed Umair Hassan, Director Sports Nadeem Qaiser, Pakistan Rugby Union President Arif Saeed, Chairman Fauzi Khawaja and several foreign guests were also present on this occasion. Speaking on the occasion Adviser to Chief Minister Punjab on Sports and Youth Affairs Wahab Riaz welcomed the UAE rugby team in Lahore. "Division One matches of Asian Rugby Championship will definitely encourage our players," he added. Wahab Riaz further said that the arrival of the UAE rugby team will promote the game of rugby among our young generation. "We

are taking effective measures to promote all kinds of sports across the province". Director General Sports Punjab Dr. Asif Tufail said the arrival of the guest team and officials for the Asian Rugby Division 1 matches is a good move. "There is a lot of rugby talent in Pakistan and this kind of international rugby matches will further promote the game of rugby in our country," he added. He further said that Sports Board Punjab is providing best facilities to guest rugby players and officials. "Rugby is very interesting game. It is a beautiful combination of power and technique". He said that playing alongside a top international rugby team is definitely a golden opportunity for our players to learn modern rugby skills.

Wimbledon 2023

Jodie loses to Daria, Arthur Fery beaten by Medvedev

LONDON (Agencies): Britain's Jodie Burrage looked overcome by nerves as her Centre Court debut at Wimbledon ended in an hour with defeat by 11th seed Daria Kasatkina. Burrage, 24, earned her first win at the All England Club on Monday but lost 6-0 6-2 to Kasatkina in round two. On Court One, 20-year-old Arthur Fery lost 7-5 6-4 6-3 to third seed Daniil Medvedev on his SW19 debut. Four more Britons are due to play on Wednesday, although Jan Choinski's match was called off after more rain. The wet weather played more havoc with the schedule on a day when 87 matches were scheduled, after downpours forced most of Tuesday's play to be postponed. However, day three also got off to a wet start and play on the outer courts started almost two hours later than planned at 12:45 BST. There was also another unplanned stoppage when environmental protesters ran on to Court 18, throwing confetti and a jigsaw on to the surface during the match between Bulgaria's Grigor Dimitrov and Japan's Sho Shimabukuro. Burrage seems overawed on Centre Court debut. Burrage was the first Briton to fall on Wednesday after appearing to be overawed by the occasion of playing on Centre Court. The British number two won just seven points in a 19-minute opening set and, after breaking early in the second set, saw her momentum ruined by a 20-minute rain delay. When the pair returned, Kasatkina won five straight games to reach the last 32. Making her debut on the iconic Centre Court was a richly deserved reward for Burrage, who has enjoyed the best year of her career. Burrage thought about quitting the sport in 2020 after a catalogue of injuries, resuming her career after deciding to persevere and reaching new heights this year. A run to the Nottingham Open final in June - the first WTA title match of her career and where she lost to fellow Briton Katie Boulter - lifted her to a career high of 106th in the world. The success on the British grass courts this summer continued with her maiden win in the Wimbledon main draw, a victory which left her fighting back the tears afterwards. Facing Russian world number 10 Kasatkina, who won the Eastbourne title last week, was always going to be a big step up in class for Burrage. After almost 40 minutes, Burrage finally got on the scoreboard early in the second set - to the great relief of the player and the home crowd. But the rain delay came at what felt like the worst possible time for the Briton and when they returned, Kasatkina again found her rhythm quicker. Burrage was given a rousing reception as she walked off court and can console herself with the knowledge she could break into the world's top 100 for the first time after the tournament.

Babar Azam moves down in ICC Test batters rankings

DUBAI (Agencies): Australia veteran Steve Smith is on the verge of regaining his place as the best Test batters in the world following a major shake-up on the latest ICC Men's Test Batters Rankings. Smith scored his 32nd Test century in a Player of the Match performance in the second Ashes Test at Lord's and it helped push the classy right-hander within one rating point of the top ranking in second place on the updated batters rankings. Smith was previously ranked sixth in the list. Consequently, Babar Azam, who held the fifth position with 862 rating points, has now dropped to sixth place. England star Joe Root relinquishes the premier position following scores of 10 and 18 against Australia, with injured New Zealand veteran Kane Williamson sliding up one place to claim the top ranking just one rating point ahead of Smith. It is the first time Williamson has held the No.1 ranking since August 2021, with the Kiwi having first risen to the top back in November 2015. Australia batters now occupy four of the top seven places on the Test

batter rankings, with Marnus Labuschagne (third), Travis Head (fourth) and Usman Khawaja (seventh) all within striking distance of the No.1 spot ahead of the eagerly awaited third Ashes Test against England this week at Headingley. Just 17 rating points separate the top five batters on the updated rankings list, meaning there could be more change ahead should players perform well in Leeds. England duo Ben Duckett (up 24 places to 18th) and Ben Stokes (up nine spots to 23rd) also made some ground on the latest Test rankings for batters following their strong efforts at Lord's, while a host of quicks also progressed well on the updated list for bowlers. Australia skipper Pat Cummins closes in on India spinner Ravichandran Ashwin by jumping two places to second overall on the latest Test rankings for bowlers, while teammate Mitchell Starc also gains two spots to rise to 14th. Cummins' rise is offset by a two-place loss for veteran seamer James Anderson from second to fourth, while England newbie Josh Tongue improves a mammoth 27 spots to 59th

after his impressive effort in London. Stokes (up one place to fourth) and Root (up one spot to seventh) make some ground on the list for Test all-rounders, with India duo Ravindra Jadeja (first) and Ashwin (second) maintaining the premier positions in that category. There was also some movement on the latest ODI rankings, with the ongoing ICC Men's Cricket World Cup Qualifier tournament in Zimbabwe already producing a host of highlights with both bat and ball. Ireland young gun Harry Tector has been among the runs and he rises one place to equal sixth on the updated rankings for ODI batters, while Netherlands captain Scott Edwards (up five places to 35) and consistent Sri Lanka star Pathum Nissanka (up eight spots to equal 38th) also make ground. It's status quo inside the top 10 on the ODI bowler rankings as Australia seamer Josh Hazlewood leads the way, with Sri Lanka spinner Maheesh Theekshana (up 21 places to 32nd) and impressive Scotland quick Chris Sole (up 23 spots to 39th) on the back of some good showings at the Cricket World Cup Qualifier.

Pakistani team reached Maldives to participate in the 13th South Asian Bodybuilding Championship



F.P. Report

MALE: Pakistan bodybuilding team has reached Maldives to participate in the 13th South Asian Bodybuilding Championship to be held in Male, Maldives. Long live Pakistan slogans by Pakistan team at Maldives Airport on their arrival. Pakistan Bodybuilding Team is participating in the event on the invitation of Maldives Government, Maldives Bodybuilding Association and Maldives Olympic Association. Shahzad Qureshi, Fazal Elahi, Ibrahim Khan, Shahzadullah included in

the Pakistan Bodybuilding Team. Pakistan Bodybuilding Association Secretary Sohail Anwar is hopeful that the team will show good performance and raise the green flag. Pakistan won three medals in the Asian Bodybuilding Championship in Maldives last year.

