

**Resilience of APPNA lauded
F.P. Report**

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif has admired the resilience of the Association of Physicians of Pakistani Descent of North America (APPNA) commitment and resilience to serve Pakistan and to build Pak-US relations. In a tweet on Thursday, he said we are grateful for APPNA's timely support for flood response and COVID-19 management in Pakistan.

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TORGHAR: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif laying the foundation stone of RCC Bridge on Indus River that will connect Torgar with Buner District.

IHC reserves verdict on Fawad's plea

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Islamabad High Court has reserved its verdict on the petition filed by former federal minister Fawad Chaudhry, challenging the show cause notice issued by the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP).

The petition was brought before the high court on June 19 and was heard by Justice Aamer Farooq on Thursday. Advocate Faisal Chaudhry appeared on behalf of Fawad Chaudhry, while Saad Hasan, the lawyer representing the ECP, also appeared before the high court during the hearing.

Fawad's counsel argued that according to Article 13, a person cannot be punished twice for the same offense. However, the commission had registered an FIR against his client on the same charge, leading to the petition. He added the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) is not a session court or a trial court, further, the commission can only be authorized through a constitutional amendment. The ECP's counsel argued that there is no legal restriction preventing a person from being tried in two different forums. If a case involves charges of murder and robbery, for instance, it can be pursued in two separate courts.

After considering all the arguments presented by both parties, the court reserved its verdict on the matter. The final decision regarding Fawad Chaudhry's petition challenging the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP's) show cause notice will be announced shortly. Former federal minister Fawad Chaudhry had challenged a show-cause notice issued to him by the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP).

Faisal Farid, the brother of Mr Chaudhry, submitted a petition to the Islamabad High Court on his brother's behalf. The appeal asked for the notices issued to the former federal minister from January 27 and June 13 to be ruled "invalid and power-excessive". The petitioner claimed, "I was detained in connection with a case brought by the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) secretary. A show-cause notice was issued in response to these allegations".

Tareen's brother commits suicide

LAHORE (INP): In a shocking incident, Istehkam-e-Pakistan Party (IPP) chief Jahangir Tareen's brother Alamgir Tareen allegedly committed suicide by shooting himself in the head, officials and family members said Thursday.

Initially, police sources said Alamgir, 63, allegedly committed suicide at his residence in Lahore's Gulberg area. Later, the reports were confirmed by Jahangir. Meanwhile, the police officials said that further details will be available when they visit the crime scene.

Pak Army Major martyred in Jamrud

F.P. Report

JAMRUD: A Pak Army Major embraced Shahadat in an arm battle with terrorists here in Shahkas area of subdivision Jamrud; district Khyber on Wednesday late night. Inter-Services Public Relation (ISPR) in a press release stated that last night Security Forces conducted an intelligence based operation on the reported presence of terrorists in the Shahkas locality of district Khyber.

The forces established blocking positions to cut escape routes of the terrorists and during the process a heavy exchange of fire took place between the forces soldiers and terrorists. As a result of heavy combat, the brave son of the nation, Major Abdullah Shah (age 33 and resident of Kohat) who led the operation from the front embraced Shahadat.

Three terrorists and their facilitators were apprehended and sensitization of the area was being carried out to eliminate the terrorist present in the area. ISPR said. It vowed, the Security Forces of Pakistan are determined to eliminate the menace of terrorism and such sacrifices of our soldiers further strengthen our resolve. Meanwhile, funeral



prayers of Major Mian Abdullah Shah, Naib Subedar Sahib Khan, Naik Muhammad Ibrahim and Sepoy Jehangir Khan were offered at their native respective towns i.e Kohat, Mianwali, Dera Ismail Khan and Mardan respectively, on Thursday. Shuhada were laid to rest with full military honours. Naib Subedar Sahib Khan, Naik Muhammad Ibrahim and Sepoy Jehangir Khan embraced shahadat in a Suicide attack near Miran Shah while Major Mian Abdullah Shah embraced shahadat during an operation in Shahkas area of District Khyber.

Serving and retired officers/soldiers, relatives and a large number of people from different segments of society attended the funerals. Armed Forces of Pakistan stand resolute to eliminate the menace of terrorism at all costs. These

sacrifices reaffirm our resolve and strengthen our faith in fight against terrorism to provide a peaceful Pakistan to our future generations.

Former President of Pakistan and President Pakistan Peoples Party Parliamentarians, Asif Ali Zardari has condoled the martyrdom of Shaheed Major Mian Abdullah in the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa region.

Zardari also expressed deep sorrow over the martyrdom of Subedar Sahib Khan, Naik Muhammad Ibrahim and Jehangir in North Waziristan. The blood of the courageous officers and soldiers of the Pakistan Army will not go in vain, President Zardari expressed. The country stands shoulder to shoulder with its brave soldiers who are rendering great sacrifices for the sake of their nation. He said that the country will be cleansed of the menace of terrorism just as was done in Swat.

President Zardari extending condolences to the bereaved families of the martyrs, prayed to Allah Almighty to grant eternal peace to the departed souls and strength and fortitude to their loved ones to bear the tragic loss with equanimity.

Four dead as Lahore battered by heavy rainfall

F.P. Report

LAHORE: At least four people died on Thursday and 15 others were injured in two separate incidents of roof and wall collapses in Lahore as heavy rainfall continued to batter the city for a second day.

According to a Rescue 1122 statement, a girder roof of a house, near the Bandianwala bridge in the city's Amar Sidhu area, collapsed due to heavy rainfall, killing four people — including three children under the age of 10. Another child, aged 10, was injured and shifted to the Lahore General Hospital. In a separate incident, 14 others were injured as a wall of the Government Mozang Teaching Hospital, adjoining a neighboring building, collapsed. According to another Rescue 1122 statement, the wall collapsed onto the hospital's waiting area, leading to the "waiting shade" collapsing and injuring 14, who were then shifted to Sir Ganga Ram Hospital.

On Wednesday, nine people across Punjab had lost their lives in different incidents of electrocution, roof collapses, drowning and lightning. Caretaker Punjab Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi had termed the "record" rainfall received by Lahore 291 millimeters as unexpected.

Lahore Commissioner Muhammad Ali Randhawa had echoed similar views, noting that such a large amount of rainfall in such a short amount of time had

not been received for the past 30 years. The Water and Sanitation Agency's (Wasa) "record-breaking" claim, however, was contested by the Met Office when one of its officials, who did not want to be named, termed it "self-serving", as it gives more time and resources to the agency to clear water from the city.

On Thursday, Wasa Managing Director Ghufuran Ahmed reviewed the drainage operations at various underpasses, including Captain Mubeen Shaheed Underpass, and roads of the provincial capital. He asserted that "all disposal stations were functioning at their full capacity" and also ordered for the fuel supply for all generators draining the floodwater to be ensured.

Lahore again received downpour that inundated not only low-lying areas but also roads like Upper Mall, which created lot of inconvenience for motorists and pedestrians alike. The rain made people living in several areas, including Mughalpura, worried as they said they were already faced with deluge due to yesterday's rain, and today it was raining again.

The situation was no different in Islampura and Krishan Nagar areas where streets were flooded. Similarly, the administration's tall claims of efficiency were exposed when heavy rain flooded the Katcha Jail Chand Rai Road. People's bikes and cars were left stranded in the water. But nobody from the

administration came to rescue them. Power supply to several localities of the city was disrupted after over 110 feeders got tripped and at several places transformers were burnt. Humidity level in the air was recorded at 74 per cent while winds were blowing at the speed of 26 kilometers per hour.

As many as 11 people were buried underneath the rubble when a wall adjacent to the waiting room of Mozang Hospital collapsed due to heavy rain. Rescue1122 personnel rescued the injured and shifted them to Ganga Ram Hospital. Several cities in upper, central and southern Punjab also received rain, which not only brought down the temperature, but also added to the miseries of people.

It rained cats and dogs in Manawala due to which low-lying areas were inundated. However, the administration did not take any step to drain out water. Likewise, torrential rain in Jhang turned several city areas into pools of water. Although downpour in Gojra and suburbs rid the people of heat, but it also brought lot of inconvenience for the people as electricity supply was disrupted and several areas were completely submerged.

Water accumulated on roads left motorists and pedestrians stranded and also led to the closure of businesses. The weather department, on the other hand, predicted that rains would continue until July 8 (Saturday).

IHC extends Qureshi, Asad Umar's interim bail

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Thursday extended the interim bail of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leaders — Shah Mehmood Qureshi and Asad Umar in the case registered at Tarnol police station till July 13.

IHC judge Justice Mohsin Akhtar Kayani heard the case of Shah Mehmood Qureshi. Islamabad police told the court that Shah Mehmood Qureshi had joined the investigation. The case of Asad Umar was heard by Justice Tariq Mehmood Jahangiri. "Both the cases should be referred to the same bench," the special prosecutor requested the court. The court sent the file back to the chief justice.

"The decision to send both the cases to the same bench will be taken by the chief justice," Justice Tariq Mehmood Jahangiri said. "Asad Umar and Shah Mehmood Qureshi are nominated in the same case which is heard in separate courts," the prosecutor said. Shah Mehmood Qureshi and Asad Umar appeared in the court along with their lawyer. The sessions court dismissed their bail pleas after which both had approached the IHC. The IHC had granted both of them interim bail at the previous hearing.

Khadija's remand extended

LAHORE (INP): An anti-terrorism court (ATC) in Lahore on Thursday extended the judicial remand of Khadija Shah in the Jinnah House attack case. Ms. Shah and others were presented before the ATC judge after his judicial remand expired today. The court while extending her judicial remand for 14 more days, ordered police to file a challan in the case.

Ms. Shah, a Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) activist and former finance minister Dr Salman Shah's daughter, is currently in jail on judicial remand. The daughter of the former finance minister was granted consular access at the request of US as she is holding dual nationality. Last month, police arrested the daughter of former finance minister Salman Shah and fashion designer Khadija in the Jinnah House attack case. Khadija had reportedly surrendered before the SSP CIA police Malik Liaquat in Iqbal Town Lahore.

Appeal filed in Imrans nikkah case

RAWALPINDI (PPI): A citizen on Thursday challenged in Islamabad's district and sessions court a civil judge's decision in which he had declareKR-EN 060723-03d that former prime minister and PTI Chairman Imran Khan's nikkah during iddat case was inadmissible for the hearing.

Sessions Judge-East Azam Khan summoned the PTI chairman and his wife Bushra Bibi in the case on July 13. In his appeal, Muhammad Hanif said that the judge, while declaring that the case was not fit for the hearing, did not fulfill legal requirements. "Therefore, it is prayed to the court to declare civil judge's May 13 order null and void," read the appeal.

A court in Islamabad, on May 13, had declared as inadmissible a petition in which it was contended that former premier Imran Khan and former first lady Bushra Bibi cohabited despite the fact that their nikkah had taken place without completion of the latter's mandatory iddat period. The petitioner had claimed that Bushra Bibi was divorced by her former husband in November 2017 and married Imran Khan on January 1, 2018 despite the fact that her iddat period had not completed.

This is beyond tolerance: PM

Shehbaz says Holy Quran's desecration, an attempt to beget Muslim-Christian hostility

PM directs for speedy work on Torgar-Buner road connectivity F.P. Report

TORGHAR: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Thursday laid foundation-stone of three mega projects of over Rs 24 billion to connect the Torgar District with the Buner District and directed for their speedy completion.

The projects included the construction of 25 kilometers long Inter-Districts Road from Torgar to Buner, one kilometer long Karakar Tunnel Buner and RCC Bridge on the Indus River. During a briefing on the occasion, the prime minister was informed that the Inter-Districts Road Torgar up-to Buner would be constructed at an estimated cost of Rs 4.72 billion, which on completion would ensure speedy travelling and movement of the local people, in addition to promoting tourism and trade in the Hazara and Malakand divisions in particular and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa in general.

Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting, Marriyum Aurangzeb, Adviser to the Prime Minister Engineer Amir Muqam, PM's Adviser Ahad Cheema, Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz leader Capt (Retd) Muhammad Safdar and former Member of the National Assembly Sardar Muhammad Yousaf were also present on the occasion. The briefing was also attended by KP Chief Secretary Nadeem Aslam Chaudhary, Inspector General of Police Akhtar Hayat Gandapur, Deputy Commissioner Torgar Ziaur Rehman, and others senior civil and military officers.

It was further told that the one-kilometer long Karakar Tunnel Buner would cost around Rs 9.58 billion, which on completion would reduce the travelling distance between the Torgar and Buner districts by 11 kilometers. The tunnel would be linked with the Swat Motorway. The prime minister was informed that the RCC Bridge, to be built at an estimated cost of Rs 9.96billion, would reduce the travelling distance by 250 kilometers.

to the world. Calling for using all political and legal options to avert recurrence of such acts, the prime minister also thanked the OIC for convening a special meeting in which they also adopted a condemnatory resolution and put forward suggestions.

He said Pakistan was not against the freedom of speech but no one had the right to desecrate any one's belief or fan hatred in this garb. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif urged the House to put forward suggestions which would be raised at the UN platform to realise the world that the billions of Muslims would not allow any repetition of such hateful acts. "This is not the first time as earlier too, same thing happened in Sweden. This must be condemned in the strongest possible words," he said.

The prime minister recalled and appreciated the former New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern for her support to the Muslims, after an Islamophobic attack against Muslims, which was a positive attempt to establish peace between Muslims and Christians. He told the House that he was trying to contact with the UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres to request him for convening an urgent session to invite the Muslim leaders and adopt a condemnatory resolution. "I will also ask him to warn such governments and individuals against redoing such acts aimed at fanning hatred," he added.

The prime minister thanked Pope Francis for condemning the act, saying his dissociation of such Islamophobic action gave a positive image. The prime minister said he would convey the parliamentary resolution to the Swedish government as the Foreign Office was also making its due efforts on the diplomatic fronts.

Marriyum hails Nawaz acquittal

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb said on Thursday that acquittal of thrice-elected prime minister and Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz Quaid Nawaz Sharif in the plot allotment reference by an accountability court in Lahore clearly showed a political vendetta of the last PTI regime.

Addressing a press conference, she said the plots allotment case related to the tenure when Nawaz Sharif was the chief minister of Punjab. She said the owner of a leading media house was arrested in a fake case just to pressurize the media to toe the line of the then rulers. Similarly, journalists were arrested and targeted only to curb dissent views, and on that account the then prime minister was given the title of a 'predator' at international level.

She said today's verdict of the accountability court was an eye-opener for those who had blindly followed the fake narrative of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI). She said in the so-called illegal plots allotment reference it was alleged that Nawaz Sharif as Punjab chief minister had specifically favoured Mir Shakeelur Rehman to manage favourable media coverage. She said under the 'NAB- Niazi nexus', the

National Accountability Bureau was given the task to target political opponents of the PTI chief.

The minister said today, the accountability court had affirmed that Nawaz Sharif was targeted to have political revenge. The court also noted that no evidence of corruption was found against the PML-N Quaid, which led to his honourable acquittal. It was also pointed out that no legal requirements were fulfilled for declaring Nawaz Sharif as an absconder, she said, adding the process to target the PML-N chief and his family had commenced with changing 'Panama to Iqama'.

The minister opined that the objective of Asset Recovery Unit was to target and victimize the PTI chief's political opponents, and gag the media. Now it was the divine justice that Shahzad Akbar had no courage to face the public on that count. With pressure on NAB, they managed to get false cases instituted against Nawaz Sharif, she added.

Marriyum cited the court verdict: "The record reflects that the accused Muhammad Nawaz Sharif had become the victim of political victimization, and perhaps the NAB authorities were constrained to prepare the reference at the behest of the then ruling junta to damage and destroy the political career and goodwill of the accused (Mian Muhammad

Nawaz Sharif) who had been three times elected prime minister of Pakistan." She said the accountability court had categorically stated that Nawaz Sharif was politically victimised. The then regime used all possible means and resources to target and victimize the opponents, she added.

The minister said from 2017 to 2022, Nawaz Sharif not only presented himself along with his daughter, his brother and his brother's family, but also provided documents of his late father related to the past 40 years business record. "This is the moment of concern for those who are still under influence of a person who had brought destruction to the country, rendered youth jobless and ruined the national economy, besides clearing the way for return of terrorists and load shedding in the country."

She said the country would not have been facing the scourge of load-shedding had the previous PTI government focused on performance instead of resorting to political victimization. Not a single megawatt of electricity was added to the national grid during the last government while Nawaz Sharif as prime minister had made an addition of 14,000 MW and incumbent PM Shehbaz Sharif over 5,000 MW in Punjab as its chief minister.

**Swiss FM to arrive today
F.P. Report**

ISLAMABAD: Foreign Minister of Switzerland Ignazio Cassis will arrive here in Islamabad on a three-day official visit to Pakistan today (Friday). A high level delegation will also accompany him which includes three members of the Swiss Parliament and senior officials. During his visit, the Swiss Foreign Minister, who is also Federal Councilor, will call on PM, and Minister for Climate Change.

Inspector General of Police IGP Punjab Dr Usman Anwar directed Additional IG CTD to speed up intelligence-based operations.



PESHAWAR: Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Haji Ghulam Ali addressing a seminar organized by China Window Peshawar.

Minister condemned disrespects of Holy Quran in Sweden

PESHAWAR (APP): Khyber Pakhtunkhwa caretaker Irrigation Minister Haji Fazal Elahi Thursday strongly condemned the disrespect of the Holy Quran in Sweden and said that respect of the Holy Quran is a responsibility of all of us.

It is important to respect the Holy Quran and no individual can use freedom of expression for disrespect of the Quran, he said. A true follower of any religion is a demander of peace, security and religious harmony and not only his own but other holy books and their places of worship.

Enemies of Islam are

making impure efforts to taint the sanctity of the Holy Quran in order to enrage the Muslims and hurt their sentiments, the Minister said. In Sweden, there has been a heartbreaking incident of disrespect of the Holy Quran which the Muslim Ummah is strongly condemning, he added.

It has always been the habit of the enemies of Islam to disrespect the Holy Quran, he said, adding, "This holy book taught the unity of the Ummah. It ended the poisonous atmosphere of discord and gave the message of unity and solidarity to the whole of humanity," he remarked.

It is necessary for everyone to respect the Holy Quran, he said, adding, "Disrespect of Holy Scripture is an intolerable act." It is the conspiracy of the enemies of religion to gradually destroy the sanctity of Islam and literature from the hearts of Muslims, he further added.

It is the responsibility of Muslims to recite the real literature of the Holy Quran along with the apparent literature, he said.

Do not just keep the Holy Quran decorated in niches, but organize its recitation and live your life according to the Quranic rules, the Minister said.

PHC orders Atif Khan to appear today

Humayun Khan

PESHAWAR: A divisional bench of Peshawar High Court (PHC) comprising of Justice Abdul Shakoor and Justice Syed Arshad Ali has granted bail in all cases to Pakistan Tehreek Insaf (PTI) Atif Khan and ordered to appear court today (on Friday).

The counsel argued that raids are conducting Atif Khan's residence, factories and other offices while concerned authorities didn't providing record of cases and added that last day another bench has excused from hearing writ, so it fixed on Thursday for arguments.

However, Justice Arshad Ali observed that why you shouldn't appear before the court? The counsel argued that on appearance petitioner either be arrest or will be disappear.

Consequently, Justice Arshad Ali observed that you should surrender before the law, however, the counsel argued that Atif Khan also pleaded for interim bail because he may be arrest earlier than his appearance before court.

PHC's divisional bench has granted interim bail to Atif Khan in all cases and ordered to appear before court today (on Friday) while Additional Advocate General Danayal Asad Chamkani opposed the bail and argued that petition is not maintainable because Nadeem Shah Advocate is not aggrieved person.

Shandur festival to start today

PESHAWAR (APP): The inaugural ceremony of three-day colorful Shandur Festival to be held today (Friday) at world's highest polo ground in northern Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Caretaker Chief Minister, Muhammad Azam Khan would likely to inaugurate the festival that is organized by KP Culture and Tourism Authority (KPCTA), Frontier Corps and district administration.

The festival would include colorful events including polo matches, show of paratroopers and paragliders and Kalash, Chitral, and Khattak dances and songs.

It is worth mentioning that KPCTA has opened camping pods in Sur Laspar for tourists that can be booked online. The first match of polo would be played between teams of Sur Laspar and Ghizr.

The helpline of KPCTA, 1142 would be operational round the clock to facilitate tourist and provide them help and assistance.

AG KP transferred, posted as Deputy Auditor General Islamabad

PESHAWAR (APP): According to a notification of the Auditor General of Pakistan, Accountant General Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Murtaza Khan has been transferred on Thursday and posted as Deputy Auditor General in Islamabad.

Being a senior and experienced officer, he has initiated systematic reform measures in a short period of time and has made many reforms in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, which have seen a major change in government affairs related to accounts in the province and thus relief started to reach government employees as well as to the general people.

Among the revolutionary initiatives initiated by him, the establishment of Pensioners Facilitation Center, GP Fund Facilitation Center and

Online Monitoring Cell, solarization and construction of District Accounts Offices and AG Office are worth mentioning.

During his tenure, the computerization of the government employees of the merged districts and the holding of open katcheries in the province were also very important measures. He ensured accountability and transparency in the account offices of the province to ensure the provision of better facilities and services to the people.

A One Window Pension Facilitation Center and a Grievance Redressal Cell were established in the Accountant General Office for the convenience of pensioners. Similarly, by opening disciplinary cases pending for years against the employees involved in making unauthorized payments, the involved

employees were fired and recovered millions of rupees from them. Open Katcheries were also held frequently in different districts, which provided an opportunity to examine and solve problems from different angles.

The results of his reform measures are that government employees can now receive their GP fund in just 24 hours, pensioners can now easily solve their problems by taking tokens, more than 250,000 pensioners of the province will receive 110 billion annually.

Pensions are paid, AG Office complaints are now handled on WhatsApp through the Information and Complaint Cell. Likewise, a testing project has also been started for online transfer of funds required for development projects.

Similarly, the transition of district accounts offices of six tribal districts to solar energy will also be remembered as a unique initiative of Murtaza Khan.

Furthermore, Murtaza Khan loved sports activities and initiated many steps for the promotion of sports in the province by introducing monthly stipends for leading and medalists' male and female athletes.

He is a good player of Tennis and used to play Tennis besides giving good times to his daily exercise under qualified coaches like Shaharyar Khan (Tennis) and Jamshed Khan (Football Coach).

The sports circle also paid rich tribute to Murtaza Khan, for extending sponsorship for holding many sporting activities including Table Tennis, Tennis, Football, and many of the Martial Arts Games.



PESHAWAR: Outgoing Accountant General Murtaza Khan meeting Caretaker Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Muhammad Azam Khan.

Pajagi Road Shelter Home continues hosting people

PESHAWAR (APP): The provision of facilities to passengers, labourers and other deserving people is continued under the auspices of the Social Welfare Department at Pajagi Road Shelter Home, said a press release issued here on Thursday.

On Wednesday, 144 people, including six persons with different abilities and a family, were provided facilities at the Pajagi Road shelter Home. Accommodation and other facilities are being provided uninterruptedly.

According to District Social Welfare Officer, Peshawar, Noor Muham-

mad Mehsud, the Pajagi Road Shelter Home of the Social Welfare Department was established in December 2018 and since then, more than 160,000 people from Peshawar and other districts of the province have benefited from it.

