

Seven burnt to death
SARGODHA (Agencies): Seven people including children burnt to death while another 10 received burn injuries when a passenger van they were travelling in suddenly caught fire near Bhalwal in Sargodha on Saturday. The injured have been rushed to the Tehsil Headquarters Hospital Bhalwal by the Rescue 1122 and police personnel. Rescue officials said the fire started in the van after the gas cylinder exploded with a bang.

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Four killed in Kurram
F.P. Report
PARACHINAR: Four persons were killed and more than 20 injured during exchange of fire between two tribes at Boshera area of district Kurram over property dispute, said police on Saturday. Two persons were killed from both groups. The deceased were identified as Wahab Ali Shakh, Mohammad, Abdul Wali and Ali Khel. The injured were rushed to District Headquarters Hospital Parachinar.

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NATHIAGALI: Swiss Foreign Minister Ignazio Cassis and Chairman NDMA Lt. Gen. Inam Haider Malik exchanging after signing an MoU between Pakistan and Switzerland to promote cooperation. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif also present on the occasion.

‘Toshakhana criminal case against Imran admissible’

ISLAMABAD (Agencies): A District and Sessions Court in Islamabad has rejected the petition of PTI Chairman Imran Khan in the Toshakhana criminal case and declared the case admissible. Additional Sessions Judge Hamayun Dilawar announced the reserved verdict on Toshakhana case on Saturday.

The court summoned the evidence of the case on July 12. During the hearing, the judge expressed his indignation and remarked that such a show of restraint had never been displayed in the judicial history. PTI Chairman's lawyer Gohar Ali Khan's junior lawyer Salman Ayub and Election Commission's lawyer Saad

Hassan appeared before the court. When the lawyer Gohar Ali Khan did not reach the court until the start of the hearing, Additional Sessions Judge Humayun Dilawar adjourned the hearing and remarked that the court was showing restraint in this case, as had never been shown in the judicial history.



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The Frontier Post

PM desires deepen bilateral ties with Switzerland

Shehbaz hopes MoU to help promote cooperation in field of natural disasters management

F.P. Report

NATHIAGALI: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Saturday termed the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Pakistan and Switzerland over disaster management as a vital step that would promote cooperation between the two countries to harness technology and expertise in future to tackle the natural catastrophe jointly.

Addressing the MoU signing ceremony, the prime minister said that they looked forward for the Swiss cooperation in terms of getting an advanced warning system and other gadgets to secure Pakistan as much as possible from natural disasters. He reiterated that Pakistan was facing the impacts of global climate change, despite the fact that the country had very little carbon emissions.

The prime minister also expressed that they wanted to further expand bilateral ties with Switzerland in diverse fields including the tourism sector as Pakistan was blessed with natural beauty. Appreciating the Swiss foreign minister's remarks about the peace in the region, the prime minister said that it was important to maintain peace in this part of the world and that Switzerland could play the role of catalyst to promote peace in the region.

He said that Pakistan liked to promote progress, and prosperity, eradicate unemployment, and poverty, and enhance education, IT, industry, women empowerment, and agriculture for the well-being of the people. The other side, he said, should also realize it. Pakistan could not afford tension in the region nor would like to waste its resources, they must commit their resources to the development of the country, he stressed.

The prime minister reiterated that there could be no lasting peace in this

Pakistan attaches high importance to its bilateral ties with Switzerland

F.P. Report

NATHIAGALI: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Saturday reiterated the high importance Pakistan attached to its relations with Switzerland which were based on shared belief in fundamental principles of democracy and the rule of law. The prime minister received Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Swiss Confederation, Federal Councillor Ignazio Cassis. The Swiss foreign minister, accompanied by three members of the Parliament, is on a bilateral visit to Pakistan from 7-9 July at the invitation of the prime minister, PM Office Media Wing said in a press release.

Both sides reaffirmed their commitment to further enhance bilateral ties, especially in the areas of climate change, trade and investment, development cooperation, higher education and vocational training. The prime minister thanked the Swiss government for providing support to Pakistan in the aftermath of last year's devastating floods. He also appreciated the Swiss businesses' approach to the resolution of issues and their work ethic, and invited more Swiss companies to invest in Pakistan, particularly in the renewable energy and IT sectors. The two sides also agreed to collaborate in tourism promotion including eco-tourism and development of related infrastructure using both the G2G and B2B channels. In this regard, it was agreed that a meeting would be convened shortly to further spell out modes of cooperation. Both sides also agreed on disaster management, early warning and carbon market collaboration.

The prime minister also witnessed the signing of an MoU on "Disaster Management" between Pakistan and Switzerland. The MoU envisages bilateral cooperation in disaster risk management including preparedness, response and recovery aimed at reducing the adverse impact on the people and the economy. Minister for Climate Change Sherry Rehman made a detailed presentation on the country's climate vulnerability and onset of an accelerated climate crises pushing the country into recovery-resilience trap. The minister explained that the adaptation costs were very high but Pakistan was rebuilding as much as it could. She presented Pakistan's flagship program including living Indus initiative and Delta Blue Carbon project which would resume 350000 hectares of mangrove wetlands reducing 147 million metric tonnes of carbon and bringing revenues of US\$ 250million. "Pakistan and the Swiss Confederation enjoy cordial relations grounded in cooperation at the international forums with the common aim to contribute towards global peace and prosperity," the press release further added. This is the first bilateral visit to Pakistan by a Swiss foreign minister in the last 17 years. The visit of Councillor Cassis has helped reinforce the existing friendly ties between the two countries.

part of the world till their issues including Kashmir were resolved. Speaking on the occasion, Foreign Minister of Switzerland Ignazio Cassis said that signing the MoU between the two countries was vital for collaboration against climate change.

Ukraine deserves NATO membership: Erdogan

ISTANBUL (Agencies): Turkey supports Ukraine's NATO membership aspirations, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan told his Ukrainian counterpart Volodymyr Zelenskyy, but he also urged for a "return to peace efforts" to end the conflict that has now raged for 500 days since Russia invaded Ukraine last year.

"There is no doubt that Ukraine deserves membership of NATO," Erdogan told a joint press conference with the Ukrainian president in Istanbul early on Saturday, adding that the two sides should go back to peace talks. "A fair peace creates no losers," the Turkish leader said, according to the Reuters news agency.

Zelenskyy thanked Erdogan for his support, which comes ahead of a key NATO summit that is set to start on

Tuesday in Vilnius, Lithuania. "I am grateful for the support of Ukraine's territorial integrity and sovereignty. Peace formula. Protection of our countries, our people and our interests," the Ukrainian leader wrote in a tweet regarding his talks with Erdogan. The Ukrainian leader has lobbied intensively for his embattled country to be invited to join the Western military alliance, arguing that Ukraine has become Europe's last line of defence against Russia's aggression.

This week, Zelenskyy visited the Czech Republic, Slovakia and Bulgaria to drum up support for Ukraine's NATO membership bid ahead of the military alliance's July 11-12 summit. In Prague, he won a pledge of support for Ukraine to join

NATO "as soon as the war is over", and in Sofia, he secured backing for membership "as soon as conditions allow". NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg also reaffirmed his view that Ukraine would become a member.

However, the timeline for Ukraine's membership remains unclear. On Friday, the United States dampened Ukraine's hopes of any rapid accession to the alliance, saying this week's summit would not result in a NATO membership invitation. US National Security Adviser Jake Sullivan said the Vilnius summit "will be an important moment on that pathway towards membership", but that Ukraine has "further steps it needs to take before membership in NATO".

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Swiss Foreign Minister calls on Sherry Rehman

Stadium to Liberty road should be ensured at the earliest. The caretaker CM acknowledged the services of the Lahore district administration and WASA for working in a proactive manner, adding that relevant teams were present in the field. CCPO Lahore also accompanied the caretaker CM.

process at Kalma Chowk Underpass, Garden Town Gulberg, Liberty, Jinnah Road, Mozing, Qarshi Chowk, Shahra-i-Fatima, Jinnah, Lawrence Road. Mohsin Naqvi expressed his satisfaction over water drainage work in the city. He inspected the under-

The delayed flights included: PIA Flight PK 306 which was scheduled to go to Lahore from Karachi; PIA Flight PK 350 which was scheduled

Violent clash in Lasbela Chowk forces market closures

KARACHI (NNI): Following a clash between residents and shopkeepers at Karachi's Lasbela Chowk area, the market in the vicinity was forcefully closed.

According to the details, a clash broke out between the two groups leading to a tense situation, after which a significant presence of law enforcers was observed in the area.

As per the police statement, a brawl erupted among the residents of Patel Para and shopkeepers of Naseem Cloth Market, resulting in the closure of Naseem Cloth Market and Khaleej Baara Market located near Iashela Chowk.

The police authorities explained that residents of Patel Para were protesting against unauthorized load shedding at Lasbela Chowk, which led to heated arguments.

Upon receiving information about the incident, a large number of police and Rangers personnel reached the scene to control the situation. However, the police took two shopkeepers into custody who were allegedly involved in attacking the protestors.

The local police confirmed that both shopkeepers have been taken to the police station, meanwhile, further investigations are underway.

LAHORE (PPI): Anti-Corruption Establishment (ACE) arrested four officers of the Lahore Development Authority (LDA) over corruption charges, police said Saturday.

The ACE spokesperson said in a statement that four LDA officers have been arrested over corruption charges. The officers had allegedly received bribes for the illegal issuance of the completion certificate.

A case was lodged against the accused LDA officers after they were found guilty. The accused officers include Director Salman Mehfooz, Deputy Director Tayyab Ali, Assistant Director Inayatullah and clerk Ijaz Sattar.

climate finance and the government's active initiatives and plans.

She said that July 7 was the hottest day on record according to United Nations Secretary-General (UNGA), adding that Pakistan will face water scarcity by 2025.

The minister said, "Our glaciers are melting speedily. We are currently witnessing heavy monsoon rains in Lahore."


She said that around 33 million people were affected by floods last year, adding that the incumbent government has already launched several projects to mitigate the effects of climate change. "We are working on National Adaptation, Mitigation, Gender Action Plan, Gulf, Living India and other projects," Sherry Rahman.

The government has introduced National Clean Air Policy, Single Use Plastic, National Hazardous Waste Management and other policies, she said adding that the country's Environmental Gender Action Plan is designed to mainstream women.

The minister apprised, “We intend to reduce our emissions by 50% by 2030.” The international financial system is not effective in dealing with the challenges of climate change, she added.

Sherry Rehman said that Pakistan is still waiting for the commitments made in Geneva. COP28 President reiterates commitment to accelerate and scale up climate financing. Pakistan is looking forward to rekindling environmental cooperation and knowledge exchange with the Swiss government, the minister concluded.

<p align="center">PUBLIC NOTICE</p> <p>Application for issuance of Letter of Administration / Succession Certificate by Mr. Mahal Bibi with regards to moveable & immovable assets of deceased Mr. Feroz citizen number 1730114503175 has been received. Following are declared as legal heirs.</p> <p>1.Fatima (Daughter)2.Mahal Bibi (Spouse)</p> <p>On the above application the objections of public at large are invited. Any aggrieved person may approach in person the undersigned for submission of objection (if any) within fourteen (14) days after publication of this notice.</p> <p align="center">INCHARGE SFU, NADRA RING ROAD-DSFU</p>	<p align="center">PUBLIC NOTICE</p> <p>Application for issuance of Letter of Administration / Succession Certificate by Mr. Syed Iqbal Hussain Shah with regards to moveable & immovable assets of deceased Mr. Suhail bin Suhail citizen number 1210108939684 has been received. Following are declared as legal heirs.</p> <p>1.Mah Jabeen Iqbal (Daughter) 2.Syed Iqbal Hussain Shah (Spouse)</p> <p>On the above application the objections of public at large are invited. Any aggrieved person may approach in person the undersigned for submission of objection (if any) within fourteen (14) days after publication of this notice.</p> <p align="center">INCHARGE SFU, NADRA DI KHAN-SFU</p>	<p align="center">PUBLIC NOTICE</p> <p>Application for issuance of Letter of Administration / Succession Certificate by Ms. Samina Umar with regards to moveable & immovable assets of deceased Mr. Alhaj Sardar Umar Farooq Khan citizen number 121015656343 has been received. Following are declared as legal heirs.</p> <p>1.Samina Umar (Spouse)2. Ali Umer (Son).</p> <p>On the above application the objections of public at large are invited. Any aggrieved person may approach in person the undersigned for submission of objection (if any) within fourteen (14) days after publication of this notice.</p> <p align="center">INCHARGE SFU, NADRA DI KHAN-SFU</p>
<p align="center">PUBLIC NOTICE</p> <p>Application for issuance of Letter of Administration / Succession Certificate by Mr. Shad Moin with regards to moveable & immovable assets of deceased Mr. Moin Ud Din citizen number 102080197133 has been received. Following are declared as legal heirs.</p> <p>1. Samina Bibi (Daughter) 2. Ruksana Shabi (Daughter) 3. Hasnain Moin (Son)4. Khalid Moin (Son)5. Tahir Moin (Son) 6. Asif Moin Khan (Son)7. Miraj Ud Din Khan (Son)8. Shahid Moin (Son)</p> <p>On the above application the objections of public at large are invited. Any aggrieved person may approach in person the undersigned for submission of objection (if any) within fourteen (14) days after publication of this notice.</p> <p align="center">INCHARGE SFU, NADRA DI KHAN-SFU</p>	<p align="center">PUBLIC NOTICE</p> <p>Application for issuance of Letter of Administration / Succession Certificate by Mr. Shahid Iqbal with regards to moveable & immovable assets of deceased Mr. Muhammad Iqbal citizen number 13310122569391 has been received. Following are declared as legal heirs.</p> <p>1. Shazia Manzoor (Daughter) 2. Nazia Farazat (Daughter) 3. Fozia Arshad (Daughter) 4. Shahid Iqbal (Son)5. Tahir Iqbal (Son)6. Zahid Iqbal (Son)</p> <p>On the above application the objections of public at large are invited. Any aggrieved person may approach in person the undersigned for submission of objection (if any) within fourteen (14) days after publication of this notice.</p> <p align="center">INCHARGE SFU, NADRA ABBOTABAD-SFU</p>	<p align="center">PUBLIC NOTICE</p> <p>Application for issuance of Letter of Administration / Succession Certificate by Mr. Muhammad Umer with regards to moveable & immovable assets of deceased Mr. Muhammad Akram citizen number 13310121565759 has been received. Following are declared as legal heirs.</p> <p>1. Rmsha Akram (Daughter) 2. Hasina Akram (Daughter) 3. Ruksana Bibi (Spouse) 4. Muhammad Umer (Son)</p> <p>On the above application the objections of public at large are invited. Any aggrieved person may approach in person the undersigned for submission of objection (if any) within fourteen (14) days after publication of this notice.</p> <p align="center">INCHARGE SFU, NADRA ABBOTABAD-SFU</p>



KOHAT UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Kohat 26000 Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Pakistan
(Ph: 092-52914406)

KOHAT UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Ref. No. KUST/UPC/1525 , Dated: 07/07/2023

Tender Notice No 03/2023

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Kohat University of Science & Technology, Kohat invites sealed tenders from the original firms / manufacturers / Suppliers / authorized registered dealers with Tax Authorities and is on Active Taxpayers List (ATL) of FBR, for the supply of following procurements under single stage Single envelope bidding procedure.

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Detail specifications as well as "Terms and Conditions" for the above mentioned tenders are given in the tenders Documents. The bids complete in all respect should reach the undersigned on or before **Tuesday 25 July, 2023 at 11.00 am** through registered courier or by hand and will be opened at 11:30 AM on the same day in the 1fthkhar Auditorium Basement Committee Room, KUST Kohat in the presence of the bidders, who may choose to attend.

Complete set of Tender Form along with Terms & Conditions may be downloaded from KUST Website i.e. [www.kust.edu.pk / KPPRA/PPRA official Website](http://www.kust.edu.pk/KPPRA/PPRA%20official%20Website) or can be obtained from the office of Secretary, UPC KUST (Central Library) by depositing Rs.1000/- (Rupees One Thousand Only) per Form in HBL KUST Branch.

Apply and submit separate BID for each Tender.

KUST Kohat reserves the right to accept/reject any one or all the tenders on the bases of valid reason.

Errors and omissions if any shall be subject to rectification by the KUST.

Dr. Nawab Ali, Convener


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- (c) In case a candidate does not upload the above documents with the online application form, his/her application will be rejected.
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Industrialists call for pragmatic steps for protection of lives, properties

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: Industrialists urged the federal and provincial governments, chief minister, Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, provincial police chief and relevant high officials of law enforcement agencies to take pragmatic steps to ensure safety and security of lives and properties of the business community.

Malik Imran Ishaq, president of Industrialists Association Peshawar (IAP) while chairing a meeting in the office of the association here on Saturday said that manufacturers have been highly upset owing to the prevailing law and order situation.

He warned that they will be forced to shut their man-

ufacturing units and shift them to other parts of the country if immediate steps were not taken for their protection.

Imran Ishaq said industrialists have received extortion calls and attacked their premises/factories with IED, which had created a sense of insecurity and unrest among them.

The association president said government prime duty is to ensure protection and safety of lives and properties of businessmen, because economy and development cannot be flourished until and unless flourishing of industries and businesses.

He said doing business and running factories in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa was not less than a 'Jihad' (holy

war) while keeping in view the prevailing law and order situation in the province.

Imran Ishaq said industrial units have been confronted with crisis situations and near to closure.

If the situation couldn't be brought under control then the industries will be completely closed down in KP, which would trigger massive unemployment and affect many poor families, he warned.

He said the economy would be strengthened with flourishing of industries and businesses and the country will lead to sustainable economic growth, prosperity and development.

If the industrialists' security and other issues would not be resolved on

priority then the flight capital would be from KP, and would generate massive unemployment, the association chief warned.

The Association president urged provincial caretaker government, chief minister, Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, provincial police chief, high officials of Home and Tribal Affairs Department Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and law enforcement agencies to take strict notice against extortion calls, hurling of IED on factories/premises and effective steps should be taken for their prevention.

He called for provision of protection of lives and properties of industrialists/business communities at every level.



PESHAWAR: Candidates giving written test for various posts conducted by AG Office at Shaheed Hussain Sharif School.

KP govt increases compensation amount

PESHAWAR (APP): In the exercise of the powers conferred by clause 2 of Regulations 4 of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Provincial Disaster Management Authority Relief Compensation Regulations-2019, the provincial government has increased the amount of assistance under the Relief Compensation Act for deaths and injuries during natural calamities.

A notification in this connection was issued by Secretary Relief, Rehabilitation and Settlement Department Khyber Pakhtunkhwa after the same was approved by the provincial cabinet in its meeting held on June 20, 2023, last.

Under the notification, in case of death due to natural calamities, the next of kin will get Rs 1 million; earlier it was Rs. 0.5 million. Before this, the heirs of the deceased were given a relief amount of Rs. 0.5 million.

The seriously injured will get Rs. 300,000, the notification says while substantial injured will get Rs 50,000.

The purpose of the revision of relief amounts is to provide adequate compensation to the victims and their families.

Isibat charges in corruption case by ACJ

PESHAWAR (APP): Special Judge Central Anti-Corruption in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) Rajab Ali Saturday charged one accused Muhammad Isibat involved in the embezzlement of POF government funds case.