Coaching great Ancelotti takes on Brazil challenge



SAO PAULO (AFP/APP): Real Madrid's Italian coach Carlo Ancelotti is set to become the first foreigner in almost 60 years to coach Brazil's national team the president of the Brazilian Football Confederation (CBF) said on Tuesday. Ancelotti, 64, has a season remaining on his contract with Real, which he has said he would like to honour, and will take over Brazil in time for the Copa America, in the United States from June 2024. The Brazilian federation had announced earlier Fluminense's Fernando Diniz would take charge of the team for the coming year. "This guy (Diniz) is a coach who has a nice style of play," Ednaldo Rodrigues president of the CBF told CNN Brazil. "His style is similar to the coach whom I will assume the role at the Copa America, Ancelotti." The prize football-mad Brazil will want one of the most successful coaches in European football to deliver is a sixth World Cup trophy in 2026. It would be the first since 2002. The 2022 edition was especially galling for the Brazilians as they exited in the quarter-

finals, beaten by Croatia, and their bitter continental rivals Argentina lifted the trophy. Tite brought down the curtain on his six years in charge following their elimination. - 'Decent person' - Ancelotti's agreement to take over Brazil comes after months of negotiations with Rodrigues, who had the Italian at the top of the list. Ancelotti had said the Real job would be his last after almost 30 years as a coach, but one of the most glamorous and challenging jobs in football brought a change of mind. Brazilian hierarchy said they were attracted not only by Ancelotti's record of winning trophies but also by his laid-back character and ability to develop close relations with the players. "We went after him not only due to his record, but also because he is a decent person," Rodrigues told beIN Sports recently. "Those who have worked with him say that he is open, cultured, and he appreciates Brazilian football." One moment his love of Brazilian football was put on hold was when he was assistant coach to Arrigo Sacchi as Italy lost to Brazil

on penalties in the 1994 World Cup final. With Brazil, Ancelotti will have some familiar faces from Real Madrid. Vinicius Junior, Rodrygo and Eder Militao have been key players in his latest spell with Real which has resulted in six trophies. "He is the best coach in the world," said Vinicius, who has developed under Ancelotti and formed a close bond with the coach who supported the 22-year-old Brazilian when he was the target of racist abuse last season. Ancelotti will be the fourth non-Brazilian to coach Brazil. The last was Argentine Filpo Nunez who was in charge for one game in 1965. Ancelotti has won the Champions League twice with both AC Milan and Real Madrid. He has won domestic league titles with Real and Milan, in England with Chelsea, in Germany with Bayern Munich and in France with Paris Saint-Germain. Ramon Menezes has been in charge of the Brazil team since Tite stood down on a caretaker basis but will now hand over to Diniz. "Fernando Diniz will lead the Brazilian team for a year, and I'm sure he will do it with great competence, as always during his professional career," said Rodrigues in a video statement. Diniz, 49, will be in charge of the first six South American qualifying games for the 2026 World Cup this year, including the clashes with world champions Argentina and Uruguay.



HARARE: Brandon King celebrates his hundred.



In brief

Five drug peddlers netted

RAWALPINDI (APP): Rawalpindi police in an action against suspected drug peddlers conducted raids in different areas and rounded up five accused on recovery of over 7 kg charras. According to a police spokesman, Rawat police held Shoukat with 2430 grams charras and Kalar Syedan police rounded up Adnan Dawood on recovery of 1300 grams charras. Rattaamral police nabbed Badri Khan for carrying 1300 grams charras and Fazal ur Rehman with 1100 grams charras. Waris Khan police arrested Muhammad Aslam for having 1250 grams charras. Separate cases have been registered against all accused while further investigations are underway. City Police Officer, Rawalpindi had directed the police officers to accelerate ongoing operations against drug peddlers, bootleggers and other lawbreakers, he added.

NHMP recover stolen vehicle

ISLAMABAD (APP): National Highways and Motorway Police (NHMP) on Wednesday recovered a stolen vehicle from Lahore near Islamabad Toll Plaza and arrested two suspects. According to a spokesperson of Motorway Police, a suspicious carry van was stopped by the NHMP personnel at Main Toll Plaza on M-1 Islamabad. On questioning, the two suspects in the vehicle, Abid and Waseem, could not give a satisfactory answer about the vehicle. When the Motorway Police collected information using other resources, it was found that the said vehicle was stolen from Chong area of Lahore. On getting this information, both the suspects were arrested on the spot. Later, Chong Lahore police and the original owner of the carry van reached the spot with the copy of the registered FIR. Both the accused and the carry van were handed over to Chong police for further legal action. The Punjab Police and the original owner of the vehicle appreciated the Motorway Police for recovery of the stolen vehicle.

'Student's issues must be resolved'

ISLAMABAD (INP): President, International Islamic University Islamabad (IIUI), Dr. Hathal Hamoud Alotaibi has directed that students facilitation must be a top priority and it must be ensured that their issues must be solved within hours through one window operation. In order to address the issues and solution of academic matters of the students at earliest, the IIUI President has constituted a committee instructing that the SOPs for newly established Students Facilitation Centre must be prepared within a week. A meeting of the committee constituted by President IIUI for preparation of SOPs of the newly established Students Facilitation Centre (male & female) at International Islamic University Islamabad, was held here at new campus on Wednesday. Chaired by Dean Faculty of Sciences Prof. Dr. Muhammad Irfan Khan, the meeting was attended by members of committee including Prof. Dr. Najeeba Arif, Dean Faculty of Languages and Literature, Prof. Dr. Zafar Iqbal, Dean Faculty of Social Sciences, Prof. Dr. Muhammad Sarwar, Dean Faculty of Education, Dr. Ibrar Anwar, Provost, Male, Dr. Bushra Hassan, Assistant Prof. Faculty of Social Sciences, Mr. Ahsan Mirza, Director BIC, Mr. Noman Mashal, In-Charge (Admissions) and other relevant officials.



ISLAMABAD: The outgoing Ambassador of Qatar in Pakistan, Sheikh Saoud Abdurahman Al Thani calls on the Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif.

Chairman CDA reviews dengue prevention arrangements in ICT

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairman, CDA / Chief Commissioner, ICT Noor ul Ameen Mangel on Wednesday reviewed the arrangements for dengue prevention preparedness and dengue prevention activities to keep vigilance and proper check on dengue larva from rural and urban area of ICT.

Chairman CDA reviewed these arrangements during a meeting held here, was also attended by the Commissioner Rawalpindi Liaqat Ali Chattha. Member Environment, Member Finance, DC ICT, DC Rawalpindi DG Health Services, DG Environment, DDG Civic Management, and relevant staff of the DHO, ICT attended the meeting. Chairman, CDA / Chief Commissioner, ICT directed the relevant formation heads to ensure consistent surveillance of potential dengue breeding spaces

and persistent liaison with other departments.

He further directed to Director Health Services, MCI to hire additional 200 personal / work force for a period of three months on daily paid labour for reinforcement of existing work force. Chairman, CDA / Chief Commissioner, ICT directed the Deputy Commissioner, ICT to engage a team for the training of existing and newly hired staff to tackle any dengue related situation.

Chairman, CDA / Chief Commissioner, ICT directed the Environment Wing for the prevention from dengue specific trimming of trees and uprooting of unnecessary plants in the entire city. The activity will be further reinvigorated in the coming days.