Apart from passengers, workers, people from far away districts of the province come to Peshawar with necessary work including patients who have stayed in the facility. Most of the students coming for examinations, tests and interviews, who cannot afford to stay in the hotels take benefit of the facility.

In addition to the provision of free food and drinks, the facility of night stay is also being provided to such people in the shelter.

Free breakfast and transport are also provided to them. There are 134 beds in the shelter home.

He said that the shelter home is providing services to an average number of 180 people on a daily basis. But, sometimes the number of such goes above 200. The facility provides a cooler fan in summer and hot water facility in winter. National ID card is prerequisite to stay in the shelter.

Cloudy weather likely in KP

PESHAWAR (APP): The Provincial Meteorological Center Peshawar on Thursday predicted that cloudy and humid weather is expected in most districts of the province during the next 24 hours.

It further said that scattered rain/wind-thunder-showers with a few heavy falls/hailstorm is likely to occur in Abbottabad, Mansehra, Haripur, Battagram, Torghar, 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 in most districts of the province. However, rain/wind-thunderstorm occurred at scattered places.

Rain recorded (in mm): Dir 20, Pattan 14, Balakot 09, Kalam 08, Malam Jabba 06, Saidu Sharif 05, D I Khan 04, Bajaur (Pashat 04, Khaar Trace), Parachinar 02, Drosh & Taimergara 01 (each) Chitral & Landi Kotal (Khyber) Trace (each).

The maximum and minimum temperatures recorded in centigrade at different stations of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa were Peshawar City 37/26, Chitral 36/20, Timergara 31/20, Dir 32/17, Mirkhani 40/20, Kalam 25/10, Drosh 38/23, Saidu Sharif 34/17, Pattan 31/20, Malam Jabba 23/13, Takht Bhai 35/25, Kakul 28/17, Balakot 33/19, Parachinar 30/16, Bannu 35/24, Cherat 29/19, D.I. Khan 33/25.

The highest temperature recorded in the province was 40°C in Mirkhani.

Mayor assures to allot shops to traders

PESHAWAR (APP): Mayor Peshawar, Haji Zubair Ali has said that all the decisions would be made keeping in view the interests of the Capital Metropolitan Government.

"Though, we are dealing with the business community but in order to safeguard the interests of the Metropolitan Government, all steps will be taken in the larger interest of the institution", he added.

He was talking to a delegation of traders from the city in his office the other day. DG Metropolitan, Sayyed Waqas Ali Shah, Assistant Director Property, Ayaz Khan, Chairman Pish-takhara, Haroon Siffat, Chairman Saud and others were present in the meeting.

Traders' leader Haji Shaukat Ali apprised the Mayor regarding problems

of the tenants of the Metropolitan and told that at the moment their case regarding shops' allotment was under trial at a local court.

The mayor said that complete implementation of the court's directives would be ensured in that regard adding shops would be allotted to the traders according to the orders of the court.



PESHAWAR: Mayor Haji Zubair Ali talking to delegation of traders during a meeting.

CTO inaugurates Traffic School

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR On the instructions of Inspector General of Police Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Akhtar Hayat Khan, under the supervision of Chief Traffic Officer Qamar Hayat Khan, for the first time in the provincial capital Peshawar, traffic wardens were called to the traffic school to ensure the implementation of traffic rules and better relations with the citizens.

A press release issued

saying that it has been decided to give training to follow the policy of "Pahle Salaam Phir Kalam" which was officially launched today by Chief Traffic Officer Qamar Hayat Khan.

Twenty traffic wardens were trained during the inaugural training session, similarly all eleven hundred traffic wardens of City Traffic Police Peshawar will be trained alternately.

Chief Traffic Officer Qamar Hayat Khan said

that the traffic officials should ensure the implementation of the policy of first Salam then Kalam and adopt a better attitude towards the citizens.

He said that in order to ensure the implementation of traffic rules, it is necessary that the officers and wardens of City Traffic Police Peshawar should also ensure the implementation of traffic rules.

He directed the traffic riders to ensure the use of helmets while riding motorcycles.



PESHAWAR: View of excavation work under way along roadside at Sher Shah Suri Road.

PFVA expresses reservation over new policy of Plant Protection Dept

PESHAWAR (APP): Pakistan Fruit and Vegetable Association (PFVA) expressing its serious reservations over the new policy of Plant Protection Department regarding export of mangoes Thursday termed it discriminatory.

In a letter sent to the Federal Ministry of National Food Security, PFVA said the Department of Plant Protection issued a new SOP on June 12 which was very complicated and time-consuming.

DPP suddenly announced new SOP by giving NOC to hot water treatment plants for this season, the letter reads. The poor strategy of the Department of Plant Protection has put the mango export target in jeopardy.

The mangoes exported from Pakistan were subjected to hot water treatment to protect them from fruit flies, it added.

Due to discriminatory policy and favoritism of the Plant Protection Department, 90% of the 35 plants have been shut down.

Pakistan is facing a loss of 44 million dollars due to the closure of hot water treatment plants, PFVA claims.

Non approved plants have been processing mangoes for export to Europe, Iran, Australia, China, Kenya and Iraq for many years and have never received any complaints from their buyers.

As 90% of the hot water treatment plants had been shut down, the existing plants are under pressure and they are treating mangoes beyond their capacity, raising fears that the treatment of mangoes exported from Pakistan will be affected.

The PFVA showed concern that international standards had to be agreed upon due to the closure of 90 percent processing plants.

Jaggery manufacturing unit sealed, workers held

PESHAWAR (APP): A team of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Food Safety Authority here on Thursday raided a factory in Surdheri and recovered unwholesome jaggery that was prepared by the use of hazardous chemicals.

Food Safety officials also recovered substandard jaggery (Gur) and chemicals being used in manufacturing jaggery from sugar. The workers that were

busy manufacturing jaggery were also arrested on the spot and a large consignment of 'Gur' was taken into possession.

Factory has been sealed and a case has been registered against the owner of the factory. Food authority warned of strict action against factories manufacturing substandard food items and said that raids and inspections would be continued in future.



In brief

CPU rescues 51 children Sahibzada Afridi

KOHAT: Upon the directions of Chief Child Protection officer, Muhammad Ijaz, and recommendations of District Vigilance Committee, Child Protection Unit Kohat conducted a rescue operation against garbage pickers on Thursday. Beside CPU, police department, social welfare, Rescue 1122, Health Department, Afghan Commissionerate and some NGOs like CERD, SRSP, SHARP, IRSP and Muslim Hand, also participated in the operation. A total number of 51 kids were recovered and were transferred to Welfare Home Kohat for psychological counseling. Blood samples of the recovered children were also collected to test for infectious diseases like HBs, HCV, and HIV (results pending). Moreover, Afghan community elders and members of the child protection committees were also invited and were briefed about the hazardous consequences of garbage picking practice. The elders also held meeting with ADC (G) Sheryar Qamar and discussed in length the most pressing issues related to Afghan children. ADC assured full support and called a meeting of relevant officials to address their grievances. Towards the end, ADC Kohat distributed recreational kits among children while IRSP had arranged lunch for the rescued children. The children were reunited with their families through the Child Protection Committee.

Four outlaws arrested

SARGODHA (INP): The police arrested four accused and recovered narcotics from them here on Thursday. A police spokesman said that a team of Laksian police station conducted raids and arrested four accused besides recovering 1.560-kg hashish, three pistols 30 bore. The accused were identified as Shaukat, Qamar, Shahbaz and Afzal. Cases were registered against the accused.

Abducted cop killed in Khyber F.P. Report

TIRAH VALLY: Unknown armed men abducted a police constable and later shot him dead in the far-flung Maidan area of Tirah Valley in Khyber district, Thursday. According to media reports, constable Ajmal Khan, son of Umara Khan was at a cricket ground in Ghalbai village of Bar Qambar Khel when armed men abducted him at gunpoint. The body of the cop was later found with multiple bullet wounds and shifted to a hospital for medico-legal procedure. The police after registering a case, have started an investigation into the incident.

Boy, aged 5, gang raped

SHIKARPUR (INP): The father of a five-year-old boy on Thursday staged a protest outside Shikarpur Press Club for non-registration of a case against the rapists of his minor son. According to the father, his son Hamza was gang raped by two accused. After sexually assaulting him, they threw Hamza on the road in precarious condition and fled away. The father further alleged that doctors made changes in the medical report of his child. He said since the rapists were influential persons, police did not register any case against them, nor did they apprehend them. He requested the authorities to take notice of this injustice done to his child and order for the arrest of the accused.



BAHAWALPUR: A motorcyclist purchasing flour bag from a roadside stall.

Frontline soldiers

Fiza Gohar

"To save the life of one person is to save the entire humanity and to kill one person is to kill the entire humanity".

WE have seen this during pandemic Covid-19 where the world is still having aftershocks of it and millions of people have lost their kith and kin and their loved ones. When son was not allowed to see his father and father was not allowed to see his daughter in that time it was the doctors who took the risk, forgot their own children, their families and did not turn back to their homes the only thing they are doing is to save humanity from this canker. They are always ready for patients of Covid-19 without concern for their own life. They are 24/7 available for their patients.

How can we forget their efforts and their struggles which they did for the sake of humanity and are still doing? They accepted to cover themselves from head to feet without having the fear to lose his/her life and they did not give up and lose hope. They have done the duty of father to bury the patients of covid-19 without letting them do it. In spite of all these things how one can forget their role they are our real heroes our real frontline soldiers. If we cannot forget their role so how we can ignore the role of our soldiers who are on border whose lives are in grave danger but what is going on these days criticism culture has been started without knowing that how it will affect our country and what message will this give to the world. Some of the political figures just for their benefit they are trying to spoil the image of Pak Army and to inculcate hatred against them.

As a Pakistani resident we are supposed to support our Army. Have we forgotten their unprecedented sacrifices they have done for their country for the sake of peace? We are safe in home because they are on borders, we are safe because they give sacrifices and we sleep well because they wake up and have their eyes on coward enemies. They sacrifice their today for our bright tomorrow. They prefer country's dignity and safety first and their family comes next. Recently, we have seen the

bravery of our air force the two brave pilots namely Hassan and Nauman who had done exceptional performance caught one of the coward pilot of India Abhi Nandan and another one was found dead so this is bravery these are real heroes and what are we doing we are distributing character certificates because we all know it costs nothing and these people have nothing to do but criticizing others is the best work they can do instead of acknowledging their unforgettable sacrifices.

Pakistan Army is on the 9th position in the top ten and one of the best army in the world. But unfortunately some of the political figures are not getting this thing just for their benefit they are not giving hoot what the world will perceive, what they will think about our army. It will be very easy for our enemy to break it into parts. So it's very alarming situation for us if they prefer their country, our safety at first then it is our responsibility to support our army and give this message to the world that we are with our army.

So, those families who have their sons in any force only they know their importance nobody can understand this because it seems a piece of cake to others only their families know their conditions and home sickness. Our newly appointed Army Chief Gen Syed Asim Munir who is hafiz e Quran so hopefully we expect good from him at least he can lead country in right direction without indulging himself in politics and it is best in favor of politicians not to drag army in this dirty game of politics.

These figures have been succumbed to temptation and they are doing the job of real enemy there is no need of foreign enemy because they are after the lives of their own people. We should keep our focus on the dignity of our country not question the character of others. We should look into our necks because everyone is responsible for their own work. If the trees of the world become pen, the earth becomes paper, the water of the ocean become ink and I would write then all these things will end but my writing won't end.

The writer is BS English 4th Semester student at Govt Post Graduate College for Women Mardan.

Christian community hold protest in Mardan

F.P. Report

MARDAN: Members of Christian community (Mardan chapter) held protest demonstration on Mall road to condemn the desecration and burning of a copy of Holy Quran in Sweden. The protesting Christians led by Mushtaq Maseeh, were chanting slogans as "Sweden Murdabad" and their condemnation slogans.

The protesters, on the occasion, went on to say that they were registering their protest demonstration to express their solidarity with Muslims over the sad incident of burning of copy of Holy Quran in Sweden country. They demanded of the Sweden government to award severe punishment to perpetrators of the burning of copy of Holy Quran so that to prevent such type of desecrated cases and events in future.

They were of the view that happening of such incidents would cause to create and expand hatred among Muslims and Christians, adversely, it would damage peace around the world. On the occasion, the Christian

community members were provided foolproof security with the purpose to avoid happening of any untoward incident. Superintendent of Police (SP) operation Rokhazib Khan was leading the foolproof security team of police personnel.

New electricity lane (feeder) inaugurated: Chairman Rustam Tehsil Maulana Mubarak Ahmad inaugurated the new feeder of Rustam. This feeder was not started even though it was completed. On which Tehsil Rustam Chairman Maulana Mubarak Ahmad met Pesco Chief in his office. And demanded to open this feeder and solve other problems related to WAPDA of Tehsil Rustam. On which the WAPDA chief issued orders to open the feeder immediately while assuring the solution of the problems. After which today the ceremony of making Rustam Feeder functional was held and chairman Maulana Mubarak Ahmad inaugurated it along with the officers.

Opening of this feeder will help in solving load shedding problems. Awami circles thanked Chairman Maulana Mubarak Ahmad Pesco Chief and District Pesco officers for starting Rustam Feeder.

Alleged murderer arrested: Rustam police operation, drop scene of the blind murder of a woman, the accused allegedly involved in the murder was arrested, due to domestic problems, he killed his sister and threw the sacked body into the canal, the accused confessed his crime.

DSP Rural Circle Fazal Sher Khan along with SHO Rustam Abdul Sajid Khan and in-charge of Investigation Department Rustam Rab Nawaz Khan said during a press briefing that on April 29, the dead body of a woman was removed by local people near Shen Khal Nahar Ghara area. During the investigation, the brother of the murdered woman, Arshad, son of Zardad Ali resident of Sherkhane District Malakand was involved in the investigation. The murder pistol with cartridges has also been recovered.

conducted by the local police and Elite Force in areas around Kohat University and District Jail. The detained persons have been shifted to Jarma police station for investigation. Cases have been registered against the detained persons for possession of weapons and drugs.

Reconstruction on school's buildings inspected

F.P. Report

BARA: Resuming of educational institutions was in progress and on the last day Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) finance examined construction work on various schools in subdivision Bara, district Khyber.

It is to be mentioned here that more than 120 government-run schools had been demolished in militancy in the last two decades. ADC, Haseeb-ur-Rehman along with sub divisional officer (C&W) and fast technical team of (P&D) visited Karigar Gari, Ameer Khan Kalley, Alam Godar, Malan Gari, Aqil Jan Kalley, Aman Talab, Samand Kalley Aka Khel, Jamal Baz Kalley, Shalobar, Noor Muhammad Kalley, Akhun Talab, Gul Meran Kalley and examined rebuilding works on 17 State-run educational institutions.

Speaking on the occasion the administrative highup said that reconstruction work on 50 destroyed schools was initiated and the rebuilding was monitored through a technical team. The concerned department and the contractors were directed to complete the work as per approved design.

Protests held in Buner

F.P. Report

BUNER: Jamaat e Islami district Amir Haleem Bacha led protest rally at Pacha Bazaar against the desecration of Holy Quran in Sweden.

JI vice Amir Engineer Nasar Ali Jamaat Youth leader Abas Shaheen circle Gadezai Amir Amin-ur-Rasheed and other leaders with party activists and public as well participated. The protestors were raised slogans against the desecration of Muslim's holy book "Quran". They were also addressed and sought government as well as worldwide condemnation against the incident so as to discourage this negative trend against Islam and Muslims.

Meanwhile, Tehreek Nawjawan Pakistan president Abdul Karim was led protest demo in Swari against the Sweden incident and vowed the organization would hold such like protest demos at every square in the district so as to register anguish over the sad incident.

Baligh visits University

F.P. Report

KASUR: Governor Punjab Baligh-ur-Rehman visited Akhuwat University, Mustafabad here on Thursday.

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kasur Muhammad Arshad Bhatti, Founder of Akhuwat University Dr. Amjad Saqib welcomed the Governor Punjab. Governor Punjab Baligh-ur-Rehman inaugurated the Information Technology (IT) center and visited various departments of the university.

While addressing the ceremony, he said that the model of Akhuwat was a great example of welfare work.

JI plans 'Tehreek Huquq-e-Malakand' movement

F.P. Report

LOWER DIR: Jamaat-i-Islami has announced to launch 'Tehreek Huquq i Malakand' from holding a massive public rally at Chakadara on July 29. The announcement was made by the JI provincial deputy chief and former provincial senior minister Inayatullah Khan while speaking at a crowded press conference at Timergara. He said that party workers and general public from all districts of Malakand would participate in the JI protest rally. The JI former MNA Sahibzada Yaqub Khan, former MPAs Saeed Gul, Izazul Mulk Afkari, JI tehsil chief Malik Sher Bahadar and other party activists were also in attendance.

Inayatullah Khan said that the former states of Dir, Swat and Chitral were merged into Pakistan after a deal that the people would pay no taxes to the government for 100 years. He said the Pakistan Democratic Movement had now declared the region as a tax-free zone only for one more year that was a mockery with the locals. The JI leader said that Malakand was the largest administrative division in the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, so the government should bifurcate it into two divisions.

He said the Malakand division had been the worst



affected region of the natural and man-made disasters during the last two decades. The former lawmaker said that despite a huge loss, none of the successive governments gave attention to the backwardness of the region.

He alleged the people of Malakand were kept deprived of their basic rights for which the JI had planned to launch a movement with the name of 'Tehreek Huquq e Malakand' from July 29. The JI leader invited people from all walks of life, traders, transporters, lawyers, teachers and youths to attend the proposed gathering on the Chakadara bypass road. He said the region was enriched in natural resources like precious minerals, rivers, forests, mountains, fertile soil and scenic spots for tourism development.

He said that locals were the owners of these natural resources but they were deprived of its benefits. He

demanded the federal government to declare the region as a tax-free zone for the next ten years. He said the locals had the right to get royalty on forests and hydro power. He demanded the government to provide the people of Malakand with electricity on subsidized rate. He said the JI workers were all set to make the movement a success and would go to any extent in that regard.

TMO takes charge: Iqbal Hasan took over the charge as Tehsil Municipal Officer (TMO) Adenzai here. After assuming the charge, the TMO directed the staff to deliver public services with utmost sincerity and devotion as it was an act of worship. He said the official showing dishonesty was not being respected by the masses. He said that he would play his constructive role to make the TMA a model for others. He assured the staff that all possible efforts would be made to resolve their problems gradually.

Uplift work restarts on irrigation channel

F.P. Report

TIMERGARA: After a long delay, after 2 years, the work of expansion and repair of Balambat Irrigation Channel has been restarted.

According to the details, the expansion and repair work of the 74 km long Balambat irrigation channel at a cost of about 24 million rupees is going on rapidly with the efforts of ANP central spokesperson Zahid Khan. SDO Shahid Ali, SD Naseer Ahmed along with the ongoing construction work in various places Khal, Shilpalam, Diyaroon and other places and directed the authorities to complete the work with high quality materials in time. Zahid Khan said on this occasion that as a result of the flood, the 74 km long canal project had been swept away by the river due to which dozens of villages were affected.

Crop production on 11,000 canals of land has been affected, while the water supply schemes have run out of water due to the lowering of the underground water level. And a new era of development and prosperity will begin in the region.

Jewelers' association demands recovery stolen gold: The jewelers association has expressed serious concern against the theft of 164 tola gold and five lakh cash from a jeweler worth crores in Timergara and has given an ultimatum to the

district administration by Monday and said that if the accused are not arrested.

If it goes, the jewelers' association of the entire province will be forced to go on a shutter-down strike to protect the jewelers and demand the arrest of the accused of the major theft incident. Jewelers association Timergara president Zia Ullah speaking to the media during the meeting and later, he said that yesterday, unknown thieves stole 164 tolas of gold and five lakh rupees from a jeweler in Timergara. Jewelers are insecure because of this type of incident. He said that with most jewelers, jewelry and gold are the trust of people and with the victim jeweler, gold was the trust of people. He said that the accused can be seen in the CCTV cameras.

That is why the police should use modern technology to identify the suspects of theft and arrest them and bring them to the grip of the law. They demanded that security should be provided to the jewelers. Until the arrest of the accused of the theft incident is not carried out, the jewelers will hold a shutter down strike in Timergara bazar, while the jewelers will also hold a shutter down strike and protest in Malakand division and across the province.

PPP to overcome political gap: The leader of the Pakistan People's Party, former member of the

Provincial Assembly Muhammad Zamin Khan Advocate said that the coming time belongs to PPP and the party will bring the killers of democracy to their end. July 5, 1977 is a dark day in national history.

The great leader of the Muslim Ummah was martyred on the day the 5th of July will continue to remind us how a power-hungry dictator pushed the entire nation into the mire of extremism, terrorism, Kalashnikov and drug culture under the guise of religion, from which even after the passage of 46 years we still could not completely get rid of it. On July 5, 1977, the dictator General Zia-ul-Haq seized power by unconstitutionally ending the government of Shaheed Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, the first elected Prime Minister and the most popular leader of Pakistan, and deprived the citizens of their basic rights. Pakistanis around the world celebrate this day as Black Day. He also reiterated his commitment that his party will protect the unanimous constitution and parliamentary system of democracy given by Quaid-e-Awam Shaheed Zulfikar Ali Bhutto and establish a society based on equality. will continue to struggle with the same determination and courage to fulfill the mission of Pakistan People's Party, as Shaheed Ms. Benazir Bhutto was active throughout her life for this cause.

RPO awards traffic cops for best performance

Shafti Ullah

MINGORA: Regional Police Officer (RPO) Malakand, Nasir Mehmood Satti on Thursday awarded traffic wardens of Swat with commemorative certificates and cash prizes for their best performance during Eid Holidays here at RPO Office Saidu Sharif.

SP Traffic Warden Swat Badshah Hazrat, DSP Traffic Ameer Zeb, traffic wardens and inspectors were present at the prize distribution ceremony. Addressing the function, RPO Malakand lauded the

services of traffic wardens for maintaining the traffic flow during Eid days in Swat and said Swat was a tourists' destination and people in great number visited its scenic sites during Eid days.

He said the people friendly behavior of Swat traffic police brought a good name for the KP police. The roads leading towards tourists' destinations in Swat have been affected by the rains and floods however, despite these conditions our traffic staff was able to streamline the traffic flow during busy

dais of Eidul Azha.

He said he was happy to see that improvement has been brought in the performance of Swat traffic police adding that the people of Swat were also standing by its traffic staff due to their good behavior. He urged upon the police and traffic staff to further improve their attitude with the people so that tourism could get a further boost in the area. Later, he distributed commemorative certificates and cash prizes among the traffic police officers and wardens.

Three buried to death

KAMOKE (INP): Three persons including kids and women of a family died when the roof of their house caved in due to heavy rain in Kamoke on Thursday.

According to rescue officials, the roof of a dilapi-

dated house situated on Abdullah Road in Kamoke collapsed after the torrential rain hit the city. As many as, eight people of the same family buried under the debris. The rescuers pull out three bodies so far.

The deceased included Noor Fatima (2), Maryam (13) and Hajira Bibi (50). Noor Fatima and Maryam were real sisters. The injured included Arooj (18), Bilal (5), Yousuf (7), Ghazala (30) and Iqbal (60).