According to FIA spokesman, the FIR No. 12/2012 dated 03-05-2012 u/s 409, 418, 420, 466,468,471,474 PPC 5 (2) PC Act Police Station CC, FIA Abbottabad, Muhammad Isibat had been convicted and sentenced to eight years and six months imprisonment with fine of Rs 0.4 million by Judge Rajab Ali.

The convict was involved in embezzlement of POF, government funds amounting to Rs1627,687.

The Law officer Imran Khan pleaded the case very well and convinced the court for imposing conviction on the basis of solid evidence collected by FIA, the spokesman added.

Govt urged to summon OIC session against desecration of Holy Quran

Humayun Khan

PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Bar Council (KPBC) called on All Pakistan Lawyers Representative Convention against desecration of Holy Quran and argued Government of Pakistan to summon Organization of Islamic Countries (OIC) for establishing a collective narrative to stop Islam-phobic content in future across the globe.

The convention called by KPBC executive committee chairman Syed Mubashir Shah in which vice chairman Pakistan Bar Council (PBC) Haroon-ur-Rasheed, Hassan Raza Pasha, Ahsan Bhon, Chaudary Hafeez-ur-Rehman, Basharat Ullah Khan, Farh-

an Shahzad, Haji Muhammad Afzal and Ijaz Ahmad Gormani were present.

Punjab Bar Council was represented by Aman Ullah Kakar, Qasim Khan, Rahib Khan while Balochistan Bar council member Abdur Razzaq Mehr, Raja Muhammad Aleem Abbasi, KPBC vice chairman Zar Badshah and Syed Mubashir Shah along with large number of lawyers participated in the convention.

The lawyer's convention condemned hooliganism on 9th May and argued to end trial in military court of other civilian like children and women were exempted from the military trials because it is against the fundamental rights.

The lawyers also argued Supreme Court of Pakistan to vacate stay-order against Supreme Court practice and procedure Act because it is longstanding demand of legal fraternity.

They also demanded amendment in Legal Practitioner and Bar Council Act 1973 to ease grant in aid procedure for the welfare of legal fraternity.

The legal fraternity had urged general election stipulated timeframe provided by constitution of Pakistan strengthening democracy while argued Supreme Judicial Council to initiate proceedings against Supreme Court's judge Justice Mazhar Ali Naqvi on bar council's complaints.

Every effort will be made to solve problems of lawyers: Barrister Feroz

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: The caretaker provincial government is well aware of all the problems of lawyers and is going to take concrete steps to solve them.

The welfare of lawyers is one of the first priorities, these views were expressed by the caretaker provincial minister for information and public relations Barrister Feroz Jamal Shah Kakakhel while meeting the lawyers over lunch at the end of the All Pakistan Lawyers Convention on Saturday.

Organized by Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Bar Council (KPBC), All Pakistan Lawyers Convention was held at Peshawar High Court.

Meeting lawyers at the end of the convention the Caretaker Provincial Minister for Information hailed the holding of All Pakistan Lawyers Convention and said that lawyers are the main pillar of the society, no doubt, lawyering is a sacred profession and these lawyers also fight legal battles for the deprived sections of the society.

At the end of the lawyers' convention, on behalf of the provincial government, the caretaker information minister Feroz Jamal Shah Kakakhel organized a lunch for the participants of the conference.

It is pertinent to mention here that in the convention, several resolutions related to smooth functioning of judicial system and welfare of the lawyers were passed. The convention condemned the May 9 tragedy and a resolution was unanimously approved in this regard.

Physiotherapy Degree Courses started in MMI

PESHAWAR (APP): Physiotherapy Degree Courses have been started at Mahbub Medical Institute (MMI).

The institute is working as a welfare institution at Habib Physiotherapy Complex under the aegis of Dr Mehboob-ur-Rehman.

The MMI has provided services for the rehabilitation of disabled people and also actively participated in rehabilitation activities. It was the October 2005 earthquake wherein hundreds of victims imparted treatments especially those who received head injuries.

Apart from this, students were also sent abroad for short courses of physiotherapy. Dr Mehboob-ur-Rehman told APP here on Saturday before giving

news about the start of various courses in MMI.

"Mahbub Medical Institute has been affiliated with Khyber Medical University (KMU) since 2016. At present, the five-year course of Doctor of Physiotherapy, BS, a four-year course in Medical Laboratory Technology, a four-year course in Prosthetic Specialists and a course in rehabilitation of mental disorders and some Diploma Courses are being conducted," he said.

"Thanks to the services, hundreds of polio-affected children have been physically restored," Dr Mehboob-ur-Rehman said.

"Since 1989, no fee has been charged to any polio-affected child, instead artificial scaffolding devices

are being provided to them free of charge," he added.

Dr Mehboob-ur-Rehman said that he had prepared a Polio chart under which the treatment of Polio affected children was being provided free of charge and it was a very useful method even appreciated across the world.

"The same method is used for the rehabilitation of polio which has been presented in many international conferences as well."

"A device for Covid-19 and other respiratory diseases which has been sent to IPO Pakistan for patterning. Scholarships are also being given to deserving, needy, poor and talented students so that they could be able to serve the country, he added.

Govt updates rates for death, hurt

PESHAWAR (APP): The Provincial government has recently declared updated rates for deaths and major and grievously substantial injuries caused by natural disasters. This announcement demonstrates the government's commitment to providing sufficient support and compensation to those affected and their families.

In a notification issued here on Saturday by the Relief, Rehabilitation and Settlement Department, the revised rates for deaths and major and substantial injuries have been outlined as, in the event of deaths caused by natural calamities, the legal heirs will receive an amount of PKR 1,000,000 while major injured will receive up to PKR 300,000 per person.

Minor, substantial and grievously injured will PKR 50,000 per person, based on the recommendation of the doctors report.

The Provincial Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa recognizes the critical importance of promptly and equitably assisting individuals affected by such incidents.

By revising the rates, the government aims to ensure that victims and their families receive appropriate compensation, reflecting the gravity of the situation.

The Relief Department also urges the residents of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa to familiarize themselves with the revised rates.

Quran Khawani held for Shaheed Haroon Bilour

PESHAWAR (APP): A great numbers of Awami National Party (ANP) workers, local leaders, and people from different walk of life visited the Tomb of Shaheed Haroon Bilour and offered fateha while a grand Quran Khawani was also held to pay rich tribute to Haroon Bilour Shaheed for his services he rendered for Peshawarites.

On the occasion of the 5th anniversary of Haroon Bilour Shaheed, Alhaji Malik Tariq Awan recited the Quran and prayed at his tomb. Bilour's son Haroon Bilor Shaheed also martyred in a bomb blast in the

City. His services for the development and prosperity of Peshawar have been written in golden words, Tariq Awan said while addressing the gathering.

The workers of the ANP, local leaders recited the Quran and placed flowers on his tomb to pay respect to the Shaheed of Peshawar. Ahmed Bilour, Malik Zardad Jahangir Awan, Malik Rauf Foundation Chairman Malik Rauf Awan, Malik Ishtiaq Awan, Malik Iqbal Awan, Malik Shakeel Awan, Malik Abdul Wahab Awan, Abdullah Khan Yousufzai, Arslan Khan, Center Haji

Hidayatullah Khan, Sadar Gul, Sabir Shah Lala, distinguished social personality Liaquat Ali Khan, former Nazim Waseem Nawaz, Councilor Gul Sakhi, Nawab Khan, Asmatullah Khan, Naveed Jan Durrani, Haji Arif, Shah Nawaz Khan said that Shaheed Haroon Bilor will always live in the hearts of the people of Peshawar. His efforts will never be forgotten, they said. Haroon Shaheed was a good-mannered, intelligent, highly educated young man and we shared our condolences to Daniyal Bilour and other members of his family, Malik Awan said.

Minister Jail visits jails, met with prisoners

PESHAWAR (APP): Special Assistant to Caretaker Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa for Prison Hidayat Ullah Khan Afridi on Saturday paid visit to Malakand jail wherein the jail staff and officers warmly welcomed the caretaker special assistant on his arrival to the jail.

Hidayat Ullah Khan visited different sections of the said prison including the jail hospital and cookhouse and checked the food as well. He inquired about

medical facilities being provided to prisoners while he also checked the standard of meal and list of daily menu.

He also keenly observed the cleanliness of the jail and on the occasion issued directives to concerned authorities to pay heed towards clean environment. During the visit, a detailed briefing regarding the jail administrative system was given to the caretaker special assistant.

The special assistant

Hidayat Ullah Khan issued directives to the jail staff to provide basic human rights facilities to all the prisoners without any discrimination, adding that negligence in this regard will not be tolerated.

He urged the jail psychologists to pay proper attention to the prisoner's council for making them responsible citizens of the society. He said that the KP caretaker government is trying its best for the welfare of the people and to resolve their issues.



PESHAWAR: Mayor Haji Zubair Ali offering dua for soul of late Malik Wahid Khan and his deceased brothers at Dir Colony.

SCCI hails launch of direct flight between Pakistan, Kazakhstan

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: Sarhad Chamber of Commerce and Industry welcomed the launching of a direct flight between Pakistan and Kazakhstan and hoped that the initiative would further strengthen bilateral economic, trade, diplomatic and cultural relations between the countries.

In his statement here on Saturday, SCCI's acting president Ijaz Khan Afridi said promotion of regional trade is the dire need of the hour.

He hailed the efforts of Ambassador of Kazakhstan in Pakistan Mr Yerzhan Kistafin toward the launch of direct flight between Pakistan and Kazakhstan and further cementing bilateral trade and economic

relations between the two countries.

He said prospects are brighter to further cement mutual trade and economic relations between Pakistan and Kazakhstan.

He, however, emphasized that it is essential to organize exchange of business delegations, trade exhibitions and fully take benefits from each other's experiences and potentials to enhance the mutual trade volume between the countries.

Ijaz Afridi appreciated it is a good sign that both governments of Pakistan and Kazakhstan are keen to further strengthen bilateral trade, economic and diplomatic relations, and steps have already been taken in this regard.

He went on to say that

Pakistan's economic future has been attached with regional trade, saying that the government was taking sufficient steps to enhance regional connectivity and trade with central Asian countries.

He added the launch of a direct flight between Pakistan and Kazakhstan was part of these efforts.

Ijaz Afridi continued to say that huge opportunities exist to improve mutual trade and economic ties between Pakistan and Kazakhstan, which should be exploited in an affluent manner by taking pragmatic steps at governmental level.

Keeping the view of the prevailing economic scenario, the SCCI's acting chief called for focusing on enhancing regional trade.

He noted Kazakhstan is an important destination with regard to investment, which opportunities were available to make investment in energy, gas, oil and other potential sectors in Kazakhstan.

He also mentioned that Kazakhstan was the third largest exporter of wheat in the world, in which opportunities exist to collaborate with Pakistan.

Ijaz Afridi said Pakistan's Gwadar and Karachi port are also highly attractive, through which could be easy access to Kazakhstan, including Central Asian countries' markets.

He also mentioned many other potential sectors which would help to improve bilateral trade between Pakistan and Kazakhstan.



PESHAWAR: Vendor selling fruit in city.



In brief

Hidayat visits Malakand jail F.P. Report

MALAKAND: Special Assistant to Caretaker Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa for Prison Hidayat Ullah Khan Afridi on Saturday paid visit to Malakand jail. The jail staff and officers warmly welcomed the caretaker special assistant on his arrival to the jail. Hidayat Ullah Khan visited different sections of the said prison including the jail hospital and cookhouse. He inquired about medical facilities being provided to prisoners while he also checked the standard of meal and list of daily menu. He also keenly observed the cleanliness of the jail and on the occasion issued directives to concerned authorities to pay heed towards clean environment. During the visit, a detail briefing regarding the jail administrative system was given to the caretaker special assistant. The special assistant Hidayat Ullah Khan issued directives to the jail staff to provide basic human rights facilities to all the prisoners without any discrimination, adding that negligence in this regard will not be tolerated. He urged the jail psychologists to pay proper attention to prisoners counselling for making them responsible citizens of the society. He said that KP caretaker government trying its best for the welfare of the people and to resolve their issues.

RPO reviews security F.P. Report

CHITRAL: Regional Police Officer (RPO) Malakand, Nasir Mehmood Satti Saturday visited Chitral and reviewed security arrangements of ongoing three-day Shandur Polo Festival. He also visited tourist facilitation center Lowari Tunnel and inquired about the facilities being provided to visitors. District Police Officer briefed RPO about working and operational matters of the tourist facilitation center. He also met with personnel of tourist police and directed them to assist tourists in a professional manner and come up to their expectations.

Hakim Ustad passes away F.P. Report

SWABI: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's oldest and senior retired teacher Haji Abdul Hakim Ustad has passed away here on Friday night and was laid to rest in his native village Shah Mansoor on Saturday morning. His funeral prayers were largely attended by people from different walks of life. Late Haji Abdul Hakim Ustad rendered his services as senior teacher besides being acknowledged for social activities. He was famous as Hakim Ustad and had great regard in the Swabi district.

KPPA demand issues redressal Sahibzada Afridi

KOHAT: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Paramedics Association (KPPA) demanded release of salaries and promotion of the allied staff as well as withdrawal of junior doctor appointed as Controller Faculty of Allied Sciences otherwise they will be compelled to arrange strike in favor of their demands. This was demanded by KPPA president Sharafat Yousafzai along with Kohat and Karak district's presidents while addressing press conference and claimed that health's department didn't fulfilled its promises made the paramedics staff. The speakers claimed that few anti-paramedics officials had created menace at the Department of Health which will ultimately impact operations at public sector hospitals.



MALAKAND: Adviser to KP Caretaker Chief Minister on Prisons Hidayat Ullah Khan interacting with prisoners during his visit to jail.

Agri-state Pakistan - into real estate

M. Umair Khan

IN the last ten years due to rapid advancement in the development of Private housing societies, an unfortunate boom in this industry has dented the agricultural land of an agriculture-oriented country. When the land is converted from agricultural use to real estate development, it holds negative impacts on the local environment, food production, and economy. Agriculture lands are crucial to the food security of any nation, and their loss can have detrimental effects on society as a whole.

The impacts of real estate development on agricultural land include loss of soil fertility. Agriculture land is rich in nutrients, minerals, and microorganisms that support plant growth. When these lands are converted to real estate, the soil can become compacted and depleted, making it difficult to support crops.

Another negative impact

of this growing business merely to mend money is the loss of water resources. Agriculture lands are usually irrigated, and they often have access to fresh water sources. Real estate development has led to the depletion of groundwater reservoirs, affecting the availability of freshwater resources for the metropolitan cities, their suburbs, comparatively smaller cities, and even purely agricultural land of the country.

In addition to this, the loss of biodiversity is another challenge due to this emerging business. The agricultural lands are home to a variety of flora and fauna that can be affected by the conversion of lands to real estate. This can lead to a loss of biodiversity, which is crucial for maintaining ecosystem services for the local population. Disrupting the local economy also calls for attention during this conversion as agriculture is often a key driver of the local economy, providing jobs, income, and food

security for the local population. When land is converted to real estate development, it has led to a decline in the local economy that depends on agriculture. While real estate development is necessary for urban growth, it is crucial to find the right balance between development and environmental sustainability to preserve agricultural land for the future.

Unfortunately, in Pakistan, hundreds and hundreds of private societies have emerged not limited to cater to urbanization but eminent business. The real estate sector has incalculable in almost every house of the country providing shortcuts with luck to become a millionaire/billionaire. At the same time, this conversion of an agricultural-based country into real estate holds an imminent threat. This ill-planned housing society is promoting the culture of real estate whereas every city of Pakistan must have to have a plan to limit this limitless urbanization culture.

Load shedding to be end soon, says ex-MNA

F.P. Report

TIMERGARA: The problem of electricity numbering in Lower Dir Jandol Tehsil Samarbagh will be solved soon and by transferring 33 thousand lines to 11 thousand lines, the problem of load shedding and low voltage will also be solved. The supply and the said electricity feeder have been assured to be completed in one month, these views were expressed by the former MNA of Jamaat-e-Islami and President of Dir Quami Jirga and hopeful of Jamaat-e-Islami from Constituency PK-13 Lower Dir Sahibzada Muhammad Yaqoob Khan.

While talking to the media, he said that in view of the problems faced by the people due to the numbering of electricity in Samarbagh tehsil of Jandol, Ameer Jamaat-e-Islami Lower Dir Azal Malik Afkari, former MPA Haji Saeed Gul, tehsil chairman Samarbagh Saeed Ahmed Bacha, Ji Youth Lower Dir President Atiqur Rahman a delegation of Jamaat-e-Islami met with WAPDA's Exan Construction and SEO Operation in Swat yesterday and informed them about electricity numbering, low voltage in Jandul Samarbagh.

They discussed the laying of more transmission lines to transfer 33 thousand lines to 11 thousand lines, on which the relevant authorities have assured to solve the said demands, with the completion of which the numbering system of electricity in Jindol will end and load. The problem of shading and low voltage will also be solved.

Sahibzada Muhammad Yaqoob Khan said that in the name of expansion and repair in the last one and a half years, crops have been destroyed and fertile lands have become barren. He has also met Exan irrigation who has assured to speed up the work on Balambat canal and to release water in Balambat canal very soon.

Establishment three police stations sought Hafiz Aziz-ur-Rehman

HAFIZABAD: President 'Awami Mahaz' Hafizabad Rana Khalid Mahmood have demanded the Inspector General Police Punjab to establish three new police stations in the district Hafizabad for improving law and order situation in the district. He was addressing the meeting of Awami Mahaz Hafizabad.

Rana Khalid Mahmood said that a case to accord approval was pending in development branch of Punjab police for long and IG Police Punjab beaprove proposal of establishment of three new police stations in the district Hafizabad as well to sanction strength of Cops sanctioned according to the proportion of population which was increased significantly.

Protest against desecration of Holy Quran held: Yaum-e-Tagaddus-e-Quran was observed to lodge protest against desecration of the Holy Quran in Sweden.

In this regard, peaceful protest demonstrations were held and protest rallies were taken out throughout the district.

Areal firing, music, dancing parties ban in Landi Kotal

F.P. Report

LANDI KOTAL: Music and dancing parties of transgender in weddings and other special occasions were banned here in Zakha Khel area of tehsil Landi Kotal, district Khyber. Religious scholars, political elites and councilors threatened that they will conduct a social boycott of those who will violate the decision.

A moot of the various religious and social figures held in Sultan Khel that was attended by large numbers of Ulema including Mufti Ismat-ur-Rehman Junaidi, Maulana Khadem Hussain, Maulana Muhammad Aqib, Mufti Majeedullah, Mufti Mufareq Shah, councilor Aziz Ullah Afridi, chairman Landi Kotal welfare

organization Akhtar Ali, Muhammad Ilyas and others expressed their displeasure over the excessive arrangement of music and transgender dancing parties on wedding occasion in Landi Kotal.

The act is not only un-Islamic but also against our culture and tradition, therefore they prohibited it in Zakha Khel, they added. The participants called upon the masses to honor their decision of banning what they said unlawful activities in the area and those who violated it would be socially boycotted.

Written decision signed by all the participants stated that no religious scholar will attend the marriage party nor they will recite Nikah (marriage contract) of the bridegroom who will organize music and dancing

parties at their weddings and other gatherings.

The Ulema of the area will boycott offering funeral prayer of the deceased, relating to a family disobeying the decision and will persuade the people not to take part in their grief and happiness activities. They also announced aerial firing illegal and asked the people to avoid firing in their marriages.