Chairman, CDA / Chief Commissioner, ICT directed the DDG (CM) to provide 150 Reflected Jackets for the workforce, so that

they should be prominent in the field during their duty hours. Chairman Capital Development Authority / Chief Commissioner Islamabad Noorul Amin Mengal while issuing instructions further said that the washrooms and ablution rooms of all the mosques should be visited in collaboration with the Awqaf Department so that dengue can be eradicated from its larva.

During the meeting Deputy Commissioner, ICT briefed the chair and participants about preparedness of CDA, ICT and MCI staff to tackle any dengue related situation being a preventive from dengue is administrative and social responsibility. All relevant formations of CDA, MCI, ICT Administration and Rawalpindi Administration would further gear up their dengue prevention activities to keep vigilance and proper check on dengue larva.

No fuel for motorcyclists without helmet

RAWALPINDI (APP): The district administration Rawalpindi has issued orders to petrol pumps for not supplying fuel to motorcyclists without helmet. Now, motorcyclists without helmets cannot buy fuel in Rawalpindi.

In a press release issued here on Wednesday, Chief Traffic Officer (CTO) Taimoor Khan said that there would be no fuel for motorcyclists without helmets. Along with displaying banners at petrol pumps, written orders have also been issued. To ensure adherence to helmets, petrol pumps are being secretly monitored, he told.

Legal action will be taken against petrol pumps for supplying petrol to motorcycle riders without helmets, Khan said. Special squads and teams have also been formed to implement the use of helmets, he said. The traffic police also issued 1604 challan tickets for not wearing a helmet. Use a helmet for your own safety, he said the education unit is also providing an awareness campaign about the importance of helmets.

NA Speaker condemns airstrikes, raids by Israeli occupation forces

ISLAMABAD (NNI): Speaker Raja Pervaz Ashraf has vehemently condemned the deadly airstrikes and raids carried out by Israeli occupation forces on a Palestinian refugee camp in Jenin. He also deplored that the dispossession and displacement of Palestinians from their homes by the aggressive Israeli forces are unacceptable.

Speaker said that the recurring instances of unlawful raids and assault on the innocent Palestinian men, women and children raises serious concerns on the international laws prohibiting such hate-fueled

incidents. The freedom of expression has also been tarnished by the Israeli forces and such blatant violations exposed the dark character of the Zionist reign of Israel, Speaker remarked.

He stressed that the United Nations and the International Community as a whole should not only strongly condemn this blatant violation of human rights and rights of refugees, but also take all necessary actions to ensure the complete protection and provision of human rights of Palestinians.

The National Assembly

of Pakistan stands in complete solidarity with Palestinian brothers and sisters in these testing times and continue to extend unwavering support to them in their legitimate struggle to achieve the right to life, right to freedom, and most importantly right to self-determination, he added. Speaker Ashraf reiterated a call for viable, independent and contiguous Palestinian State, with pre-1967 borders and Al-Quds Al-Sharif as its capital, in accordance with the relevant United Nations and OIC resolutions.

Saudi Arabia begins issuing e-visas for Umrah

ISLAMABAD (APP): Saudi Arabia's Ministry of Hajj and Umrah has started issuing electronic visas for Umrah, as part of its efforts to enable more Muslims to come to the Kingdom to perform the Umrah pilgrimage and facilitate its procedures for them. This comes along with raising the quality of Umrah services to achieve the goals of Saudi Vision 2030.

The ministry stated that people who seek electronic visas can submit applications at the Nusuk platform. The Nusuk platform facilitates the arrival procedures for Muslims worldwide to visit Makkah and Madinah, provides housing choices, residence and transportation services, in addition to easy access to a package of enrichment information and interactive maps in several languages, SPA reported.

The Ministry of Hajj and

Umrah previously announced, in cooperation with the concerned authorities, that holders of tourist visas from the Gulf Cooperation Council of Arab states and holders of Schengen visas can book Umrah appointments via the Nusuk application.

The Hajj and Umrah Ministry also facilitates procedures for holders of different types of visas. Facilities provided by the Ministry of Hajj and Umrah to the Umrah performers are a part of new legislation that is recently adopted and include reducing the insurance fees for Umrah performers by 63% while maintaining the sustainability of health services for them, issuing the Umrah visa in less than 24 hours, and extending the Umrah visa from 30 days to 90 days, with no health requirements. The updated procedures of Umrah also permit women to perform the Umrah without a male guardian (mahram).

IRSA releases 342,800 cusecs water

ISLAMABAD (APP): Indus River System Authority (IRSA) on Wednesday released 342,800 cusecs water from various rim stations with an inflow of 394,000 cusecs. According to the data released by IRSA, water level in River Indus at Tarbela Dam was 1512.00 feet and was 114.00 feet higher than its dead level of 1,398 feet.

Water inflow and outflow in the dam was recorded as 191,500 cusecs and 190,700 cusecs respectively. The water level in River Jhelum at Mangla Dam was 1186.30 feet, which was 136.30 feet higher than its dead level of 1,050 feet. The inflow and outflow of water was recorded 60,400 cusecs and 10,000 cusecs respectively. The release of water at Kalabagh, Taunsa, Guddu and Sukkur was recorded as 214,100, 181,800, 151,400 and 89,700 cusecs respectively. Similarly, from River Kabul, a total of 56,300 cusecs of water released at Nowshera and 59,800 cusecs released from River Chenab at Marala.

PBSA appreciates South Korean Ambassador services for Pak

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: National Commissioner Pakistan Boys Scouts Association (PBSA) Sardar Waqar Shahzad attend farewell party of South Korean Ambassador H.E. Suh

Sangpyo in Islamabad. Sardar Waqar thanked Suh Sangpyo for his efforts to strengthen cordial relations in both countries. His special interest in Buddhist Gandhara Heritage, promoting Taekwondo sports and flood relief efforts

were few activities to be remembered.

PBSA commissioner granted good wishes for his next posting, and hope for further strengthening of people to people contact between Pakistan and South Korea.



CUI hold Design and Fine Arts Thesis Show

ISLAMABAD (APP): Thesis Show of graduates of the Department of Art and Design at COMSATS University Islamabad (CUI) opened at COMSATS Art Gallery, featuring a variety of visual art forms. The event was inaugurated by the Counselor of Education Embassy of Türkiye in Pakistan, Dr. Mehmet Toyran along with Rector CUI, Prof. Dr. Sajid Qamar. Ms. Dorothea Berezicki, First Secretary for German Embassy in Pakistan also graced the occasion as a guest of honor. The 11th Thesis Show of 'B.Design' included the works of 20 graduates, while eight students of Bachelor of Fine Arts displayed their works in their first Thesis Show.

Thesis Show of this year presented a wide variety of Visual Art forms. From graphic design and communication design to illustrations, videography, painting, digital art, animations, printmaking, and even miniature painting, with both traditional and contemporary techniques.

Addressing the event, Counselor of Education Embassy of Türkiye in Pakistan, Dr. Mehmet Toyran, as a chief guest, said: "The significance of four years of individual research and creative studio practice reflect through the student's work

on a particular design narrative and brings it into a tangible form in their chosen major field of design practice".

Ms. Dorothea Berezicki said that students have honed their abilities to articulate the concepts, techniques, and intentions behind their creations, and that their work resonates deeply with viewers.

Speaking on the occasion, Dean Faculty of Architecture and Design, Dr. Shahid Mansoor also praised the work of students and expressed her pleasure over the tremendous response the graduating students received from the audience.