Friday, July 07, 2023

‘Steady, deliberate’: Ukrainian advance meets Russian resistance

MOSCOW (Agencies): Just over a month into its counteroffensive, Ukraine continues to make incremental advances and claims to be eroding the ability of invading Russian forces to fight back. Ukrainian forces recaptured 28.4 square kilometres (11 square miles) of territory in the previous week, bringing the counteroffensive's total gains to 158sq km (61sq miles), said Deputy Defence Minister Hanna Maliar.

The Ukrainian army was "advancing steadily, deliberately working its way through very difficult minefields ... 500 metres a day, 1,000 metres a day, 2,000 metres a day, that kind of thing," Chairman of the United States Joint Chiefs of Staff Mark Milley told the National Press Club in Washington on June 30. He estimated the counteroffensive could take as many as 10 weeks. Russian Defence Minister Sergei Shoigu said his forces destroyed 2,500 pieces of Ukrainian equipment since the counteroffensive began on June 4.

"Overall, neither of the enemy's goals in either direction has been met," said Shoigu during a speech at the defence ministry. "This confirms the prowess of Russian warriors and the obviously inflated hopes for the acclaimed Western armaments." Al Jazeera could not verify either Russian or Ukrainian figures, but Ukrainian officials insisted that territorial gains were not the priority at this stage.

Ukraine's Secretary of the National Security and Defence Council Oleksiy Danilov described "the number one task" of the armed forces as "the maximum destruction of manpower, equipment, fuel depots, armoured vehicles, command posts,



artillery, and air defence forces of the Russian army". These are softening operations in advance of a major attack, say military experts, and they reflect the tactics Ukraine employed ahead of major advances in September last year. Ukrainian commander of the armed forces Valery Zaluzhny told the Washington Post he was "pissed off" by those who complained about the slow pace of the counteroffensive. "This is not a show," Zaluzhny said. "It's not a show the whole world is watching and betting on or anything. Every day, every metre is given by blood."

The counteroffensive would be both faster and more effective if it had been accompanied by mastery of the air, he said, referring to Western allies' reluctance to provide F-16 planes in a

timely manner. He also said his forces were outgunned - sometimes 10 to 1 - because of ammunition shortages. Throughout the 71st week of the war, the main action was concentrated in specific battles. On the eastern front, Russia and Ukraine fought in the areas of Lyman, Bakhmut, Avdiivka and Marinka, all in the Donetsk region. On the southern front, Ukraine claimed to be making progress in at least two areas - south of Orikhiv, in western Zaporizhzhia and on the Zaporizhzhia-Donetsk administrative border.

Bakhmut remained of special importance to both sides. Russia occupied most of the town in early June after fighting for it for a year. Ukraine has since been engaged in an attempt to retake the city by flanking

it to the north and south. On June 28, Ukraine's general staff said its forces seized "a strategic initiative and are leading a broad offensive action" forcing Russians out of captured positions. Maliar reported advances of 1,200 metres towards Klischchiivka and 1,500 metres towards Kurdyumivka, both south of Bakhmut. She said Ukrainian troops still controlled the southwestern outskirts of Bakhmut, but the heaviest fighting was now around the city. "The offensive is proceeding in several directions and our troops are advancing everywhere," she said during a telethon. Russia responded by moving elite troops to Bakhmut. Ukraine's eastern forces spokesman Colonel Serhiy Cherevatyi said a Russian airborne forces regiment had been transferred to Bakhmut from Lyman. Ukraine's general staff said it was still "kicking out" Russian forces from their positions around Bakhmut on July 3. "The opponent is doing crazy resistance and suffers huge losses. Some tough fighting going on here," it said.

Cherevatyi said of the 180,000 Russian troops on the eastern front, the best 50,000 were defending Bakhmut armed with more than 300 tanks, 330 artillery pieces, and 140 multiple-launch rocket systems. "For them, the city is not only of military importance, but also of information and propaganda," he said. Russia's defence ministry said it repelled all Ukrainian attacks on the eastern front near Bakhmut and Lyman. "Russian sources are increasingly claiming that Ukrainian forces are currently conducting assaults in southern Ukraine with smaller infantry groups and fewer armoured vehicles than during

earlier counteroffensive operations," wrote the Washington-based Institute for the Study of War (ISW), a think-tank. One source cited described Ukrainian tactics: "Now the enemy is acting in relays, using small assault groups in waves. As soon as one unit runs out of steam, a new unit takes its place." ISW said the reporting suggests Ukrainian forces are not currently attempting large-scale operations that would result in rapid territorial advances. "Ukrainian officials have routinely indicated that Ukrainian forces have yet to commit a substantial portion of their forces to counteroffensive operations, and have yet to launch the main phase of the counteroffensive," it said.

Ukraine started its counteroffensive with mechanised units, but appeared to have returned to guerrilla tactics it employed early in the war after sustaining highly publicised losses of tanks and armoured fighting vehicles in June. Russian drones were able to ferret out armoured columns and guide artillery strikes against them.

However, those guerrilla tactics were not always successful. Russian occupation governor of Kherson Vladimir Saldo said a few dozen Ukrainian troops had been cleared from the eastern side of the Antonivsky Bridge in a special forces operation. He said there were no further Ukraine troops the left bank of the Dnipro river. "The destruction of the [Ukrainian] units that landed ... in the Antonovsky bridge area has been completed," said the Russian defence ministry on July 3. Ukraine indirectly confirmed increased Russian activity on the Dnipro.

Russian forces were stepping up

artillery attacks and air strikes against the right bank of the Dnipro from the Kinburn Spit, said Natalia Humeniuk, spokesperson for Ukraine's southern forces. The aim was to distract Ukraine's forces from efforts to cross the river to the left bank. Humeniuk said Russian forces returned to positions they retreated from after the Nova Kakhovka Dam breach flooded them, and were launching reconnaissance patrols across the river to spy on Ukrainian activities. In just one day, she said, Ukrainian forces had sunk two boats with 66 Russian troops in the Mykolaiv area. Ukraine has warned for weeks that Russia is preparing to create a nuclear contamination incident at the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant, where it maintains about 5,000 troops. "According to operational information, outside objects resembling explosive devices were placed on the outer roofs of the third and fourth power units of the [power plant]," the general staff said. The goal of this sabotage was not necessarily to damage the reactors, but to make it look as if Ukraine had shelled the plant, it said. "It is important that all Ukrainians are morally prepared for the detonation of the [facility], as well as trained in how to act in any situation. We simply have no other way out," said Maliar.

Russia, meanwhile, accused Ukraine of planning to attack the nuclear plant. Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov raised the specter of a potentially "catastrophic" provocation by the Ukrainian army at the facility, which is Europe's largest. "The situation is quite tense. There is a great threat of sabotage by the Kyiv regime, which can be catastrophic in its consequences," Peskov said.

South Africa: Suspected gas leak leaves 16 dead

JOHANNESBURG (AP): At least 16 people, including three children, were killed by a leak of a toxic nitrate gas being used by illegal miners to process gold in a settlement of closely packed metal shacks, South African police and local officials said.

Emergency services initially announced that as many as 24 people might be dead in the Angelo settlement in Boksburg, a city on the eastern outskirts of Johannesburg. But police and Gauteng Province Premier Panyaza Lesufi later said the number of deaths had been confirmed as 16 after a recount of the bodies. "It's not a nice scene at all ... It's painful, emotionally draining and tragic," Lesufi, who visited the scene, was quoted as saying in news reports.

Teams were searching the area looking for other casualties deep into the night. The bodies of the victims remained lying on the ground hours after the leak was reported around 8 p.m. as emergency services waited for forensic investigators and pathologists to arrive to process the scene. The bodies were still there at 3 a.m. "We can't move anybody. The bodies are still where they are on the ground," said emergency services spokesman William Ntladi. A forensic investigator was seen covering the body of a small child with a blanket.

Another body could be seen covered in a white cloth with a shoe sticking out. It lay under a strip of yellow police tape cordoning off the area. Police said the three children killed were aged 1, 6 and 15. Two people were taken to the hospital for treatment, police said. Boksburg is the city where 41 people died after a truck carrying liquefied petroleum gas got stuck under a bridge and exploded on Christmas Eve. Ntladi said deaths were caused by a nitrate gas that leaked from a gas cylinder being kept in a shack. He said the cannister had emptied out in the leak and teams were able to begin going over an area stretching out 100 meters (100 yards) from the cylinder to check for more casualties.

Investigators were searching through narrow alleys between shacks, cast into darkness by the lack of streetlights - a common situation in the deeply impoverished informal settlements found in and around South Africa's cities. Six police cars, an armoured vehicle and one ambulance were parked at the entrance to the Angelo settlement. Ntladi said the information authorities had indicated the cylinder that caused the leak was being used by illegal miners to separate gold from dirt and rock. Lesufi, the Gauteng premier, tweeted videos of the dusty inside of a shack where at

least four gas cylinders can be seen on metal stands. The video also shows what Lesufi said was the cylinder responsible for the leak lying on the floor next to the entrance of the shack. Authorities didn't say if the illegal miners they believed to be responsible for the gas leak were among the casualties. Illegal mining is rife in the gold-rich areas around Johannesburg, where miners go into closed off and disused mines to search for any deposits left over.

Mining fatalities underground are also common and the South African government department responsible for mining announced recently that at least 31 illegal miners were believed to have died in a gas explosion in a disused mine in the city of Welkom in central South Africa. The cause was methane gas, the mining department said.

The tragedy was likely to stoke more anger at illegal miners, who are often migrants from neighboring countries, operate in organized gangs and are blamed for bringing crime into neighborhoods. Violence against illegal miners erupted last year and raged for days in an area west of Johannesburg after a group of 80 men, some of whom were believed to be illegal miners, were charged with gang raping eight women who were working on a TV shoot at a disused mine.

UN's WFP calls for funds to ease hunger crisis in West, Central Africa

DAKAR (Reuters): The United Nations' World Food Programme said it needed extra funding to help millions of people in West and Central Africa get through the coming months known as the lean season. The WFP said the current cash crunch meant that it would only be able to help just over half of the 11.6 million targeted under an emergency food operation in countries including Burkina Faso, Nigeria and Chad, where an influx of refugees from Sudan has put extra pressure on limited resources.

Conflicts and soaring prices have helped drive food insecurity to a 10-year high in West and Central Africa, according to a March analysis by the Cadre Harmonise, a regional food security framework. Malnutrition rates have also surged, with 16.5 million children under 5 expected to be acutely malnourished this year, WFP said. It seeks \$794 million to respond adequately to needs in the five Sahel region countries of Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Mauritania, and Niger from July to December.

US accuses Russia

WASHINGTON (Agencies): The United States has accused Russian fighter jets of flying dangerously close to several of its drones over Syria, setting off flares and forcing the MQ-9 Reapers to take evasive action. US Air Forces Central released a video of encounter, showing a Russian SU-35 fighter closing in on the drone.

Footage showed the Russian pilot positioning his aircraft in front of the Reaper and turning on the afterburner, dramatically increasing speed and air pressure and making it harder to operate the drone, the air force said in comments accompanying the video. So-called parachute flares were also released.

"The Russian SU-35 fighter aircraft employed parachute flares in the flight path of US MQ-9 aircraft," the air force said. "Against established norms and protocols, this forced US aircraft to conduct evasive manoeuvres." Three US drones were airborne at the time of the incident, Lieutenant General Alexus Grynkeiwich, the commander of the Ninth Air Force in the Middle East, said in a statement. He accused the Russian aircraft of "harassing the drones", which he said were engaged in a mission against ISIL (ISIS). "Russian military aircraft engaged in unsafe and unprofessional behaviour while interacting with US aircraft in Syria," he said, adding that the actions threatened the safety not only of US forces but also Russian forces.

US Justice Dept reveals more info about Trump Mar-a-Lago search

WASHINGTON (Agencies): The United States justice department has released more information about the affidavit used to justify the search of former President Donald Trump's Mar-a-Lago resort in August 2022. The decision follows an order earlier in the day from Bruce Reinhart, a federal judge in the Southern District of Florida.

Reinhart dismissed a request from media organisations to unseal the entire affidavit, but he nevertheless compelled the justice department to reveal further details from the heavily redacted document. The affidavit offered justification for the search warrant used to seize documents from the Mar-a-Lago estate in South Florida on August 8, providing key evidence for the current slate of federal charges against Trump. The former president now

faces 38 counts related to his alleged mishandling of classified documents after leaving office. The historic indictment against Trump, unsealed in June, accused the Republican leader of stashing sensitive records around a toilet, ballroom and other storage areas readily accessible to resort employees. It also charged Trump with obstructing attempts to reclaim the documents, concealing the papers and making false statements about them. The additional information published disclosed how security footage from the resort gave the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) probable cause to probe the premises. The surveillance tape showed dozens of boxes being moved ahead of a visit from investigators on June 3, 2022, according to the affidavit.

On the day of the visit,

representatives from the FBI and the justice department were given an envelope with 38 classified documents - and the assurance that all other relevant materials had been surrendered. However, when the FBI returned in August with the search warrant, law enforcement recovered an additional 102 classified documents. The movement of the boxes had previously been described in June's indictment, which identified Walt Nauta, a Trump aide, as helping to transport the files ahead of the investigators' arrival. The affidavit does not name Nauta but rather explains that an individual called "Witness 5" was seen hauling boxes to and from the anteroom of the resort. Nauta himself faces six federal charges for his alleged role in the classified documents scandal. He is scheduled to be arraigned on

Thursday. Trump had been subpoenaed in May 2022 to turn over all classified materials to federal authorities. When his lawyers encouraged him to comply, he allegedly replied, "Wouldn't it be better if we just told them we don't have anything here?" The former president has pleaded not guilty to the charges against him. He is currently campaigning for a second term in the 2024 presidential race. His campaign released a statement saying the Republican candidate tallied more than \$35m in donations during the second quarter of the year, despite his ongoing legal troubles. That total is almost double what he raised in the first three months of the year when he pulled in \$18.8m. Trump's campaign has previously said that it pulled in \$6.6m alone in the days following the federal indictment.

Migration ‘only option’ for many in Latin America: Food aid chief

BRUSSELS (AFP): Many people in Latin America see migration as "the only option they have" after enduring successive crises of climate change, Covid and spiking food prices, the World Food Programme's head for the region told AFP. "It's a hemispheric migration," the official for the United Nations organisation, Lola Castro, said in an interview in Brussels.

"People are transiting everywhere in the continent... all the way to the border with the US and Mexico, everywhere is affected by migration, and the governments are telling us 'What do we do with all these masses of people transiting?'" The pressures,

particularly food insecurity, prompted Castro to plead that Latin America "not be forgotten" when its leaders get together with EU counterparts in a joint summit in Brussels July 17-18. Haiti is of particular concern for the World Food Programme, mainly because of unchecked gangs, Castro said. "The situation has deteriorated enormously," she said, adding that "there are 200 gangs and they have taken over the city of Port-au-Prince," Haiti's capital. The danger they pose is preventing Haitians going to work or school or taking food to market, she said. It "is really like a population taken hostage," she said. Nearly half of Haiti's popu-

lation, 4.9 million people, are in need of food assistance, but the WFP is only able to get to around 2.5 million of them.

But "due to funding cuts around the world, we are not going to be able to reach one (million) of these 2.5 million," Castro said, calling that "very dramatic". Funding for WFP's operations in Haiti is \$122 million short for this year, she explained. While Russia's war in Ukraine has thrown up challenges to food supplies in many regions, Africa and the Middle East especially, food insecurity was climbing inexorably in Latin America, despite its agricultural production capacity, Castro said. Where in previous years the

WFP was helping three million people suffering severe food insecurity in Latin American and Caribbean countries, "now we never go below 10 to 30 million". "Migration at this moment is the only option that people have," she said. "They leave, to the north, and what we are seeing is a huge increment." With the EU-Latin America summit the first in a decade Europe is looking to boost dialogue, and push for progress on a free trade deal agreed in principle with the Mercosur countries Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay. The European Union is also keen to source rare earths and metals from Latin America as it weans itself off dependence on China.

UN records highest number violations against children

UNITED NATIONS (AP): Children experienced the highest number of "grave violations" in conflicts verified by the United Nations in 2022, with the conflicts between Israeli and Palestinians and in Congo and Somalia putting the most youngsters in peril, the UN children's agency said.

UNICEF also expressed particular concern about their plight in Haiti, Nigeria, Ethiopia, Mozambique and Ukraine, where Russia has been put on the UN blacklist. "Grave violations" include the recruitment and use of children by combatants, killings and injuries, sexual violence, abductions, and attacks on schools and hospitals.

Omar Abdi, UNICEF's deputy executive director, told the UN Security Council the more than 27,000 grave violations, up from 24,000 the previous year, are the highest number verified by the UN since its monitoring reports began in 2005. The number of conflict situations "of concern" was also the highest - at 26. Since the report, Abdi said, a serious conflict has erupted in Sudan where over 1 million children have been displaced by violent conflict and the UN has received reports that hundreds have been killed and injured. He also said

UNICEF expects an increase in Palestinian children affected due to recent escalations in violence. Government and parties to conflicts are not fulfilling their commitments to protect children, and "meaningful and unambiguous action" is needed, the UNICEF official said. In his yearly report to the council late last month, Secretary-General Antonio Guterres put Russian forces on the UN's annual blacklist of countries that violate children's rights in conflict for killing boys and girls and attacking schools and hospitals in Ukraine.

But the UN chief did not put Israel on the blacklist for grave violations against 1,139 Palestinian children, including 54 killings last year - as supporters had hoped - saying the UN welcomed its "identification of practical measures including those proposed by the UN" to protect children. The UN special envoy for children in armed conflict, Virginia Gamba, told the council that the 27,180 grave violations in 2022 were carried out against 18,890 children and included 8,620 who were killed or injured, 7,622 who were recruited or used by governments or armed groups in conflicts, 3,985 who were abducted, 1,165,

almost all of them girls, who were raped, forced into marriage or sexual slavery or sexually assaulted. The United Nations also verified attacks on 1,163 schools and 647 hospitals, a 112% increase from 2021, she said. While armed groups were responsible for 50% of grave violations, Gamba underscored that governments were the main perpetrators of the killing and maiming of children and of attacks on schools and hospitals. Gamba said, for example, last year three girls were gang raped in South Sudan "during five days of terror," many boys were killed by an explosive device at a school in Afghanistan, a 14-year-old girl in Myanmar was abducted and burned alive, and an airstrike in Ukraine left a girl with amputated limbs. "We must do more to prevent and protect our children from the ravages of armed conflict," she said. US deputy ambassador Jeffrey DeLaurentis said the report makes clear that the world's nations "have not done nearly enough to protect children from the impacts of conflicts." He said the United States is "keen" to see this issue "elevated, enhanced, and better integrated into all the work of the Security Council."

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Will India benefit from CPEC?

PRIME Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif has recently asked neighboring India to take advantage of the mega project instead of creating obstacles in its way. While highlighting the significance of the project, Premier noted that the CPEC is a magnificent plan to connect not only regions/ areas but also people's hearts, whereas, Iran, Afghanistan, the Middle East, and the whole region would also benefit from this vast infrastructure. The Prime Minister vowed to double the pace of the development as it was not only for improving roads, rail, seaports, and air routes, but it would mobilize mass public participation in healthcare, education, and skill development in the country.

The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), is a magnificent example of China-Pakistan all-weather strategic friendship and an important element of Chinese President Xi Jinping's vision for global peace, friendship, and economic partnership that manifests in the form of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) across Asia, Africa, and Eurasia. Initiated in late 2013, the CPEC has completed a decade of successes, and achievements by creating a network of ground and sea lines of communication, energy projects, Special Economic Zones, industrial and trade revival, skill development, healthcare, education, and cultural exchanges through people to people contacts between the two nations. Historically, it was a game-changer initiative that was aimed at bringing a pivotal change in geopolitical and socioeconomic dynamics in the region, however, this grand endeavor fell victim to global conspiracy and regional rivalry at its early stage. The United States of America, its Western allies, and Pakistan's staunch enemy India formed an alliance to fail CPEC which they perceived as a part of Beijing's broader strategy for global supremacy in the world.

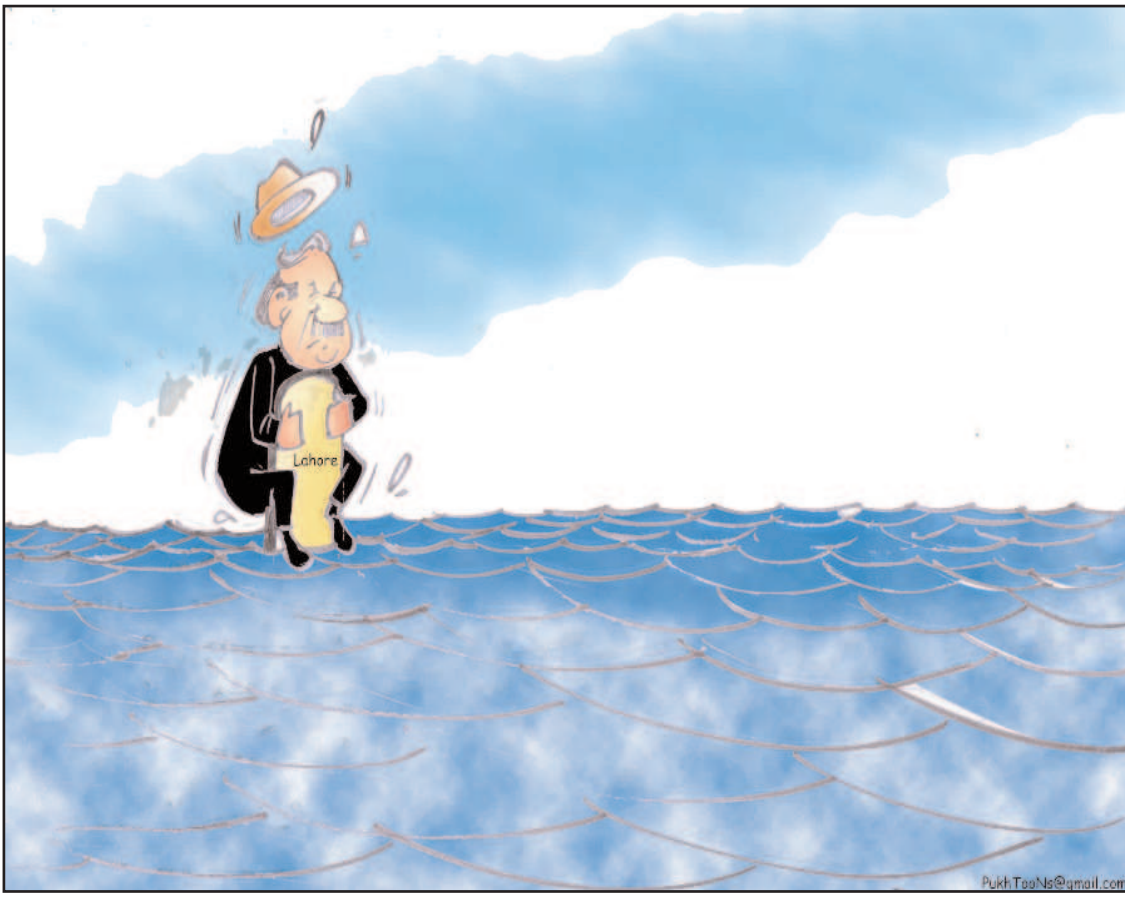
The CPEC has been publicized as a game-changer and a pivotal shift in regional alliances, trade, and economic partnerships throughout East Asia to the Middle East, Central Asia, and North Africa that was a strategic and economic advantage of Pakistan, but the successful completion of BRI and CPEC projects could expand Beijing's political, economic and military influence over a large part of the world. As for as India is concerned, New Delhi opposed the CPEC because it passes through Gilgit Baltistan and Azad Kashmir which is falsely claimed by India. In addition to this, CPEC's success could propel China to superpower status along with enabling Pakistan to become a stronger military and economic power in the region, which is totally unacceptable to New Delhi. Based on those grounds, New Delhi and Washington left no stone unturned to fail the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, while the Indian Intelligence agency created a dedicated desk and allocated billions of rupee fund to wage propaganda and terrorist activities to sabotage CPEC projects and create confusion/ doubts regarding Chinese investment in Pakistan. In fact, the rise in the separatists' insurgency in Balochistan, the resurgence of terrorism in Erstwhile FATA, and continuous support to miscreants/anti-state elements in Gilgit Baltistan had been the main pillars of RAW anti-CPEC policies over the past decade.