When the Assistant Commissioner, Landi Kotal Irshad Mohmand was asked for his version on the issue he said every citizen of the country is free to observe his happiness as per his or her will. Law ensures that a person can celebrate his happiness on condition if he doesn't violate rights of other citizens besides no one can impose his will on others.

KUST held 108th ASRB meeting



F.P. Report

KOHAT: Vice Chancellor Kohat University of Science and Technology (KUST) Prof. Dr. Sardar Khan chaired 108th of Advanced Studies and Research Board (ASRB) meeting and approved several proposals of M. Phil and Ph.D. scholars at the varsity.

The main agenda included PhD and MS/Phil cases for approval. During the meeting, the ASRB approved different Ph.D and

MS synopses, while a few synopses of MS/Phil were referred back to the departments/Institutes with observations for correction and resubmission.

Vice Chancellor appreciated the active role of Directorate of Advance Studied and Research in conducting of frequent meetings of with no compromise on academic quality and in line with HEC Policies. He also appreciated the active role of Departmental Graduate Committees (DGCs) with

hope for further improving the quality standard while evaluating synopsis and thesis at par with international standards.

Meanwhile, KUST join hands with DC Kohat cleanliness campaign while Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Sardar Khan appreciated the drive initiated by Azmat Ullah Wazir, Deputy Commissioner of Kohat. The varsity will kick-off cleanliness drive at the campus to ensure hygiene environment.



QUETTA: PTCL pensioners holding a protest for acceptance of their demands.

Infant along with mother injured as house collapses

F.P. Report

MARDAN: Two persons including a woman and infant were injured when roof of a house collapsed in Aslam village of tehsil Takhtbai. The roof collapsed incident took place in the midnight.

The rescue-1122 officials told that they rushed to the spot soon after getting information about the incident and took the injured woman and her child to tehsil headquarters hospital takhtbai for treatment. The injured woman and infant were identified as wife of Hazrat Bilal and his son.

Meanwhile, three persons sustained multiple injuries as a result of collision between dumber tractor and a motor car on ring road in Gujargari area. The injured persons were on their way to home from Al-farooq Taghghi Markaz located in Jhanday area when the accident took place.

The rescue-1122 officials told that they rushed the injured to Mardan Medical Complex hospital for treatment. The injured were identified as Dawood Khan, 60, Fazal Nabi, 65 and Iftikhar 63. The doctors at MMC, however, told that

the injured person were stable and out of danger.

Protests held against desecration of Holy Quran: Yum Tagadus Quran, religious, political parties, students, doctors, paramedics and civil society took out protests and rallies across the district against the desecration of the Quran in Sweden. The protesters raised slogans by burning the Swedish flag.

In this regard, after the meeting of the city council on Friday, the council members took out a rally from the council hall to the commissioner's house under the leadership of Mayor Mardan and condemned the incident in strong words and expressed regret. Separately protested in front of the Mardan Press club and blocked the road while Jamaat-e-Islami and Private Education Network (PEN) protested on Bank Road.

Meanwhile, Bacha Khan Medical College staff held demonstrations and rallies inside the college, APCA and Clerks Association at MMC Hospital protested. Addressing the protestors on this occasion that desecration of the Holy Quran under the government support in Sweden is a very condemnable act. In

Europe, hatred against Muslims and anti-Islam is increasing day by day. This incident has hurt the feelings of Muslims which is unbearable.

Several administrative positions vacant at MMC & DHQ Mardan: Key administrative slots have been laying vacant for last several months in the two big hospitals of Mardan district, it has been learnt. The two big hospitals including Mardan Medical Complex hospital (MMC) and District Headquarter hospital (DHQ) have been run by acting health officials on those important administrative posts.

Credible sources told that the post of medical director in Mardan Medical Complex hospital (MTI) has been laying vacant for the last one and half year. The post of medical director was twice advertised in newspapers and several candidates had applied for the post but the appointment process could not be completed due to unknown reasons.

However, Dr Imad Hameed had been assigned the MD post as an additional charge. Thus, he was now acting MD of the MMC hospital to run the relevant affairs.

Alleged terrorist involved in bomb attack arrested

F.P. Report

BANNU: Police have traced and arrested the miscreants involved in a firing and bomb attack on the house of a citizen in Bannu. Superintendent of Police (Investigation) Mujeebur Rehman told journalists at his office on Friday that on the night between June 24 and June 25, unidentified miscreants had attacked the house of Muhammad Ali Shah in Manoori Patal Shah area in the limits of Miryakhel police station.

SP said that the owner of the house was killed and 11 members of his family

including women and children were injured in the gun and bomb attack. Mujeeb said that RPO Qasim Ali Khan constituted a team and tasked him to trace the perpetrators when he inspected the site and met the members of victim family soon after the attack.

Under the command of DPO Iftikhar Shah the investigators launched investigations on modern scientific techniques and used technology to find a clue about the suspects involved in the heinous crime", he claimed. The chief police investigator said that the miscreants had not

used their mobile phones at the time of attack so to trace them was a difficult task.

However, the modern technology and human intelligence helped us to reach the suspects and they were arrested in a raid", he maintained. He identified the arrested men as Wahab, Atif and Shahid and said that they had confessed to have carried out the attack during initial interrogation. The attackers wanted to hurl hand grenades on the house of one Senan to take revenge of their brother's murder but they mistakenly attacked the house of Muhammad Ali Shah", he added.



US to send Ukraine cluster munitions



WASHINGTON (Agencies): The United States announced that it would supply Ukraine with widely-banned cluster munitions for its counteroffensive against occupying Russian forces, and NATO's leader said the military alliance would unite at a summit next week on how to bring Ukraine closer to joining.

Rights groups and the United Nations secretary-general questioned Washington's decision on the munitions, part of an \$800 million security package that brings total US military aid to more than \$40 billion since Russia's February 2022 invasion of Ukraine. Russian President Vladimir Putin, who describes the conflict as a "special military operation" to protect Russian security, has said the US and its allies were fighting an expanding proxy war. The cluster munitions "will deliver in a time frame that is relevant for the counteroffensive," a Pentagon official told reporters.

Cluster munitions are prohibited by more than 100 countries. They typically release large numbers of smaller bomblets that can kill indiscriminately over a wide area and those that fail to explode pose a danger for decades after a conflict ends. "Ukraine has provided written assurances that it is going to use these in a very careful way" to minimize risks to civilians, White House national security adviser Jake Sullivan said.

US President Joe Biden described the decision on cluster bombs as difficult but said Ukraine needed them. "They're trying to get through those trenches, and stop those tanks from rolling," Biden said in an interview with CNN. "It was not an easy decision." Grigory Karasin, head of the international committee in Federation Council, Russia's upper house of parliament, raised "serious concerns" about

decisions by Washington and the NATO leadership, RIA news agency reported. It quoted Karasin as saying that Russia "of course, will respond to this." Ukraine says it has taken back some villages in southern Ukraine since the counteroffensive began in early June, but that it lacks the firepower and air cover to make faster progress. Reuters could not independently verify the battlefield situation.

"It's too early to judge how the counteroffensive is going one way or the other because we're at the beginning of the middle," Colin Kahl, the US under secretary of defense for policy, told reporters. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy visited the Czech Republic, Slovakia and Turkey a day after talks in Bulgaria to drum up support for NATO membership before the alliance's July 11-12 summit.

In Prague, he won a pledge of support for Ukraine to join NATO "as soon as the war is over", and in Sofia secured backing for membership "as soon as conditions allow." North Atlantic Treaty Organization Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg reaffirmed his view that Ukraine would become a member. "Our summit will send a clear message: NATO stands united, and Russia's aggression will not pay," Stoltenberg said at a news conference in Brussels.

It remained unclear, however, what Ukraine will be offered next week at the summit in Vilnius, the Lithuanian capital. The alliance is divided over how fast Ukraine should move towards membership, and some countries are wary of any step that might take NATO closer to war with Russia. Zelenskyy has acknowledged that Kyiv is unlikely to be able to join NATO while at war with Russia. Putin has threatened unspecified action if Ukraine joins NATO.

Alarming rise in rape and abduction from Sudan war

KHARTOUM (Reuters): The conflict between military factions in Sudan has caused a surge in cases of rape and the abduction of women and girls, some as young as 12, aid agencies and officials said. Teenage girls are being sexually assaulted and raped by armed combatants in "alarming numbers". Save the Children said in a statement, while the United Nations reported a "marked increase" in gender-based violence.

The war that erupted on April 15 pits Sudan's army against the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF), who fell out over plans for a political transition towards civilian rule. Fighting has been concentrated in the capital Khartoum and the western region of Darfur. While dozens of cases of rape resulting from the conflict have been verified, the Sudanese government's Combating Violence against Women (CVAW) unit estimates that figure may represent just 2% of the total.

"We know that the official numbers are only the tip of the iceberg. Children as young as 12 are being targeted for their gender, for their ethnicity, for their vulnerability," Save the Children's Sudan director Arif Noor said in a statement. Some parents were marrying off their daughters at a young age to try to protect them from further abuse, he said.

There have also been reports of girls being held for days while being sexually assaulted, and gang rapes of women and girls. "Health care providers, social workers, counsellors and community-based protection networks inside Sudan have all warned of a marked increase in reports of gender-based violence as hostilities continue across the country," United Nations agencies said in a joint statement this week.

"Reporting violations and getting support is also made difficult, if not impossible, by the lack of electricity and connectivity, as well as lack of humanitarian

access due to the volatile security situation." CVAW also reported an escalation in cases of abduction of women and girls, especially in Khartoum, citing several recent cases for which it said RSF fighters were responsible.

The RSF has not directly addressed accusations of assault and sexual violence by its fighters, but has said that those who commit abuses will be held to account. The UN estimates 4.2 million people are at risk of gender-based violence, up from 3 million before the conflict started in mid-April. Sudan has a population of 49 million.

The UN said the risk was especially high when women and girls were on the move, seeking to reach safe locations. More than 2.9 million people have been uprooted by Sudan's conflict, including nearly 700,000 who have fled into neighbouring countries. Some women are arriving pregnant as a result of rape, according to the UN refugee agency.

China tightens scrutiny of Japanese food

BEIJING (Agencies): China will tighten its scrutiny on food from Japan and maintain curbs on some Japanese imports, the government said, citing Tokyo's decision to discharge treated radioactive water from the crippled Fukushima plant into the sea.

The Japanese plan, approved by the UN nuclear watchdog, has faced opposition at home and abroad. Japan insists the releases will be safe and meet global standards. China's customs administration said in a statement it was stepping up monitoring of products including seafood and keeping curbs on produce from one-fifth of Japan's prefectures for safety reasons.

In the immediate aftermath of the 2011 disaster, China banned the import of food and agricultural products from five prefectures. It later widened its ban to 12 prefectures, before removing two of them. China will "strengthen supervision" and "rigorously examine" certificates for food imports, especially aquatic products, from the other non-banned prefectures, the administration said, emphasising restrictions on the 10 prefectures remain in place.

Some Japanese officials worry that China, the biggest buyer of its seafood exports, may halt purchases of those items after Tokyo begins the water discharge later this summer. For weeks China had voiced strong opposition to Japan's move to discharge the treated water, saying it poses a threat to the environment and human health.

Under the Japanese plan, the water will first be filtered to remove most radioactive elements except for tritium, an isotope that is difficult to separate from water, and diluted to well below international standards. "The Japanese side still has many problems in the legitimacy of sea discharge, the reliability of purification equipment and the perfection of monitoring programmes," Chinese customs said.

One killed in mosque firing

BEIRUT (AP): A gunman opened fire at a mosque in eastern Lebanon, killing one person and wounding several others, the Lebanese army and state news agency said. The reason behind the shooting in the eastern town of Bar Elias was not immediately clear.

The Lebanese army issued a statement saying that the armed man opened fire at a group of people as they were leaving the mosque, killing one of them. It added that as troops tried to detain the gunman, he opened fire at the force whose members fired back and wounded him. The army said he was being held in a hospital.

The man killed was identified as Lebanese citizen Ali Shibli, a school teacher. The wounded are also Lebanese citizens, according to local media. In the immediate aftermath of the attack, a security official had said the victims were Syrians. Lebanon is home to more than 1 million Syrian refugees and anti-Syrian sentiments have been on the rise since Lebanon's economic meltdown began in October 2019.

Yellen's visit to Beijing aims to heal rifts

BEIJING (Agencies): Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen is visiting Beijing as part of efforts to revive US-Chinese relations that are at their lowest level in decades due to disputes over technology, security and other irritants.

Presidents Joe Biden and Xi Jinping met in November and agreed to improve relations between the world's biggest economies and major trading partners. But neither government has shown willingness to make major policy changes. "We hope the United States takes concrete actions to create a favorable environment for the healthy development of economic and trade relations," the Chinese finance ministry said in a statement.

It expressed hope for "the realization of mutual benefit and win-win results" but did not suggest possible Chinese concessions. Yellen's visit follows one by Secretary of State Antony Blinken, who met with Xi last month in Beijing in an encounter that lasted just 30 minutes. Here's a look at some areas of contention.

US-Chinese relations are riven by disputes over technology, security, human rights, Beijing's assertive policies abroad and its support for Russia during its war on Ukraine. Despite an agreement between Biden and Xi to improve relations during a meeting in Indonesia in November, ties worsened after a Chinese surveillance balloon drifted over the United States in February and was shot down. Secretary of State Antony Blinken flew to Beijing in June in the highest-level US visit in five years and had a meeting with Xi that lasted

just 30 minutes. The United States has blocked Chinese access to advanced processor chips and other technology on security grounds. Beijing has been slow to retaliate, possibly to avoid disrupting China's fledgling developers of artificial intelligence and other technologies.

But this week, Beijing announced controls on exports of two minerals used in semiconductors and solar panels — gallium and germanium. In May, China banned using products from the biggest US maker of memory chips, Micron Technology Inc., in computers that handle sensitive information, saying they had unspecified security flaws but gave no explanation.

Xi's government said it had a "no limits" friendship with Moscow ahead of its February 2022 invasion of Ukraine. Beijing has provided political support for President Vladimir Putin's government and has blocked efforts in the United Nations to criticize the Kremlin. China also has stepped up purchases of Russian oil and gas, helping to offset revenue losses due to Western sanctions. Washington has warned Beijing not to provide military support.

The United States rejects China's claim to sovereignty over most of the South China Sea, where Beijing has built artificial islands and stationed naval forces. Chinese claims overlap with those of Vietnam, Malaysia and US ally the Philippines. Washington and its allies have sent warships through the sea to assert their "freedom of navigation." Beijing rejects that and says the United States is

adding to tension over the region. China also claims the self-ruled island democracy of Taiwan as part of its territory. Xi's government has stepped up efforts to intimidate Taiwan's elected government by flying fighter jets near the island and firing missiles into the sea. American politicians including then-Speaker Nancy Pelosi of the US House of Representatives have visited Taiwan in a show of support.

Businesspeople warn the world might decouple, or split into separate markets with incompatible industrial standards and products, as the United States and China tighten export controls and try to reduce reliance on each other. They say that would slow economic growth and innovation. Yellen has warned decoupling would be a disaster. Treasury officials said ahead of her trip she would deliver that message to Chinese officials. "There will be no winners in trade wars or 'decoupling and broken chains,'" the Chinese finance ministry said. There are also deep financial ties: China stockpiles part of its trade surpluses and foreign currency reserves in Treasury debt, which helps to finance US government budget deficits.

Treasury officials said Yellen planned to encourage Chinese officials to work with Washington on areas of common interest including climate change. China signed onto a deal last month to reduce debts owed by the Gambian government. Treasury officials pointed to that as an example of areas where cooperation produced results.

UN calls on S Arabia to release two women

DUBAI (AP): UN human rights experts called for the release of two Saudi Arabian women they say were arbitrarily detained and denied basic rights after tweeting criticism of the kingdom's policies.

Salma al-Shehab was sentenced to 34 years in prison and Nourah bint Saeed al-Qahtani was sentenced to 45 years last summer after they were arrested in separate cases in 2021. They were found guilty by a special court originally established to try terror suspects but which has broadened its mandate in recent years amid a heavy crackdown on dissent. The kingdom's human rights record has come under heightened scrutiny as it has made major inroads into international sports, attracting some of the world's top soccer stars and entering into a surprise merger with golf's PGA Tour.

The Working Group on Arbitrary Detention, a panel of independent experts tasked by the UN Human Rights Council with investigating possible violations, said in its report that the two women had been denied due process.

The working group said there were "credible" allegations that al-Shehab was "subjected to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment" when she was held incommunicado for nearly two weeks after her arrest. It said the Specialized Criminal Court, in which both women were convicted, "cannot be considered an independent and impartial tribunal," and that the government applied vague and overly broad provisions of its anti-terrorism and cybercrime laws. "The arrests, treatment and lengthy sentences of Ms. al-Shehab and Ms. al-Qahtani indicate that they were discriminated against for their human rights activism and for sharing their views peacefully on social media," it said.

"The appropriate remedy would be to release (them) immediately and accord them an enforceable right to compensation and other reparations." The Saudi Ministry of Media, Ministry of Culture and Information, and Ministry of Foreign Affairs did not respond to requests for comment. The 17-page UN report included a response from the Saudi government in which it said the allegations of rights abuses were unfounded and questioned the source of the information, saying the report had failed to provide supporting evidence. It also insisted the judiciary was independent.

Ines Osman, director of the Geneva-based MENA Rights Group, said hers was among five human rights organizations that contributed to the report. She said the long sentences "are there to set an example." "It's sending a message that here is what happens

if you speak out, and if you think that you're just going to use Twitter to share your thoughts, that's not going to happen," she said.

Lina Alhathloul, the head of monitoring at ALQST, a London-based rights group focused on Saudi Arabia, welcomed the UN's role in publicizing the arrests. "It makes the government realize that however they try to cover up violations, however they try to cover up the arbitrary arrests, it will be known," she said. Alhathloul's sister, Loujain, is a prominent women's rights activist who had led a campaign calling for lifting a longstanding ban on women driving. Saudi Arabia lifted the driving ban in 2018, part of a raft of social reforms that have transformed daily life in the country. But that year authorities also arrested Loujain and other activists, jailing her for three years and imposing a travel ban that is still in effect.

"No one can be part of the change, no one can really criticize anything. You're building a society in which people are muzzled, where people are blind, where people are always scared," Alhathloul said. Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, the kingdom's day-to-day ruler and the driving force behind the reforms, has also presided over a heavy crackdown on dissent. US intelligence found that he likely approved the 2018 killing of prominent Saudi dissident and Washington Post columnist Jamal Khashoggi, allegations the crown prince denies.

The two women detained in 2021 were private citizens who tweeted in their spare time. Al-Shehab, a mother of two and a researcher at Leeds University in Britain, was detained during a family vacation in January 2021. Osman said she was held in solitary confinement for over 285 days. The Specialized Criminal Court sentenced her to 34 years in prison followed by a travel ban of the same length for "giving a wider platform for terrorist messaging by spreading 'false information' that threatens national security and public order," according to court documents seen by The Associated Press. Al-Qahtani was arrested in July 2021 for allegedly calling for the release of political detainees and criticizing human rights abuses on anonymous social media accounts. The SCC sentenced her to 45 years in prison for "preparing, sending and storing information, through the Internet, seeking to harm public order," according to court documents. Rights groups say that the secrecy around such trials, and people's fear of speaking out, makes it difficult to document the extent of the crackdown.