Acting Rector, CUI, Prof. Dr. Sajid Qamar congratulated the graduates and said he felt proud to see the remarkable work of his students. He said that the students had set a benchmark for the batches to come and wished all the students achieve much more in their professional lives. Speaking at the occasion the Chairperson of the Department of Art and Design, COMSATS University Islamabad, Ms. Farrah Mahmood, said that the department had always placed a strong emphasis on providing quality education in Visual Art, cultivating the inner creativity of individuals, and allowing originality to flourish.

PTA develops user friendly Complaint Management System

ISLAMABAD (APP): In order to address formidable challenges in this era of social and digital media regarding the uploading of unlawful online content, the Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) has developed a user friendly Complaint Management System (CMS), accessible at its website as well as through mobile app.

The CMS is available through the link: <http://complaint.pta.gov.pk/RegisterComplaint.aspx> and can be downloaded at Play Store and Appstore.

According to an article written by a senior official of PTA, Muhammad Farooq, "Raising public awareness about the complaint registering mechanism provided by social media platforms, as well as the mechanism provided by PTA, will facilitate the lodging of complaints concerning unlawful online content".

The article titled "The Role of Timely Reporting Unlawful Online Content" elaborates that any aggrieved person can lodge the complaint to PTA by selecting a relevant category such as Anti-State, Sectarian, etc while incomplete or wrong information may cause rejection of the complaint or delay in processing complaint.

For public guidance, a video "How to Report Unlawful Online Content" has been uploaded on PTA's official Youtube channel (@ptaofficialpk).

Social media strive to ensure a safe platform for users through self-regulation, which involves the issuance of community guidelines and standards. It is essential for the public to familiarize themselves with these community standards/guidelines of these platforms. These guidelines provide a framework of rules aimed at creating a safe environment for users to interact and share information. They also include advice on illegal and prohibited actions that may result in the permanent suspension of user accounts.

Timely reporting of unlawful content that goes against the community guidelines/standards is crucial for its early removal and the permanent banning of repeat offenders. Social Media (SM) platforms actively encourage users to approach them directly to seek missing or additional information needed for the timely resolution of issues.

PTA has provided a list of URLs for major SM platforms where complaints can be lodged that is accessible at http://www.pta.gov.pk/assets/media/sm_platforms_09032020.pdf.

Additionally, WhatsApp, known for its end-to-end encryption, encourages its users to report unlawful content within the app itself. Users can do so by long-pressing the unlawful message and selecting the 'report' option. Awareness of unlawful online content and its reporting to SM plat-

forms/PTA will ensure safe, responsible and secure use of cyberspace, the article said.

In the past, broadcasters/telecasters held complete control over the content to be broadcasted or telecasted, ensuring the avoidance of inappropriate or unlawful programs.

However, with the emergence of the internet, this control has shifted to internet users, who can now easily upload and share their content online with just a few clicks. Consequently, the uploaded content becomes instantly accessible to millions of users worldwide.

The advent of this new era has presented formidable challenges, particularly in relation to the uploading and sharing of violent, harmful, and indecent content. Such content has the potential to significantly impact society at large without undergoing essential scrutiny by the concerned regulators. Timely identification and removal of unlawful content is crucial in minimizing its impact. While social media companies employ Artificial Intelligence (AI) algorithms, these AI systems are still in the learning phase and require time to reach maturity.

Consequently, companies are currently dependent on a complaint-based mechanism, where the public reports unlawful content, and content moderators at the company's end analyze the reported content.



ISLAMABAD: A family enjoying ride on camel at F-7 in Federal Capital.

Police arrests 25 criminals

KABUL (Agencies): Twenty-five people were arrested by police on charges of robbery, murder, gambling, fraud and running away from home. The police have arrested 25 people on charges of robbery, murder, gambling, fraud and running away from home in seven provinces of the country, the Ministry of Interior said in a statement. Among these, seven gamblers and two others on charges running away from home from Kunduz, three thieves and another on charges fraud.

Outdated food destroyed

KABUL (Agencies): Kabul municipality collected and destroyed about 37 tons of outdated and low-quality food and sanitary materials from the markets of Kabul City. The materials include milk, sour cream, biscuits, cooking oil, cheese, canned beans, fish, and all kinds of soft drinks and sanitary materials, which were collected from the markets of Kabul city during the inspection of the Environmental Health and Environment Board of Kabul Municipality in the last two months.

150 Afghans died by natural disasters in recent months

KABUL (Khaama Press): Afghanistan's State Minister for Disaster Management has announced that at least 151 people died and more than 200 others injured in different parts of the country due to natural disasters in the past three months. Shafiullah Rahimi, the spokesperson o the State Ministry for Disaster Management on Tuesday shared the latest figures with the local media. As a result of natural disasters in the past months, 151 people were killed, 255

others were injured, and 2,162 residential houses were destroyed in different parts of Afghanistan, according to Rahimi. Afghanistan is one of the countries seriously affected by climate change and is least prepared to counter the threats caused by climate change. Besides the dire economic situation and humanitarian crisis, the people of Afghanistan are currently plagued with, climate change and lack of responsible institutions are other major challenges adversely

affecting the ordinary people's lives. According to the latest statistic released by the Taliban's State Ministry for Disaster Management, over 3,299 livestock have died and more than 15,000 acres of agricultural land were also destroyed during the last three months. Equipped with the least equipment and facilities, the Taliban authorities can't do much to help people affected by the latest natural disasters including flash floods and heavy rains in diffident parts of the country.

Kandahar grapes being exported to Pakistan daily



KABUL (Agencies): Local officials in Kandahar province said on Wednesday that the export of grapes from the province has started, with up to 400 tons currently being exported to Pakistan a day. Officials said the grapes are being transported overland in refrigerated trucks, through Spin Boldak. However, traders have asked for more facilities at the customs point in order to prevent the grapes from spoiling. Local farmers have meanwhile said the grapes are of a high quality. "We are trying hard to

export grapes. First we cut with a saw, then we cut with scissors, then we move the grapes in a net and load it into the containers and turn on the cooler to cool the grapes and prevent them from spoiling," said Qadrattullah, a grape farmer in Kandahar. According to the local officials, about 20 refrigerated trucks are loaded with grapes every day and drive through to Pakistan. A number of traders in Kandahar say that trucks loaded with grapes are inspected, which is contrary to an agreement, and

the inspection process is time-consuming and can spoil the grapes, so they want facilities to be provided at Spin Boldak Customs to prevent this. On the other hand, officials in the Fresh Fruit Export Commission say that the problem in Spin Boldak is not big and they are trying to solve it. According to statistics, 250,000 tons of fresh fruits were exported from Kandahar last year. Officials say that this year, due to the increase in fruit yields, the amount of exports will also increase.

Traffic accident kills one, injures five in Bamyan



BAMYAN (Khaama Press): At least one person was killed and five others were injured after a minibus overturned in the central province of Bamyan, according to a provincial official. According to the statement released on Wednesday, a minibus turned turtle on the Highway in the Shabar area, killing one person on the spot and injuring five others. The statement also said that all the injured, including women and children, were taken to the provincial

hospital for medical treatment. A similar incident occurred on the Kabul-Bamyan highway, injuring six people, according to provincial officials in central Bamyan province. The incident occurred on Tuesday near the Fatemisti village near the provincial capital of Bamyan, and all the injured people were transferred by traffic personnel to Bamyan provincial hospital for treatment. The incident occurred when two Toyota Corolla vehicles collided on the Bamyan highway, a provin-

cial official said. Traffic officials previously told the media that over the Eid holidays, there were more than 100 vehicle accidents nationwide, resulting in at least 132 injuries and 66 fatalities. On Tuesday, another incident occurred in the eastern Laghman province in which five people were injured. According to officials, the major factors for the traffic accident in the country were a lack of safety measures, reckless driving, dilapidated roads, and not following the traffic rules.