Interestingly, the Chinese government has several times invited New Delhi to join CPEC to grasp lucrative economic, trade, and social dividends of regional connectivity and cooperation but India always declined such offers due to its vested interests and traditional rivalry with Beijing and Islamabad. Apparently, Prime Minister's pledge regarding India's inclusion into the CPEC is inappropriate because New Delhi has played a saboteur role against the CPEC from the day first. India has joined the Western bloc and its interests are completely aligned with Europe and America. Today, India is a close non-NATO ally of the United States and Washington is propping up New Delhi to counterweight Beijing's Influence in the region and beyond. Presently, hundreds of American tech giants, businesses, and multinational firms had shifted their businesses from China to India because of political reasons, ease of doing business, availability of cheaper workforce, and raw materials. However, Pakistan's interests are best protected by its close partnership with Beijing and its policy of non-alignment and refrain from bloc politics.

The PML-N has a long history of love for India, it always advocated for the promotion of Pak-Hind better ties and collaboration in trade and business. Historically, this policy had proved to be counterproductive for Pakistani leaders particularly the PML-N leadership because of opposition from the military establishment. Although, regional cooperation is in the best interests of both nations if India gives a positive response to those good gestures. Over the past two decades, India remained resolute in Pakistan's enmity and did not move an inch from its stated policy on multiple issues ranging from cricket matches to the Kashmir dispute, Sir Creek, or Siachen. How Mr. Sharif aspects a breakthrough amid ongoing rivalry and CPEC's staunch opposition from New Delhi. In fact, Prime Minister must pursue Pakistan's policy of playing a bridging role between China and the United States. Currently, US leadership is endeavoring hard to repair its ties with Beijing and Sharif must offer Pakistan readiness to play a peace broker role between the two powers as Islamabad did in the past. Pakistan should invite the US to join CPEC, to get easy access to the Chinese market and collectively harvest the benefits of this multilateral joint venture. If it happens, New Delhi will surely obey its Western masters. However, it will only be possible when Pakistani leaders will shed off haphazard policies and demonstrate courage in defending Pakistan's core interests at the global level.

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Rohingya refugees' plight is similar to that of the Palestinians

Dr. Azeem Ibrahim

THE world has witnessed numerous instances of conflict and humanitarian crisis, each with its own unique set of circumstances and complexities. Among these, the Rohingya crisis in Myanmar and the Palestinian issue in the Middle East have garnered significant attention due to their protracted nature and the plight of the affected communities.

Both the Rohingya and the Palestinians have a long history marked by political unrest, discrimination and marginalization.

The Rohingya, an ethnic minority group residing in Myanmar's Rakhine State, have faced systemic persecution and denial of citizenship since the 1982 Citizenship Law stripped them of their rights. Similarly, Palestinians have experienced dispossession and displacement since the establishment of the state of Israel in 1948, which resulted in the displacement of hundreds of thousands of Palestinians. Olivier De Schutter, the UN special rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights, recently highlighted the urgent need to address the situation of nearly 1 million Rohingya residing in overcrowded camps in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh. He warned that Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh face a fate similar to that of the Palestinians, as they find themselves trapped in an enduring and increasingly neglected crisis. He asserted that granting them the right to work in their host country is essential, as relying solely on diminishing international aid is unsustainable.

De Schutter, who recently visited Cox's Bazar, described the conditions as "absolutely terrible" and recounted encountering people in a state of profound desperation. The refugees, who fled the brutal military crackdowns in Myanmar in 2017, are isolated from the local community and endure squalid and cramped living conditions. While the international community expressed outrage over the violence inflicted upon the Rohingya more than five years ago, the focus has now shifted to other crises, leaving the refugees increasingly neglected. The World Food Programme's recent announcement that it

had slashed the food allowance for Rohingya refugees to a mere \$8 per person per month due to insufficient funding exacerbates the dire situation. De Schutter warns that, when combined with rising food prices, this reduction in support will lead to a significant deterioration in calorie intake and nutritional quality for the refugees. Moreover, child malnutrition and undernutrition rates will soar, perpetuating the problem of stunted growth among children.

Most concerning is the fact that these vulnerable individuals are entirely dependent on humanitarian assistance, while being prohibited from engaging in any form of work. They find themselves utterly trapped in their circumstances, unable to improve their situation or become self-reliant, exacerbating their plight. The UN's warning draws attention to

endured. The Rohingya have faced several waves of mass exodus due to violent military crackdowns, such as the 2017 crisis that led to an estimated 1 million Rohingya fleeing to neighboring Bangladesh. Palestinians, too, have endured multiple waves of displacement, starting with the Nakba in 1948, which resulted in the displacement of hundreds of thousands of Palestinians from their homes and the establishment of refugee camps in neighboring countries.

Another key similarity is how the Rohingya and Palestinians face significant challenges in their quest for statehood and self-determination. The Rohingya, despite their long-standing presence in Myanmar, have been denied citizenship and face severe restrictions on their movement and access to basic services. Similarly, Palestinians have struggled

groups have been labeled as nonexistent ethnicities, interlopers and invaders. Religious justifications have been employed to support the persecution of both groups. The Myanmar government has empowered Buddhist nationalist factions that promote genocide against the defenseless Rohingya, while the Israeli government has empowered Jewish nationalist factions that support the ethnic cleansing of Palestinians.

The international response to the Rohingya crisis and the Palestinian issue has also been a subject of debate and criticism. In both cases, the international community has struggled to find effective solutions, with limited political will and complex geopolitical dynamics hindering progress. Calls for accountability, justice and humanitarian aid have been voiced, but meaningful action to address the root causes of these crises has been limited. Both the Rohingya and the Palestinians have faced grave human rights violations, including restrictions on movement, land confiscation and incidents of violence. These violations highlight the urgent need for international intervention and the protection of human rights for both communities. The Rohingya and Palestinians share several similarities in their historical context, forced displacements, struggles for statehood and the international community's response. Both communities have endured prolonged conflicts, faced severe human rights abuses and sought recognition and justice. It is crucial for the international community to recognize these parallels, raise awareness about their plights and work toward finding lasting solutions that uphold human rights, justice and the right to self-determination for both the Rohingya and the Palestinians. Only through concerted efforts can we hope to bring an end to their suffering and secure a more peaceful and just future for these marginalized communities.

A key striking similarity between the Rohingya and the Palestinians is the forced displacement they have endured. The Rohingya have faced several waves of mass exodus due to violent military crackdowns, such as the 2017 crisis that led to an estimated 1 million Rohingya fleeing to neighboring Bangladesh. Palestinians, too, have endured multiple waves of displacement, starting with the Nakba in 1948, which resulted in the displacement of hundreds of thousands of Palestinians from their homes and the establishment of refugee camps in neighboring countries.

the parallels between the Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh and the long-standing struggles of the Palestinians. The urgent call to address this neglected crisis emphasizes the importance of granting the Rohingya the right to work and supporting them in their quest for self-sufficiency. Without concerted efforts to address their predicament, these individuals face a future marked by ongoing dependence on humanitarian aid and a deterioration in their overall well-being. A key striking similarity between the Rohingya and the Palestinians is the forced displacement they have

to establish an independent state, namely because of Israel's occupation of Palestinian land, illegal Israeli settlements being built on Palestinian land, and the inability of the international community to step in and to mediate effectively a final resolution to the conflict. Both peoples share a common history of disenfranchisement after the collapse of colonial rule and imperial regimes. In both Myanmar and Israel, the governments have attempted to uproot them from their land, portraying them as foreigners without legitimate claims. Rewriting their historical narratives, both persecuted

Alice Edwards

of Russian government approval and potentially even state orchestration of torture. While there have been far fewer allegations about torture being perpetrated by Ukrainian forces, they also exist. Earlier in the year the Independent International Commission of Inquiry on Ukraine noted two cases of alleged torture against Russian prisoners of war and other allegations about torture or inhuman treatment of people accused of being collaborators. Allegations of sexualised torture in the form of rape and other demeaning and harrowing attacks are also a constant in conflicts. The United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights has received reports of 18 incidents of sexual violence committed during the ongoing conflict in Sudan against at least 53 women and girls - the victims include at least 10

girls. In one case, 18 to 20 women were reportedly raped in the same attack.

In the Central African Republic, sexual assault allegations were levelled against Tanzanian soldiers operating as UN peacekeepers who had to be confined to their barracks pending their repatriation. The allegations that my office receives include testimonies from warring parties who seem to be competing with each other to share the most shocking videos that document the misdeeds of the opposing side. Torture accusations are being traded like political footballs while far too many torturers get away with it. And this is not limited to "the usual suspects". Democracies cite torture perpetrated by autocracies, while ducking responsibility for the crimes of their own troops and security services. The misdeeds perpetrated at

Radical solutions needed to fix Paris's problems

Jerry Maher

ALL indicators suggest that what is happening in France is a serious matter that cannot be underestimated, especially since it did not happen overnight but rather as a result of political, economic and social accumulations.

Large protests erupted throughout France following last week's killing of Nahel Merzouk, a young man of Algerian origin, at the hands of the police. This extraordinary and tragic event has drawn condemnations and denunciations, notably from the UN. The spokesperson for the UN Human Rights Commission, Ravina Shamdasani, said that it was time for France to "seriously address the deep issues of racism and discrimination in law enforcement."

French President Emmanuel Macron, who came to power with an ambitious vision for carrying out reform projects, has struggled to meet his goals. On the contrary, crises have escalated and protests have expanded. Soon after taking office, he faced the beginning of the "Yellow Vest" movement, which initially emerged to denounce the rising fuel prices and cost of living. It later developed to include demands for the repeal of tax reforms implemented by the government, which were seen as draining the working and middle classes at the expense of the wealthy. These protests led to significant chaos and acts of rioting on the streets.

Additionally, there is a marginalized group of immigrant French citizens who are deprived of their basic social rights and are treated with harsh racism. Immigrant French citizens frequently experience social and economic inequalities, including limited access to education, healthcare, employment and affordable housing. These disparities can result in lower living standards, limited opportunities for social mobility and a higher risk of poverty. They may encounter biases, stereotypes and barriers that hinder their integration and limit their opportunities for advancement. Immigrant children may also face challenges in accessing quality education due to language barriers, cultural differences and discrimination. Calls for police reform and accountability have gained momentum, with demands for stricter oversight, improved training and measures to address racial bias within law enforcement agencies. Incidents of police violence and the death of individuals during encounters with the police have further fueled public outrage and eroded trust in the institution.

And thus, Macron is currently facing a difficult and precarious situation. Therefore, the upcoming hours will be crucial and decisive for him and his government, especially as we are just a few days away from the French National Day on July 14, when there is usually heightened alert and preparedness among the French police, security forces and military. The issue with police in France is not a new one. It goes back to at least 2016, when Adama Traore, a 24-year-old Black man, died while in police custody. His death and the subsequent handling of the case by the authorities led to accusations of police brutality and racial profiling. In 2020, the

global Black Lives Matter movement also resonated in France, with protests against police violence and systemic racism. Demonstrators called for justice and reforms within the police force. The issue of racism within the police force is complex and multifaceted. It involves systemic issues, training methods, recruitment practices and the need for cultural and institutional change. So, it is an ongoing societal challenge.

One also cannot fail to take into consideration the role that French mayors play in this issue, as we have recently witnessed mayors across the country holding rallies to oppose the violent protests that followed Merzouk's death. The mayors are responsible for ensuring public safety, managing permits for protests, coordinating with law enforcement agencies and maintaining public order during demonstrations. They can also engage in dialogue with protesters, act as mediators and advocate for their communities' concerns. They work closely with local law enforcement agencies to maintain security and public order during protests. They may deploy additional police officers or security personnel to manage crowds, prevent violence or vandalism and protect public and private property. Moreover, mayors are responsible for the safety of both protesters and the general public. Some may even express publicly their support for or opposition to certain protests. In conclusion, it is certain that the developments France will witness in the coming days will not be in favor of President Macron, who seems to be consumed by the street's unrest, jeopardizing both him and his policies. This is particularly so because he lacks radical solutions to address the crises facing the country, which call for equality and human rights, rather than the racism exhibited in many events and contexts in French society. Therefore, the internal situation in France may deteriorate further, especially with media reports suggesting that the current protests are entirely different from previous ones. They now pose a threat to the safety of citizens and public and private property through the organized looting of stores and the burning of public buses and private cars. This signifies a security breakdown on the streets that could escalate into a civil war, especially as the French media has also reported that some citizens are taking to the streets to confront the protesters and defend their belongings.

These reports have not ruled out the possibility of the authorities implementing a public emergency plan, in which the French army directly participates in maintaining security on the streets of Paris and all French cities. This is especially true since the number of police officers is no longer sufficient to control the security situation, despite the decision last week to suspend public transportation throughout the country from 9 p.m. nightly. This implies an unofficial partial curfew to limit the movement of protesters on public streets, as they rely on public transportation to travel between the different areas.

In this time of war, too many torturers are evading justice

EVERY morning as I turn on my phone, I brace myself for an onslaught of grotesque images and videos. Since becoming the United Nations Special Rapporteur for torture, I have faced a steady stream of testimonies of alleged torture and inhuman treatment in my email inbox and social media feeds.

There is more conflict in the world right now than at any time since the end of World War II in 1945, with the Red Cross estimating that there are more than 100 conflicts globally. With this increase in violence has come a spike in incidents of torture. The grim headlines from the battlefields of Ukraine, Sudan and beyond mask the often more brutal stories of torture. War and torture have always been inextricably linked. In the confusion of conflict, it is all too easy for governments to excuse bad

behaviour, to hide it and even to authorise it.

But in recent years, technology has facilitated the documentation of instances of torture and other atrocities. Some have been documented by soldiers themselves - mobile phones used to gather potential war crimes evidence seem to have become an essential element of military kitbags. We have seen this pattern emerge in the war in Ukraine, from where my office has received many disturbing allegations. Some appear to indicate that Russian military forces and their associates in the country are consistently and intentionally inflicting severe physical and psychological pain and suffering on Ukrainian civilians and prisoners of war.

The level of coordination, planning and organisation of torture incidents being perpetrated in Ukraine suggests a degree

home or by "our boys" sent on overseas military adventures are often overlooked.

Not a single official of the United States has been prosecuted for the torture and arbitrary detention of the "forever prisoners" of Guantanamo Bay. Neither the British soldiers directly involved nor the policy-makers have ever been criminally prosecuted for the inhuman interrogations in the "hooded men" case in Northern Ireland. Earlier this year, Australia was gripped by defamation proceedings which found that the country's most decorated living soldier, Ben Roberts-Smith, engaged in war crimes while serving in the Australian armed forces in Afghanistan. This included being complicit in and responsible for murder. In one incident highlighted in the case, a murdered Afghan man's prosthetic leg ended up as a "war trophy" that was used in

drinking games at a bar on a military base. Yet, despite the Australian authorities launching a full-scale inquiry, there has been just one arrest of a soldier for alleged war crimes committed during the conflict.

We must hold democracies to the highest of standards - if military or security forces torture, they have breached a commitment all states have made to the international community at large. Shields of silence that permeate the armed services must be challenged. It is time governments show strong moral leadership to ensure that torturers do not escape justice. This leadership must start at home and at the top, and then flow right through to the field captain and the newest recruit. No country and no individuals are exempt from the universal prohibition on torture and no one should ever get away with committing such atrocities.

British democracy has begun to fight back against populism

Chris Doyle

OUTRAGE. Scandal. The president of the Cambridge Union resigned last month having been accused of "stuffing ballots" to get his mate elected as his successor. If standards at this world-leading, historic academic institution are collapsing, what does it say about the rest of Britain?

The question facing those who care for the country's political system is whether it can stand up to the onslaught against standards in public life and prevent a slide into illiberalism and reactionary populism. How resilient are British institutions? It was the Victorians who introduced ideals such as accountability and integrity into government, and so changed the way that the country was governed. They would not be impressed by the Britain of 2023. When standards at the heart of Westminster have all but evaporated, why should we imagine that other establishment bulwarks would also not be infected? Nothing is sacred anymore in politics, so stuffing ballot boxes for political gain seems just the next logical step in the race to the bottom.

For any political system to function, a set of shared assumptions and accepted truths are vital. This is why standards at the heart of political systems matter. It is why the investigation into the mob attack in Washington on Jan. 6, 2021, matters. It is why public service matters. It is why accountability matters. It is why the rule of law matters. In the UK, the Boris Johnson era appears to be coming to an end. The former prime minister never seemed to be shackled by any necessity to veer toward the truth. He was not the first PM to have dabbled in falsehoods, but he took it to a new, all-consuming level. In

doing so, he compromised all the politicians around him and made them complicit in the lies. The Supreme Court determined that Johnson unlawfully advised the late Queen Elizabeth to prorogue Parliament, all to overcome yet another Brexit-related crisis. He stands accused of lying to the monarch. Partygate drags on. This is the scandal that bedeviled his last months as prime minister, although it was not the ultimate reason he was ejected from Downing Street. That was another scandal. The House of Commons Privileges Committee last month found that Johnson deliberately misled Parliament or, as most would see it, lied about the lockdown parties in Downing Street. It stated: "Our democracy depends on MPs being able to trust that what ministers say in the House of Commons is the truth." Its report into Johnson's conduct forced him into a preemptive resignation as an MP. He did not go silently into the night.

But what about the other politicians who savaged the Privileges Committee? They were accused of intimidating committee members in a coordinated campaign. Many of the eight likened the committee to a "kangaroo court." One MP accused it of being a "parliamentary witch hunt which would put a banana republic to shame." Cronyism is another hallmark of Johnson's world. Having given a peerage to the son of a KGB officer, defying the warnings of the security services, he was then reported to be considering including his father Stanley in his resignation honors list. The final list included some of those found culpable for the rule-breaking parties, who were rewarded for their outright failure. In fair-

ness, Johnson is not alone in doing this, as friends of prime ministers and party donors have been rewarded in the past. The whole honors system has been shamefully devalued. Freedom of speech is also under relentless attack. The government has just introduced a bill that aims to ban public bodies from disinvesting from countries on moral and ethical grounds.

The populist brigades have also targeted the judiciary, crudely portraying it as an obstacle to the popular will as opposed to a vital guardian of the rules-based system. Once again, this is not unique to Britain. Populist regimes always go after judges and the courts, as we have seen in the US, Poland, Hungary and, right now, Israel. After one judicial review, Britain's best-selling newspaper labeled a panel of High Court judges as "enemies of the people." Then there are the never-ending culture wars, deliberately designed to antagonize and polarize rather than unite and progress. Home Secretary Suella Braverman is an exemplar of this, not least when she proclaimed that many of those crossing the English Channel in small boats behaved in ways that were "at odds with British values." Racism and prejudice, including Islamophobia, have been weaponized. The whole debate on controlling immigration has descended into the coarse language of demonizing them as hordes of invaders, a threat to the economy and the British way of life. The extreme right has stoked this up. Bashing Muslims remains in vogue, especially when it comes to immigrants and refugees, with blond Ukrainians welcome but Afghans and Syrians less so.

The nadir of the British immi-

gration saga is the Rwanda proposal - a plan to deport asylum seekers 4,000 miles away to East Africa. Last week, the government's proposals were deemed to be unlawful at the Court of Appeal. Rwanda was adjudged to not be a safe destination, which came as no shock to those aware of its record of disappearing opponents and limiting free speech. Morality aside, the government's own estimates say the scheme will cost taxpayers a painful £169,000 (\$214,000) per person. However, a fightback is being mounted. The cross-party Privileges Committee struck a huge blow for democracy, casting aside party disputes for the higher goal. Prime Minister Rishi Sunak has pledged to bring back standards into public life. Voters are beginning to make it known how fed up they are with the epidemic of scandal and corruption. It may be a long and difficult road to reestablish the norms and conventions that are the glue of any functioning democracy, but it is one that needs traveling. Much more needs to be done to cauterize the wounds of the Johnson era, not least the complete and utter repudiation of racist politics. Yet Britain is stronger than some of its critics suggest. It is not a senescent system fit only for the scrapheap. Much of what has happened in Britain is an echo of the political journey that is taking place across the Atlantic. Populism and the degrading of public standards are spreading. Democracy and the rule of law require permanent attention and care. They are fragile. So, when one sees the parliamentary authorities in Westminster hitting back with aplomb, it also ricochets across the European continent and seeds new possibilities for upholding democratic norms.

‘Only in America...’ is a narcissistic lie

Donald Earl Collins

IN May, yet another young migrant died after spending a week in detention near the United States-Mexico border, courtesy of the US Border Patrol. Eight-year-old Panamanian migrant Anadith Tanay Reyes Alvarez had sickle cell anaemia and heart issues, and had recently caught flu.

She never received the help she needed from US Customs and Border Patrol (CBP) to survive, even though her family made at least three requests for help. A week earlier, 17-year-old Honduran migrant Angel Eduardo Maradiaga Espinoza died five days after entering a detention facility in Florida, with the actual cause of death still unknown.

The xenophobia, anti-Latinx racism, and Islamophobia that have guided US immigration policies since 1986 make anyone singing Neil Diamond's lyrics "Got a dream to take them there, they're coming to America" likely to choke on the sheer hypocrisy of it all. Emma Lazarus and her 1883 sonnet "The New Colossus", with the words "Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free", engraved on the Statue of Liberty, are empty promises in this dystopian age. One of the great US mantras stemming from its golden age of immigration often begins with "Only in America can a person start with nothing and achieve the American Dream". Given the history of social mobility in the US, the idea of "Only in America" is a straight-up lie. It is a lie that attracts desperate migrants and asylum seekers to the US like honey attracts insects, only to entrap, envelope and kill. Those who are lucky enough to "make it" often end up selling this same narcissistic untruth.