Erdogan to host Putin

ISTANBUL (Agencies): Turkey's President Tayyip Erdogan said on Saturday that he was pressing Russia to extend a Black Sea grain deal by at least three months and announced a visit by President Vladimir Putin in August.

He was speaking at a joint news conference with Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelenskyy after the two parties met to discuss the fate of an arrangement, brokered last year by Turkey and the United Nations, to allow for the safe export of grain from Ukrainian ports via the Black Sea despite the war. Zelenskyy's visit followed stops in Bulgaria and the Czech Republic, part of a tour of some NATO capitals aimed at encouraging them to take concrete steps at a summit next week towards granting Kyiv membership of the alliance, which Erdogan said Ukraine deserved.

Erdogan said work was under way on extending the Black Sea grain deal beyond its expiration date of July 17 and for longer periods beyond that. The deal would be one of the most important issues on the agenda for his meeting with Putin in Turkey next month, he said. "Our hope is that it will be extended at least once every three months, not every two months. We will make an effort in this regard and try to increase the duration of it to two years," he said at the news conference with Zelenskyy.

Both men said they had also discussed another key question for Erdogan's talks with Putin -- the question of prisoner exchanges, which Zelenskyy said had been the first thing on their agenda. "I hope we will get a result from this soon," Erdogan said.

Ukraine's diminished population will hit economy for years

KYIV (Reuters): With war dragging on, some of Ukraine's millions of refugees are beginning to think about settling for good in the countries they find themselves in across Europe, posing a challenge to rebuilding the economy when the guns finally fall silent.

Natalka Korzh, 52, a TV director and mother-of-two, left behind a newly-built dream house when she escaped the rockets falling on Kyiv in the early days of the war. She is only just finding her feet in Portugal, and doesn't plan on packing up her life again even when fighting stops in Ukraine.

"Now, at 52, I have to start from scratch", said Korzh, who wants to open a charity in Portugal to help other migrants in the town of Lagoa, which she now calls home. Studies by the United Nations refugee agency UNHCR show the vast majority of displaced Ukrainians want to return one day, but only around one in ten plan to do so soon. In previous refugee crises, for example in Syria, refugees' desire to return home has faded with time, UNHCR studies show.

Reuters spoke to four company bosses who said they are now grappling with the likelihood that many

refugees will not return and that the workforce will keep shrinking for years to come, a situation also worrying demographers and the government. Volodymyr Kostiuik, CEO of Farmak, one of Ukraine's top pharmaceutical companies, with nearly 3,000 employees and over 7 billion hryvnias (\$200 million) in revenue the year before the war, said with so many people abroad, displaced within Ukraine or drafted into the armed forces he was facing a shortage in qualified laboratory workers and production specialists.

"We need to somehow try to return them to Ukraine, because we already see that the longer people are abroad, the less they want to return", said Kostiuik, whose company relocated its research lab and staff to Kyiv, from close to the front line. A poll of about 500 businesses in Ukraine carried out by Ukrainian think-tank the Institute for Economic Research and Political Studies showed that a third saw staff shortages as a key challenge.

Conscription-aged men are restricted from leaving Ukraine, so working-aged women, and children, make up the majority of refugees. While farms and factories have lost workers to the armed forces, labour

shortages are especially acute in industries requiring higher levels of education and training because educated young women are among those most likely to have left the country since the war started in February 2024.

Two thirds of the women who sought refuge elsewhere in Europe have a higher education, according to research published in March by Ukrainian think-tank the Centre for Economic Strategy. It's not just a lack of labour, a shrinking workforce also dents consumer demand over the long term. Fozzy Group, which operates leading supermarket chains, reopened stores in areas around Kyiv following Russia's retreat from the region in the first few months of fighting. But footfall is still low, said Dmytro Tsygankov, a Fozzy director in charge of new product lines.

"We cannot talk about recovery when we have several million people who simply do not buy anything; they are not in the country", said Tsygankov. He said client visits were up in May compared to last year, but still 16% below May 2021, before the invasion. Ukraine's population problem goes beyond millions of refugees. A high proportion of citizens are elderly, and the country's fer-

tility rate, already one of the lowest in the world, is believed to have fallen to 0.7 from 0.9 since war broke out, said Ella Libanova, one of the country's most respected demographers, at the National Academy of Science.

A million people are fighting the Russians, millions more live in territory seized by Moscow or have been displaced to Russia. The Ukrainian government does not release casualty figures, but in April leaked US intelligence assessments said 15,000 working age men had been killed or wounded. Many more are injured. Libanova also warned that once wartime restrictions on men leaving the country were lifted many could join families abroad.

"A huge risk is that men will leave," she said. "We will lose young, qualified, enterprising, educated people. That is the problem". With Russia now occupying about a fifth of the country's territory, Libanova estimates the population in areas controlled by Kyiv could already be as low as 28 million, down from a government estimate of 41 million before the Feb. 24, 2022 invasion. The estimates exclude Crimea, annexed by Russia in 2014, which had around 2 million people at the start of that year.

Even before the war, Ukraine's

population was shrinking. At independence in 1991, Ukraine had about 52 million people. A census in 2001 - the country's only so far - recorded a population of 48.5 million. Depending on how long the fighting lasts, and how many people settle abroad, Ukraine's population is set to decline further by between about a fifth and a third over the next 30 years, according to a study published in March by the European Commission's Joint Research Centre. The government has not published figures for the current population, and even the best estimates allow a large margin of error to account for uncertainty about how many people are in Russia, Belarus and Russian-held territory. Demographer Libanova estimated the population at between 28 million and 34 million at the start of 2023 in parts of the country controlled by Kyiv. The Center for Economic Strategy estimated that between 860,000 and 2.7 million Ukrainians may remain abroad for good, based on a poll in February of more than a 1,000 refugees in EU countries. As a result, the economy could lose 2.55%-7.71% of its GDP per year, it said.

Farmak CEO Kostiuik said some of his staff work remotely and that less

than 5% of his employees had left and stayed abroad. But, he worries about a growing shortage of specialized workers, in part because young graduates lack practical skills after studying remotely through the pandemic and invasion. The government is more optimistic about returnees, citing the patriotism that surged after the invasion. Oleksiy Sobolev, deputy economy minister, told a recent roundtable he expected up to 75% of refugees would head back to Ukraine within three years of the end of fighting.

Some Ukrainians overseas are supporting the economy remotely. Fashion designer Ksenia Karpenko has kept her business afloat from her current home in Tarragona on the Mediterranean coast in Spain, where she was on vacation when the war broke out. "I was a tourist on February 23 and when I woke up (the next day) ... I was a refugee", Karpenko told Reuters. She had to downsize but kept going despite the war and now manages a team of eight people in Ukraine to design and make clothes sold in boutiques in Madrid and Barcelona. "I'm more effective here rather than in Ukraine. I do more here for my compatriots as well", she said.

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Biden’s human rights advocacy and war in Ukraine

THE United States National Security Advisor, Jake Sullivan has recently told the media that America will send cluster munitions to Ukraine as part of a new military aid package, after a months-long debate within the Biden administration regarding the provision of that widely banned weapons to Kyiv. According to him, it was a difficult decision because of its potential harm to civilians, however after deliberating all pros and cons of the current situation of war in Ukraine, the entire US administration along with Congress, US partners, and allies unanimously decided to move forward on this strategy because the Ukrainians were running out of ammunition.

The geostrategic dynamics rapidly changed in the Ukrainian War after a failed mutiny against the Putin regime by the Wagner group in the past week. An open revolt by one of Putin's close aides and a credible force multiplier in the war in Ukraine has significantly weakened the Russian war efforts and exposed flaws in Moscow's war strategy, weaknesses, and vulnerabilities in Russian war doctrine. Historically, most of the Russian military successes against Ukraine had been possible only due to the pivotal role of the Wagner mercenary forces. The Ukrainian conflict grounded into a stalemate and the Russian military faces difficulty to counterweight a fresh Ukrainian offensive without help from Wargers mercenaries. Meanwhile, the risk of a fresh revolt from the Wagner Chief is most imminent because he is in hiding and faces a serious life threat from Russian Intelligence which has probably received orders from Putin to close his chapter and dismantle his private Army and other infrastructure in Russia and abroad. At the same time, western allies perceive it a most favorable time to exert full pressure on the Russian military on Ukrainian fronts to push them back deep inside Russian territory by using all available resources including the use of banned weapons such as cluster and Dazy cutter bombs, etc. to make their efforts most lethal and effective against their staunch enemy. Presently, President Biden is heading to NATO and UK where the Ukraine war and Russia's internal situations would come into discussion and Western allies will surely try to benefit from this opportunity. The war situation become so dire and the risks for the use of Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMDs) increasing with every passing day.

In fact, cluster munitions scatter hundreds of bomblets in a large area after it used and often failed to impact and explode later when encountered by an animal, human body, or any other thing just like landmines and cause irreparable loss to the civilian population and soldiers. Over 100 countries including France, Germany, the UK, Sweden, Spain, Australia, and others outlawed these munitions under the Convention of Cluster Munition in 2008, but the US and Ukraine are not signatories to that pact. Currently, some domestic rules prohibit the Biden administration from transferring cluster munitions to Ukraine but President Biden has decided to overrule that legislation by invoking section 614 of the Foreign Military Assistance Act to make it happen at all costs.

The war in Ukraine has entered its 17th month, the furious fighting continues between combatant neighbors without pause. The ripple effects of war have shattered global peace and food security, worsened the energy crisis, and caused multifaceted humanitarian crises across the globe, particularly in Europe and Africa. Millions of Ukrainians are displaced from their homes and a majority of them living in the country have no access to food, water, electricity, healthcare, and essential commodities. The economic fallout of the war in Ukraine, and continued blockades of Ukrainian grains had intensified the famine crisis in East Africa while millions of lives are at risk due to hunger and mass starvation. The world economies are embattled with the worst effects caused by the Ukraine war but jingoists are considering out of box solutions for fueling one of the deadliest bloodshed in history.

A war is always a human tragedy and the war in Ukraine is one of the most costly and lethal episodes of human history that leveled equal cost to all nations and regions across the world. Both combatant nations have exhausted completely and Western allies intend to make the war decisive anyway to reach the victory stand as early as possible. President Biden has offered a lame excuse for his unjust decision of supplying banned weapons to his Ukrainian allies instead of providing them with traditional arms and ammunition which is already in practice. In fact, the advocate of human rights and civil liberties failed to feel his responsibility regarding recommendations of the Geneva Convention of War, which clearly asks to avoid collateral damage and protect civilians during the war, however, western leaders had always opted to protect their strategic interest instead of securing peace, guarding humanity, and preservice of human rights. Presently, no Western nation including the United States advocates for diplomacy, talks for peace with Russia, and an amicable solution to the Ukraine dispute, but everyone is working to further fuel the already intensified hostility that casts shadow of a global nuclear war in the world. The world has suffered most from wars, regional conflicts and global rivalries and people demand peace and tranquility. The world leaders should play a constructive role for bringing peace and prosperity in the world when get opportunity otherwise no one will remember them after quitting power.

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Believe it or not, justice will prevail in Palestine

Rami G Khouri

AERICAN civil rights leader Martin Luther King, Jr once said that the arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends towards justice. He believed this would be the case for Black people and their fight for equal rights in the United States. And he was right.

Palestinians who have struggled for their rights over a full century may doubt that this arc bends towards justice for them, too - especially in the shadow of Israel's latest assault on the Jenin refugee camp this week, which killed 12 Palestinians and damaged water, power and health facilities and almost 80 percent of homes. The invasion of Jenin perfectly mirrors and perpetuates this century of Zionist-Israeli aggression that has killed, injured, detained, traumatised, and driven Palestinians into exile - to make room for a Jewish state in an Arab-majority Palestine.

Since the start of the year, Israeli forces and settlers have killed more than 170 people, including nearly 30 children. Jewish settlers, Zionism's latest shock troops, have carried out 570 attacks against Palestinian villages and towns in the past six months, an average of three attacks per day, according to new United Nations data. The situation in Palestine is indeed grim, but numerous other developments across countries and sectors indicate that the Palestinian cause is gaining ground in two particular domains. Diplomacy at the UN and global civic activism both show that the Palestinians are enjoying growing support against Zionist and Western colonial interests, which had prevailed virtually unopposed and stifled Palestinians and their rights for decades. A deeply symbolic sign of change and hope occurred in May this year, when the UN General Assembly (UNGA) for the first time ever officially commemorated the 75th anniversary of the Palestinian Nakba (catastrophe). Palestinians use the word Nakba to describe Israel's ethnic cleansing and forced expulsion of 750,000 Palestinians in 1947-1948, to make way for the Jewish state of Israel that Zionism sought.

The UNGA's bland reference to "the Question of Palestine" in 1947, when it passed a resolution to partition Palestine into Jewish and Arab states, gave way this year to a lively commemoration of the Nakba. Many

Palestinians saw this as the UNGA tacitly acknowledging the Palestinians' suffering and national trauma that its own decision had initiated 75 years ago. This is especially significant given that Palestinians see the Nakba as ongoing; this week, Jenin's Palestinian refugees experienced it yet again, as the Israeli army forced thousands out of their homes in the camp. Zionists and the US had lobbied hard for the partition resolution in 1947, and they won. They again lobbied hard 75 years later to prevent the Nakba commemoration, but they lost - badly. When the delegates at the commemoration, representing a majority of humankind, condemned Israeli settler-colonial policies and demanded protection and statehood for the Palestinians, they echoed the unprecedented international mobilisation in support of the Palestinian cause - especially in law, diplomacy, politics, media, and education.

Across the world, especially in the Global North where Israel focuses its lobbying and intimidation, Palestinians and their progressive allies now routinely challenge, and increasingly defeat, Zionists in this conflict's new battleground: Palestinians' right to make their case in public. Israel and its surrogates frantically try to stop advocacy for Palestine around the world, or to silence criticism of Israeli policies that respected human rights groups, such as Human Rights Watch, Amnesty International, and B'Tselem, classify as apartheid. At the heart of this confrontation is the Palestinian right to engage in legitimate, non-violent political action through the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) movement, which calls for international pressure on Israel for its denial of Palestinian human rights. BDS echoes the global boycotts decades ago that helped end South Africa's racist apartheid system. Zionists dislike the comparison; but they cannot stop it, hard as they try to do so through their preferred method - branding as an anti-Semite anyone who speaks for Palestinian rights or criticises Israeli policies. In its attempts to block pro-Palestinian activism, Israel has pressured public and private institutions to adopt the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) definition of anti-

Semitism, which wrongfully equates hate against Jewish people with criticism of Israel.

But the IHRA definition campaign has also stumbled. There has been resistance not only from scholarly communities across the world, but also - surprisingly - from the Biden administration. In late May, it released a national strategy to counter anti-Semitism that did not embrace the IHRA definition, but only mentioned it as one among other definitions people could consult. Never before in the past century have Zionist-Israeli actions been so widely - and successfully - challenged by legal action and public information campaigns that expose Zionism's settler-colonial nature, apartheid in Palestine, and threats to free speech around the world. Palestinians and their progressive allies like the American Civil Liberties Union and the Center for Constitutional Rights have challenged in US courts anti-BDS legislation and have won in an increasing number of cases. Universities, media organisations and other institutions in the US, Europe and elsewhere have also had to judge if peaceful boycotts or criticism of Israeli apartheid policies constitute anti-Semitism; their answers have been more often "no", affirming that political advocacy and criticism are protected by constitutional guarantees of freedom of expression.

Hundreds of groups across the world now monitor, document, and challenge pro-Israel intimidation, notably NGOs like Palestine Legal and Adalah Justice Project in the US, Makan in the United Kingdom and the European Legal Support Center in the Netherlands. Their litigation and public mobilisation have responded to thousands of attempts to dismiss pro-Palestinian speakers or employees. Palestine Legal has reported that some 70 percent of the cases it has worked on involved attempts to target students and scholars. Israeli efforts to erase Palestinian history and the memory of the Nakba have also been challenged with initiatives like one by the research organisation Forensic Architecture, which documented the 1948 massacre at Tantura village by Zionist forces. The Palestinian cause is also gaining more and more exposure on platforms and outlets

where it used to be denied access. Palestinian voices now regularly challenge the Israeli government and pro-Israeli advocacy, propaganda and distortions on US, Canadian, and European TV channels.

When Israeli occupation forces assassinated Palestinian-American journalist Shireen Abu Akleh in Jenin a year ago, leading outlets that were long accused of pro-Israeli biases conducted their own thorough investigations of her killing; these included the New York Times and the Washington Post, which concluded that Israeli snipers shot her. Even individual acts of resistance to anti-Palestinian pressure now gain attention. Earlier this year, Dr Steve Feldman, a Jewish American dermatologist, refused to sign an anti-BDS pledge in order to receive an honorarium for a lecture he gave at a state university in the US; after going public with his challenge, he won and was paid the fee he was owed, which he decided to donate to Jewish Voice for Peace, an organisation that supports BDS. Palestinians in the US are further buoyed by the election of young, progressive politicians at the state and federal levels, like members of Congress Rashida Tlaib and Ilhan Omar, who openly criticise US complicity in Israel's apartheid system. They are few, to be sure; but their numbers keep increasing, and their public voices accelerate the slow but steady change in American public sentiment on Israel-Palestine since 1948 - from overwhelming support for Israel, towards more even-handed sentiments.

A recent Gallup poll showed that US Democrats now sympathise more with the Palestinians than the Israelis (49 vs 38 percent). This trend will persist because younger Americans, including Jewish Americans, now favour a more balanced approach to the conflict. These continuing shifts in global support for Palestinian justice - in diplomacy, civil society activism, and public opinion - should eventually generate enough pressure to force Israel to reverse its apartheid occupation policies, and enter genuine peace negotiations that give Israelis and Palestinians equal national rights and security. This will take time, as it did in South Africa - and as happens with all moral arcs that bend towards justice.

Aljazeera

Palestine hails China's initiatives

Ahmad Majdalani

PALESTINIANS have a strategic interest in the growing role and power of China as a friendly state. The increase in China's economic and political influence at the international level is essential for maintaining global peace and development in accordance with the China-proposed Global Civilization Initiative, which is aimed at building a new, fair and just multipolar world order as an alternative to the existing unipolar and unfair international order.

The Global Civilization Initiative draws on China's long history and the prime position it once held as a civilization. Proposing the Global Civilization Initiative earlier this year, President Xi Jinping said it will inject fresh and strong energy into common development and progress in a world fraught with multiple challenges and crises. Elaborating on the initiative at the Communist Party of China in Dialogue with World Political Parties High-Level Meeting in March, Xi Jinping, who is also general secretary of the CPC Central Committee, called for respecting the diversity of civilizations, advocating the common values of humanity, valuing the inheritance and innovation of civilizations, and strengthening people-to-people exchanges and cooperation.

We Palestinians welcome the Global Civilization Initiative, as it is based on mutual respect, mutual benefit, equality and development of all countries. Fair and just resolution of global and regional issues has been hindered under the United States-led world order. The Global Civilization Initiative, on the other hand, is a visionary initiative that aligns with Palestinian aspirations and could help the Palestinian president to convene an international peace conference. The initiative creates an ideal opportunity in the year that marks the 35th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Palestine and China to work toward achieving tangible results, in order to realize better benefits for the peoples of both countries and expand cooperation in various fields. Sino-Palestinian constructive cooperation has been progressing well, giving us enough reasons to be optimistic about the possibility of further deepening pragmatic cooperation.