Nimroz farmers says strong winds ruining harvest

NIMROZ (TOLOnews): Strong winds in Nimroz are causing major challenges for farmers in this province. Farmers in the province said that the winds have caused their water and agricultural lands to dry up. Per Mohammad, a resident of Zaranj city, said that he supports his 4-member family through agriculture, but the strong winds have caused serious damage to his agricultural products. "This year we planted,

but because of the strong winds we could not harvest, and our water has also dried up," said Per Mohammad. "The strong winds don't allow us to harvest our crops," said Mohammad Ibrahim, a resident of Nimroz. "The strong winds have caused a lot of damage to the people, and we clean our shops three or four times a day, but we are still suffering from the dust," said Sharfuddin, a resident of Nimroz.

From the medical point of view, these storms cause various ailments such as asthma and lung cancer. "Air pollution is one of the environmental hazards that plays an important role in the occurrence of diseases for humans, such as asthma, lung cancer, low weight in children, or other diseases," said Mujahid Samim, a doctor. Meanwhile, the local officials of Nimroz pledged to support the farmers

All languages and sectors of society represented in govt: IEA

KABUL (Agencies): The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, said, in response to the Shanghai Cooperation Organization's (SCO) call to establish an inclusive government in Afghanistan, that in the Islamic Emirate there are representatives of every language and sectors of society within the government structures. The ministry said on Wednesday in a statement that the concerns of the member countries of SCO regarding the composition of the Afghan government can be resolved by recognizing the reality of the situation. The ministry, however, has appreciated the part of the declaration that advocates building Afghanistan as an independent, neutral, united, democratic and peaceful state, free from terrorism, war and drugs, and which stresses the importance of assistance to refugees and facilitating their return to their homeland.

The ministry also said that participation in the meetings of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, of which Afghanistan is an observer member, is the absolute right of the Islamic Emirate, and the Islamic Emirate's absence in such meetings is an obstacle to coordination to prevent insecurity and prevent drug trafficking, humanitarian assistance and implementation of infrastructure projects. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs said that grounds should be paved for the participation of the Afghan government in the upcoming meeting of the leaders of the SCO, which is expected to be held in Kazakhstan.

Afghan refugees face homelessness problem

KABUL (Agencies): Afghan asylum seekers in the UK are facing a permanent problem of homelessness due to the lack of housing in that country. Local associations in different cities of the UK have been forced to temporarily accommodate Afghans evacuated from Afghanistan due to severe housing shortages, the UK Immigration Office has said. Meanwhile, the list of house requests is long, thousands of Ukrainians, Syrians, Afghans, and citizens of other countries are included in this list, but access to houses for applicants is subject to the conditions and even the discretion of the authorities, and thus it is far from The request of Afghan refugees, who are forgotten people among Syrian and Ukrainian refugees, should be considered.

Local associations in the UK, which are mostly responsible for checking immigrants, have said that the authorities plan the transfer of refugees based on their own criteria, and in this category, Afghans are ranked lower than Ukrainians, Syrians, etc. Urban associations in British, referring to the history of assisting refugees and resettling in this country, have stated that the pressure on them day by day.

Potzel calls for access to edu, work for women

KABUL (TOLOnews): The UN deputy special representative for Afghanistan Markus Potzel said that if the issue of female education, and their work for international NGOs, national NGOs, and UN organizations is resolved, he "could imagine that Afghanistan would be integrated into the international community again." Speaking to UN News, Potzel said in a speech that women have the right to participate in society. The UN deputy special representative for Afghanistan asked the current Afghan government to revoke the restrictions on females as soon as possible. "Otherwise, there will always be a shadow on the relations Afghanistan has with the international community."



"I think that the de facto authorities in Afghanistan should let girls go to school beyond grade six. They should let girls go to university. They should let women work for international NGOs, for national NGOs, and for UN organizations. And they should let women participate in social life. If this happens, I can imagine that Afghanistan would be integrated into the international community again, and international donors would also rethink and probably reinforce engagement with Afghanistan," Potzel noted. Potzel further stated that UNAMA is attempting to foster cooperation and help the Afghan government get out of isolation. "We think isolation is not an option, at least not a good option, for the future

of Afghanistan." Political experts said that Afghanistan may overcome its political isolation by acceding to the legitimate demands of the international community. "Afghanistan's problems are internal, political and related to the Islamic Emirate. The Islamic Emirate should start a dialogue with the Afghans, and then it is possible for foreigners to interact with them," said Wahid Faqiri, an international relations expert. Previously, the Islamic Emirate has said that the issue of women in Afghanistan is one of the country's internal issues and other institutions and countries should not interfere.

Campaign starts to reopen schools and universities

KABUL (TOLOnews): University professors, women's rights activists, and religious clerics have launched a campaign called "Education of Afghan Girls," with the goal of reopening schools and universities for females in the country. The campaign's organizers said that despite their requests to reopen the nation's schools and universities during the past two years, no action has been taken. They said that they would keep campaigning until girls were allowed to attend schools and universities. "The campaign for girls' education in Afghanistan has been launched as a national initiative, and this campaign will continue until the doors of schools and universities are opened for girls," said Fazl Hadi Wazeen, a religious cleric. "This campaign's goal is to ensure the rights of students above the sixth grade

and female students in public and private universities," said Abeda Majidi, a university lecturer. Meanwhile, some girls said that they have been faced with an uncertain future after the closure of schools for girls above sixth grade in the country. "If we don't study, it is clear that in the future there will be neither good doctors nor good teachers in our country," said Setara, a student. "We ask the Taliban to

open the doors of the schools for us. We want to study and serve our country," said Ghazal, another student. The country's schools for female students above the sixth grade have been closed for more than 650 days. Even though this issue sparked a wide range of national and international reactions, so far there has been no word about the reopening of educational institutions for girls in the nation.

Iron smelting plant inaugurated in Kabul city

KABUL (TOLOnews): An iron smelting factory opened in Kabul with a \$10 million investment. Some officials of the current Afghan government spoke at the factory's the opening ceremony about the Islamic Emirate leadership's unwavering support for all investors and businesspeople in the nation. Speaking during the ceremony, Nooruddin Azizi, the acting Minister of Industry and Commerce (MoIC), said Afghanistan provides investment possibilities and that the Islamic Emirate supports all businesspeople and investors. According to Azizi, businessmen who made money from Afghanistan and invested outside of Afghanistan are the enemies of the people. "Whoever collects money from the impoverished, orphans, captives, and the poor inside Afghanistan, then goes to Dubai and makes investments there, in fact, they are our enemy, and we must hold them accountable," Azizi said. "We ask all the national investors who are outside the country to understand the current circumstances,



take advantage of the security opportunity that is available in Afghanistan, and come to the country and invest in different sectors like this iron smelting factory inside their country," said Abdul Latif Nazari, Deputy of the Ministry of Economy. This iron smelting factory has provided employment for around 700 people in Kabul. Meanwhile, officials of various areas of the private sector want to support Afghanistan's domestic production and asked

the Islamic Emirate to provide them with more investment facilities. "We currently have 42 plants in the iron smelting industry, we desperately need the mines to be available to so that we can extract them, because we have the support of the government and the Ministry of Commerce. We have full capacity in this sector," said Abdul Nasir Reshtia, the executive director of the union of iron smelting factories. "There are investors, customers and opportunity

in Afghanistan in mining, in industry, in Afghanistan's waters, and agriculture. Trust me that there is a treasure in every corner of Afghanistan. Every corner of the country is an opportunity," said Sakhi Ahmad Paiman, deputy of the Chamber of Industries and Mines. According to data from the Union of Iron Smelting Factories, 42 steel production factories are now active in the nation, and nearly \$500 million have been invested in this industry.