It is a lie I have heard my whole life living in the US. As early as fourth grade, I remember my teacher going on about the legend of robber baron Andrew Carnegie while I was likely daydreaming about making myself a fried bologna sandwich when I went home for lunch. He arrived in the US in 1848 at 13 with only a few dollars in his pocket, only to become a near billionaire by the time he sold Carnegie Steel in 1901. Almost completely omitted from his rags-to-riches story are the hundreds of thousands of migrant workers he paid between 10 and 15 cents per hour to work six or seven days a week in some of the deadliest conditions in the industrial age. In the 1880s alone, roughly one of every five male deaths in the Pittsburgh area could be attributed to accidents working in Carnegie's coal mines, coke plants and steel mills, according to author Peter Krass. Yet over and over again, the myth-makers have

used Carnegie and others as examples of thrift, hard work, and achieving the American Dream. Stories of the US being "the land of opportunity" with "streets paved with gold" helped draw more than 30 million migrants between the end of the US Civil War and the turn of the 20th century. They came from rural Italy and southern China (until the US Congress passed the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882). They came from the Ottoman, Russian, Austro-Hungarian and German empires; from Ireland and Greece. Despite the dangerous and often deadly work millions of them ended up with in steel mills, slaughterhouses and coal mines, the myth of the penniless child-turned-millionaire emerged, thanks in part to authors like Horatio Alger. And those tales have evolved to the uniquely US idea of "Only in America is my life story" of massive socioeconomic mobility "possible".

The US does a stupendous job of selling itself as "the leader of the free world" and a "shining beacon on a hill". As comedian and former host of the Netflix series Patriot Act Hasan Minhaj said at the 2017 White House correspondents' dinner, "Only in America can a first-generation Indian-American Muslim kid get on this stage and make fun of the president ... It's this amazing tradition that shows the entire world that even the president is not beyond the reach of the First Amendment." Maybe so. But one of the reasons why many of today's migrants and asylum seekers come to the US is because of the geopolitics and military interventions of the US and the West in their home countries' affairs, where freedom of speech becomes an afterthought. For decades, the US fought Cold War proxy wars or propped up dictators in Guatemala, Honduras, and El Salvador. For years, the US has engaged in a failed and destabilising war on drugs in the Caribbean and Latin America. For years, the US has encouraged governments and corporations in the region to replace subsistence farming with agribusiness approaches and non-native crops. Millions of common people were left with migration as the only way to save their lives and end their abject poverty.

Perhaps the most famous use of this incredible lie came in former President Barack Obama's keynote speech at the 2004 Democratic National Convention in Boston, Massachusetts, when he was still an Illinois state senator. "I stand here knowing that my story is part of the larger American story, that I owe a debt to all of those who came before me, and that, in no other country on earth, is my story even possible," Obama proclaimed with full

sincerity. The biracial son of a Black Kenyan father and a white woman from Kansas becoming president of the US is pretty improbable. But then again, so has been the rise of Rishi Sunak as the United Kingdom's first prime minister of Indian descent. The same was true for 2011 Nobel Peace Prize recipient Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, who served as president of Liberia from 2006 to 2018, all in the aftermath of two civil wars. Born in poverty to a Gola father and Kru-German mother, Johnson Sirleaf was the first African woman democratically elected to any presidency on the continent. "In no other country on earth is my story even possible" is just typical American narcissism. Just because a Barack Obama or a Rishi Sunak or even an Ellen Johnson Sirleaf has become the leader of a nation-state does not mean these nations are more welcoming of refugees, asylum seekers, or migrants. After all, under Obama's watch, forced removals of recent arrivals crossing the US border increased dramatically. His administration's anti-immigrant efforts allowed Obama's critics to call him "deporter-in-chief". Sunak's pledge in January to stop migrants and asylum seekers crossing the English Channel in small boats is another example of self-serving hypocrisy. It is a UK policy Sunak self-described known as "Stop the Boats", one that includes a plan to move several thousand migrants and asylum seekers out of hotel rooms and onto barges in British ports.

Meanwhile, by most tangible measures, there is no higher level of upward socioeconomic mobility in the US than for any native-born person born into poverty in the UK, Europe or Japan. And intergenerational social mobility in the US is in fact in long-term decline, according to researchers. Only in America can people navel-gaze their ways into believing they somehow can become rich regardless of education, training, or family background, even though the odds are piled moon-high against them. "Only in America" can so many never question how the US forces so many within and outside its borders to start with nothing, through its international interventions and racial capitalist policies and politics. The reality of the US as a racist, xenophobic, isolationist, and narcissistic society only becomes obvious when those desperate for a better future confront the lethal contradictions embedded in America's promise. "Only in America" can a narcissistic lie and promise kill migrant children like Anadith Tanay Reyes Alvarez and Angel Eduardo Maradiaga Espinoza, all while millions of Americans shrug their shoulders in denial about their nation-state's massive hypocrisy.

Climate change: Why Africa should top the agenda at COP28

TAKE a look at Africa on a typical world map. Straddling the equator, the continent is roughly the same size as Greenland and slightly smaller than Russia. In reality, however, Africa is a massive landmass, a cartographic illusion that's about 14 times larger than Greenland, more than twice as big as Russia and bigger than the US, India, Japan, parts of Europe and China combined.

Now, consider another map. Imagine if we depicted countries and continents not by their area but by their total carbon dioxide emissions. In that map, Africa would be miniscule. In fact, according to researchers at the Our World in Data project and the Energy for Growth Hub, Africa has only accounted for about 2.73 percent of global emissions since the dawn of industrialization. If we were to remove South Africa and the countries of North Africa from the data, the remaining sub-Saharan African countries - home to some 1 billion people - have accounted for just 0.55 percent of total emissions.

By contrast, Europe, the launch pad of the Industrial Revolution, has produced 33 percent of cumulative global emissions, while North America and Asia clock in at 29 percent each. Together, these three continents account for more than 80 percent of total emissions. By now, we all know that climate change is an existential threat to

our planet and our way of life. We should also know that the largest emitters are best prepared to adapt to the damages, while the continent that has done the least to contribute to emissions is the most vulnerable. From changing rainfall patterns and extreme heat to water scarcity and rising food insecurity, the climate-related challenges in Africa are only just beginning. The upcoming COP28 gathering in the UAE is an opportunity for the international community to highlight the continent's vulnerabilities and acknowledge its minimal contribution to the problem.

The top priority for COP28 should be to support the financing needs of African and other emerging and developing countries to support affordable renewable energy. At a recent African Development Bank meeting, COP28 President-designate Sultan Al-Jaber called the lack of available, accessible and affordable finance the "critical challenge" that is "putting the world's climate goals and Africa's sustainable development at risk." More than a decade ago, developed nations pledged \$100 billion in annual climate finance to developing countries beginning in 2020 to help bridge this funding gap. Those pledges have failed to materialize. Al-Jaber has called wealthy nations' efforts in this regard "dis-

Afshin Molavi

mal." While "expectations are high," he adds, "trust is low." Climate finance is rising across the world as countries race to meet net-zero goals and companies opt to green their businesses. But the money is not arriving in Africa. Bogolo Kenewendo, a UN Climate Change High-Level Champions' special adviser, says that Africa - home to 16 percent of the world's population and 25 percent of the world's remaining rainforests - only attracts 3 percent of climate finance. She also notes that just six African countries are on the receiving end of this finance.

For COP28 to have a meaningful impact, leaders must marshal the political will to ensure that past pledges are met and new ones are made. African countries should top these funding goals. Beyond supporting renewable energy in Africa, however, we must also understand this basic fact: Africa's emissions are low not because of poor policies or abundant green power; rather, it is due to underdevelopment.

Simply put, much of Africa was left behind in the fossil fuel-driven industrialization that has made the world wealthier and healthier and more connected than at any time in human history. A staggering 600 million Africans lack access to electricity, roughly 43 percent of the continent's population. This

inevitably means that fossil fuels will be needed to get more Africans on the power grid. Yes, renewable energy sources should be cultivated, but Africans deserve the same rights to electricity and power that so many in the developed world take for granted. Fossil fuels will be part of that mix.

"If we're going to have a just transition from fossil fuels to renewable energy, we'll need both," says Nj Ayuk, executive director of the African Energy Chamber. "We'll need fossil fuels to ensure energy security and drive industrialization in developing nations, even as the world works to pull together the necessary investments, infrastructure and governance to make a world fueled by renewable energy work." With Africa's population projected to double by 2050, we should all hope for faster growth to meet the tremendous demand for jobs, infrastructure, healthcare, education and other needs. Greater access to energy will help achieve those goals. We are all children of Africa - it is the place where humans first roamed the Earth - and humanity's future will increasingly be African. The continent's success in economic development, and in meeting the climate challenge, is in everyone's interests. The contours of climate change responsibility are as skewed as the average atlas. At COP28, we can finally redraw the map.

Exposure of Israeli lies will not revive the two-state solution

ONE of the supporters of Israel's most-repeated claims is that Palestinians do not want peace with Israel. Those propagandists regularly list a number of Israeli offers (all of which come short of international standards and laws), claiming that Palestinian rejection means that they are not interested in peace.

Efforts by Palestinians to rebut these claims fall on deaf ears, even though the situation on the ground at any given time since 1967 - especially in regard to the illegal Israeli settlement enterprise, the (internationally rejected) annexation of East Jerusalem and the continuous Israeli human rights violations - does not seem to matter. Israelis, of course, buy their own government's rhetoric and so do most Western countries that give blind support to Tel Aviv, irrespective of its actions and its refusal to honor the concept of the two-state solution, which those countries publicly espouse.

Perhaps the most-used attack on the Palestinian leadership came about as a result of the failure of the Camp David II meetings in 2000 and the subsequent Clinton Parameters. Prior to the fall 2000 meeting that President Bill Clinton called on Yasser Arafat and Ehud Barak to attend, the Palestinian leaders were hesitant about going to the US. Arafat argued that the Israeli side had not shown readiness to make the hard choices needed for peace. And he accurately predicted that, if the talks failed, he would be blamed and that the lack of a breakthrough would have devastating effects. For his part, Clinton, still suffering from the Lewinsky scandal and wanting to

have a successful end to his presidency, promised Arafat that there would be no finger-pointing. Clinton reneged on this promise when the talks failed and, along with Barak, blamed the Palestinian leader for this failure.

Another final effort by Clinton - the Clinton Parameters, which were offered in December 2000 - also failed. While both the Israelis and Palestinians accepted the Clinton offer with reservations, the Americans argued that the Israeli reservations were simple and "within the parameters," while describing the Palestinian reservations as "outside the parameters." Efforts by Palestinians to respond to this claim again went nowhere and the Israeli-US claims appeared to stick. Today, more than two decades later, and as Israel has declassified some of the documents of the Camp David II era, researchers and others are learning the truth. Namely, that the US and Israeli leaders lied to the world and that Israel's reservations - of insisting on its right to annex Palestinian territory and its rejection of the recognition of the right of return - were violations of international law.

The declassified Israeli documents included a letter to the US national security adviser signed on behalf of the Israeli prime minister. It stated, among other things, that Israel's objective was "to incorporate 80 percent of the settlers within the settlement blocks under Israeli sovereignty" and that, to accomplish this goal, it would combine "the suggested scope of annexation with long-term lease arrangements of additional territories." The declassified document

Daoud Kuttab

also pointed out that Israel's position differed from that of Clinton in that there should be a "special regime for the entire Holy Basin." Israel also complained that it differed from the Clinton Parameters regarding "the Palestinian police and security forces, the mandate of the international force and the monitoring of the non-militarization of Palestine, the aerial arrangements, and the suggested timeline and arrangements in other areas of security and military significance."

Perhaps the biggest deviation in the declassified Israeli document was to do with the issue of the right of Palestinian refugees to return as stipulated in UN General Assembly Resolution 194. It said: "On the issue of refugees, the formulas concerning the right of return of the refugees embody certain ambiguities, which Israel wishes to avoid." At the same time, it is clear that the Palestinian requests, including regarding the status of the Palestinian police outside Al-Haram Al-Sharif, were legitimate clarifications and do not belong to the Israeli claim of "game-killer." History shows that Palestinian President Arafat was correct in his thinking that the Israelis had not made the hard decision of accepting a Palestinian state on the June 1967 borders, which for Palestinians is a major compromise that goes much further in the Israeli direction than even the partition plan of 1947.

The failure of the Camp David II era, and the falsification of the culprit, succeeded in convincing even the Israeli peace camp that the party responsible for the failure

was none other than the Palestinian leadership. Ariel Sharon, Israel's opposition leader at the time, knowing the centrality of Al-Aqsa Mosque in the negotiations, blew things up by storming Islam's third-holiest mosque in September 2000. As a result, a Palestinian protest erupted that was brutally put down by Israel, causing the Al-Aqsa Intifada. A total of 141 Palestinians were killed and 5,984 wounded in the month of October 2000. Words matter and, when words are used to create a false reflection of reality, those words have a huge effect. What Clinton and Barak did in blaming the collapse of the talks on the Palestinian leadership has been haunting the Palestinians ever since, while making the realization of Israeli-Palestinian peace based on the two-state solution that much more difficult. This stark reality was seen this week, when Israeli D9 military machines literally bulldozed part of the Jenin camp, causing families to flee for their safety and due to the fact that their homes were no longer livable.

Israel has not only bulldozed the Jenin camp, it has been bulldozing its way through occupied territory - an act considered a stark human rights violation by the international community. The very act of building settlements and destroying Palestinian homes, in violation of the Fourth Geneva Convention, shows those who are interested in the truth that what is happening on the ground is the only reality that counts. The declassification of Israeli records might help explain the Palestinian narrative, but it will not bring back the lives and hope that have been lost.

Arab News

Americans may finally be regretting their revolution

Michael Taube

THE United States is one of the world's great democracies. The American colonies fought a revolutionary war to gain its independence from the British Crown. It was founded on the Enlightenment principles of constitutionalism and liberal democracy. It championed important principles like capitalism, freedom and individual rights and liberties.

Yet, every so often, some Americans look fondly to other nations for inspiration. This includes my country, Canada. That's not surprising. Canada and the US are close friends, allies and trading partners. There have obviously been moments of disagreement. Contentious matters related to trade policy, the auto industry and the environment, for instance. There's also that little war in 1812 that some prefer not to talk about. By and large, it's been a good and healthy relationship. So much so, that many American liberals want to emulate their northern neighbours. This sentiment escalated when Liberal Prime Minister Justin Trudeau was elected in 2015. US Democrats and the progressive jet set swooned. They viewed him as a modern liberal successor to then-US President Barack Obama and wanted to see him succeed.

Trudeau appeared on the December 2015 cover of Vogue as the "new young face of Canadian politics". The author of an April 16, 2016 Vanity Fair piece was mesmerised by the PM's "functional knowledge of how computers work" and

asked, "Is America completely sure that we can't elect this guy, too?" A July 2017 Rolling Stone article included this header about Trudeau, "Is he the free world's best hope?"

Meanwhile, the December 13, 2015 issue of the New York Times Magazine declared it was "Trudeau's Canada, Again." The US liberal publication of record has barely said a cross word about him since he took office. They've also been on a tear as of late to make America more like Canada. The Times ran a positive piece on June 23 about Canada's Online News Act requiring tech companies like Google and Facebook to pay domestic publications for the right to link to their pieces. An equally positive piece on June 26 looked at Canada's "widely praised" national day care plan that reduces daily fees to \$10 CAD, or roughly \$7.60 USD. There was also a puff piece about Toronto's new Socialist mayor, Olivia Chow, in hopes she'll follow her campaign platform and "build a Toronto that's caring, affordable and safe."

Hold on. Most Canadian Conservatives and quite a few non-Liberal progressives strongly object to Trudeau's ineffective, mediocre leadership. As for US Republicans, they like Canada but wouldn't want to emulate it. Why should facts get in the way of a good story, however? American liberals want more of Canada's state-oriented policies in their lives - and it shows. It makes you

wonder if Americans are gradually starting to believe the revolution was a mistake. Maybe they're giving up on the dream for life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. If so, what's next?

One possible solution is for the US to become a constitutional monarchy. It would still have a form of representative government, and the ability to crown a king with some political and legal authority. The position could be filled by a non-political head of state, or you could readjust the presidency into a monarchical role. Interestingly, the US Senate led by Vice-President John Adams debated whether to call George Washington, the nation's first President, by titles such as "His Elective Majesty" or "His Highness, the President of the United States of America and the Protector of their Liberties." Washington had no interest in establishing ties to any monarchy. In his May 22, 1782 letter to Lewis Nicola, the writer/military officer who suggest he take a royal title, he famously replied, "I am much at a loss to conceive what part of my conduct could have given encouragement to an address which to me seems big with the greatest mischiefs that can befall my Country." A President he would become, and a President he would be. Modern American liberals are in the midst of a new revolution of their own, hoping to create a progressive kingdom. But there is an alternative.

The Telegraph



PSX turns around to bullish trend, gains 626 points

ISLAMABAD (APP): The 100-index of the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) turned around to bullish trend on Thursday, gaining 626.01 points, a positive change of 1.44 percent, closing at 44,178.85 points against 43,552.84 points the previous trading day.

A total of 297,822,139 shares were traded during the day as compared to 351,181,910 shares the previous day, whereas the price of shares stood at Rs.12.428 billion against Rs 12.014 billion on the last trading day.

As many as 335 compa-

nies transacted their shares in the stock market; 200 of them recorded gains and 112 sustained losses, whereas the share price of 23 companies remained unchanged.

The three top-trading companies were WorldCall Telecom with 28,845,201 shares at Rs.1.21 per share; Pak Elektron with 16,169,219 shares at Rs.10.66 per share and Pak Petroleum with 14,126,634 shares at Rs.67.24 per share.

Mehmood Tex witnessed a maximum increase of Rs.43.15 per share price,

closing at Rs.725.00, whereas the runner-up was Shield Corp with an Rs.21.97 rise in its per share price to Rs.314.86.

Pak Services witnessed a maximum decrease of Rs.52.12 per share closing at Rs.756.68; followed by Bata (Pak) with Rs.34.00 decline to close at Rs.1,760.00.

Gold prices up by Rs1,800 to Rs 207,800 per tola

The per tola price of 24 karat gold increased by Rs 1,800 and was sold at Rs 207,800 on Thursday against its sale at Rs.

206,000 the previous day.

The price of 10 grams of 24 karat gold also increased by Rs1,543 to Rs178,155 from Rs 176,612 whereas the price of 10 grams 22 karat gold went up to Rs 163,309 from Rs161,894, All Sindh Sarafa Jewellers Association reported.

The price of per tola and ten-gram silver remained constant at Rs 2480 and Rs 2,126.20 respectively.

The price of gold in the international market decreased by \$23 to \$1905 from \$1928, the association reported.

LIPTON Teas & Infusions Pakistan and ABHI Abhi collaborate

F.P. Report

KARACHI: LIPTON Teas & Infusions Pakistan is pleased to announce an exciting collaboration with ABHI, representing a significant milestone in the company's commitment to innovation and employee welfare. This partnership introduces an employee benefit called Earned Wage Access (EWA), revolutionizing how LIPTON workforce experiences financial freedom and empowerment. Demonstrating their unwavering dedication to fostering a corporate culture that thrives on progress and employee wellbeing, LIPTON is proud to bring this innovative solution to its employees.

Through the partnership

with ABHI, LIPTON employees gain unprecedented control over their finances, providing access to earned wages before the traditional pay cycle. The revolutionary AbhiSalary product enables employees to conveniently access a portion of their earned salary within seconds, eliminating the waiting period until payday. With ABHI's user-friendly mobile app, SMS, or WhatsApp, employees can effortlessly request and receive funds directly into their bank accounts, avoiding the need for interest-bearing loans or seeking financial assistance during challenging times.

Furthermore, having instant access to earned salaries aims to empower

LIPTON employees, enabling them to address immediate financial needs and make informed decisions, reducing financial stress. Additionally, timely bill payments become more manageable, alleviating the burden of late payment charges.

Mehwish Akif, Head of HR at LIPTON Teas & Infusions, expressed her enthusiasm for the partnership, stating, "This transformative initiative signifies our unwavering commitment to prioritizing the needs and aspirations of our valued workforce. By partnering with ABHI, we are embracing an innovative solution that empowers our employees with unprecedented control over their finances. This partnership

marks a significant milestone in our journey to foster a culture of ownership, agility, and wellbeing, ensuring our employees thrive both personally and professionally."

Mohammed Zaidi, Chief Commercial Officer at ABHI, emphasized the significance of the partnership, stating, "We are thrilled to partner with LIPTON to provide their employees with instant access to their hard-earned salaries. Through this collaboration, we aim to alleviate financial stress and enable LIPTON employees to take control of their financial well-being. Together, we are transforming the way employees access their earnings, fostering a brighter and more financially secure future for all."

Kashif Ashfaq highlights potential benefits of barter trade

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chief Executive Officer, Pakistan Furniture Council (PFC) Kashif Ashfaq on Thursday said that barter trade among Russia, Iran and Afghanistan would hold several potential benefits and significance for these countries.

Presiding over the PFC Board of Directors meeting, he said that this wise and timely epoch making decision of Pakistan would promote regional integration and economic cooperation by leveraging their

geographic proximity. Russia, Iran, and Afghanistan can enhance trade routes, connectivity and people-to-people exchanges, leading to a more integrated regional economy, he said.

Kashif Ashfaq said that it would help further strengthen economic ties and promote cooperation among these countries and facilitate the exchange of goods and services without necessarily involving traditional currency transactions. It will also be partic-

ularly useful for the countries facing financial constraints or limited access to global financial systems, he said and added that barter trade would serve as an alternative mechanism for conducting business when traditional financial channels were restricted and in addition to bypassing monetary transactions, these countries can continue trading despite the sanctions shocks.

The PFC head said it can help address trade imbalances between these coun-

tries that promotes mutual benefits and foster economic equilibrium. He said that barter trade would also contribute to strengthening political relationships between nations by engaging in economic exchanges. Russia, Iran, and Afghanistan can enhance diplomatic ties, build trust and foster a sense of mutual cooperation.

It will facilitate the acquisition of necessary resources for development projects and infrastructure, he expressed.

Shaukat Khanum Online Qurbani Service benefits 93,000 families

F.P. Report

LAHORE: Shaukat Khanum Memorial Cancer Hospital and Research Centre (SKMCH&RC) has been offering Online Qurbani Service for the past decade. Recently, an increasing trend is witnessed where more people from around the world are choosing this service as an economical and reliable option.

The Shaukat Khanum Online Qurbani Service provides an opportunity to multiply the impact of Qurbani by sharing the joy of Eid-ul-Azha with underprivileged communities in Pakistan while supporting the fight against cancer.

This year, owing to the continuing trust of people, nearly 562,000 kg meat was distributed to around 93,000 families, which is a



notable increase from last year.

The Qurbani process begins with the selection of healthy sacrificial animals. Contracted facilities ensure that the slaughtering services are rendered in accordance with Islamic injunctions and within the stipulated time of performing Qurbani for Muslims residing in Pakistan and

abroad.

Meat from the Qurbani is distributed amongst deserving communities across Pakistan, while all proceeds from the sale of animal hides are utilised to support the treatment of needy cancer patients at SKMCH&RC.

The Hospital management is grateful to the people of Pakistan for their

trust in the Shaukat Khanum Online Qurbani service and for their support that makes SKMCH&RC a ray of hope for thousands of cancer patients.

Each year, more than 75% of all patients seen at the SKMCH&RC, Lahore and Peshawar, receive world-class cancer treatment, free of charge.

Tokyo Stocks end lower amid concerns over global economy

TOKYO (APP): Tokyo stock closed lower for the third consecutive day on Thursday, amid concerns that further US rate hikes might tumble the global economy.