Besides, the Belt and Road Initiative is not merely a modern version of the ancient Silk Road; it is also a vehicle to boost China's soft power and crystallize the contours of China's growing role in the international system which is undergoing structural changes. It is based on trade and economy, common interests, and market openness, not on any ideology, as is the case with the US-led world order. In fact, for the US and some other Western countries, even their foreign policies are shaped based on their ideology. Sino-Palestinian diplomatic relations are based on the acknowledgement of the "one China" principle, which is also the fundamental political basis for the development of bilateral relations between China and other countries. China treats all countries as

equals, emphasizes the importance of consultation and dialogue to resolve bilateral and regional issues, and promotes common development without attaching any political conditions.

Given these facts, we Palestinians support and are ready to participate in the Global Civilization Initiative, the Global Development Initiative and the Global Security Initiative. During President Mahmoud Abbas's four-day visit to China starting on June 14, the two sides jointly announced the establishment of a strategic partnership. President Xi said China and Palestine are good friends and partners that trust and support each other.

Given the fast-changing international situation and new changes in the situation in the Middle East, China has said it is willing to strengthen coordination and cooperation with Palestine to promote a comprehensive, fair and lasting solution to the Palestine issue. In fact, China has always supported the just cause of the Palestinian people to restore their legitimate national rights. The two sides should therefore deepen cooperation and promote genuine pluralism to better protect the common interests of developing countries and help build a fair and just world order. It is necessary to mention here that China is taking measures to expand coordination and cooperation with Palestine to push for an early, just and sustainable resolution to the Palestinian issue.

Further, the strategic partnership between the two sides is an important milestone in bilateral relations, which will pave the way for China to consolidate friendly cooperation with Palestine in various fields. We expect China to continue supporting the just Palestinian cause, and hope that China will spare no efforts in helping seek serious negotiations in an attempt to resolve the Palestinian issue. And as Palestinians, we must seize this historic moment to strengthen relations with China as a strategic partner and true friend. Palestine also needs to increase practical engagement in the Belt and Road Initiative and the Global Civilization Initiative while playing an important role in shaping humanity's shared destiny. China has begun its journey to build a modern socialist country, which would achieve the goals of developing Arab-Chinese projects and launching strategic partnerships between China and Arab countries, representing a successful model of solidarity, cooperation and mutual benefit.

We Palestinians should strive to achieve shared development, promote justice and fairness, deepen mutually beneficial cooperation, and integrate the Belt and Road Initiative with the development projects of Arab states, implement the consensus reached at the Arab-China Summit for Cooperation and Development in Riyadh in December last year, promote the values of solidarity, tolerance and mutual respect, and vigorously move toward the goal of building an Arab-Chinese community with a shared future.

The China Daily

Unpacking US SC's affirmative action verdict

Jennifer Rubin

INSTANT reaction to the US Supreme Court's key affirmative action decision in *Students for Fair Admissions, Inc. v. President and Fellows of Harvard College* (joined with another case from the University of North Carolina) was predictable, hysterical and mostly wrong. Conservatives praised the end of affirmative action and absolute insistence on colorblind admissions; progressives bemoaned what they expected to be a dramatic decrease in diversity at top universities and colleges. Neither side was willing to admit there might be less here than meets the eye.

"We have permitted race-based admissions only within the confines of narrow restrictions. University programmes must comply with strict scrutiny, they may never use race as a stereotype or negative, and - at some point - they must end," wrote Chief Justice John G. Roberts Jr. for the majority. "Respondents' admissions systems - however well

intentioned and implemented in good faith - fail each of these criteria. They must therefore be invalidated under the Equal Protection Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment." Sounds like he means business, right? However, what he takes away with one hand he immediately gives back with the other: "At the same time, as all parties agree, nothing in this opinion should be construed as prohibiting universities from considering an applicant's discussion of how race affected his or her life, be it through discrimination, inspiration, or otherwise."

Perhaps realising the exception might swallow the rule (and usher in a flood of "Tell us something you had to overcome in your life" questions and clever college counsellors to help craft replies), Roberts hastened to add that colleges shouldn't try to do indirectly what the court doesn't want them to do directly. But once again, his "limitation" will not stop determined admissions offi-

cials and savvy students: A benefit to a student who overcame racial discrimination, for example, must be tied to that student's courage and determination. Or a benefit to a student whose heritage or culture motivated him or her to assume a leadership role or attain a particular goal must be tied to that student's unique ability to contribute to the university. In other words, the student must be treated based on his or her experiences as an individual - not on the basis of race. That is precisely what disadvantaged minority students will write - and have been writing - in a society still plagued with racism, that virtually all such applicants have faced disadvantages, stereotyping and outright discrimination simply by virtue of the way they appear to the White majority.

Only in Roberts's make-believe world is there a group of minority students who never experienced a smidgen of discrimination (e.g., had

less accumulated family wealth because of the legacy of housing discrimination, had to have "the talk" about police encounters, had teachers make assumptions about their abilities) and therefore would be unable to make the sort of case Roberts describes. Interestingly, in remarks following the opinion's release, President Biden made this exact point. He stressed that colleges should be taking into consideration the "adversity" students have experienced, including economic disadvantage, where a student grew up and racial discrimination. He then read aloud the wide exception Roberts outlined. Certainly, the majority's opinion will be frustrating to those who insist on intellectual consistency. Roberts's majority opinion ridiculing the dissenters' insistence on citing dissents and ignoring majority opinion language in earlier cases restricting but not eliminating affirmative action stands as

another example of first-class hypocrisy.

In *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organisation*, the right-wing majority ignored 50 years of precedent to revive dissent arguments against women's constitutional right to bodily autonomy. (And, as in *Dobbs*, the court here overrode precedent without applying the normal test to ignore stare decisis.)

Moreover, Roberts and his right-wing allies ironically chose to ignore the best originalist analysis of the 14th Amendment. "I don't think that the historical record establishes that the founders believed that race neutrality or race blindness was required," Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson said at oral argument in *Merrill v. Mulligan*.

"That's the point of that act, to make sure that the other citizens, the Black citizens, would have the same [rights] as the white citizens." However, just because Roberts's decision is inaccurate and contradictory does not mean it will be devastating in practice. In their haste to both ignore the history of the 14th Amendment and deny the extensive legacy of racism in nearly every aspect of life (which Justices Sonia Sotomayor and Jackson traced in exquisite detail in her dissent, which was joined by Sotomayor and Justice Elena Kagan), the majority left wide open an easy workaround to their "let-them-eat-cake obliviousness." "The admissions rubrics they have constructed now recognise that an individual's 'merit' - his ability to succeed in an institute of higher learning and ultimately contribute something to our society - cannot be fully determined without understanding that individual in full," Jackson wrote. Put simply, as long as you allow students to tell their personal story of racism, race will get considered in the admissions process - to the chagrin of the right-wing justices and politicians who cheer this Pyrrhic victory.

The Washington Post

‘Weapons of the weak’: Why does the Russian opposition need a feminist lens?

THE Russian anti-war opposition can bicker on social media and argue at congresses, fail to sign statements and ignore each other's events - but its members can nonetheless agree on several basic demands: The withdrawal of Russian troops from Ukraine and payment of reparations; a peaceful foreign policy; and the democratization and federalization (or self-determination of regions) of Russia.

However, two events have occurred in the last month: a conference in Brussels involving EU and Russian opposition representatives, followed by Wagner leader Yevgeny Prigozhin's armed rebellion in Russia. This served as a stark reminder that as we pursue the goals of the Russian opposition, we risk straying off course and finding ourselves not in parliament, but in the dark cave of another military dictatorship. Adopting a feminist perspective can help us minimize the risk of taking the wrong turn. During Prigozhin's mutiny, it was surprising for many of us to witness some Russian opposition politicians calling for armed resistance or expressing solidarity with Prigozhin's army of war criminals, even if only for the purpose of destabilizing the regime. However, this should not have come as a shock to those who were present in Brussels. Some politicians there had advocated for support of the Russian Volunteer Corps, a neo-Nazi armed group that recently carried out an incursion into the Belgorod region. Activists are under no illusions that those capable of armed rebellion in Russia are predominantly right-wing or neo-Nazi groups seeking combat experience on both sides of the frontline. Consequently, a militaristic approach that limits political horizons may lead us only to a military dictatorship focused on perpetuating war rather than ending it.

While the rebellions of these groups destabilize the regime and the frontlines, they do not need our support and will not pay it back. But how can we use the political and military weakening they bring about for the greater good, not for personal power grabs? Putin's public speeches following the mutiny clearly show that he is trying as always to portray himself as the guarantor of stability. Yet, this is far from convincing. As opinion polls show, both Putin and Prigozhin have experienced a decline in popular support due to the armed confrontation.

Possibly for the first time in Putin's rule, the Russian opposition has an advantage. We have not tarnished our reputation by calling for bloodshed, while Putin and Prigozhin have now created an evident threat to the Russian people. Though they have been the main threat to the Russian people and the world for a long time, the chaos of the war and violence which they could previously target and contain has now spilled over. Consequently, the myth that the opposition and political activists are the ones "rocking the boat" and posing risks to ordinary people is weaker than ever before, and we can use this to our advantage. This realization has been voiced by many political actors. Ilya Yashin and Alexei Navalny, in their letters from prison, also emphasized this

contrast between Putin as the source of violence and instability and the political prisoners who are accused of these things but are in fact fighting against it. Many political forces, including Feminist Anti-War Resistance, Soft Power, Vesna and Mikhail Lobanov, to name a few, also published statements that aligned closely with this outlook during the Prigozhin rebellion. They refused to ally with any side, instead calling for cooperation, consolidation, mutual support and care for the community as the opposition to a military solution. The underlying principle of this perspective is care. Care confronts the narrow focus on only military solutions. And that is where the feminist lens helps us. Indeed, it is predominantly women* who bear the responsibility of caring for families and experience domestic

The number of female political prisoners and cases of administrative persecution has risen significantly since the start of the invasion. Besides these visible forms of protest, we can also see that it is predominantly women* who help displaced Ukrainians to leave Russia or survive in it, and who help Russians abroad, like Anastasia Burakova's Ark project. Many other forms of resistance like everyday disobedience and sabotage - so-called weapons of the weak - cannot be seen or reported now. However, we can use opinion polls to suggest that the role of women* is essential. In opinion polls by the Levada Center, ExtremeScan and Russian Field, one can find different indicators of women's growing dissatisfaction with the invasion. For example, according to the latest wave of the Russian Field poll, 42% of women* would not cancel the start of the invasion if they had the chance, compared to 57% of men.

and sexual violence, economic inequality, gender discrimination, and restrictions on reproductive rights. No need to explain the obvious: the role of women in conflict resolution and negotiations proved essential and productive in many cases. This is because the perspective of care and the feminist approach to peacebuilding demands redefining security as the security of life rather than solely that of national borders - and that leads to more sustainable peace. This perspective aligns with Johan Galtung's concept of positive peace, which encompasses not only the absence of direct violence but also structural violence.

Women* already play an essential role in anti-war mobilization. From organizations like Feminist Anti-War Resistance, the grassroots movement I belong to and which mobilized thousands of activists across the country and abroad to protest the invasion of Ukraine, to the mothers, sisters, and wives of soldiers who led anti-mobilization protests last autumn, their impact is evident. The number of female political prisoners and cases of administrative persecution has risen significantly since the start of the invasion. Besides these visible forms of protest, we can also see that it is predominantly women* who help displaced Ukrainians to leave Russia or survive in it, and who help Russians abroad, like Anastasia Burakova's

Ark project. Many other forms of resistance like everyday disobedience and sabotage - so-called weapons of the weak - cannot be seen or reported now. However, we can use opinion polls to suggest that the role of women* is essential. In opinion polls by the Levada Center, ExtremeScan and Russian Field, one can find different indicators of women's growing dissatisfaction with the invasion. For example, according to the latest wave of the Russian Field poll, 42% of women* would not cancel the start of the invasion if they had the chance, compared to 57% of men. Moreover, more women* perceive the invasion of Ukraine as a threat to their own lives, with 43% expressing this concern compared to 26% among men - and this is a crucial perspective that we should take into consideration

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when formulating out political strategies.

Calls into the void for armed resistance at a time when the anti-war opposition lacks the capacity for such action in Russia demonstrate a complete disregard for these significant indicators of popular mood among Russian women*, who also constitute a more statistically significant demographic (by approximately 15%). How can someone who genuinely cares for the well-being of their loved ones favor an armed conflict in their own country? The last wave of opinion polls by Russian Field shows that women* are more supportive of peace negotiations than men. Only 23% of women* would support a second wave of mobilization for the needs of the invasion, versus 50% of men. In contrast, 65% of women* would support peace negotiations in that scenario, while only 41% of male respondents share this view. Generally, support for peace negotiations is considerably higher among women*, with 52% of female respondents believing it is time to move towards peace negotiations compared to 34% of men. Thus, a considerable portion of women* among the peoples of Russia want peace. Of course, the idea of peace and negotiations has been manipulated by the Kremlin. But why can't the Russian opposition take over with its alternative peace proposal? If one limits their

understanding of peace to a ceasefire and military positions, we have a low chance of garnering support. But it seems impossible only if we do not think of peace from a broader perspective - as a positive peace, as Johan Galtung put it, i.e., the absence not only of direct violence but also of structural violence.

Putin's consensus is built around relative economic stability and social security. That means our proposal for positive peace should beat Putin's politics on that field to promote the security of lives instead of military security. We should consider that poverty often compels people to join the military or accept the deaths of loved ones, as well as the wide range of social benefits which were introduced for veterans of this war. The symbolic dimension is essential too, but the status of war hero also has material benefits. Indeed, militarization in Russia is not limited to its military apparatus; it permeates society through social benefits as well. Therefore, I suggest that we challenge Putin not as a strongman but by tackling another aspect of his image as a defender of Russia's well-being. The masculinist perspective overlooks the part of Putin's public image as a caring man who guarantees some financial stability (albeit often illusory). However, as we know, this image significantly contributes to his popular support. Can we, as the anti-war opposition, develop a peace proposal that will show that we care about the dignity of the peoples of Russia, also in material terms?

What if we think of positive peace as an agreement that guarantees the improvement of living conditions for vulnerable groups in Russia, rather than their deterioration - a peace agreement that will grant people real security of life, i.e. economic, food and physical security? This of course by no means should come at the expense of Ukrainian territories or reparations, as the occupied territories must be returned and reparations paid. But why not consider economic redistribution from the fortunes of corrupt Russian elites and war criminals like Prigozhin and Shoigu? Ukraine should undoubtedly be provided with security guarantees - but could we also explore the possibility of security guarantees for the peoples of Russia against the current Russian state? Some time ago this proposal would have been completely impossible because there is no way for us to develop any vision of peace without a vision from the Ukrainian side. But now we have Zelensky's 10-point plan and a sustainable peace manifesto from Ukrainian civil society: these can be our starting point. As experts agree, the end of Prigozhin's revolt is not the end of armed internal conflicts, but just the beginning. Amid this bloody scenario, it is a valid strategy to develop an alternative to violence and arms, promoting instead the security of our lives and the war's end. I believe we have a chance to succeed if we do not limit ourselves by calling for even more bloodshed, denouncing those who oppose it as "pink ponies" - and instead promote our vision of positive peace, which has the potential to garner popular support and challenge the Russian state and its imperial ambitions.

The Moscow Times

Get ready for a reprise of enemies of the people show

Martin Kettle

POLITICAL prediction is a mug's game. Wise commentators should try to refrain from too many of them. Yet it is hard to look at Rishi Sunak's government right now and not offer one. Here's mine. Amid the government's current struggles, a culture war campaign against liberal institutions is increasingly likely to be the centrepiece of the Conservative general election effort next year. For convenience, call it Enemies of the People 2.

It was not intended to be like this when Sunak took over. When he first set out his five priority targets, the goals by which he invited the public to judge his government when election day came, they appeared quite sensibly chosen, mostly modest, perhaps at least partially achievable and a welcome contrast from the gassy bombast of Boris Johnson and the delusional dogmas of Liz Truss. Very little of that is still true now, a mere six months on. Instead, when Sunak was questioned by select committee chairs at Westminster this week, he made no real attempt to pretend he is on course to reach any of the targets at all. Instead, the best the prime minister could offer was that he was "throwing everything at it" and "working 100%".

The retreat into caution is hardly surprising. The commitment to halve inflation is doing no better. Meanwhile, in the week of the NHS's 75th anniversary, the claim that people would get the care they need more quickly seems to have been overtaken by imploding Tory confidence in the universal service itself. And Labour continues to have a commanding lead in the opinion polls. Which leaves the final pledge of stopping the boats. That isn't going well either. There was a large surge of attempted Channel crossings in June. The main summer peak is probably still to come, driving the total above the 2022 record of more than 40,000 people. But in the absence of any sustained turnaround in the cost of living crisis or any material improvement in the macro-economy more generally, the Conservative election offer is defaulting to a more rhetorical performative approach, to which a confrontation over migration is central. This is tricky stuff for a leader such as Sunak, who aims to be judged on techni-

cal competence, grasp of detail and practical achievement rather than any claim to possess the common touch. But the decline in confidence about Sunak is palpable. It showed up this week in his poor ratings in the ConservativeHome popularity surveys. It is there, too, in the shifting centre of gravity towards more performative campaigning on the Brexit model.

The former home secretary Priti Patel's Rwanda deportation policy, now fully embraced by her successor, Suella Braverman, in her illegal migration bill, has become the embodiment of this approach. The animating spirits are cruelty and a readiness to provoke. The policy does this by being deliberately isolationist, spurning international norms and structures, and by setting itself against the idea of universal rights as they have evolved in the postwar era. It also picks fights with institutions such as the church and the courts. It offends the case for compassion to strangers made by the archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, when the bill reached the House of Lords in May. Welby's important and sensible amendment requiring a more long-term and more globally coordinated approach was being debated on Wednesday. Above all, though, the bill is designed to provoke a confrontation with the judges, and through them with the rule of law, in part because of the burgeoning disrespect for lawyers running through the modern Tory party and in part in the hope that Labour will somehow be drawn in and outmanoeuvred.

Braverman's response to the appeal court's two-to-one finding against the Rwanda policy last week exemplified this. Her statement to MPs was condescending - "a disappointing judgment". It cast the issue in unequivocally populist and partisan terms. "Today," she said, "is a bad day for the British people. Today is a good day for the people smugglers. It is a good day for Labour." This may be only a taster if the supreme court makes a similar finding - though such a ruling against the policy is far from certain. Ministers have not forgiven the highest court in the land for the prorogation ruling in 2019. They would like to clip its wings. They want to return to the unfinished business of curbing judicial review. Many still want to withdraw from the European convention on human rights

and to scrap the Human Rights Act. They hope that, under Lord Reed, the court is less willing to confront the executive than it was under his predecessor. Lady Hale, four years ago. A lot therefore hangs on the way the supreme court jumps on the Rwanda policy. Some ministers think this is a win-win situation. If the court reverses the appeal court's ruling, deportations to Rwanda can begin, just in time for the election - though in truth there will be nothing approaching the "tens of thousands" of deportations that Johnson airily predicted in 2022.