Panjshir hosts about 2,000 domestic tourists daily



PANJSHIR (Agencies): Local officials in Panjshir said that the number of domestic tourists in Panjshir has increased significantly. The provincial head of information and culture of Panjshir, Mawlana Nasrullah Malekzada told BNA that as the weather in the country warms up, about two thousand domestic

tourists from different provinces enter Panjshir daily and visit the scenery and natural attractions of this province. The Department of Tourism strives to organize information to guide tourists and introduce the natural attractions and the possibility of tourism in the Brochure so that tourists stay away from the person-

al properties of the residents of Panjshir and observe the principles and rules of tourism in this province. Panjshir, with its suitable weather in the summer season, beautiful natural waterfalls, roaring sea, natural attractions, and tourist places, has recently attracted many domestic and foreign tourists.

Police raids PTI’s workers’ residences without female personnel: PHC told

Ali Muhammad Khan arrested seven times; Court reissued notices for submission of record

Hamayun Khan

PESHAWAR: Peshawar High Court (PHC) has stopped police from illegal harassment of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) while ordered respondents to submit reply regarding raids on political worker’s residences, on Wednesday.

PHC’s divisional bench comprised of Justice Abdul Shakoor and Justice Arshad Ali heard PTI 231 activists’ writ while Muzzam Butt Advocate appeared before court and argued that police had enlisted PTI’s workers and now raiding their residences.

The counsel argued that police has violated sacredness of home while most of the time raids are conducted without female personnel on PTI’s workers’ residences. He added that Khyber Pakhtunkhwa has its own customs and norms in which police cannot entered to houses but female personnel conducting search inside the residences. The counsel argued that petitioners are harassing due their political affiliation with specific party and added police act is unconstitutional and illegal. He argued that no case has registered against the petitioner’s workers.

In the meantime, Justice Arshad Ali inquired regarding cause of harassment of petitioners, however, the counsel argued that their political affiliation with PTI is the cause of nuisance while requested to stop actions against the applicants.

PHC has declared that no one can be harassment illegally and ordered respondents to submit reply while adjourned further hearing. The same bench of PHC has reissued notices another case to Chief Secretary, Inspector General of Police and Secretary Home Khyber Pakhtunkhwa along with other respondents to submit reply regarding

cases registered against PTI’s leaders named Murad Saeed and Senator Azam Swati across the province.

The counsel for petitioner Shah Faisal Otmankhel Advocate and Additional Advocate General Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Danyal Asad Chamkani appeared before court. The counsel argued that police is raiding houses of PTI’s leaders Senator Azam Swati and former Federal Minister Murad Saeed and harassing them. He argued that the petitioners are law abiding citizen and served in the highest public offices while added that they approached competent regarding cases against them but to no veil.

The counsel requested for provision of record against PTI’s leaders to contest their cases before court of law and added that petitioners didn’t obtained copies of First Information Report (FIRs) and cases registered them despite several pleas before competent authorities. The counsel argued that provision of cases against every citizen is constitutional right but petitioners are harassed due to raids on their residences while added that to stop Chief Secretary, IGP and Secretary Home from raids on petitioners’ homes without warrant.

Additional Advocate General Danyal Asad Chamkani argued that the writ can’t maintainable because neither petitioners nor their family member approached the court and added that several judgements is available in this regard. However, the counsel argued that it is Public Interest Litigation (PIL) and added that one petitioner is Senator named Azam Swati while Murad Saeed is former Member National Assembly while PHC reissued notices to respondents.

Similarly, another PHC’s division-

al bench comprised of Justice SM Attique Shah and Justice and Justice Waqar Ahmad ordered Anti-Corruption Establishment and National Accountability Bureau (NAB) to submit record of FIRs and pending inquiries against former State Minister Ali Muhammad Khan. Barrister Yasin Raza appeared on behalf of government while Ali Zaman Advocate appeared as counsel for Ali Muhammad Khan before court during hearing.

The counsel requested for provision of record of FIRs at once because former MNA Ali Muhammad Khan has obtained bails in the cases but rearrested following his release from prison for seven times consecutively. Barrister Yasin Raza argued that petitioner can’t be exempted from arrest in every case on single order and added that record of cases has already provided to court while added that record should also be provided.

NAB Prosecutor Salman Fayyaz and Deputy Attorney General Hazrat Syed appeared before court while PHC ordered to produce record of all cases and pending inquiries within seven days before court. In the meantime, Shah Faisal Advocate appeared on behalf of former provincial Minister Atif Khan and requested for provision of record of cases registered against the PTI’s leader.

Additional Advocate General Danyal Asad Chamkani objected that Atif Khan didn’t appeared before court but Nadeem Shah Advocate has filed the writ and argued that the petition did not maintainable. However, PHC’s divisional bench comprised of Justice SM Attique Shah and Justice Waqar Ahmad declared that this bench can’t hear Atif Khan petition, so, today another bench will hear the writ today (Thursday).



LAHORE: A view of the flooded roads after very first rainfall of the monsoon spell.

Shahadat anniversary of Cap Karnal Sher observed

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: The 24th shahadat anniversary of Captain Karnal Sher Khan shaheed, Nishan-e-Haider, was observed on Wednesday.

He was born in district Swabi of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa in 1970. During the Kargil conflict on the Line of Control (LoC) in 1999, he emerged as the symbol of mettle and courage and inflicted heavy losses on the Indian forces while defending the five strategic posts at the height of 17,000 feet in Gultray.

He was martyred on this day in 1999 gallantly defending the motherland and was decorated with country’s highest gallantry award, Nishan-e-Haider. Meanwhile, in his message on the occasion of 24th martyrdom anniversary of Captain Karnal Sher Khan Shaheed on Wednesday, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif said the nation will always remain indebted to its heroes who sacrificed their lives for the cause of the country.

He said Karnal Sher Khan Shaheed, Nishan-e-Haider, was a brave son of Pakistan whose valour was admired even by the enemy. Shehbaz Sharif said Karnal Sher Khan defended his motherland with exemplary show of dutifulness at a height of 17,000 feet at Gultari and sacrificed his life. He said Karnal Sher Khan proved himself a lion in attacking the enemy and forcing it to retreat.

Deploring the incidents of May 9, this year when memorials and statues of national heroes including Karnal Sher Khan were desecrated, the Prime Minister said May 9 is a bleak chapter of our history. He re-vowed that the nation will always honour those who sacrificed their lives for the cause of the country and all those involved in the May 9 incidents will be punished. He urged the young generation to get awareness about the great sacrifices of the martyrs and their love for the country.