Japan's benchmark Nikkei stock index, the 225-issue Nikkei Stock Average dropped 565.68 points, or 1.70 percent, from Wednesday to close the day at 32,773.02.

The broader Topix index, meanwhile, lost 28.95 points, or 1.26 per-

cent, to finish at 2,277.08.

The broader market was dragged down by semiconductor issues following Socionext's announcement on Wednesday that major shareholders, including Fujitsu Ltd. and Panasonic Holdings Corp., revealed their plans to sell their shares in overseas markets.

The chip company's stock plummeted by the daily limit of 22.8 percent and the overwhelming number of sell orders

caused the stock to remain untraded for the rest of the day.

On the Prime Market, shares in most sectors declined, with machinery and precision instrument sectors leading the losses.

Issues that fell outpaced those that rose by 1,477 to 318, while 40 ended the day unchanged.

The turnover on the fourth trading day of the week came to 3.57 trillion yen (24.79 billion US dollars).



MULTAN: A trader selling seasonal fruit mango at fruit market.

Shipping activity at Port Qasim

KARACHI (APP): Four ships namely, Maersk Pelepas, MSC Lisbon, Eva Usuki and Milaha Ras Lafan carrying Containers, LNG and Chemicals, berthed at Qasim International Container Terminal, Engro Vopak Terminal and Pakistan Port Gas Terminal respectively.

Meanwhile, two more ships, Southern Anoa and Seaspan Beacon with Palm oil and Containers also arrived at the outer anchorage of Port Qasim during the last 24 hours.

A total of 07 ships were engaged at POA berths during the last 24 hours, out of them two container ships 'Maersk Pelepas and MSC Lisbon' sailed out to sea on Thursday morning and four more ships, Eva Usuki, N-Orhan, Huang Shan and Yakul Silver are expected to sail on the same day.

The cargo throughput of 128,071 tonnes, comprising 109,048 tones imports Cargo and 19,023 tonnes export cargo, including containerized cargo carried in 2,959 Containers (1,840 TEUs Imports and 1,119 TEUs export) was handled at the port during the last 24 hours.

There are six ships at Outer Anchorage of Port Qasim, out of them three ships, Atrotos Heracle, Katsuyama and Seaspan Beacon & another ship, Singapore carrying Canola Seed, Palm oil, and Containers are expected to take berths at FAP, LCT, and QICT on Thursday, while another container ship, MSC Freeport is due to arrive at Port Qasim on Friday.

CB expects inflation to drop to 7%

COLOMBO (APP): Sri Lankan inflation will drop to 7 percent in July, an official of the country's central bank told journalists in Colombo on Thursday.

The Sri Lankan central bank's Director of Economic Research P.K.G Harischandra, while addressing a press conference, said the headline inflation will stabilize around mid-single-digit level in the medium term.

Harischandra said that the core inflation for June was reported at 9.8 percent and this is the first time inflation has gone below 10 percent in a few years.

In September 2022, Sri Lanka's headline, core, food and non-food inflation were 69.8 percent, 50.2 percent, 94.9 percent and 57.6 percent, respectively, which have dropped significantly by June 2023, he said.

Harischandra said that inflation has dropped faster than initially expected due to falling food and energy prices.

He said ongoing disinflation will be supported by the lagged impact of tight monetary and fiscal policies, the expected softening of energy and food prices and their spillover effects, the possible repricing of goods and services in light of the exchange rate appreciation, and a favorable statistical base effect.

The central bank said on Thursday that the Standing Deposit Facility Rate and the Standing Lending Facility Rate were reduced by 200 basis points to 11.00 percent and 12.00 percent respectively.

Pak, Italy extend PIDSA timeline until December 2024

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan and Italy have reached an agreement to extend the timeline of the Pakistan-Italian Debt Swap Agreement (PIDSA) through the Exchange of Letters (EoL).

Mr. Andreas Ferrarese, the Italian Ambassador in Pakistan and Secretary, Ministry of Economic Affairs, signed the EoL and extended the timeline of the PIDSA up to December 31, 2024, on the same procedures, modalities, terms, and conditions as defined in the signed Agreement dated November 4, 2006, between Pakistan and Italy, said a press release issued here on Thursday.

During the extension period, the remaining activities of PIDSA will be completed i.e. the remaining debt will be canceled, com-

pletion of ongoing PIDSA projects, handing/taking over of assets, impact evaluation of the PIDSA Programme, and final report of the PIDSA Programme.

The Government of Pakistan and the Government of Italy had signed an agreement for Development Swap, on November 4, 2006, which came into force in 2009. Approximately \$100 million (US \$26.52 million & Euro 58.74 million) equivalent to PKR 8.276 billion of Pakistan's debt owed to Italy is to be swapped for expenditure on development projects around the country on Health, Education, Agriculture, and Environment, Micro Credit Schemes, Poverty Alleviation, Rural Development and Infrastructure.

Management Committee (MC) is the highest decision-making body of Pakistan Italian Debt Swap Agreement (PIDSA), co-chaired by the Italian Ambassador and Secretary Ministry of Economic Affairs along with representatives of the Federal and Provincial Governments.

To date, 48 projects have been approved and funded by PIDSA, out of which 45 projects have been completed and 3 are in progress. The Secretary of the Ministry of Economic Affairs thanked the Government of the Republic of Italy for providing assistance under the Debt Swap Agreement and other Technical Assistance and emphasized further enhancing the bilateral ties between the two countries.

Meher importance of air links for economic growth and innovation

ISLAMABAD (APP): Coordinator to Federal Tax Ombudsman (FTO) Meher Kashif Younis on Thursday said the significance of air links between countries, particularly central Asian states and South Asia, in promoting economic activities, tourism, investment, export industries, business collaborations, and innovation.

Talking to a delegation of industrialists led by Shahid Nazir, he said the air link promised the efficient movement of goods and services across borders, said a press release.

He said air link is often a crucial factor considered by foreign investors while deciding on investment locations and countries with well-developed air transport networks and

multiple flight connections are more likely to attract foreign direct investment (FDI).

Accessible air links make it easier for investors to visit potential investment destinations, conduct business negotiations, and monitor their investments.

Therefore, countries with good air connectivity have a competitive advantage in attracting international investment, leading to economic growth and job creation, he added.

He said air transportation provides a competitive advantage to export-oriented industries.

Manufacturers and exporters rely on air cargo to transport time-sensitive goods, such as perishable items, high-value products, and just-in-time invento-

ry, he added.

He said it boosts export activities, increases revenue, and contributes to overall economic development.

Meher Kashif Younis said air connectivity also strengthens business collaborations, knowledge sharing, and innovation. It facilitates the exchange of ideas, expertise, and technology between countries.

Such interactions lead to the development of new industries, the creation of employment opportunities, and the overall growth of economies, he added.

About tourism he said air connectivity is vital for the growth of the tourism industry as tourists rely heavily on air travel to reach their destinations quickly and conveniently.

US stocks close lower after Fed minutes

NEW YORK (APP): US stocks ended lower on Wednesday after the minutes of the Federal Reserve's June meeting showed almost all policymakers expected additional rate hikes later this year.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average fell 129.83 points, or 0.38 percent, to 34,288.64. The S&P 500 lost 8.77 points, or 0.20 percent, to

4,446.82. The Nasdaq Composite Index declined 25.12 points, or 0.18 percent, to 13,791.65.

Seven of the 11 primary S&P 500 sectors ended in red, with materials and industrials leading the laggards by losing 2.47 percent and 0.60 percent, respectively.

Meanwhile, communication services and utilities led the gainers by rising

1.21 percent and 1.10 percent, respectively.

US stocks moved lower one day after the Fourth of July holiday, with investors weighing the Fed's June minutes released Wednesday afternoon. The minutes showed that policymakers decided against a rate increase amid concerns over economic growth, citing the lagged impact of monetary policy.

Retail sales down both in EU, euro area in May

ISTANBUL (APP): The retail trade volume saw declines both in the EU and the euro area in May on a yearly basis, the bloc's statistical authority revealed on Thursday.

In the euro area, the volume of retail trade decreased by 3.5% for food-drinks-tobacco, by 2.2% for automotive fuels, and by 2.1% for non-food products year-on-year in May, according to Eurostat.

In the EU side, the retail trade volume decreased by 3.5% for food, drinks and tobacco, by 2.5% for automotive fuels, and by 2.4% for non-food products.

The largest yearly decreases in the total retail trade volume were seen in Slovenia (minus 13.4%), Hungary (minus 12.3%), and Estonia minus 9.6%).

The highest increases were observed in Spain (7.3%), Greek Cypriot

administration (6.1%) and Malta (3.3%), Eurostat said.

On a monthly basis, retail sales decreased by 0.1% in the EU and was unchanged in eurozone in May.

Meanwhile, Sri Lankan central bank said on Thursday that the Standing Deposit Facility Rate and the Standing Lending Facility Rate were reduced by 200 basis points to 11.00 percent and 12.00 percent respectively.

Court Notice

In the Court of Jauhar Ali Safi Civil Judge I /Alaqa Qazi Buner at Daggar.Suit No 337/1 Institution 3/4/2023. Date of hearing, 28/7/2023. Mohammad Salem VS Mohammad Amen. Notice to No 1. Mohammad Amen s/o Manjowar Khan resident of Koza Hujra village Daggar tehsel Daggar Buner at present out of country. Whereas in the above mentioned case the mentioned defendant can not be served in the ordinary way, it is, therefore, proclaimed that if the said defendant will /shall not appear personally or through dually authorized agent or pleader in the court at 8. am dated 28/7/2023 the proceeding will be taken ex- parte. Given under my hand and seal of this Court.



In brief

Lara lauds Alex Carey

LONDON (INP): Former West Indies player Brian Lara reacted to the controversial dismissal of England wicketkeeper Jonny Bairstow in the second Ashes Test at Lord's. With England batting at 193/5 in the 371-run chase in the second innings, Australia wicketkeeper Alex Carey directed a hit at the striker's end as Bairstow wandered out of his crease after ducking a Cameron Green bouncer. The England batter was eventually ruled stumped out by third umpire Marais Erasmus and this sparked a debate in the cricketing world about the incident. Some praised Carey for his presence of mind and justified the dismissal as within the laws. Others felt the ball was dead and Australia acted against the spirit of the game. Lara, who played 131 Tests for West Indies from 1990 to 2006, recalled his own dismissal by former England keeper Alec Stewart during an ODI game in 1997. The 54-year-old shared a couple of video clips on his Instagram handle, with the caption: "There is no problem here with the spirit of the game! Well done Alec Stewart ! (1997) Well done @alex-carey_5 ! (2023). Both your intentions were to execute a stumping/run out the minute the ball was in your gloves."

Brathwaite ready to face India

BARBODAS (INP): West Indies captain Kraigg Brathwaite said his side was eager to return to action when they face India in the upcoming two-match Cycle Pure Agarbathi Test Series on home soil. The West Indies squad is presently in camp ahead of the start on 12 July, and Brathwaite also welcomed the presence of legend Brian Lara, who is attending in his role as the team's performance mentor. "It's important to start well," "We are playing against India, so you know the guys are really looking forward to it. Dominica will host the first Test match, and we call for the supporters in Dominica to come out and support us – but the guys are really looking forward to the first two Test matches of this cycle." Brathwaite was speaking in an interview with CWI Media. "That's great you know in terms of the 100th Test match against Indies, and it's in Trinidad, and you know they love their cricket there, so I think it's important, and we have to try to make the region proud. The guys have put some good effort in the last three days, and they still have a few days left and you know we have keep pushing hard."

'Leede deserves a statue'

HARARE (AFP/APP): Dutch captain Scott Edwards said Bas de Leede deserved to be immortalised by a statue after his magnificent all-round performance secured The Netherlands the final spot in the Cricket World Cup on Thursday. De Leede struck a brilliant 123 after taking 5-52 in the Scottish innings as the Dutch won by four wickets in a thrilling match. The Dutch join Sri Lanka in reaching the sport's quadrennial showpiece which is being hosted by India in October and November. It will be their fifth appearance in the tournament but first since 2011. "That was unbelievable to watch. This group is just incredible," Edwards told Sky Sports. "We were confident in the squad we brought, and even the games we lost we played pretty good cricket."

Babar Azam holds pre-departure media conference

KARACHI (PPI): Pakistan captain Babar Azam held his pre-departure media conference at the National Bank Stadium on Thursday. Pakistan's Test squad is currently engaged in the pre-series training camp at the Hanif Mohammad High Performance Centre in Karachi from 4-7 July. Following the conclusion of the camp, the team will depart for Sri Lanka on 8 July.

The two-match Test series in Sri Lanka marks Pakistan's first assignment in the third cycle of the ICC World Test Championship.

The first match is scheduled to take place on 16 July at Galle International Cricket Stadium while the second Test will be held at Singhaese Sports Club in Colombo from 24 to 28 July. Pakistan, ranked sixth in the ICC Men's Test Team Rankings, previously toured Sri Lanka in July

2022 with the two-Test series drawn 1-1. They played their last Test series against New Zealand at home from 26 December 2022 to 6 January 2023 with both matches drawn.

Babar Azam: "Our focus in the World Cup later this year is not just team India but all of the sides participating in the tournament. We will be able to reach the finals only if we defeat the other teams. Our plan is to be equally competitive with every opponent."

"As a professional, our stance is to play cricket regardless of the venues and be ready to overcome all the challenges that come with different conditions. The goal is to represent Pakistan and help the team succeed by adapting to the different environments."

"Pakistan's batters have dominated spin bowlers in the past so it will not be

correct to suggest that our players fear playing against spin in conducive conditions. A batter is expected to do something different whenever he faces tough time against a bowler."

"Pakistan team will benefit from the input of Mickey Arthur [Director – Pakistan Men's Cricket Team] as he was Sri Lanka's head coach for a couple of years. He will have knowledge of the conditions in Sri Lanka and his experience with the side will further help us prepare for the upcoming series."

Itinerary of Pakistan's tour of Sri Lanka:

9 July – Pakistan land in Colombo

11 and 12 July – Warm-up game

16-20 July – First Test at Galle International Cricket Stadium

24-28 July – Second Test at Singhaese Sports Club, Colombo

Tamim announces shock retirement from international cricket

CHITTAGONG (AFP/APP): Bangladesh's one-day international captain Tamim Iqbal on Thursday announced his immediate retirement from all forms of international cricket, a sudden development coming in the middle of a series against Afghanistan.

"Yesterday against Afghanistan was my last international game, I am retiring from international cricket effective right now," Tamim told reporters.

He broke into tears as he made the announcement, with the press conference broadcast live on national television.

"There was no sudden reason behind this, I was thinking about it for quite some time," he added.

"I was talking about it with my family members for a few days. I thought this was (the) right time for me to decide."

Tamim's decision came



just two days after he came under heavy criticism for deciding to play against Afghanistan in the first ODI of a three-match series, despite admitting to not being 100 percent fit.

Bangladesh Cricket Board President Nazmul Hassan led the criticism, calling the player's professionalism into question.

Tamim scored 13 off 21 balls in a 17-run defeat to a side Bangladesh would be

expected to beat.

The 34-year-old batsman scored 8,313 runs in the 241 ODIs he played for Bangladesh, hitting 14 centuries -- both run-scoring statistics being the highest by any Bangladeshi batsman.

The veteran left-hander scored 5,134 runs from the 134 innings he played in 70 Tests, scoring 10 hundreds. He retired from Twenty20 internationals in 2022.

Sohail Anwar elected as Vice President of South Asian Bodybuilding Association

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: Pakistan's Sohail Anwar elected as Vice President of South Asian Bodybuilding Association, while Mohsin Amin elected as technical official.

Sohail Anwar is the sec-

retary of Pakistan Bodybuilding Association while Mohsin Amin is the vice president. Association elections were held in the Male, Maldives ahead of the South Asian Bodybuilding Championship.

Sohail Anwar made the Vice President for the next

four years. Sohail Anwar said that becoming the Vice President of South Asian Bodybuilding is an honor for him as well as for Pakistan. India's Prashant Apte has been elected as the president of the South Asian Bodybuilding Association for the next four years.



England to face Spain in Euro Under-21 final

PARIS (AFP/APP): Manchester City midfielder Cole Palmer scored and set up two more goals as England beat Israel 3-0 on Wednesday to reach the final of the European Under-21 Championship where they will face Spain.

Nottingham Forest midfielder Morgan Gibbs-White atoned for missing a penalty by heading England into the lead shortly before half-time in Batumi.

He rose superbly to head

Palmer's cross from the right over Israel goalkeeper Tomer Tzarfati, making up for dragging his earlier spot-kick wide after a foul

on Anthony Gordon.

Palmer doubled the advantage just past the hour, sliding in at the far post to turn home Emile Smith Rowe's pass.

James Trafford saved Anan Khalaili's header from close range before Palmer teed up substitute Cameron Archer to rifle in a third goal in the final minute. England will face Spain in Saturday's final as they bid to win the tournament for the first time since 1984. The Young Lions finished runners-up to Germany in 2009.

Spain cruised to a 5-1 victory over Ukraine in

Bucharest to reach the final for the ninth time.

The five-time champions fell behind in the 13th minute to a goal from Shakhtar Donetsk midfielder Artem Bondarenko.

But Abel Ruiz equalised with his third goal of the tournament and Oihan Sancet put Spain ahead in the 24th minute.

Second-half strikes from Antonio Blanco and Aimar Oroz ended Ukraine's hopes.

Manchester City full-back Sergio Gomez, who scored in the quarter-final win against Switzerland, added a late fifth.



KARACHI: Pakistan's captain Babar Azam smile during a addresses conference at the National Stadium on ahead of their tour to Sri Lanka.

Zaka Ashraf takes charge as PCB head of management committee

LAHORE (APP): Former Chairman of Pakistan Cricket Board, Zaka Ashraf on Thursday assumed the charge of head of the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) Management Committee after the departure of his predecessor Najam Sethi.

Senior PCB officials welcomed the new chief on his arrival at the PCB headquarters. Zaka Ashraf after assuming the charge chaired the meeting of the 10-member committee, which the Cabinet Division has approved through circulation on Wednesday.

A spokesman of the PCB said here that all the formalities related to zaka Ashraf's appointment as head of the management committee had been completed. The 10-member Management Committee formed for a period of four months consists of Zaka Ashraf (ex-chairman PCB), Kalim Ullah Khan, Ashfaq Akhtar, Muhammad Mussadiq Islam, Azmat Pervaz, Zaheer Abbas, Khurram Karim Somroo,



Khawaja Nadeem Ahmad, Mustafa Ramday and Zulfikar Malik (all members). Ministry of Inter-provincial Coordination (IPC) sent a summary to PCB Patron in Chief, Prime Minister in which it has proposed the Constitution of a new Management Committee for a period of four months as a measure to remove the difficulties in the wake of imminent international cricket events and major decisions at the International Council of Cricket (ICC) and to ensure efficient management in the PCB. "I am thankful to all including Prime Minister

(Patron in Chief) for reposing trust in me," Zaka Ashraf after taking over the charge. Zaka Ashraf has said we will focus our attention on the improvement of cricket in the country and the welfare cricketers. He issued strict instructions to bring transparency in the affairs of the cricket board.

He assured that the complaints of rigging in the elections of the Regions and Associations will be redressed, "transparent conduct of elections of the Regions and Associations should be ensured", he added. He said that if players are given good facilities

in domestic cricket, then good cricketers will come forward. He said facilities across the country will be improved for cricket fans.

The first meeting of PCB Management Committee was held in National Cricket Academy.

At the beginning of the meeting, all the members of the management committee unanimously expressed full confidence in Zaka Ashraf.

The members said that they will work together with Zaka Ashraf for the betterment of cricket, the appointment of Zaka Ashraf as Chairman Management Committee will be a better decision for cricket. In the meeting, Chief Finance Officer briefed the Management Committee on the PCB budget. The chairman management committee was also briefed on important issues including the construction of stadiums, central contract of domestic players. Zaka Ashraf said "We have to unite and work for the betterment of cricket. we all have to work together for the betterment of Pakistan cricket".

Djokovic, Swiatek win at Wimbledon

LONDON (AFP/APP): Novak Djokovic and Iga Swiatek were in cruise control at Wimbledon on Wednesday, but confetti-throwing climate protesters and rain delays caused more headaches at the All England Club.

Djokovic, bidding for a record equalling eighth Wimbledon men's title and 24th Grand Slam crown, defeated Australia's Jordan Thompson 6-3, 7-6 (7/4), 7-5.

It was the 36-year-old's 350th Grand Slam singles win, third only to Roger Federer and Serena Williams on the all-time list.

Victory also preserved his 10-year undefeated record on Centre Court.

"We have a very romantic and special relationship, this court and I," said Djokovic who could face old rival Stan Wawrinka in the third round. While Djokovic and Swiatek moved effortlessly into the last 32, there were still four first round matches which had yet to start.

They were four of the 21 matches cancelled until Thursday due to rain. The day before, only eight ties were completed as torrential rain swamped the All England Club.

On Wednesday, a new headache presented itself in the shape of Just Stop Oil climate protesters.

Two activists, both in their 60s, ran

onto Court 18 to scatter orange confetti and jigsaw pieces during Grigor Dimitrov's match against Sho Shimabukuro.

"Following an incident on Court 18, two individuals have been arrested on suspicion of aggravated trespass and criminal damage and these individuals have now been removed from the grounds," said a Wimbledon spokesman. Just hours later, the match between Katie Boulter and Daria Saville on the same court was held up when another protestor repeated the confetti-jigsaw gesture to jeers from frustrated fans.

Women's top seed Swiatek beat Sara Sorribes Tormo 6-2, 6-0 to sweep into the third round.

The reigning US Open and French Open champion has never been beyond the fourth round at Wimbledon but has dropped just six games so far in this year's tournament. World number three Daniil Medvedev marked his return to Wimbledon after last year's ban on Russian players with a first round win. Former US Open champion Medvedev defeated French-born British wild card Arthur Fery 7-5, 6-4, 6-3. In 2022, the All England Club banned all Russian and Belarusian players in response to the invasion of Ukraine. "The reception today, I don't

feel it that often. I was really touched," said the 27-year-old after his match on Court One.

Greek fifth seed Stefanos Tsitsipas survived a thrilling five-set battle against Dominic Thiem to book a blockbuster second round clash against two-time champion Andy Murray. Tsitsipas held his nerve in a final set tie-break to secure a 3-6, 7-6 (7/1), 6-2, 6-7 (5/7), 7-6 (10/8) victory after almost four hours in a match which had started on Tuesday.

"For a second I thought we were doing the repeat of Isner versus Mahut," Tsitsipas said in reference to the longest match in history, played at Wimbledon in 2010.

Tsitsipas will have to quickly recover as his Centre Court duel with Murray is set for Thursday.

"I'm not expecting anyone supporting me, but it's not my first rodeo," he said. Danish sixth seed Holger Rune reached the second round for the first time with a 7-6 (7/4), 6-3, 6-2 win against British wildcard George Loffhagen. US ninth seed Taylor Fritz saw off Germany's Yannick Hanfmann in five sets in a match which had started on Monday.

Frances Tiafoe, the American 10th seed who made the last 16 in 2022, saw off China's Wu Yibing in straight sets.

KP Sports Directorate terminates 295 daily wagers, including 84 senior, junior qualified coaches

PESHAWAR (APP): The Directorate General Sports Khyber Pakhtunkhwa here on Thursday sacked 295 daily wages employees, including 84 senior and junior qualified coaches.