If the court upholds the appeal court, though, denunciations of the judiciary will again be in order by ministers and the press, just as they were in 2016 over the Brexit process, when the Daily Mail first used the "enemies of the people" headline and Truss, then lord chancellor, went out of her way not to stand up for the judges' independence. Senior judges are extremely well aware of how much is likely to be at stake this time, and worried about the likelihood of the courts being in the crossfire. But they are also aware that Britain has treaty obligations and that migrants have rights. Either way, though, the performative political style is now the comfort zone for significant sections of Sunak's party. Only this week, the so-called New Conservatives, a group of about 25 Conservative MPs from the 2017 and 2019 intakes, issued a plan to cut migration by more than 360,000 in the next 12 months. Even if this was a desirable goal, it is clearly an unachievable one. But, as the Brexit campaign showed so powerfully, it is sometimes the emotive effect of the policy that counts, not its workability or its good sense. It is one of the tragic lessons of the politics of the past decade. Braverman's bill is not designed to work or to create a smoothly efficient system, let alone to be consistent with Britain's postwar commitment to humane and just treatment of refugees within international models. The otherwise jaw-dropping cost of the measures in taxpayers' money - £169,000 a head if the migrants end up being sent to Rwanda - is entirely secondary to their theatricality. The purpose is nationally demeaning - to roll the pitch for a needless cultural confrontation that will do nothing to rescue the government and can only weaken the country at home and abroad.

The Guardian

It's 2028 - and the Tory revolution has triumphed

David Frost

A vision in a Dream, a Fragment. "We now return to the BBC's political editor, Richard Bacon. Richard, tell us about today's news of an early 2028 general election, and give us your verdict on the Sunak government." "Well, Gary, of course ever since Mark Steyn won his case against Ofcom, we have been able to say what we really think on the air, so it's no secret that not many of us here at the BBC thought five years ago that the Conservatives would now be expecting a historic sixth term in government.

"In mid-2023, we were enjoying that long, deep Conservative polling disaster. People like us thought that Rishi Sunak would reliably lead the Tories to election defeat. But suddenly things began to change. He started to become the prime minister his admirers tell us they expected. Famously, he later told the BBC that he had become too conventional; too nervous of taking the tough decisions needed from a leader rather than a manager.

"First, that autumn, we got what we all now know as the Second Night of the Long Knives. Firing his chancellor, bringing back people like Simon Clarke and Jacob Rees-Mogg, and what we can all see now was a stroke of genius, making Miriam Cates education secretary, changed the face of the government. But there were changes in policy, too. It seems incredible now, but back then the government was still seriously planning to ban petrol cars and gas boilers. Stopping that showed things were changing. So did making it much harder to get work visas. And remember the great culture wars of the early 2020s? Rishi's ban on Whitehall diversity spending, and a tax cut with the savings, now seems blindingly obvious. It wasn't then. "Things began to look dif-

ferent. The public took a second look. It turned out they weren't crazy about Keir Starmer - remember him? - but hadn't been offered any real alternative. Slowly, slowly, the mood began to turn. "But what really changed the game was the promise of a referendum on European human rights law when the Supreme Court blocked the Rwanda policy - and then those famously radical fifth term plans, delaying net zero 2050, reducing visa numbers further, more house-building, a Royal Commission on the NHS, and bringing down spending and taxes by a penny off income tax every year.

"Not all voters liked all these ideas. But many liked at least one of them, and they also liked having a government that actually wanted to fix things. "When the 2024 election came, Labour were still in front, but their lead was falling. Sunak's expulsion of Tobias Ellwood for persistently urging a return to the EU and for one too many demands for Nato airstrikes on Russia reassured disaffected Tory voters that next time things really would be different. The Reform Party helped by standing only against what it called "socialist Conservatives". Yes this may have cost the Tories a few seats, but it wiped out the grumpy serial protesters in the parliamentary party. The 25-seat victory confounded Sunak's critics. "Then we all remember how he seized the moment with his new personal authority - those radical changes to the government machine, putting elected ministers back in charge of their budgets, staff, and appointments.

"All tariffs were abolished. So was most of the bureaucracy holding back British food production. Trade took off. Green subsidies were gradually wound down and modern gas-fired

power stations built. Then came the deferral of net zero till 2100. You'll remember the storm at the time, Gary, but since then other countries have followed, and with energy prices falling and manufacturing investment and jobs booming, no-one wants to go back. "It also turned out we could build houses after all. Local councils had to choose between finding areas to build or having them chosen by the Government instead and forced through by national referendum. They found room to build. Last year's house building total came in at 400,000. "None of this was plain sailing. Reforming universal credit was deeply unpopular. But it got people back into the workforce as immigration fell. The savings allowed that final cut in income tax to 15 per cent in last month's Budget. Tax relief on private health care has eliminated the horrendous waiting lists of 2023 by expanding hospital capacity. Wages in the health service have gone up as hospitals compete for staff for the first time. The planned transition to a European-style health service is starting.

"The Sunak style has been to get a grip, explain his agenda clearly to voters, and get ahead of events. Polling shows most voters think the country is firmly on the up. EU membership has become fringe politics because Sunak has shown that Britain is perfectly capable of governing itself and succeeding. And voters still see that change of heart in autumn 2023 as the moment things shifted." A knock came on the door. I jerked awake. Must be that delivery from Porlock. Reaching instinctively for my phone, I saw, over my familiar lock screen photo of Mount Abora, the news alert: the government had just agreed to pay £2 billion a year to rejoin the EU's Horizon programme. Back to reality.

Mass immigration's advocates are finally admitting that it cuts pay

Nick Timothy

SINCE the demise of Boris Johnson, the need for politicians to tell the truth has become en vogue among those who consider themselves of a nobler spirit. Alastair Campbell - who has seemingly forgotten about weapons of mass destruction, Iraq, Dr David Kelly, Bernie Ecclestone, cash for honours, tax rises, tuition fees and top-up fees - now says Johnson must be "accountable" for the "lies" he supposedly told to persuade people to vote for Brexit.

But Campbell is far from alone. The lies, most recently, have come thickest and fastest about the single issue that has done most to destroy trust in the British political system: immigration. Every manifesto of every party to win an election in the past quarter century has promised immigration control, yet every government has failed to deliver it. We have had more immigration in this time than in the past 2,000 years combined.

In the past year, net migration stood at 606,000 - a number that was unthinkable even 12 months ago. And yet many politicians are clamouring for even more. Ministers brief the newspapers that the labour market is too tight, and companies need more workers. And some former ministers are starting to say the quiet part out loud. Philip Hammond, the former chancellor, has said relaxing immigration controls will create more competition for jobs and help to reduce inflation - and therefore interest rates - by reducing the power of workers to seek increases in pay. To respond to rising housing costs amid a housing shortage by creating more demand for limit-

ed stock may seem eccentric. But there is more to question. When companies can recruit from anywhere in the world without trying to do so from within Britain first, and at salaries that are often no higher than the minimum wage, what controls would Hammond relax? We already have the most generous immigration system in the Western world.

But the inflation crisis - and the solution proffered by Hammond - has revealed a truth long denied by ministers and officials. For years they have insisted that immigration does not cause job displacement or hold down wages. They have done so despite academic studies and evidence from the Government's own Migration Advisory Committee saying the opposite. But now they admit it themselves. Inflation, according to Chris Patten, is high in part because Brexit has made it "more difficult for us to import?... labour". Of course it is possible to argue that while economic demand rebounded to its expected path following Covid, the labour force has not. Migrant workers, then, might fill gaps caused by older people not returning to the workforce and the rise in numbers of people not working due to illness. But even this does not mean immigration - which zealous liberals forget brings with it serious economic and social challenges of its own - should automatically rise.

First, the tight labour market is not leading to inflation-busting pay rises. Overall, the country is having its real-terms pay cut. And this follows years of pay stagnation,

which leaves us no better off than we were in 2005. Second, the rise in inflation started with an international supply shock, and has been exacerbated by the failures of monetary policy over the past 15 years or so. Third, the policies pursued to get inflation down now - steep interest rate rises and attempts to drive down pay - may end up making our difficulties worse next year when, as seems likely, we and other countries slide into recession. But most obvious is that the demand from politicians - whatever the problem, whatever the context, regardless of our ability to cope - is for more immigration overall, when if there is a need for a particular kind of immigration, common sense should lead us to change the balance and profile of migration while remaining true to the need to reduce, drastically, the numbers overall.

Yet this seems an impossibility for our politicians. We have created a higher education model entirely dependent on income from foreign students, whatever their quality, at the expense of British kids who are displaced from our best institutions and courses, and that fails to offer technical and vocational alternatives. Partly as a result we have skills shortages that cause demand for migrant workers to grow. Dependence on their ready supply kills the incentive to invest in labour-saving, productivity-improving tech, and the skills of people already here. MPs grow hysterical when ministers confirm that not every unfortunate individual from every unfortunate country can come here via a "safe and legal

The Telegraph



FPCCI, business bodies welcome direct link with Kazakhstan

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI) and other business bodies have welcomed commencing of a direct air link between Pakistan and Kazakhstan on Saturday as it would help enhance bilateral economic cooperation.

It would prove to be a milestone in forging mutual business and economic integration with Kazakhstan and other Central Asian states, FPCCI President Irfan Iqbal Malik said while talking to APP.

He said the direct flights would increase the possibilities of economic cooperation between the two countries. Two flights in a week from Almaty, the industrial hub of Kazakhstan, to

Lahore, would help enhance economic activities.

Irfan Malik said the Ambassador of Kazakhstan to Pakistan, Yerzan Kistafin, deserved appreciation for playing an important role in the launch of a direct air link between the two brotherly countries.

Karachi Chamber of Commerce (KCCI) President Muhammad Tariq Yousaf said with the start of direct flights, the economic relations between the two countries would improve further. He said the business community of Karachi considered that the step would have a positive impact on trade relations with Kazakhstan and Central Asia.

Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry President Kashif Anwar said Kazakhstan was an important country in Central Asia and the direct flights between Lahore and Almaty would strengthen business relations between the two countries and all the credit in that regard went Ambassador Yerzan

Kistafin.

President of the Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry Dr Khurram Tariq said besides trade relations, the direct flight link would also help in enhancing tourism and cultural ties between the two countries.

He said his chamber hailed the Embassy of Kazakhstan in Islamabad for commencing of direct flights between Lahore and Almaty and also including its national airline Scat in the operation.

President of Quetta Chamber of Commerce Wali Muhammad Nozai termed the commencing of Lahore-Almaty direct flights an important development. He said such direct flights should be started between major cities of the two countries, including Quetta which had a historical connection with Central Asia.

President of Peshawar Chamber of Commerce and Industry Ijaz Afridi said the PCCI welcomed direct air

link between Lahore and Almaty as “our businessmen are commercially connected with Central Asia”.

Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry President Ahsan Bakhtawari said Kazakhstan was the largest economy in Central Asia and the direct air flight connection would help boost trade relations between the two countries.

He said he would soon visit Kazakhstan with a large delegation of businessmen from Islamabad to explore business potential there. President of Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry Saqib Rafiq said they attached high value to relations with the Central Asian states, especially Kazakhstan. The steps like direct air links between the two countries would promote trade, he added.

The Gujranwala Chamber of Commerce and Industry president also appreciated the direct air flight between both nations from Lahore to Almaty.



MULTAN: Girls viewing displayed various varieties of mangoes during three days of “Mango Festival 2023” at Arena Hall DHA.

Al-Jalil Developers opens office F.P. Report

LAHORE: Al-Jalil Developers marked a momentous occasion on Friday as they proudly opened the doors to their new DHA Corporate Office, situated at Defence Raya Fairways Commercial DHA, Phase 6, Lahore.

The office opening commenced with a ribbon-cutting ceremony, led by Al-Jalil Developers’ Managing Director, Fraz Hassan Warraich, accompanied by Sardar Aslam Warraich, the Commercial Director of Al-Jalil Developers.

The Esteemed business partners and the leadership of Al-Jalil Developers graced the occasion with their presence, adding to the grandeur of the event. The opening ceremony concluded on a high note, as attendees enjoyed a delightful session of refreshments and high tea.

TDAP chief visits SCCI

SIALKOT (APP): Trade Development Authority of Pakistan (TDAP) Director General (DG) Khalid Rasool visited the Sialkot Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SCCI), here on Saturday.

SCCI President Abdul Ghafoor Malik and President Women Chamber of Commerce and Industry (WCCI) Dr Mariam Nouman welcomed the guest.

SCCI delegation visited CMH Sialkot

SIALKOT (APP): Sialkot Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SCCI) President Abdul Ghafoor Malik, along with Senior Vice President (SVP) Wahab Jahangir, Vice President (VP) Ameer Majeed Sheikh, had an important meeting with Commanding Officer (CO), Lt.General Mohsin Mohammad Qureshi and Brigadier Tariq at Combined Military Hospital (CMH) Sialkot.

President Women Chamber of Commerce and

Industry Sialkot (WCCIS) Dr. Maryam Nauman Idrees, Dr. Nauman Idrees Butt, Khawar Anwar Khawaja and SCCI Chairman Department Committee on Garrison HQ/Cantonment Board Affairs Sheikh Zahid Hameed were also present.

Ghafoor Malik acknowledged the immense sacrifices of the Pakistan Army for the welfare and well-being of people and the country’s security and defence. Malik

assured them of the Chamber’s full co-operation and support.

It was mutually decided that the link to Combined Military Hospital (CMH) from Khawaja Safdar Road would be opened for emergency patients within 2 to 3 months.

Moreover, the facility of Gold Card for the SCCI members would be re-initiated with two dedicated rooms to offer 24-hours services matters of Gold Card members.

IMF approves \$60m in funding for Mozambique

MAPUTO (APP): The International Monetary Fund (IMF) said Friday that its executive board has completed the second review of a three-year loan program for Mozambique, which greenlights an immediate disbursement to Maputo of about 60.6 million US dollars.

The initiative aims at economic recovery, reducing public debt and financial vulnerability, while promoting inclusive growth through structural reforms in the southern African nation, the IMF said in a statement on Friday. It has brought Mozambique’s total disbursements under

the Extended Credit Facility arrangement to 212.09 million dollars.

According to the IMF review, based on the performance of the program, the Mozambican government adopted substantial measures to resolutely face the macroeconomic challenges and fully comply with the agency’s requirements, in particular the maintenance of a fiscal perspective in line with the established targets.

In response to the IMF’s announcement, the Mozambican government said that the financing is a demonstration of the finan-

cial institution’s confidence in the country.

“This financing means that the country is implementing substantial policy reforms and measures, with a view to macroeconomic stability, inclusive growth, and that the IMF looks favorably on the Mozambican government’s programs, measures and reforms that the government has been taking to implement and achieve the ultimate goal of inclusive growth,” said Enilde Sarmento, national director of economic policies and development at the Ministry of Economy and Finance.

Balance of loans up in Yangtze River Delta

SHANGHAI (APP): The balance of loans in the Yangtze River Delta region was 61.2 trillion yuan (about 8.5 trillion US dollars) at the end of May, up 13.8 percent year on year.

Of the total, the balance of loans in Chinese yuan reached 60.05 trillion yuan at the end of May, up 14.5 percent year on year, according to the People’s Bank of China Shanghai Head Office.

COURT NOTICE

IN the Court of Qaisar Khan Afridi Additional District Judge II/Azafi Zila Qazi Buner at Daggar. Appeal No.8/13. Institution 17/1/2023. Date of hearing-29/8/2023. Umen etc VS Karim Jan etc. Notice to No.3. Dawod. 4 Musa sons of Zamany. 5/1.Mst Zahida widow. 5/2. Farman. 5/3. Irfan sons. 5/4.Mst Kusar. 5/5.Mst Bila. 5/6.Mst Sedra. 5/7.Mst Nadia daughters of Yaqob Khan late. 6.Mst. Bakhti.7. Mehboha. 8. Mashoqa. 9.Zeton. 10.Khaton daughters of Aati d/o Zamany. 23/9.Naseb Qadar s/o Mohamad Khan late. 23/10.Nor Bibi d/o Mohamad Khan late. 24/1.Mst Husan Zar widow. 24/3.Shafiq son. 24/9.Husan Bibi. 24/11. Nazmena daughters of Abdul Razaq late. 25/1. Mohamad Raziq.25/2. Said Raziq sons of Mohamad Anwar late.26. Mst Rahm Bibi w/o Abdul Raziq. 35/2.Musa.35/3.Dawod sons. 35/4.Mst Bakhti. 35/5.Mehboha. 35/6. Mashoqa. 35/7.Zeton daughters of Zardad Khan late residents of Hashim Sar in the limit of Elai thesl Daggar district Buner. Whereas in the above mentioned case the mentioned defendants can not be served in the ordinary way, it is, therefore, proclaimed that if the said defendants will/shall not appear personally or through dually authorized agent or pleader in the court at 8. am dated 29/8/2023 the proceeding will be taken ex-parte. Given under my hand and seal of this Court.

CDB increases support for high-standard farmland

BEIJING (APP): The China Development Bank (CDB), one of the country’s policy banks, stepped up financial support to cultivate high-standard farmland in the first half of this year.

The lender issued 4.3 billion yuan (about 596.77 million US dollars) in loans to support high-standard farmland cultivation and farmland infrastructure upgrading projects in Jilin, Jiangsu, Sichuan, Guangxi and Ningxia during the period.

By the end of June, the lender had issued a total of 23.5 billion yuan of loans

for farmland cultivation, which will help foster 4.25 million mu (about 283,333 hectares) of high-standard farmland in the country.

The bank said it will continue to leverage the role of development finance to support agricultural infrastructure construction and roll out more favorable credit policies for farmland cultivation.

Founded in 1994, the CDB is designed to provide finance to major national projects and development strategies.

Outstanding loans of

COURT NOTICE

IN THE COURT OF MALIHA ALLAUDDIN SENIOR CIVIL JUDGE FAMILY COURT KOHAT. Suit no 17/FC Date of hearing 14-07-2023 Titled:- Zohib Shah Vs Pir Zubair Shah Notice against:- Pir Zubair Shah Son of Pir Dilawar Shah R/o Mohallah SP Sikander Khan Jungle Khel District Kohat presently R/o (now in Radi Mix Company Near Alfatimah Company Air Port Terminal Palnt Dubai UAE)(Defendant) Whereas the above plaintiff has instituted a family suit of Recovery of Maintenance Allowance against you defendant in which date of hearing 14-07-2023 is fixed for your appearance Since your intimation/service is not possible through ordinary means/mode therefore you defendant is intimated through this publication to appear before this court by person or by pleader on date fixed 14-07-2023 otherwise court shall be proceeded in accordance with law order Issued on 09-06-2023 (Court.of S.C.J.F.C.Kohat)

COURT NOTICE

IN THE COURT OF FAZAL GUL ADJ-IV KOHAT, Civil Suit no 2/1 Date of hearing 17-07-2023, Titled:- Muhammad Waqar Vs Umer Shahid Notice against:-Umer Shahid Son of Muhammad Zaman R/o Baqi Zai Road Shaheeda Banda Kohat presently r/o now in Saudi Arabia City Rayd Man Takasonia Industril Z o n (D e f e n d a n t) Whereas the above plaintiff has instituted a Civil Suit against you Defendant in which date of hearing 17-07-2023 is fixed for your appearance Since your intimation/service is not possible through ordinary means/mode therefore you Defendant is intimated through this publication to appear before this court by person or pleader on date fixed 17-07-2023 otherwise court shall be proceeded in accordance with law order Issued on 22-06-2023 (Court of ADJ-IV Kohat)

China’s consumer finance firms up 17.5 pct in 2022

Outstanding loans of China’s consumer finance companies stood at 834.9 billion yuan (about 115.9 billion US dollars) by the end of 2022, up 17.5 percent from a year ago, according to an industry report.