Rain in Lahore kills 8, submerges streets

F.P. Report

LAHORE: At least eight people were killed due to heavy rain in Lahore as treets and low-lying areas of were submerged on Wednesday.

According to the latest figures released by the Wasa, more than 200 millimetres of rainfall was recorded in parts of the city over the last 10 hours. The data showed that the highest amount of rainfall (291mm) was recorded in Lakshmi Chowk, followed by 277mm in Nishter Town and 270mm in Qurtaba Chowk.

Separately, Gulshan-e-Ravi recorded 268mm, Pani Wala Talab 268mm, Johar Town 260mm, Tajpura 249mm, Farrukhabad 237mm, Iqbal Town 232mm, Mughalpura 215mm, Wasa head office in Gulberg 208mm, Chowk Nakhuda 205mm, Upper Mall 192mm, Samanabad 178mm, Jail Road 145mm and Airport 127mm.

Punjab Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi said that record-breaking rain had caused urban flooding while eight people have been killed in different rain related incidents in the city. Talking to media, the CM said that eight people had been died due to electrocu-

tion, roof collapse in different areas of the metropolis.

“It is a situation of urban flooding on Lahore’s roads as the canal has also been overflowing,” CM Mohsin Naqvi said earlier in a tweet. “Provincial cabinet and entire administration have been on roads to ensure drainage of the rainwater,” Naqvi further stated. “I am personally monitoring the relief activities and in contact with the administration,” he added.

Meanwhile, rain caused disruption of electricity in parts of Lahore as more than 200 feeders of the Lahore Electric Supply Company (LESCO) tripped, plunging various parts of the city into darkness. PM directs CM to cope with monsoon rains

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has directed the Punjab Chief Minister to immediately activate rescue teams to cope with the situation arising out of heavy rains in the province. According to a statement released by the Prime Minister’s office, the Prime Minister stressed ensuring coordination amongst the district administration, rescue 1122, PDMA and other relevant departments.

He directed that all necessary steps be taken for safety of live and property

of the people. Shehbaz Sharif said if the need arises, the National Disaster Management Authority and federal departments will also extend full support to Punjab government. The Prime Minister said necessary steps should be taken for cautioning the people, alternative traffic arrangements and drainage of water.

Shehbaz Sharif also directed to take preemptive protection measures in other parts of the country as well during monsoon season. He said NDMA, PDMA and provincial and district administrations should provide assistance in preemptive arrangements. He said measures need to be taken on urgent basis to avert urban flooding. He said steps should be taken to shift the people and livestock in rural areas to safer places. PM Shehbaz Sharif directed that the prime minister office should be kept informed about all the arrangements. Meanwhile, taking notice of the breakage of the power cable in Lahore, the prime minister has ordered an inquiry into the incident and directed to fix the responsibility whether negligence is not found on the part of the Lahore Electric Supply Company.

FIA arrests 5 Pakistanis ‘working in Israel’

KARACHI (INP): The FIA Crime Circle Mirpur Khas in an operation arrested five Pakistani nationals illegally working in Israel, it came to surface on Wednesday. The Federal Investigation Agency in a statement identified five accused as Noman Siddiqui, Kamil Anwar, Kamran Siddiqui, Mohammad Zeeshan and Mohammad Anwar.

“Three agents have been at large, while five cases have been registered against eight accused,” a spokesperson of the FIA said. “The accused were working in Tel Aviv as helper and car-washer,” spokesperson said. “They had got entry pass by an Israeli agent, while paying the agent three to four Lac rupees each,” FIA stated.

“They went to Israel from Jordan flight through a Schengen Visa like arrangement,” spokesperson said. FIA spokesperson further said that they were sending money to Pakistan via the Western Union. “The arrested men were used to return home from a Jordan airport via Dubai to Karachi.”

Four Rear Admirals of Pakistan Navy promoted

F.P. Report

KARACHI: Vice Admiral Abdul Samad was commissioned in Operations branch of Pakistan Navy in 1990. During his illustrious career, the Flag Officer has served on various Command and Staff appointments. His Command appointments include Commanding Officer of PN Submarine and Commander of Submarines Squadron. His major Staff appointment was Deputy Chief of Naval Staff (Training & Evaluation) at Naval Headquarters. The Admiral is a graduate of Pakistan Navy War College Lahore and National Defence University Islamabad. Vice Admiral Abdul Samad is presently serving as Cdr NSFC. In recognition of his meritorious services, the Flag Officer has been awarded Hilal-i-Imtiaz (Military).

Vice Admiral Abid Hameed was commissioned in Marine Engineering branch of Pakistan Navy in 1988. During his illustrious service career, the Admiral has held diversified Command & Staff appointments. His Command appointments include Managing Director PN Dockyard and Commander Logistics. His salient Field and Staff appointments include General Manager Ship Rebuild & Construction at PN Dockyard, and Assistant Chief of Naval Staff Projects, Works and Maintenance at Naval Headquarters. The Admiral is a graduate of Pakistan Navy War College Lahore, National Defence University Islamabad. Presently, Vice Admiral Abid Hameed is appointed as Deputy Chief of Naval Staff (Material) at Naval Headquarters. In recognition of his illustrious career, the Admiral has been awarded Hilal-i-Imtiaz (Military).

Vice Admiral Raja Rab Nawaz was com-

missioned in Operations Branch of Pakistan Navy in 1991. The Admiral’s distinguished service career includes wide range of Command and Staff appointments. His Command appointments include Commanding Officer of PN Destroyer, Commander West and Flag Officer Sea Training. His salient Staff appointments include Chief Staff Officer to Commander Pakistan Fleet, Assistant Chief of Naval Staff (Plans) and Deputy Chief of Naval Staff (Welfare & Housing). The Admiral is a graduate of Pakistan Navy War College Lahore, National Defence University Islamabad. Presently, Vice Admiral Raja Rab Nawaz is appointed as Commander Coast. In recognition of his meritorious services, the Flag Officer has been awarded Hilal-i-Imtiaz (Military).

Vice Admiral Muhammad Faisal Abbasi was commissioned in Operations Branch of Pakistan Navy in 1991. The Admiral’s distinguished service career includes wide range of Command and Staff appointments. His Command appointments include Commanding Officer of PN Ships, Commander of 25th Destroyer Squadron and Flag Officer Sea Training. His salient Staff appointments include Assistant Chief of Naval Staff (Operations), Director General Naval Intelligence and Deputy Chief of Naval Staff (Operations). The Admiral is a graduate of Pakistan Navy War College Lahore, Naval Staff College USA and National Defence University Islamabad. Vice Admiral Muhammad Faisal Abbasi is presently appointed as Commander Pakistan Fleet. In recognition of his meritorious services, the Flag Officer has been awarded Hilal-i-Imtiaz (Military).

Survivors: ‘Greek coastguard was next to us when boat capsized’

ATHENS (Agencies): As soon as the overloaded fishing trawler set off from Libya last month, the danger seemed obvious to Ahmed*, a 21-year-old Syrian. “The boat was too heavy,” he told Al Jazeera. “We were sitting next to each other, and there was a constant fear of sinking.”