The decision was taken by newly appointed Director General Sports Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Captain (Retd) Khalid Mehmood due to lack of funds, a source wishing not to be named said. He disclosed that 295 daily wages staff including 84 qualified coaches have been dismissed from services from June 30, 2023.

When contacted, AD Account Amjad Iqbal told that the Directorate General Sports had kept a one-year grant of Rs. 300 million for the salaries of ground staff, finance, class four and qualified senior and junior coaches of various games who served the Directorate during that year have been terminated from June 30.

He said the one-year contract of the contingency staff including junior and senior coaches was completed by

June 30 so their services have also been terminated. However, according to the directives issued by the Director General Sports, a revised PC-I has been prepared with a total cost of Rs. 6.5 million to be submitted to the P&D department for final approval. After the approval, the services of the coaches and other related staff could be re-hired.

He said according to the special instructions of DG Sports Captain (Retd) Khalid Mehmood, a revised PC-I has already been made, which has been included in the new ADP covering one year with all status and would be submitted to P&D for further action.

The total cost of the project is Rs. 6.5 million but it could be exceeded to Rs. 750 million which will enable the re-hiring of all the required employees again, Amjad Iqbal said adding that many projects including games for special people, Inter-Madaras Games and other activities

could not be started due to non-availability of funds.

The daily wages staff of 295 staff including 84 coaches have been paid Rs. 25,000 per month, all of whom have been dismissed as their one-year term expired on June 30, 2023. Similarly, according to the revised plan, actions are being taken for the restoration of all the coaches and other relevant staff.

It is worthy to mention here that the daily wages staff performed their duties from Dera Ismail Khan to Chitral including at Hayatabad Sports Complex, Peshawar Sports Complex, Abdul Wali Khan Sports Complex Charsadda, Kolachi Sports Complex, Dera Ismail Khan, Qazi Mohib Sports Complex Bannu, Sports Complex Kohat, General Ehsan Sports Complex Mardan, Baja Bamkhal Sports Complex, Swabi, Upper Dir Sports Complex and other developed sports infrastructure of the province.



In brief

IRSA releases 330,700 cusecs water

ISLAMABAD (APP): Indus River System Authority (IRSA) on Thursday released 330,700 cusecs water from various rim stations with inflow of 417,600 cusecs. According to the data released by IRSA, water level in River Indus at Tarbela Dam was 1513.50 feet and was 115.50 feet higher than its dead level of 1,398 feet. Water inflow and outflow in the dam was recorded as 219,300 cusecs and 180,000 cusecs respectively. The water level in River Jhelum at Mangla Dam was 1188.00 feet, which was 138.00 feet higher than its dead level of 1,050 feet. The inflow and outflow of water was recorded 57,600 cusecs and 10,000 cusecs respectively. The release of water at Kalabagh, Taunsa, Guddu and Sukkur was recorded as 235,300, 187,500, 146,100 and 85,300 cusecs respectively. Similarly, from River Kabul, a total of 58,100 cusecs of water released at Nowshera and 57,900 cusecs released from River Chenab at Marala.

CTP issue over 1500 fine tickets

RAWALPINDI (APP): City Traffic Police (CTP) under their ongoing campaign against motorcyclists not using safety helmets have issued 1500 fine tickets. According to a CTP spokesman, CTP on the directives of City Traffic Officer (CTO) Rawalpindi Tamoor Khan was acting according to the law against the rules violators. He informed that CTP had also launched an awareness campaign about the use of safety helmets among motorcyclists. The CTO said that the CTP were carrying out a special campaign aimed at raising awareness about traffic rules, road safety and the use of safety helmets. On Wednesday, the CTP issued 1500 challan tickets to motorcyclists for not wearing safety helmets. He informed that the in-charges of different circles had been directed to take strict action against helmetless bikers. Khan said motorcyclists are more prone to head injuries in road accidents. CTP is sticking to its slogan 'Helmet Nahi To Safar Nahi', he said adding, the Education Wing of traffic police was making efforts to spread awareness so that the road journey could be made safe and sound. The CTO urged the citizens to cooperate with traffic wardens as they were on the roads to facilitate them.

SSP pays surprise visit to police station

RAWALPINDI (INP): Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Investigation Rawalpindi Zanira Azfar here on Thursday paid a surprise visit to Westridge Police Station, where she instructed the Police officers to perform their duties diligently. She also inspected the front desk, records, lockup, and building of the police station and ordered the officials to take effective measures to facilitate the public besides taking all possible steps to provide relief to the citizens. Zanira Azfar said that negligence on part of the police officials in public service delivery would not be tolerated, adding that all-out efforts should be made to resolve complaints of the citizens at police station level. The SSP directed the police officers to protect the life and property of the citizens and accelerate ongoing operations against proclaimed offenders and other wanted accused. In order to ensure and improve the standard of service delivery, such surprise visits would also be conducted in future, she added.



ISLAMABAD: Speaker National Assembly Raja Perviz Ashraf in a group photo with delegation of Gujar Khan Bar Council at Parliament House.

Canadian High Commissioner calls on Law Minister

ISLAMABAD (APP): Canadian High Commissioner Leslie Scanlon on Thursday called on Federal Minister for Law and Justice Senator Azam Nazir Tarar. According to the spokesperson of the Ministry, both sides discussed the long term benefits of partnership and cooperation between Canada and Pakistan in terms of mining projects in Balochistan.

The Canadian High Commissioner appreciated the Balochistan government for aiding, facilitating and cooperating in the mining projects with Barrick Gold Corporation. She said that steps towards the development of the region through renewable energy projects were also commendable.

While discussing civil-

ian trials under the Army Act, the law minister explained that the Act and rules made thereunder were guaranteeing the rights of the accused such as engaging a counsel of his choice to engage, the right to have access to family members or friends and right to file an appeal etc. Individuals have also the right to move constitutional courts against the judgments of the military court, he added.

The minister mentioned that after the unfortunate Army Public School massacre in 2014, it became indispensable to amend the law and to deal with terrorists organizations under the Army Act.

He also expressed his deep concern about the growing Islamophobia in the world in particular quoting the recent inci-

dent of desecration of Holy Quran in Sweden and said that this was an evident example of Islamophobia prevailing in the West. The Government had decided to take part in the protest to convey its message and to keep things within the bounds, he added.

The High Commissioner also informed the law minister that Canadian government had recently appointed a special representative to combat Islamophobia and she assured that Canadian government would be pushing it to have a special mandate against Islamophobia. Lastly, talking about the political situation, the law minister assured that the elections would be held on time and strengthening the democracy was the top priority of the government.

3-day Gandhara Symposium to start on July 11

ISLAMABAD (APP): Head of the Prime Minister's Task Force for Gandhara Tourism Dr Ramesh Kumar Vankwani on Thursday said a 3-day Gandhara Symposium 2023, a collaborative event, is going to organize by the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) and the Directorate of Archaeology and Museums, Khyber Pukhtunkhwa from July 11.

Talking to APP, he said that this joint event will bring together scholars, researchers, practitioners and experts in the area to open dialogue on intercultural collaboration.

It has the potential of rich ruins and history of Gandhara holds, the pros of promoting and reviving the Gandhara heritage and enhance the understanding of Buddhism in religious tourism.

Dr Ramesh Kumar said that the conference aimed to explore and bridge the academic and intercultural gaps creating a pathway to peace. Dr Vankwani said that all arrangements for the three-day international Gandhara conference, have been finalised. He informed that the conference will be attended by foreign delegates and religious leaders from Buddhist-majority countries such as Korea, China, Sri Lanka, and Thailand, who have confirmed their participation.

Religious scholars condemn burning of Holy Quran

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prominent scholars, intellectuals, and leaders representing various schools of thought and religious denominations from across the country on Thursday strongly condemned the recent incident of burning the Holy Quran in Sweden. In a joint statement, they expressed their outrage and announced that on upcoming Friday would be observed as 'Quran Sanctity Day.'

They called for peaceful protests and condemnation of the incident in all mosques, emphasizing the need for swift action against the blasphemous act.

The Chairman of Pakistan Ulema Council and Prime Minister's Special Representative on Interfaith Harmony and Middle East Hafiz Muhammad Tahir Mahmood Ashrafi, along with respected figures such as Maulana Ziaullah Shah Bukhari, Maulana Muhammad Khan Laghari, Allama Arif Wahidi, Allama Abdul Haq Mujahid, Maulana Muhammad Rafique Jami, Maulana Asad Zakaria Qasmi, Maulana Nauman Hashir, Maulana Muhammad Shafi Qasmi, Allama Zubair Abid, Maulana Asadullah Farooq, Maulana Muhammad Ashfaq Pitafi, Maulana Tahir Aqeel Awan, Maulana Aziz Akbar Qasmi, Maulana Muhammad Aslam Siddiqui, Maulana Abu Bakr Hamid Sabri, and others jointly issued a statement. They declared that the burning of the Holy Quran in Sweden was an utterly unacceptable act under any circumstances. While acknowledging the timely response from the organization Islamic

cooperation following the incident, the religious scholars emphasized the need for concrete actions to address this issue.

In this regard, the Pakistan Ulema Council has called for a crucial meeting in Islamabad on July 12, Wednesday, where an extensive action plan would be formulated. The joint statement urged Muslims across the globe to unite against such incidents that hurt the sentiments of the entire Muslim ummah.

It stressed the importance of protecting the sanctity of the Holy Quran and called for measures to ensure respect for all religious beliefs.

The scholars and leaders expressed their hope that the Swedish authorities would take immediate and appropriate action against the perpetrators to prevent any recurrence of such incidents in the future. The upcoming meeting in Islamabad is expected to be attended by representatives from various religious organizations, scholars, and intellectuals.

It aims to establish a comprehensive framework and guidelines for responding to such incidents, protecting the sanctity of religious texts, and promoting interfaith harmony. As the nation prepares to observe 'Quran Sanctity Day,' Muslims in Pakistan and around the world stand united in their condemnation of the desecration of the Holy Quran. The incident has sparked a renewed determination among scholars and leaders to safeguard the revered Islamic scripture and ensure that such acts of disrespect are never repeated.

Amin vows to address IT, Telecom issues, safeguard user rights

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Information Technology Syed Amin Ul Haque on Thursday made a firm commitment to tackle the challenges faced by the Information Technology and Telecom industry while ensuring the protection of cellular users' rights.

During a meeting with Chief Executive Officers (CEOs) of telecom companies, namely Ufone, Jazz, and Telenor, the minister recognized the need for striking a balance between service providers and users. He assured the CEOs of his dedicated efforts to resolve the issues plaguing the IT industry.

Additionally, the minister emphasized the active measures being taken to settle these matters through relevant forums, aiming for positive outcomes.

Furthermore, Syed Amin Ul Haque chaired a Universal Service Fund (USF) Policy meeting, where the USF Company's annual budget of Rs 18,036 million for FY 2023-24 was approved.

The meeting was attended by high-ranking officials from the IT sector, including the Secretary IT and representatives from the Cabinet Division and Finance Ministry. The CEO of USF briefed the chair about the ongoing projects.

The minister also presided over the Policy Committee meeting of the Research & Development Fund.

The CEO of Ignite, a government-owned technology innovation organization, presented various future projects during the meeting. The annual budget of Ignite for FY 2023-24, amounting to Rs 3,206 million, was approved.

Syed Amin Ul Haque highlighted the challenges faced by telecom companies in importing equipment and upgrading systems due to limited Letters of Credit (LCs), causing delays in completing USF's ongoing projects.

The minister assured his commitment to addressing this issue and finding suitable solutions.

'1500 new employees recruited, holidays of RWMC, WASA staff canceled to defeat dengue'

RAWALPINDI (APP): Caretaker Provincial Minister for Primary and Secondary Healthcare Punjab Dr Jamal Nasir on Thursday said that as many as 1500 new employees had been recruited in the District Health Authority department while holidays of Rawalpindi Waste Management Company (RWMC), Water and Sanitation Agency (WASA) and Health Authority staff had been canceled to control the looming threat of dengue spread.

Presiding over a meeting along with Commissioner Rawalpindi Division Liaqat Ali Chatha to review anti-dengue arrangements, he directed the officials concerned to expedite anti-dengue surveillance and ensure the training of anti-dengue teams and their presence in field.

The minister asked the Director General Rawalpindi Development Authority (RDA) to recruit sanitary workers for ensuring cleanliness in housing societies fall in their jurisdiction. Dr Jamal further directed

the Deputy Commissioners of Rawalpindi division to obtain No Objection Certificates from the heads of departments that anti-dengue SOPs were being implemented in their offices and government residences.

He directed the officials of Municipal Corporation Rawalpindi to register FIRs against those involved in throwing garbage in the Nullah Lai and provide alternate places to make shift markets and rough houses set up along Katarian bridge.

Dr Jamal said that RDA will conduct third party validation of anti-dengue activities of municipal corporation. He said that the prevailing weather condition was favorable for dengue larvae upbreeding and recent rains had increased the threat of dengue larvae spread which needs to be tackled on an urgent basis.

The health minister directed the adoption of arrangements for the drainage of stagnant rainwater as

accumulated rainwater was a leading cause of dengue breeding.

Furthermore, Dr Jamal directed the concerned to remove stagnant water in graveyards and other public places to stop mosquitoes from breeding after rain and submerged water and warned that no negligence would be tolerated in any arrangements.

On the occasion, the health official briefed the meeting that 192 FIRs while 24 people had been arrested over the violations of the SOPs in the district. He informed that Rs 300,000 fine was also imposed over the violations. The health official further briefed that highest number of larvae was found in 425 under construction sites, 308 in plots 112 in shops and 125 in graveyards.

Deputy Commissioner Dr Hasan Waqar Cheema, Additional Commissioner Coordination Syed Nidhart Ali, Director RDA Saif Anwar Jappa and other officers participated in the meeting.

Sheikh Rashid fears foul play in upcoming polls for Gilgit-Baltistan CM

RAWALPINDI (NNI): Awami Muslim League (AML) chief Sheikh Rashid has expressed apprehension that majority would be turned into minority in Gilgit-Baltistan in the upcoming polls for the chief minister's seat as it had happened during election for the Karachi mayor.

In a series of tweets, the former interior minister said the GB Assembly was locked up by police while the speaker was helpless. He said the rigging in election for GB CM would annihilate democracy which was already weakened by the way polls were held in Karachi and Azad Kashmir.

He said the PML-N wanted to snatch the chief minister's slot despite having only three seats in the GB Assembly. He said the PML-N was incognisant of the sensitivity of the region in context of the international politics.

The AML chief said the ruling PDM had fallen apart, adding that those who had been rejected by public were hatching conspiracy to come into power again from "backdoor".

He warned that issues deepened when public choices were suppressed and unpopular people were imposed to rule the country. He said the country had entered a blind alley and the formation of the caretaker setup would make it clear whether the upcoming general election would be held in a transparent manner.

"Those who could not handle the rainwater, how can they face the revolution by public," he said, adding that the PDM would face defeat in the polls.

He said only the decisions taken in line with constitution and law were durable.

Parliamentary committee for election reforms elects Ayaz Sadiq as chairman

ISLAMABAD (NNI): The parliamentary committee on election reforms elected Sardar Ayaz Sadiq as its chairman on Thursday.

Sadiq, while addressing the committee's first session, said the committee had been formed late, adding that the committee had only ten days to complete the work on election reforms. "We have to get these reforms passed by both houses before August 13," he added.

We would form ToRs of the commit-

tee and review it article wise, he said.

Senator Taj Haider said the committee had to oversee matter related to census, adding that if the census was conducted properly, it would help conduct elections properly.

Federal Minister for Commerce Naveed Qamar asked the committee to be furnished with latest version of the Elections Act.

The committee would convene its next session on Tuesday.



ISLAMABAD: Heavy machinery being used to expand Islamabad Expressway during development in Federal Capital.

‘Pilot project launched’

JALALABAD (Agencies): Officials said a pilot project has been launched in the province to determine whether avocados can be grown in the region. Officials said they have planted avocado trees along the province’s canal and hope the climate is suitable. If the program works, they hope to start harvesting avocados in two to three years. This is the first time avocados are being grown in the country. An avocado is a bright green pear-shaped fruit with a large pit and dark leathery skin.

The Frontier Post

AFGHANISTAN

Zil-Hajj 18, 1444 — Friday, July 07, 2023

Ammunition discovered

FARYAB (Agencies): A number of mines and ammunition was discovered and seized in an operation conducted by intelligence forces in Faryab. GD of Intelligence said that their forces conducted an operation in Yanqala village, Khwaja Musa district, and as a result, discovered and confiscated several mines and ammunition. The mines and ammunition included 37 different types of mines, 12 rocket launchers, 9 mortar shells, and an amount of ammunition and other explosives.

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

Security institutions ask citizens to cooperate with security forces

KABUL (TOLONews): The security institutions of the country asked the citizens to cooperate with the security forces to ensure the security of the country.

In a ceremony on Wednesday, the Ministry of Interior praised the functions of the security forces and their efforts to ensure security during Eid.

“During the day and night of Eid, we did not have a single security incident across the country, and this is a great achievement,” said Abdul Mattin, spokesman for the Ministry of Interior.

“As during the days of Eid, the security forces provide security for you and your property, and people’s help is very necessary. We ask the people to cooperate with the security forces,” said Abdul Rahman Saqib, deputy minister of Interior.

According to this ministry, citizens spent Eid without any security incidents.

“During Eid, security was provided for the people, and people’s help is very necessary. We ask people to cooperate with the security forces,” said Mosa Ibrahim, deputy of

the Kabul security command.

Meanwhile, some Kabul residents called on security institutions to make greater efforts in providing security to the country.

“Before, we couldn’t walk down our alley during the day without fear,” said Ilham, a Kabul resident.

“The security is good, and we are happy,” said Fardin, a resident of Kabul.

This is despite the fact that a number of residents of the capital have complained about the high level of crime in recent months in Kabul.

UN to hold another crucial Afghanistan talks in Doha

KABUL (Khaama Press): Scott Smith, Head of the United Nations political office in Afghanistan, announced during a meeting at ARG that a new Doha summit is being prepared and that, this time, representatives of the current regime will be invited to attend.

He pointed out that the meeting will be scheduled before the end of this year.

Smith assured the defactor authorities that the international community would continue to provide humanitarian aid, according to a statement released here by Arg.

A closed-door summit on Afghanistan talks was held in Qatar earlier in May without formally recognizing the Taliban-run government.

Activists were concerned that the meeting in Doha might result in a recognition agreement between the international community and the Taliban. Afghan women are still largely excluded from society due to the Taliban’s repressive policies.

Representatives from about 25 countries and organizations, including ambassadors from the US, China, and Russia and significant European aid donors and important neighbouring countries like Pakistan were invited to the two days of private negotiations that UN Secretary-general Antonio Guterres began on May 1-2 in the capital of Qatar.

Meanwhile, the Taliban representative condemned that they were not invited to the meeting. “Any meeting about Afghanistan without the participation of the Afghan government is ineffective and counterproductive,” Abdul Qahar Balkhi, the Taliban foreign ministry spokesperson, told Al Jazeera.

In the last Afghanistan talks in Doha, the UN chief said that the Taliban rulers would not be invited to the meeting to discuss the dire humanitarian situation in the country and its international isolation. Meanwhile, the Taliban recognition was not on the agenda.

Still, the UN officials in Kabul have not commented, and the agenda of the upcoming meeting has yet to be disclosed.

However, the Taliban insist on their government’s recognition as legitimate. At the same time, the activists and human rights advocates say that the suppressive policies of the current regime concerning human rights and women’s rights, including education and working with UN aid agencies, must be lifted and should be respected.

Inclusive govt needed in Afghanistan

BAKU (Agencies): Iran’s foreign minister said at the Non-Aligned Foreign Ministers’ meeting in Baku that an inclusive government in Afghanistan, with the participation of all ethnic groups, is needed in the country.

Hussain Amir Abdullahian on Wednesday also called for Afghanistan’s frozen assets to be released. Abdullahian also raised the issue of Afghan refugees in Iran and said that Iran hosts millions of Afghan migrants.

The meeting of foreign ministers of the Non-Aligned Movement was held on Wednesday, in Baku, the capital of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

The meeting titled “Non-Aligned Movement: United and Firm in Facing Emerging Challenges” will continue until Thursday.

The IEA has meanwhile repeatedly said its government is inclusive. The Shanghai Cooperation Organization also called for the formation of an inclusive government at its meeting early this week in Delhi.

Members of this organization said that finding solutions to Afghanistan’s crisis was needed in order to maintain security and stability in the region.

British Charge D’Affaires meets Afghan Acting Foreign Minister

KABUL (Khaama Press): Taliban’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs on Wednesday announced that Acting Foreign Minister Amir Khan Muttaqi met with the British Charge d’Affaires to Afghanistan Robert Charterton Dixon and discussed stocks of issues.

While thanking the United Kingdom for not supporting the armed opposition groups, Minister Muttaqi called on the UK to have constructive engagement with Afghanistan’s ruling regime.

Minister Muttaqi further added the UK should not formulate its policies regarding Afghanistan based on media reports and asked the UK to pursue a pragmatic approach towards the Taliban.

As a member of the UN Security Council, Britain has repeatedly stressed in the council’s meetings that Taliban’s policies, especially the violation of women’s



rights, have isolated this group.

In June, the British Ambassador to the UN in connection with the critical report of the United Nations Special Rapporteur to the Human Rights Council, said that the Taliban will not be recognized by the international community if they continue oppressing women and

girls.

Barbara Woodward stressed if the current situation continues, sanctions against the Taliban will remain in place and development aid will be stopped.

For his part, Robert Charterton Dixon considered the Taliban’s steps to reduce narcotics and establish stability in Afghanistan to be effective, the Taliban

foreign ministry stated. However, the chargé d’affaires of the British embassy has not yet commented on this meeting.

Muttaqi demanded that the Taliban should access the Afghan embassy in Britain, expressing hope to resume consular services in London to solve the problems of Afghans living in Britain.

‘Lack of int’l recognition due to Kabul’s refusal to follow orders’

KABUL (TOLONews): The acting Interior Minister, Sirajuddin Haqqani, said that the reason for the lack of recognition of the Islamic Emirate by the world is Kabul’s refusal to accept the world’s “orders.”

He made the remarks on a visit to Paktia and met with religious scholars and ethnic elders.

“Our independence was in someone else’s hand. Today, as they are not recognizing us, it is because we do not accept their orders, we didn’t accept their demands—until the last breath, we have not accepted any word from them,” Haqqani said.

“We have been invaded—not only by the military— but an ideological invasion, an economic

invasion and a cultural invasion. They have created foxes in every tribe and nation so no one can say the truth,” Haqqani said.

The tribal elders and religious clerics attending the gathering said that the people’s support from the current government is important.

“This is a joint home of the Afghans, and the Afghans will protect them,” said Ibrahim, a tribal elder.

Meanwhile, the political analysts said that the Islamic Emirate needs to fulfill the legitimate wishes of the international community in order to reach recognition.

“The Taliban have not taken any action in this regard. They have not taken any positive steps, thus the



Taliban are being driven away from recognition,” said Wahid Faqiri, a political analyst.

The international community has repeatedly called for the start of intra-Afghan dialogues, human rights, and especially women’s rights, preventing

the use of Afghan soil against others, and prevention of the cultivation and production of narcotics.