Total assets owned by these firms also rose 17.5 percent to 884.4 billion yuan at the end of last year, according to the report issued by the China Banking Association.

Consumer finance companies have managed to lower interest and commission payments while working to facilitate consumption, the report said.

In 2022, they exempted interest payments of 5.19 billion yuan and handled deferred repayment of loans worth 5.89 billion yuan, the report revealed.

Gold rates decline by Rs200 to Rs208,200

ISLAMABAD (APP): The per tola price of 24 karat gold decreased by Rs200 and was sold at Rs208,200 on Saturday against its sale at Rs208,400 previous day.

The price of 10 grams of 24 karat gold also decreased by Rs172 to Rs178,498 from Rs178,670 whereas the price of 10 grams 22 karat gold went down to Rs163,623 from Rs163,780, All Sindh Sarafa Jewellers Association reported.

The price of per tola and ten gram silver remained constant at Rs2480 and Rs2,126.20 respectively.

The price of gold in the international market increased by \$8 to \$1925 from \$1917, the association reported.

GUIYANG (APP):

Southwest China’s Guizhou Province has seen a robust expansion in the new-energy sector amid efforts to ramp up energy production and storage and promote green development, an industry report showed.

In the first quarter of this year, the industrial output of Guizhou’s new-energy battery and material sector was about 20.38 billion yuan (about 2.83 billion US dollars), according to the report from the Guizhou Institute of Industrial Development released during the ongoing two-day Eco Forum Global Guiyang

2023, scheduled until July 9 in Guiyang, capital of Guizhou Province.

The figure surged 68.7 percent year on year, according to the report. It has predicted the annual industrial output of the sector to reach 100 billion yuan in 2023.

Last year, the total industrial output of the sector in the province stood at 53.29 billion yuan, and the new-energy installed capacity exceeded 20 million kilowatts.

With its phosphorite reserve ranking third in China, Guizhou has also shored up the development

of the phosphorus chemical industry, which has played an important role in driving the growth of the new-energy battery and material sector, the report noted.

It also projected that the annual production capacity of lithium iron phosphate material will reach 1.4 million tonnes in 2025, making the overall industrial chain supply capacity the third highest across the country.

China’s central bank adds liquidity via reverse repos

China’s central bank continued to inject funds into the financial system

through open market operations Friday.

The People’s Bank of China said it conducted 2 billion yuan (about 277.57 million US dollars) of seven-day reverse repos at an interest rate of 1.9 percent.

The move is aimed at keeping liquidity reasonable and ample in the banking system, the central bank said.

A reverse repo is a process in which the central bank purchases securities from commercial banks through bidding, with an agreement to sell them back in the future.

‘Sindh youth anti-corruption conference - role of young people in promoting transparent, accountable & good governance’

Transparency International Pakistan organized seminar

F.P. Report

KARACHI: Transparency International Pakistan organized a one-day “Sindh Youth Anti-Corruption Conference on the theme – “Role of Young People in Promoting Transparent, Accountable, and Good Governance”, at a local hotel in Karachi.

The primary objective of the conference was to empower young individuals to actively participate in governance processes and promote transparency and inclusivity in their communities and the wider society.

The conference was attended by more than 130 youngsters from all over Sindh.

Diverse speakers including Justice (R) Zia Perwez, Former Judge Supreme Court of Pakistan and Chairman TI Pakistan, Mr. Kashif Ali, A. Executive Director, TI Pakistan,

Justice (R) M. Shaif Usmani, Former Judge, Sindh High Court and Board of Trustee, TI Pakistan, Ms. Nausheen Wasi, Asst. Professor of International Relation, UoK and Board of Trustee TI Pakistan, Mr. Abdul Hafeez, Siddiqui, Director Investigations, NAB Karachi, Mr. Jawaid Ahmed Khan, A. Director Prevention and Awareness NAB Karachi, Mr. Qamar Raza Baloch, Especial Secretary Sports & Youth Affairs Department, Government of Sindh, Mr. Syed Hussain Haider, Integrity Expert, UNODC Pakistan, Mr. Malheer Khan, DSP Nawabshah, Ms. Marvi Awan, Executive Director Women Protection Centre Sindh, Mr. Junaid Malik from FIA on behalf of Addl. Director Imran Riaz, Mr. Ahmed Hasan, Monitoring and Evaluation expert, UNDP SDGs Support Unit,

Dr. Muhammad Ali Shaikh, RTI Expert Former VC, SMI Karachi, Mr. Sheikh Hammad Amjad, Youth Trainer and Corporate Consultant were among the distinguished guests.

Mr. Kashif Ali A. Executive Director, TI Pakistan gave opening remarks and highlighted that engaging the youth in promotion of transparency accountability and good governance is critical because young people of today will be our leaders of tomorrow. He emphasized that TI Pakistan recognize the need to invest time and resources in training our youth on the importance of transparency, accountability and ethical leadership. He encouraged young people to use the opportunity of education, technology and social awareness, to participate in matters of governance and refrain from corrupt practices.

Ms. Nausheen Wasi, Asst. Professor of International Relation, University of Karachi and member board of trustee TI Pakistan, spoke on different types and styles of leadership, and the significance of youth engagement in fostering inclusive governance. She said that it is imperative for the younger generation to possess a thorough awareness of their rights, roles, and responsibilities before actively participating in politics.

Mr. Malheer Khan, DSP Nawabshah shared his life struggle and motivated youth to aim high and achieve their goals. He said that no one can stop a young, talented and full of potential individual to be successful who works hard for his dreams.

Mr. Hammad Amjad, Youth Trainer and Corporate Consultant led a very interactive session. He

said it’s important that every young individual is aware about their rights, constitution of Pakistan, laws and regulation.

Mr. Ahmed Hasan, Monitoring and Evaluation expert, UNDP SDGs Support Unit Sindh, spoke on “Youth-Driven Governance: Empowering Agents of Transparency and Accountability for Monitoring and Evaluation”, and emphasized on the active participation of youth for achieving the SDGs goals.

Justice (R) M. Shaif Usmani, Former Judge, Sindh High Court and Board of Trustee, TI Pakistan, in his key note speech said that youth is not represented adequately in formal political institutions and processes such as parliaments, political parties and public administrations. He said that empowering our talented youth can turn Pakistan into most

prosper nation.

Mr. Syed Hussain Haider, Integrity Expert, UNODC Pakistan urged that our young generation should not consider themselves weak. They are the leaders of today and tomorrow. He emphasized on integrity and ethical leadership and highlighted that young people must not remain voiceless and encouraged them to be the active participants in the society.

Mr. Abdul Hafeez Siddiqui, Director Investigations, NAB Karachi gave comprehensive overview of NAB efforts in the fight against corruption. He highlighted that the mission of NAB is to eliminate corruption through a comprehensive approach encompassing prevention, awareness, monitoring, and combating. He encouraged young people to practice self-integrity and play their

part in the promotion of good governance and fighting corruption.

Mr. Junaid Iqbal represented Mr. Imran Riaz, Additional Director FIA Karachi and discussed in detail the work conducted by the FIA.

He outlined the areas and mechanisms in which the FIA operates, defining its jurisdiction and briefed youth about the mechanisms which exist for the general public to reach out to FIA for registering complaints.

Ms. Marvi Awan, Executive Director Women Protection Centre Sindh said that young women face more challenges than young men. She said that almost half of our population which is women, have difficulty to have opportunities to educate themselves, to learn, to grow, to work and to earn. And with that less awareness and

education, women face greater obstacles to participate in political processes and being elected.

Mr. Qamar Raza Baloch, Special Secretary Sports & Youth Affairs Department, Government of Sindh highlighted Sindh government’s commitment towards addressing the problems faced by youth and increasing opportunities for them to utilize potential of young people.

In the closing remarks, Justice (R) Zia Perwez, Former Judge Supreme Court of Pakistan and Chairman TI Pakistan said that he hopes that all participants, as youth representatives, would be able to emerge as active citizens and actively engage in politics. He said that change starts with us. Our actions today will shape the world we inherit tomorrow and our youth can be crucial part of this change.



In brief

Sarfaraz calls on Governor

KARACHI (APP): Former Captain of Pakistan Cricket Team Sarfaraz Ahmed called on the Sindh Governor Mohammed Kamran Khan Tessori at Governor House here on Saturday. They discussed promotion of Cricket in the Sindh province. Cricket training for the youth, steps of the government on Cricket and other matters. The Governor Kamran Tessori said that the citizens of Karachi were obsessed with Cricket. He said that Pakistani youth were talented and they could perform in every field of life. Kamran Tessori said that different academies were working for the young cricketers. He said that the abilities of the young cricketers were being developed in those academies. The Governor said this metropolitan city introduced many international standard players including Mohammed brothers, Javed Miandad and others. He said that the promotion of Cricket in the city was also his mission. The Cricketer Sarfaraz Ahmed thanked the Governor for his efforts pertaining to the Cricket.

Cavendish out of tour

PARIS (Agencies): Mark Cavendish is out of the Tour de France after crashing during stage eight on Saturday. The Manxman, 38, had already said this Tour would be his last as he plans to retire at the end of the season. Widely regarded as cycling's greatest sprinter of all time, Cavendish came into this year's Tour level on 34 stage wins with Belgian legend Eddy Merckx. Jasper Philipsen denied Cavendish a record-breaking 35th stage win during stage seven on Friday. Cavendish was involved in an innocuous crash with Pello Bilbao 60km from the finish of Saturday's 200.7km transitional stage between Libourne and Limoges. He suffered a suspected broken collarbone and went into an ambulance, with his team Astana Qazaqstan confirming he was forced to abandon the race. The Tour added: "Heartbreaking for the Manx Missile." Cavendish is the fifth rider to abandon this year's Tour after Enric Mas, Richard Carapaz, Jacopo Guarnieri and Luis Leon Sanchez, with all those withdrawals due to crashes. It marks the seventh time from 14 appearances that Cavendish, who made his Tour debut in 2007, has not finished the race. After a two-year absence, and having not won a Tour stage since 2016, he returned in 2021 to win four and move level with five-time Tour winner Merckx.

David announces Man Utd exit

LONDON (Agencies): David de Gea announced Saturday he is leaving Manchester United after 12 years, saying "it's the right time to undertake a new challenge". The Spanish goalkeeper, who won the Premier League Golden Glove award for most clean sheets last season, was criticised for a number of high-profile errors in the final weeks of the campaign. His contract with United expired at the end of June, with no new deal agreed despite talks that took place throughout the season. United have been linked with a move for Inter Milan keeper Andre Onana. In a message on social media, De Gea, 32, thanked United fans for their support, but said: "Now, it's the right time to undertake a new challenge, to push myself again in new surroundings."

PM sets up high-profile committee to take call on ODI WC trip to India

ISLAMABAD (Monitoring Desk): The prime minister of Pakistan, Shehbaz Sharif, has set up a committee of ministers to help determine whether Pakistan will travel to India for the ODI World Cup in October-November 2023. The group will be headed by foreign minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari.

The committee's main task will be to make recommendations about Pakistan's travel plans to India. Based on that, the Pakistan prime minister will sign off on the country's participation.

This is a response to PCB's letter from last week to the government seeking advice on whether the team is allowed to travel to India, and, if so, if there are any reservations about any of the five venues. That letter had also asked the government if it wanted to send a security delegation to India.

Among the main points that the committee will decide upon is whether Pakistan will travel to

Ahmedabad for their third league-stage game against India on October 15. Apart from that, the committee will also make recommendations over Pakistan's tour of the other four Indian cities they are scheduled to play in.

As it stands, Pakistan play Netherlands and Sri Lanka in Hyderabad, India in Ahmedabad, Australia and New Zealand in Bengaluru, Bangladesh and England in Kolkata, and Afghanistan and South Africa in Chennai.

Apart from foreign minister Zardari, interior minister Rana Sanaullah and law and justice minister Azam Nazeer Tarar are some high-profile names on the committee. It will also consist of Ehsan ur Rehman Mazari, Maryam Aurangzeb, Asad Mehmood, Aminul Haque, Qamar Zaman Kaira, and Tariq Fatemi, the special assistant on foreign affairs to the PM.

The committee, which also includes heads of the intelligence agencies and the foreign secretary, has representation from across different political parties. That is a likely buffer against a change in government - the incumbent government has another 34 days left of its electoral term and cross-party representation on the committee is meant to ensure that decision-making is not affected by a change.

This is thought to be the first time such a high-profile committee of ministers has been set up for this purpose. Usually the PCB has consulted with the foreign ministry before travel to India, however the range of ministers in this instance is testament to the higher stakes leading up to the ODI World Cup in India. Like it is with any ICC tournament - but especially when it comes to travelling to India - Pakistan's participation is subject to government approval.



CHATTOGRAM: Fazalhaq Farooqi had Mohammad Naim chop the ball onto the stumps, Bangladesh vs Afghanistan 2nd ODI.

President Asia Rugby calls on Adviser to CM Punjab on Sports

LAHORE (APP): President of Asia Rugby Qais Abdullah Mohsin called on Adviser to Chief Minister Punjab on Sports and Youth Affairs Wahab Riaz at National Hockey Stadium on Saturday.

Various issues related to promotion of rugby in Pakistan were discussed in the meeting.

Chairman Pakistan Rugby Union (PRU) Fauzi Khawaja, President PRU Arif Saeed and Director Youth Affairs Syed Umair

Hassan were also present in the meeting.

It may be noted here that the UAE rugby team is in Lahore these days for the 2-match Asia Division One Series against Pakistan.

Speaking on this occasion Wahab Riaz said that holding of international sports competitions in Pakistan is a positive development. "We are grateful to the UAE team for visiting Pakistan for 2-match Asia Division One Series".

He further said that

effective endeavours will be made to organise more international rugby competitions in Pakistan. "We are planning to send Pakistan team for abroad for international level training and exposure," he added.

President of Asia Rugby Qais Abdullah Mohsin on this occasion said that there is immense potential for the game of rugby in Pakistan and this team will emerge as a strong outfit at international level in near future.

Imad's all-round heroics in vain as Nottingham hire crash out

TAUNTON (Agencies): Pakistan international Imad Wasim's all-round exploits in the quarter-final of the ongoing T20 Blast 2023 went in vain as his side Nottinghamshire crashed out.

Imad Wasim lit up the third quarter-final of the T20 Blast between Nottinghamshire and Somerset with his all-round exploits, scoring an unbeaten 31 before following it up with two wickets. Nottinghamshire, after opting to bat first, were reeling at 108/6 in 16 overs when Imad Wasim came to bat.

The left-handed batter baton charged Somerset bowlers with belligerent hitting and bolstered his side's total at the backend.

He smashed two boundaries and a six on his way to an unbeaten 31 and faced just 15 deliveries.

His quickfire cameo lifted Nottinghamshire to finish at 157/6 in the allotted 20 overs. Set to defend 158 to book their spot in the semi-final of the extravaganza, Nottinghamshire got off to a perfect start to the defence courtesy of a magnificent second over by Imad Wasim.

The left-arm spinner dominated Somerset batters in his first over of the spell and removed hard-hitting batters Tom Banton and Tom Kohler Cadmore and did not concede a run.

Imad Wasim, however, could not imitate the magic in his remaining overs and returned with decent figures of 2/33 in his four overs. Despite his all-round performance, Nottinghamshire succumbed to a narrow five-wicket defeat against Somerset and crashed out of the title race.

Nottinghamshire had Somerset struggling at 62/5 in the 10th over but could not contain the former champions. Somerset captain Lewis Gregory played a pivotal role in his side's triumph by scoring a brilliant half-century in the crucial run chase.

Zaka Ashraf hopeful about Pak team success in S.Lanka tour and Asia Cup

LAHORE (APP): Chairman of the Management Committee of Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) Zaka Ashraf has called the captain Babar Azam before the departure of the Pakistan team to Sri Lanka and expressed his best wishes to the entire team.

He expressed the hope that Pak team will live up to the expectations during the tour of Sri Lanka and Asia

Cup as well by performing to a high level to attain success. He asked Babar Azam to convey his best wishes to every team member.

Zaka Ashraf said: "It is expected that the team will achieve success for Pakistan in the tour of Sri Lanka and the Asia Cup."

On this occasion, Babar Azam congratulated Zaka Ashraf on assuming the post of chairman Management Committee

and said that Pakistan had won the Asia Cup in his previous tenure as well, God willing, he will bring the Asia Cup to Pakistan this time too.

Pak cricket captain said that Pakistan will leave no stone unturned to take the team higher, will enter the field with full energy for the sake of Pakistan.

Pak team in the tour of Sri Lanka will play two test match series.

U16 team named for Asian Volleyball Championship

PESHAWAR (APP): Pakistan U16 Volleyball team named for the two forthcoming international events including Asian U16 Volleyball Championship and CAVA International Volleyball Tournament to be played in the capital city Tashkent, Uzbekistan from July 12-30, 2023.

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

President Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Volleyball Association DIG Ijaz Khan and Secretary and former national team coach Khalid Waqar congratulated the players for the selection in the National team for two vital international events to be played in Tashkent, Uzbekistan.

The 10 players and a coach Liaq Zaman are hailing from Bannu. The Principal of the Government Higher Secondary School Amandi Umar Khan Saif-ur-

Rehman, SIPE Shoukat Mehmood and Syed Asad Ullah Khan lauded the efforts of Khalid Waqar and coach Liaq Zaman for his efforts with the players of Bannu Amin Jan, Asad Khan. The other players included Ajmal Khan, Muhtad, Awais Khan, Asad Khan, Anas, Hassan, Ismail Khan, Yahya Khan, Amin Jan, Talal, Farooq and Khizar.

Khalid Waqar while talking to APP disclosed that the team would leave for Tashkent, the capital city of Uzbekistan, on July 9, 2023 for the two International Volleyball events including the Asian U16 Volleyball Championship and CAVA International Volleyball Tournament.

He expressed his satisfaction over the selection of 10 players and a coach out of the 12 members' team announced by the Pakistan Volleyball Federation. He said similarly in the Pakistan National Senior team we have 10 players out of 12 members in the team and the captain of the team is also hailing from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

He said, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Volleyball

Association, always believed in promoting Club volleyball and involved players from different villages that is why talent at the grassroots level came up to the national teams, including National Senior, National Junior, Women Senior and Junior teams and Age Group National teams. He also appreciated the President KP Volleyball Association DIG Ijaz Khan for ensuring all out facilities to the players during various events, either at Club, Inter-Provincial and National levels.

Khalid Waqar also lauded the efforts of the newly appointed Director General Sports KP (Retd) Khalid Mehmood. He said Pakistan Volleyball Federation is mainly focusing on the promotion of volleyball at the grassroots level that is why holding many events at the Club and Junior level. He said sending teams to the Asian Championship and CAVA International Volleyball Tournament would provide much needed international exposure to the players. Khalid Waqas expressed the hope that the team would give good results in both the international events.