On the derelict blue ship that was soon to hit international headlines, he saw about 750 people crammed together, shoulder-to-shoulder, unable to move. They had all hoped to eventually reach Europe. In a few days, he would see hundreds of these people drown as a Greek coastguard ship floated nearby. Ahmed fled Syria with his friend Mohammed*, 23. They both asked to use pseudonyms because they fear the Greek government would punish them for speaking out about what they saw that night.

They are two of the 104 survivors of the shipwreck off the coast of Pylos, Greece. Seventy-eight people have been confirmed dead. Like hundreds of other people on board, their third companion, Mohammed’s cousin, was never found. Their path to the central Mediterranean was taken in many steps. Ahmed and Mohammed said they left home hoping for a future without violence. Their journey took them to Lebanon, then Egypt and Libya.

They spent about a month in Libya, where smugglers kept them closed up in an apartment with Egyptians, Pakistanis and other Syrians also making the journey. Mohammed said the smugglers beat the Egyptians and Pakistanis, constantly cursing and insulting them. Finally, in the first days of June, they were told, “You are leaving today.”

They were put on the back of trucks that drove to the shore, were loaded onto small boats and were taken to a trawler, the Adriana, out in deeper waters.

“They were beating people there,” Ahmed said. “They were beating them while taking them to the lower deck of the boat. ... It was very bad down there. It smelled of diesel and fish. You couldn’t breathe.” Ahmed and his companions managed to pay a bribe of \$200 to get themselves a spot on the upper deck. But wherever the passengers sat on the ship, they were wedged together.

Women and children were kept below in the hold. From their cramped spot on the top deck, the young men could see the sea. From the second day of the voyage, the boat’s engine started breaking down. “They would repair it, and after a while, it would break down again,” Mohammed said. “Every time they repaired it, it would stop again after two to three hours.” After the second day at sea, food and water ran out. Panic began to percolate across the ship.

“At that time, people were starting to lose consciousness,” Ahmed said. “They were falling on the ground. They were fainting. Some were shaking. We were seeing tens, hundreds of people in this state.” They heard fights were breaking out all across the boat due to hunger, thirst and fear.

“Me, Ahmed and my relative who is now missing were always trying to keep our spirits up,” Mohammed said. “When someone cried, we made jokes. ‘We will make it,’ we were saying to ourselves. But everyone was going crazy.” By the fourth day, they

heard disturbing news from the hold. “Some people coming up from below said, ‘There are dead people down there,’” Ahmed said. “They said there were six dead bodies on the boat. Five bodies were down below, and we didn’t see them. One was on the upper deck. We saw him.” Ahmed and Mohammed said the passengers started telephoning the Italian authorities and the Greek coastguard to ask for help.

“From the fourth day onwards, the Greek coastguard had been aware of us,” Mohammed said. By the fifth day, June 13, they said it looked like the Adriana had stopped moving completely. In the afternoon, a helicopter flew overhead. The passengers could not understand from the deck, but it was the Greek coastguard. In the afternoon, one and then another commercial ship passed by and tossed those on board water over the waves. “People were saying: ‘Take us with you.’ They were saying, ‘No,’” Mohammed said. “We asked for help, but they refused to help us.”

A Greek coastguard vessel finally approached the fishing trawler around midnight in the first minutes of June 14, the friends said. “Follow us,” they told us. We followed them,” Mohammed said. “Half an hour later, our boat stopped completely. It could not move. They came back and tied us to their boat.” Ahmed and Mohammed said the coastguard started to tow their stalled-out trawler, but it took a sharp turn, and the Adriana heaved precariously left, then right, then capsized.

“They were right next to us when it capsized. In the moment it sank, they moved away from us. They deliber-

ately made us sink,” Mohammed said. “We were standing on top of the boat, and we were able to see everything clearly.” Tossed into the dark Mediterranean Sea, hundreds of people tried to find something to cling onto, some way to survive. “People were holding onto me,” Ahmed said. “I was going under the water and getting away from people. Every time I got away, I would come across someone else, and they would hold onto me to save themselves. When someone grabbed onto me, we both went underwater together.”

After an hour and a half, Ahmed said he spotted an inflatable coastguard boat and swam towards it. “They were 200 or 300 metres [220 to 330 yards] away from us,” he said. “I swam to them and got into the boat. They did not come close to us to save us. They were standing far away, and those who could swim were going towards them, like me.” As he made his way towards the inflatable boat, Ahmed had to push aside bodies floating in the water.

Once taken to the larger coastguard boat, Ahmed was reunited with Mohammed. The two hugged each other, overwhelmed and elated to have found each other. They started asking about their third companion. He had not made it, and they realised how incomplete their relief was. The survivors of the shipwreck were taken ashore. Mohammed said that when they were first held in the Greek city of Kalamata, the authorities came to take his testimony of the tragedy three or four times.

“When we told them that we had been towed with a rope, they stopped,” he said. “They were saying

that the problem was our boat. They wrote our statements with their own words. They did not write down what we said. They made us say it and write it down.” Ahmed said no officials have ever taken his testimony. Both men are now in the Malakasa refugee camp, 40km (25 miles) north of Athens. They are awaiting their asylum claims to be processed. Mohammed is desperate for news of his cousin, even if that news is confirmation he is dead.

Ahmed’s and Mohammed’s accounts contradict the account of the Greek coastguard, which has said the passengers of the Adriana refused aid, it was only immobile for about 20 minutes before it capsized and the coastguard had not towed the boat prior to it capsizing. Survivors’ accounts line up with other evidence. The Greek investigative website Solomon has published emails showing that the Greek authorities had been notified that the ship was in distress by 6pm (15:00 GMT) on June 13. And tracking data published and verified by the BBC and The New York Times show that the trawler was not moving for at least seven hours before it capsized.

When asked to comment on allegations that the coastguard towed the boat and was involved in the shipwreck, the Greek Ministry of Maritime Affairs and Insular Policy told Al Jazeera: “The required information is part of the investigation procedure that is being conducted under strict confidentiality based on the instructions given by the prosecutor of the Supreme Court. Regarding the details of the operation plan of the Hellenic coastguard, no further com-

ments can be made by our service.” Fingers have been pointed at the Greek coastguard for both the shipwreck and its large death toll.

“It has been evidenced that the Hellenic coastguard uses a range of tactics to move boats they have intercepted at sea into different territorial areas to avoid responsibility for search and rescue and the lodging of their applications for international protection,” said Hope Barker, a policy analyst at the Border Violence Monitoring Network. “Whilst this usually includes towing boats back to Turkish territorial waters, it is equally likely that if the boat was closer to Italian territorial waters, they would try to transfer it there instead.”

The organisation is calling for an independent investigation and for Frontex, the European Union’s border agency, to withdraw from Greece. “Violations of fundamental rights by the Hellenic coastguard are routine and systematised operations that have proven to be under-investigated by the Greek state. There is an accountability vacuum that allows these actions to continue unabated,” Barker said. In Malakasa, Mohammed said he cannot stop thinking about the moment the boat capsized and the screams of the people around him. He does not know how he survived in the water.

“I shouted Ahmed’s and my cousin’s names for a while,” he said. “In that moment, I heard a voice screaming, ‘Mother! Mother!’ I asked that person for his name, and he said, ‘Fuat’.” “He and I told each other our names, so that whichever of us survived would be able to bring the news to the other’s family.”