Meanwhile, the Islamic Emirate also criticized the freezing of Afghanistan’s assets and the inclusion of its members’ names on the UN blacklist.

Crimean-Congo haemorrhagic fever cases increase in Kabul

KABUL (JTOLONews): Doctors at the Infectious Diseases Hospital in Kabul said that Crimean-Congo haemorrhagic fever (CHHF) cases have increased in recent days.

Doctors said that after Eid al-Adha, they admitted nearly fifteen suspected patients to the hospital each day. “Our cases are increasing day by day, approximately 10 to 15 people have suspicious symptoms of hemorrhagic fever, they come to us and after diagnosis they are admitted to beds intended for these patients,” said Faridullah Omari, a doctor at the Infectious Diseases Hospital in Kabul.

“At the time of slaughtering the animal, it should be slaughtered in the right place and they should use hats, gloves, masks, etc., so as not to get this disease,” said Toryali Rasoli, a doctor at the Infectious Diseases Hospital in Kabul.

Noor Rahman, a resident of Kabul, said that they



contracted the disease after slaughtering a cow on Eid.

“I had stabbed my hand, I think it spread to me from that, and I had also used beef,” said Noor Rahman.

“I was watering the garden in Paghman when I got sick,” said Mohammad Kazim, a patient.

Meanwhile, the patients asked the officials in the Ministries of Public Health and Agriculture to spray the places where the animals are kept in order to permanently eradicate the disease.

“It is the negligence of our butchers and our citizens who ignore this dis-

ease, they should use gloves when buying and washing meat,” said Qais, a relative of a patient.

According to doctors, high fever, headache, body pain, nausea, stomach pain, and sometimes bleeding are also symptoms of Congo disease.

Victims of raids by foreign forces want compensation

PAKTIKA (TOLONews): The relatives of the victims of a village in Mata Khan district of Paktika which was raided by foreign troops 15 years ago, are calling for compensation and justice. The residents of Ibrahim Kariz village said that 40 villagers including women and children were killed in the raid.

Hafizullah, who lost his father and 15 other members of his family in the raids, told TOLONews that many children of the village have become orphans.

“The people who were killed in Ibrahim Kariz, including my father and two of my uncles -- we would never pardon their killers. Because they committed cruel actions and

injustice and we killed them,” he said.

“11 people of my family including my mother and 60-year-old father and my older brother who was between 30 to 35 years old,” said Mohammad Barat, a relative of the victims. The relatives of the victims said that they are in severe economic condition and called on the relevant organizations to pursue the issue.

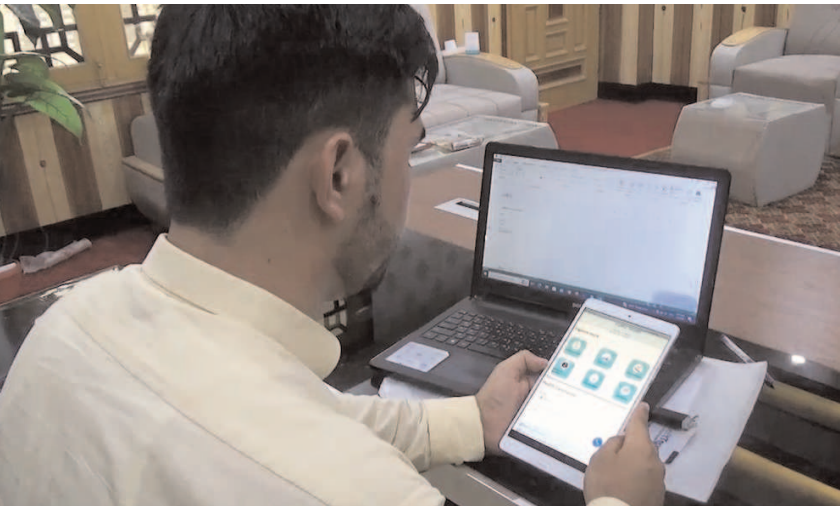
“We call on the International Criminal court to bring these people into court. The ICC should ensure justice,” said Fazal Rahman, a relative of the victims. “Arrest that criminal and ask him why they did this to these people. Who is going to take care of these orphans and wid-

ows? These people should be asked,” said Delawar, a relative of the victims. The provincial governor, Faizullah Jamal, said that not only in Paktika but in many other provinces of the country war crimes happened over the past two decades.

“We call on the human rights organizations and international community to raise their voices and ensure their rights. Not only from here but from all over Afghanistan,” he said.

Earlier, the Guardian reported that at least 80 Afghan civilians may have been victims of summary killings by three separate British Special Air Service (SAS) units—that were operating in the country between 2010 and 2013.

Resident rolls out application for health sector



JALALABAD (Agencies): A young man from Nangarhar province of Afghanistan has developed an application, or software, that provides people and medical professionals with necessary information including listings for hospitals, doctors, specialists and pharmacies.

The app is available in Dari, Pashto and English and is an easily accessible feature that also includes information on hospitals and laboratories.

Habibullah Jabarkhail, says if he gets support from the ministry of public health, he will be able to

roll out more apps and programs for the sector.

He says his app is available for download on the internet.

Jabarkhail says that by using this application, people can make appointments with doctors online, get blood test results and find information about doctors and hospitals.

Jabarkhail says that he has worked for two and a half years to develop this application, two years for research and review and six months for developing this software.

The creation of this application was not without

cost, he said, adding it cost him 150,000 afghanis.

Included in this application, hospitals in Kabul, Nangarhar and some other provinces are registered and the names of about 100 doctors are also listed.

A number of hospitals, doctors, laboratories and pharmacies in Nangarhar have agreed with Jabarkhail that when people contact them and make appointments through the app, then they will get a 30% discount.

This is the first known program for the health sector to be rolled out in Nangarhar.



ISLAMABAD: Outgoing Ambassador of Qatar to Pakistan, Sheikh Saoud Bin Abdulrahman Faisal Al-Thani called on President Dr. Arif Alvi, at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

Toshakhana case

PTI chief gets one-day exemption from hearing

ISLAMABAD (INP): A session's court in Islamabad on Thursday accepted PTI Chairman Imran Khan's plea for personal exemption from the Toshakhana case hearing, ordering his appearance before the court tomorrow (Friday).

According to media reports, the court granted an exemption to the former premier after his counsel Gohar Ali Khan told Additional District and Sessions Judge Humayun Dilawar that his client was due to appear before the Lahore High Court and requested the court to fix any date for hearing after July 10. Despite the request for extended exemption, the court granted PTI chief Imran Khan a day-long exemption while instructing his counsel to ensure the former prime minister's presence in court the following day.

The sessions court took up the case on Thursday a couple of days after the Islamabad High Chief Justice Aamer Farooq overturned the ruling of the local court against Imran's

challenge to the maintainability of the Toshakhana case and remanded the case back to the trial court to re-examine the matter within seven days. The IHC chief justice also asked the sessions court to keep in view eight legal questions he framed to decide maintainability of the reference, based on an ECP complaint for concealing state gifts.

The questions included "whether the complaint has been filed on behalf of ECP by a duly authorised person", "whether the decision of ECP dated 21.10.2022 is a valid authorisation to any officer of ECP to file a complaint", "whether the question of authorisation is a question of fact and evidence and can be ratified subsequently during course of proceedings." The other questions framed for the trial court judge are related to technicalities. In his verdict, the IHC chief justice had observed that the trial court judge did not address these questions and dealt with this case in a "very cursory and shoddy manner".

At the outset of the hear-

ing, Gohar, Imran's counsel, expressed his surprise at the case being fixed for today, saying it was originally scheduled for July 8. "We were not aware that the case has been fixed today," he said. The judge referred to PTI lawyer Sher Afzal Marwat's earlier remarks that Khawaja Haris was also supposed to appear. However, Gohar clarified that he was representing Haris in court today.

The judge questioned the lack of coordination between the two counsels. He stated that although he could grant exemptions from appearance on July 7 and 8 also, he emphasised the need to reach a decision in the case by July 10 and asked the counsel to present arguments.

During the proceedings, Amjad Parvez, the lawyer representing the Election Commission of Pakistan, highlighted that the PTI chief had already "enjoyed" a 45-day stay granted by the IHC. He noted that they were now back to where they started seven months ago.

Justice Ibrahim named as acting PHC CJ

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi on Thursday appointed Justice Muhammad Ibrahim Khan as Acting Chief Justice of the Peshawar High Court (PHC).

The appointment was made by the president as the seat fell vacant after the elevation of Chief Justice Musarrat Hilali to the Supreme Court of Pakistan. It is worth mentioning here that Justice Muhammad Ibrahim Khan is the senior most judge of the Peshawar High Court. President Alvi has made the appointment under Article 196 of the Constitution, till the appointment of a new chief justice.

Imran challenges IHC's verdict

ISLAMABAD (PPI): PTI Chairman Imran Khan Thursday challenged the Islamabad High Court's decision to send back the Toshakhana case to district and sessions court for retrial.

In his application submitted in the apex court on Thursday, the former prime minister prayed the court to annul IHC's decision of sending the Toshakhana case back to the retrial court with direction to decide the case within seven days. Imran Khan also maintained that declaring admissible Election Commission of Pakistan's plea for criminal proceedings was also against the law. The powers of Mianwali district judge cannot be exercised by a district judge of Islamabad, he added.

A district and sessions court in Islamabad on Thursday accepted Imran Khan's plea for personal exemption from the Toshakhana case hearing, ordering his appearance before the court tomorrow (Friday). The sessions court granted an exemption to the PTI chief after his counsel Gohar Ali Khan told Additional District and Sessions Judge Humayun Dilawar that his client was due to appear before the Lahore High Court and requested the court to fix any date for hearing after July 10.

Despite the request for extended exemption, the court granted PTI chief Imran Khan a day-long exemption while instructing his counsel to ensure Imran Khan's presence in court the following day.

Pakistan raises issue of desecration of Holy Quran with Swedish's govt: FO

ISLAMABAD (INP): Pakistan has raised the issue of desecration of Holy Quran in Sweden with the Swedish Charge d'Affaires in Islamabad and talks are underway with the Swedish authorities in this regard. This was stated by Foreign Office Spokesperson Mumtaz Zahra Baloch while responding to questions at her weekly news briefing in Islamabad on Thursday.

She said Pakistan and Sweden enjoy good diplomatic relations and the Swedish government has itself expressed concern over the despicable act of desecration of Holy Quran. The Spokesperson said we strongly condemn the despicable acts of public burning of the Holy Quran in Sweden and other countries in Europe. Mumtaz Zahra Baloch said we believe that such willful incitement to discrimination, hatred and violence cannot be justified under the guise of freedom of

expression. The recurrence of such Islamophobic incidents call into serious question the legal framework which permits such hate-driven actions.

The Spokesperson said as a leading member of the OIC, Pakistan has called for an urgent debate on this important matter at the UN Human Rights Council. Pakistan also calls for credible and concrete measures to prevent the rising incidents of xenophobia, Islamophobia and anti-Muslim hatred.

Updating about the situation in the aftermath of Greece boat tragedy, the spokesperson said Greek authorities have completed 78 autopsies and DNA tests and fifteen more Pakistanis have been identified after this process. Turning to prevailing situation in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir, Mumtaz Zahra Baloch once again reiterated Pakistan's call,

urging India to desist from unilateral actions and use of force in the occupied territory. She said as Muslims across the world celebrated Eid-ul-Azha, Kashmiris in the occupied territory could not offer Eid prayers due to curfew and other restrictions. She urged India to release Kashmiri Hurriyet leaders incarcerated in jails on fabricated charges.

Mumtaz Zahra Baloch said July 8 marks the death anniversary of Burhan Muzaffar Wani, who is a symbol of Kashmiri youth's resistance to India's oppression. To a question regarding Indian External Affairs Minister's remarks about Pakistan, the Spokesperson said the issue of terrorism should not be used for diplomatic points scoring especially when there is irrefutable evidence of India's own involvement in terror activities which Pakistan has submitted at the relevant forum.

Pakistan desirous to expand ties with Qatar

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi on Thursday said that Pakistan is highly desirous to expand trade and investment relations with Qatar for making efforts against Islamophobia, adding that the Islamic world needed to make collective efforts against the rising tide of Islamophobia in the world.

Speaking during a meeting with that outgoing Ambassador of Qatar to Pakistan, Sheikh Saoud Bin Abdulrahman Faisal Al-Thani, here at the Aiwan-e-Sadr, he said that Pakistan wanted a partnership with Qatar in the energy sector and looks forward to Qatari investments in various sectors of the economy.

Appreciating the Government of Qatar for hosting the Pakistani diaspora which served as a strong bridge between the two brotherly countries, Dr Arif Alvi expressed the

hope that Qatar would increase the number of skilled Pakistani workers and would open more visa facilities in Pakistan. He lauded the leadership of Qatar for making efforts against Islamophobia, adding that the Islamic world needed to make collective efforts against the rising tide of Islamophobia in the world.

President Alvi also highlighted the gross human rights violations in the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) as well as the persecution of minorities, especially Muslims, in India. He underlined that the Jammu and Kashmir dispute and the atrocities being committed by the Indian Security Forces in IIOJK continued to threaten regional peace and security.

Regarding Afghanistan, the President said that

Pakistan and Qatar should continue to work together for bringing peace and stability in Afghanistan as well as the provision of necessary humanitarian assistance to Afghan refugees in Pakistan. The President appreciated the leadership of Qatar for making excellent arrangements for the FIFA World Cup 2022, saying that Qatar had done a commendable job by successfully organizing such a mega sports event. He also thanked Qatar for providing humanitarian relief and assistance to Pakistan during last year's floods. The President wished the Ambassador success for his future and appreciated his contributions towards further strengthening all-around cooperation in areas of mutual interest between Pakistan and Qatar.

‘PTI govt forced NAB to file reference against Nawaz’

LAHORE (INP): The Accountability Court of Lahore has issued a detailed verdict in the acquittal of former premier Nawaz Sharif's plot allotment case.

A copy of the detailed verdict explains how Nawaz Sharif's proclaimed offender status ended and under which law he has been given relief. The verdict states that according to the record, the PML-N supremo was targeted over political revenge.

The former government forced the National Accountability Bureau to institute a reference against Nawaz Sharif to destroy his career, it stated further. The court orders the acquittal of

three-time elected prime minister Nawaz Sharif of charges in the case.

An amicus curiae said the same relief should be given to Nawaz that has been given to the main suspects in the case, according to the verdict. A proclaimed offender also deserves the same punishment or relief that a central accused does, the verdict said. It further said the proceedings to declare Nawaz Sharif a proclaimed offender were not in accordance with the law.

In light of the Supreme Court's decision, Nawaz Sharif should have also got the same relief that was given to the other accused. The National

Accountability Bureau and the revenue board order to unfreeze the properties of the shareholders in Nawaz's properties, the verdict stated. A copy of the court order should be dispatched to the NAB chairman and others, it directed.

According to the amicus curiae, the proper procedure was not followed for declaring Nawaz Sharif a proclaimed offender. The shareholders of Nawaz Sharif's properties filed objections to the freezing of their properties. The court had appointed senior prosecutor Hafiz Asadullah as an amicus curia in the plot allotment reference against PML-N supremo Nawaz Sharif.

GB Assembly to elect new Leader of House on 13th

GILGIT (PPI): Gilgit-Baltistan (GB) Supreme Appellate Court on Thursday approved the schedule for the election of new Leader of the House of the GB Assembly according to which election for the position would now be held on July 13.

Earlier, assembly speaker presented the schedule in

the court. The court, on the request of PTI member of the assembly, had declared the previous schedule null and void. A day before yesterday, on Tuesday (July 4, 2023), the GB Chief Court had disqualified Khalid Khurshid Khan as the chief minister of the region for allegedly obtaining a licence from the bar council on the

basis of a fake degree.

A three-member bench, headed by Judge Inayatullah Rahman, passed the order on the petition, seeking the CM's disqualification. Pakistan Peoples Party's Ghulam Shahzad Agha had challenged Khurshid's degree. Khurshid is also the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf's regional president.

Elections to be held on time: Nazeer

ISLAMABAD (PPI): Minister for Law and Justice Senator Azam Nazeer Tarar has said that elections will be held on time and strengthening democracy is the top priority of the government. He was talking to Canadian High Commissioner to Pakistan Ms Leslie Scanlon, who called on him here in Islamabad on Thursday.

Long-term dividends of partnership and cooperation between Pakistan and Canada regarding mining projects also came under discussion. The Minister informed the Canadian High Commissioner that the Army Act and the laws made under it guarantee the rights of any accused.

Expressing deep concern over the growing incidents of Islamophobia in the world, he said the desecration of the Holy Quran in Sweden is a clear example of Islamophobia. Azam Nazeer Tarar said the government has decided to participate in the protest demonstrations against the incident to convey its message to the world and to get the situation under control.

Punjab CTD arrests nine militants

LAHORE (PPI): The Punjab Counter-Terrorism Department (CTD) on Thursday claimed to have arrested seven suspected terrorists allegedly belonging to the outlawed Al-Qaeda and Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP).

The terrorists were arrested in operations in different cities, and explosive materials, mobile phones, weapons, and cash seized from their possession. The CTD carried out intelligence-based operations in Rawalpindi, Sahiwal, Bahawalpur and Gujranwala, and arrested seven terrorists, a spokesman said.

The arrested suspects belonged to the outlawed Al-Qaeda and Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan, officials said. Explosives, detonators, mobile phones, arms and cash were also seized from their possession, they added. The arrested terrorists were identified as Abrarul Haq, Abdul Rehman, Umair, Imran, Ashfaq, Ayub and Muawiyah, the authorities said.

‘Disaster’: Palestinian homes used as Israeli bases in Jenin

WEST BANK (Agencies): The inside of Bassem Tahayneh's home in the Jenin refugee camp appears as though a tornado had blown through it. The ceiling-high closets inside his daughter's bedroom were brought down face-first on top of the beds; his four TV screens were pulled off the walls and smashed; the tiles on the floors were ripped off, and wires connecting the house to the power grid were cut.

Tahayneh, 41, is one of thousands of Palestinians in the camp who were forced to leave their homes during a three-day Israeli army assault that began on Sunday, only to return days later and find the inside of their homes almost completely wrecked. "Nothing in the house is fit for use. It's a disaster," the father-of-three told Al Jazeera the morning after the Israeli army withdrew from the camp.

"It will take me at least a month to repair everything, so that my family and I can live here again," Tahayneh continued. "I couldn't bring my wife and kids back to the house yet. I couldn't let them see this wreckage." The attack on the Jenin refugee camp in the northern Israeli-occupied West Bank was the largest in two decades. The Israeli army – for the first time since 2006 – launched a large-scale aerial attack, using unmanned, mis-

sile-loaded planes to shell parts of the camp, before soldiers raided on foot and remained there for approximately 48 hours. At least 1,000 soldiers and dozens of armoured vehicles participated in the assault.

The Palestinian Ministry of Health declared that 12 Palestinians, including three children, were killed in the attack, while at least 120 others were wounded, including 20 who remain in critical condition. At least 3,000 people were forced to flee their homes in Jenin for fear of being killed, according to the Red Crescent. Tahayneh was forced to leave with his family in the Hawasheen neighbourhood of the Jenin refugee camp on the first day of the assault.

"The army stood at the entrance to the neighbourhood and started shouting through the speakers: 'All of the people in this neighbourhood, you have 10 minutes to leave your homes. We will shell all the homes,'" he recalled. Like many homes inside the camp, Tahayneh's house was not only wrecked; it was also used as a base for the military from which to target Palestinian fighters. Sizeable holes were drilled into the outer walls of a large number of homes that soldiers used to position their snipers, while dozens of empty bullet casings lay

strewn across their floors.

Food inside their homes was eaten and tossed everywhere, including the floor, while Israeli army medical and military equipment such as gauzes and wires were found left behind. "When we came back, we found that they had blown our front doors open and that they took over our homes and used them as bases. There is a giant hole in the wall of my bedroom that they used for their snipers," said Tahayneh, noting that the soldiers "ate our food and drank our water". Even the box of date cookies that his wife had made for the Eid al-Adha holiday that ended last week was opened and eaten out of.

The attack on Jenin comes as part of Israel's efforts to crush re-emerging Palestinian resistance to decades-long Israeli military occupation. The Jenin refugee camp is home to at least 23,600 Palestinians who were expelled from their original homes in 1948 during the Nakba, or catastrophe – the ethnic cleansing of Palestine by Zionist militias to create the state of Israel. Jenin has seen similar attacks in the past, most notably in 2002. In April of that year, during the second Intifada, or mass uprising, Israeli forces backed by fighter jets invaded the camp with more than 150

armoured tanks and bulldozers. A battle with resistance fighters ensued for more than 10 days, in which at least 52 Palestinian civilians and fighters, and 23 Israeli soldiers, were killed.

During that raid, the Israeli army destroyed more than 400 homes and severely damaged hundreds of others, displacing over a quarter of the population of the camp which was later rebuilt by the United Nations. In another corner of the camp, Najmat Abu Sirriyeh said that Israeli soldiers prevented her family of seven from leaving their home as they used it to gather detainees. "They were in our house for at least 36 hours," Abu Sirriyeh told Al Jazeera from her partially destroyed home in the camp.

Israeli armoured tractors demolished the entire wall around their house, the rubble of which fell onto the trees and plants they had grown in their garden. The army also dumped an entire car and a mountain of rubble into their backyard. "They separated the men and the women. They handcuffed all the men and put them in a separate room. They would then arrest youth and even elderly men from the neighbourhood and bring them into our house. They would handcuff them, blindfold them and

throw them onto the ground in one of the rooms, and beat them," she recalled.

The mother of four said the soldiers slept in the living room of their house and forbade them from moving. "We did not sleep or eat. We even had to ask for their permission to use the bathroom!" she said. Abu Sirriyeh also said that the army confiscated all their phones. "We were not allowed to contact anyone – not to even let our relatives know that we were okay." While the destruction of infrastructure and roads during the latest attack was limited to certain neighbourhoods, many homes in the camp were raided and their contents were ruined to some degree – even those not used as bases.

Mother-of-six Lubna Fraihat was forced to leave her home on the second night of the attack. When she returned with her family, they found their home had been broken into and turned upside down. All their belongings were dispersed across the floor, while their closets were broken and their furniture flipped. Fraihat, who works as a cleaner, had already suffered another calamity. She explained that her husband, 50-year-old Rabee, was shot by the Israeli army as he attempted to pull a fighter who was

injured on the street outside their front door, in order to give him first aid and call an ambulance.

"My husband heard someone shouting, someone injured on the street. He was trying to pull the man into our house when suddenly they shot my husband in the side," she said, her voice trembling. Her husband's blood still stains the floor of the yard at the entrance to her home. He remains hospitalised in the Rafidia hospital in Nablus in a critical condition.

After her husband was evacuated in an ambulance, Fraihat and her four daughters locked themselves up in one of the rooms out of fear for an entire day with the sound of shelling and explosions outside. "We all stayed in the children's room because it's the safest room, in the back of the house. Whenever we would leave the room or make noise, they would shoot live ammunition at the house," she said. Pointing to her bathroom, the floor of which is cluttered with glass, Fraihat said soldiers shot directly into her bathroom while she was inside, before she and her daughters decided to leave. "My daughters said they couldn't take it anymore – we felt that we were going to die."