Djokovic beats Wawrinka, curfew as Murray hints Wimbledon days over

LONDON (AFP/APP): Novak Djokovic made the Wimbledon fourth round for the 15th time on Friday, beating old rival Stan Wawrinka and a night-time curfew as Andy Murray hinted his All England Club days may be over.

Djokovic, chasing a record-equaling eighth Wimbledon title and 24th career Grand Slam crown, came through 6-3, 6-1, 7-6 (7/5) against the 38-year-old Wawrinka.

World number two Djokovic will face Poland's Hubert Hurkacz, who he has defeated five times in as many meetings, for a place in the quarter-finals.

Friday's win was Djokovic's 21st in 27 meetings with Wawrinka, a three-time major champion who famously defeated the Serb in the 2015 French Open and 2016 US Open finals. Djokovic never faced a break point under the Centre Court roof and completed victory just 15 minutes before the 11pm All England Club curfew kicked in otherwise they would have had to return on Saturday.

"Stan's doing an amazing job for his age -- we are two old guys," said 36-year-old Djokovic who went level with Pete Sampras's mark of 31 successive wins at the tournament. "We've had great battles over the years. I respect him as a player and love him as a person. He's a really nice guy."

Djokovic's win kept him on course for a championship match showdown with world number one and US Open champion Carlos Alcaraz who defeated 84th-ranked Alexandre Muller of France 6-4, 7-6 (7/2), 6-3. The 20-year-old Alcaraz will face Chile's Nicolas Jarry for a spot in the last 16.

Murray admitted he doesn't know if he will be back at Wimbledon after going down 7-6 (7/3), 6-7 (2/7), 4-6, 7-6 (7/3), 6-4 to fifth-ranked Stefanos Tsitsipas in a four-hour 40-minute second round epic.

The 36-year-old has not made the second week of a Grand Slam since reaching the quarter-finals at Wimbledon in 2017.

"I don't know," said former world number one Murray when asked if he would be back in 2024.

"Motivation is obviously a big thing. Continuing having early losses in tournaments like this don't necessarily help with that."

Tsitispas fired 90 winners past Murray and goes on to face Laslo Djere of Serbia for a place in the last 16. "It's never easy against Andy. Everyone loves him here," said the 24-year-old Greek. Murray had been ahead two sets to one when the match was halted on Thursday due to the tournament curfew.

However, he was unable to maintain the momentum on Friday despite not dropping serve in the match until the third game of the decider.

Medvedev, Rune through - Men's third seed Daniil Medvedev returned to complete his second-round clash against Adrian Mannarino, the Frenchman who defeated him at Wimbledon five years ago.

The mercurial Russian was two sets and 4-4 ahead when play was halted on day four but quickly wrapped up victory in a third set tie-break. Danish sixth seed Holger Rune reached the third round for the first time, brushing aside Spain's Roberto Carballes Baena 6-3, 7-6 (7/3), 6-4.

Seventh seeded Andy

Rublev of Russia and Italian eighth-seed Jannik Sinner made the last 16 with wins over David Goffin and Quentin Halys respectively.

World number one Iga Swiatek, the US Open and French Open champion, went through to the last 16 with a 6-2, 7-5 win over Petra Martic and next faces 14th-ranked Belinda Bencic. Victory in that clash will give the 22-year-old Pole a place in the quarter-finals for the first time.

- Ukraine v Belarus - Second seed Aryna Sabalenka recovered from a set down to beat Varvara Gracheva, who recently switched nationality from Russia to France, 2-6, 7-5, 6-2. Fifth-seeded Caroline Garcia became the fourth top 10 woman to be knocked out when she committed 53 unforced errors in a 7-6 (7/0), 4-6, 7-5 loss to Marie Bouzkova of the Czech Republic.

Victoria Azarenka, twice a semi-finalist, made the last 16 when she brushed aside Russia's Daria Kasatkina. She will face Elina Svitolina who will again refuse to shake hands with her Belarusian rival in protest at the country's support of Russia in the invasion of Ukraine.

"For me it's a big motivation for my country as well. A lot of Ukrainians will be watching, will be supporting me. I will go out there and put the fighting spirit on," said Svitolina.

Fellow Ukrainian Lesia Tsurenko triumphed in the longest-ever tiebreak in a Grand Slam women's singles match. The deciding breaker stretched to a record 38 points as the 34-year-old defeated Ana Bogdan 4-6, 6-3, 7-6 (20/18) having saved five match points and converting a seventh match point of her own.

Gilgit-Baltistan B upset Chitral B in a thrilling encounter in Shandur Polo

CHITRAL (APP): Gilgit Baltistan B team handed an upsetting defeat to Chitral B team in a thrilling encounter witnessed by hundreds and thousands of cheering spectators present on this occasion on the second day of the Shandur Polo Festival on Saturday.

DG Gilgit-Baltistan Scouts Arslan Asrar Mirza opened the match by throwing the ball, followed by the two teams raided on each other's defence with some out busted horses. The riders exhibited their classes in a free for all match without rules, throwing the full force balls from one end to the others.

Gilgit-Baltistan team defeated Chitral Body Guard team by five goals to two goals. The closing ceremony of the festival will be held on Sunday. As usual, the teams of Chitral and Gilgit-Baltistan will compete in the match's awaited final with a good supportive crowd also turned up from both Chitral and Gilgit-Baltistan.

A large number of tourists came to enjoy the festival. The three-day Shandur Polo Festival continued for the second day amid joy and jubilation,

with a large number of local and international tourists thronging to the scenic Chitral area to witness the Polo matches played on the highest altitude Polo ground famous as the world rooftop.

The second day's festivities were inaugurated by Brigadier Arsalan Israr Mirza, Director General GB scouts, who threw the Polo ball to start the match. Secretary of Tourism Sohail Khan was also present on the occasion.

A significant number of local and foreign tourists arrived in Shandur to see the Polo matches. The festival was jointly organized by Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Culture and Tourism Authority, Pakistan Army, Frontier Corps, and the district administration.

All the necessary arrangements have been made to facilitate and assist tourists. Tourism police and guides have also been deployed to assist tourists, and adequate accommodation facilities have been ensured for visitors.

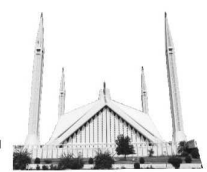
Camping pods have been installed and are available for tourists, while the helpline of the tourism authority is also operational. Various colorful

programs, including paragliding, food stalls, and traditional dances, have also been arranged on the second day of the festival. Stalls have also been established to highlight and promote the artwork of Chitral and Gilgit local artists and skilled people.

In the evening, a Chitral cultural night was organized in which various local artists sang traditional and cultural songs to entertain the audience and promote the rich culture of the area. It is worth mentioning that the Shandur Polo ground is situated at a level 3800m height known as the "Roof of the World," and the King Game has been held annually since 1936.

The KPCTA has made all arrangements to hold the festival in a befitting manner and attract domestic and foreign tourists to witness the beauty of the scenic region and traditional games. On the second day, a match was played between Gilgit B team and Chitral B team, with Gilgit B winning 5-2 in a thrilling match.

Brigadier Arsalan Israr, Director General GB scouts and DIG Naisr Satti distributed gifts, cash prizes, and the trophy to the winning team.



In brief

Zero load management being carried

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Islamabad Electric Supply Company (IESCO) on Saturday said that zero load management was being carried out across the Company's regions owing to the availability of the required electricity quota from the national grid system. In a statement issued here, the spokesman of the Company said that as many as 170 MW of electricity was being supplied to IESCO against the current demand of 1705 MW. He said that operation staff was available in their respective fields to address individual complaints. The consumers can lodge their complaints at helpline 118 or phone number 051-9252933, he told.

Man held for killing woman

RAWALPINDI (APP): Police have arrested a man who had shot and killed an elderly woman in the jurisdiction of Rata Amaral police station here on Saturday. According to police spokesman, the victim's son filed an application in Rata Amaral police station that Arslan Khan along with his accomplices opened fire at Qasim. Resultantly, my mother was standing terrace of house was killed by firing. Rata Amaral police registered a case of the incident and arrested the accused Arslan Khan. Further probe was underway.

11 illegal arm holders held

RAWALPINDI (APP): Police have arrested 11 illegal arm holders, liquor supplier and recovered arms, ammunition from their possession during crackdown here on Saturday. According to police spokesman, Kahuta police held two arm holders Afzal, Bilal and recovered 02 pistol of 30 bore from their possession and 05 liters of liquor from Muhammad Saeed. Similarly, Kallar Syedan Police recovered 01 pistol of 30 bore from Umar while City police recovered 01 pistol of 30 bore from Umar Khan. Following operation, Morgah police recovered knife from Rehmanullah and also recovered a knife from Waris. Sadiqabad police recovered netted Farhan and recovered 10 liters of liquor from his possession. Taxila police recovered 03 liters of liquor from Chenzeb and Abdullah. Rata Amaral police recovered 500 grams of charas from Umair. Police have registered separate cases against the accused and further investigation was in progress. SSP Operations Captain (ret'd) Muhammad Amir Khan Niazi appreciated the performance of police teams said that strict action will be taken against such elements and operation will be accelerated without any discrimination.

Bike lifter gang arrested

ISLAMABAD (NNI): Islamabad capital police Shalimar police team apprehended two members of "Shooter bike lifter Gang" involved in a series of bike lifting incidents in various areas of the city and recovered three stolen motorbikes from their possession, a police public relations officer said. He said that, following the special directions of ICCPO Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan, the Islamabad capital police had started a crackdown against criminal elements involved in car and bike lifting incidents in order to save the precious lives and property of citizens. The Shalimar police team used technical and human resources and succeeded in apprehending two wanted members of a bike lifter gang.

Sheikh Rashid sees public support a must to sort out economic mess

RAWALPINDI (NNI): Awami Muslim League (AML) Chief Sheikh Rashid Ahmed said on Saturday economic issues being faced by the country could not be resolved without the public support.

Taking to Twitter, he slammed the government for celebrating the loan deed with the International Monetary Fund (IMF), saying it was the public who would repay the debts.

The former interior minister said the IMF team was holding meetings with major political parties to seek assurances on various matters, including giving

right to vote to people. He called the \$3 billion standby agreement with the IMF a "temporary relief" that would not assuage the situation for public.

Pakistan had to repay \$91 billion dollars in three years and \$11 billion by December this year, he said, but lamented that the growth rate, exports and remittances of the country saw no growth. Mr Ahmed also saw next nine months tough for caretaker setup and new government.

The former minister said friendly countries had called for political stability in Pakistan in order to bring

economic stability. He warned of default if the government failed to secure the rescheduling of debts on time.

"It is not an easy task to run the country amid prevailing economic and political situation," he said, adding that there was no relief for the public.

He said a democratic setup collapsed where constitution and law were violated, court orders defied and people abducted from their houses. In such a situation, people were left with no option but to snatch their rights by risking their lives, he said.

ANF calls for increased awareness, collective effort to save youngsters

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Anti Narcotics Task Force (ANTF) Saturday called upon the entire society to play its role in making the collective efforts successful through intensive mass awareness and prevention measures to save the new generation from becoming drug addicts.

The youth should focus on their studies in universities and colleges, keep an eye on their surroundings and inform ANF force in case of observing any suspicious activity, Director

Enforcement ANF Brigadier Rashid said while talking to PTV News channel.

An Anti-narcotics Unit has also been established to help crack down on drug peddlers, he said, adding, there was need for creating awareness among youth against the use of drugs that were now easily accessible to prepubescent children.

Around 66 percent of young population was the wealth of any nation and can play a significant part in the reduction of the menace currently faced by the

nation, he added.

He further appealed to the parents, teachers and scholars to keep a strict check on the activities of youngster to ensure a bright, secure and narcotics-free future for them.

Member Provincial Narcotics Control Committee, Akmal Owais Pirzada believed that Pakistan's goal to become a drug-free society can be achieved through creating awareness at the grassroots level against the deadly addiction.

Rich woman goes berserk in Islamabad road rage incident

ISLAMABAD (NNI): Without demonstrating any remorse or qualms, a wealthy and influential woman damaged the car of a doctor by hitting it with her vehicle multiple times in Swan Gardens in Islamabad.

Quite often it happens in a poor country like ours that wealthy people regard themselves as demi gods who see themselves above the law. One such example of utter disregard for the country's law was seen in

the vicinity of Lohi Bhai police station when a wealthy woman coming from wrong side smashed the car of a doctor.

But it was strange that the crazy woman did not stop here, rather she continued hitting the car of the doctor. The doctor got off his car and tried to stop the lady. But she didn't listen to him. She even injured him by running her car tyre over his foot.

Seeing the situation, the security guards at Swan

Gardens stopped the lady by pointing gun at her. Then they informed the police. Once at the police station, the lady apologized to the doctor who accepted her apology. The doctor said that he forgave the lady because she was an influential woman and he could not pursue the case.

The residents of the area said that the woman quite often behaved wantonly and the police had never taken any action against her.

IPP to approach ECP for registration next week: Firdous

ISLAMABAD (NNI): Istehkam-e-Pakistan Party (IPP) Secretary Information Dr. Firdous Ashiq Awan said on Saturday that the party was preparing a roadmap for the future of the country's youth.

Addressing a press conference in Islamabad, she said that the party would approach the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) for its registration next week.

She accused the Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf (PTI) leaders of poisoning the youth against the state institutions. "Development of the country is included in our party's manifesto," she said, and added that she would present the manifesto next week.

Firdous was of the view that political and economic instability were the country's biggest challenges.

IRSA releases 304,000 cusecs water

ISLAMABAD (APP): Indus River System Authority (IRSA) on Saturday released 304,000 cusecs water from various rim stations with inflow of 410,7700 cusecs.

According to the data released by IRSA, water level in River Indus at Tarbela Dam was 1517.19 feet and was 119.19 feet higher than its dead level of 1,398 feet. Water inflow and outflow in the dam was recorded as 220,400 cusecs and 170,000 cusecs respectively.

The water level in River Jhelum at Mangla Dam was 1191.40 feet, which was 141.40 feet higher than its dead level of 1,050 feet. The inflow and outflow of water was recorded 66,300 cusecs and 10,000 cusecs respectively.

The release of water at Kalabagh, Taunsa, Guddu and Sukkur was recorded as 244,200, 186,800, 147,800 and 82,000 cusecs respectively. Similarly, from River Kabul, a total of 64,600 cusecs of water released at Nowshera and 38,300 cusecs released from River Chenab at Marala.



RAWALPINDI: Worker waiting for clients at Pirwadhai Sabzi Mandi. —APP Photo

PTI leadership running away from accountability, says Qamar Zaman Kaira

ISLAMABAD (APP): Advisor to Prime Minister on Kashmir Affairs Qamar Zaman Kaira Saturday while criticizing the opposition party said that PTI has "died on its own" before making any gains and its leadership was running away from accountability.

"Imran Khan was harming not only the country but also national institutions by spreading hatred for the sake of power", he said while talking to a private news channel.

He said Imran Khan used state institutions including NAB to target his

opponents in the last four year's government.

Replying to a query, he hailed that since Bilawal Bhutto Zardari took over Foreign Ministry, he has been quite active on the international front, promoting Pakistan's relations with all the countries, adding, Pakistan's foreign policy has become quite active since the last one year.

He said that Pakistan is working on a policy to maintain balanced relations with all other countries.

To another query, he answered that PTI workers and goons had violated

human rights on May 9, violated the constitution and law and order in the country on the direction of their leadership.

The leaders leaving the PTI have no pressure to leave the party as they have realized the reality behind the dirty politics of Imran Khan, he added.

He also expressed confidence that People's Party will win the upcoming general elections, adding, we are not afraid of elections, People's Party is ready for elections. We will defeat our political opponents with the power of public vote.

Anti-India rally held in Islamabad on Burhan Wani's martyrdom anniversary

ISLAMABAD (INP): The All Parties Hurriyat Conference Azad Jammu and Pakistan Kashmir (APHC-AJK) chapter and Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Commission of AJK government organized a rally in Islamabad, today, on the occasion of the martyrdom anniversary of popular Kashmiri youth leader, Burhan Muzaffar Wani.

The rally held outside the Indian High Commission in Islamabad was led by APHC-AJK General Secretary Sheikh Abdul Mateen and AJK minister Javed Ahmed Butt. The participants carrying placards, posters and banners with the picture of Burhan Wani raised high-pitched slogans against India and in favour of Kashmir's freedom from the Indian illegal occupation.

Addressing on the occasion, the speakers said that Burhan Wani not only shook the edifice of more than decades-old Indian

occupation of Jammu and Kashmir but also gave a new spark to the Kashmir freedom movement. They said that the participation of tens of thousands of people in his funeral prayers was a manifestation of the Kashmiris' love and affection for him and hatred against India.

The speakers said that the martyrdom of Burhan Muzaffar Wani on July 08, 2019, had triggered mass uprising in IIOJK, showing the indigenous character of the Kashmir freedom movement. They said during this popular agitation, Indian soldiers killed more than 150 Kashmiris and blinded hundreds of others with pellets. They said the Indian troops have been subjecting the people of the occupied territory to the worst atrocities for the past over seven decades but the morale of Kashmiris is high and they are determined to continue their struggle till

the mission of Burhan Wani and other martyrs is accomplished.

The speakers expressed concern over the plight of illegally detained APHC leaders, activists and ordinary Kashmiris and demanded their immediate release. They appealed to the international community to take cognizance of the Indian state terrorism in IIOJK and impress upon New Delhi to resolve the Kashmir dispute by giving the Kashmiris their right to self-determination.

The speakers included Sheikh Abdul Mateen, Javed Butt, Director of Liberation Commission Raja Khan Afsar Khan, Muhammad Farooq Rehmani, Imtiaz Wani, Sardar Najeelul Ghafoor Khan, Mushtaq Butt, Manzoor Shah, Gulshan Ahmed, Rafiq Dar, Saleem Haroon, Bashir Usmani, Majid Sharif, Raja Asif and Sardar Azim Sarwar.

24 outlaws arrested; drugs and weapons recovered

ISLAMABAD (NNI): Islamabad capital police apprehended 24 outlaws from different areas of the city and recovered drugs and weapons with ammunition from their possession, a police public relations officer said.

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

Following these directives, the Aabpara police team arrested a bootlegger namely Nabeel Masih and recovered 30 liters of alcohol from his possession, while police team also arrested accused namely Razzaq Masih involved in illegally gas refilling. The Secretariat police team arrested an accused namely Noman Gul involved in illegally selling petrol. The Karachi Company police team arrested four accused namely Sheraz Ejaz, Waris Masih, Pervez Masih and Qaiser Masih involved in illegally

refilling gas cylinders. Golra police team arrested three drug peddlers namely Sardar Wali, Muhammad Yousaf and Muhammad Yasir Imtiaz and recovered 1585 gram heroin from their possession.

Likewise, the Sangjani police team arrested the accused namely Naveed Khan and recovered 1285 gram heroin from his possession. The Sumbal police team arrested a drug peddler namely Hussain Ullah and recovered 2260 gram hashish and 2100 gram heroin from his possession. Sabzi Mandi police team arrested an accused namely Fahim Khan and recovered one 30 bore pistol with ammunition from his possession. Noon police team arrested accused namely Naveed Akhtar and recovered one 30 bore pistol with ammunition from his possession, while police team also arrested two accused namely Junaid Ullah and Muhammad Ismail involved in illegally refilling gas cylinders.

Furthermore, Khanna police arrested two accused namely Faheem Awais and Ali Raza involved in illegally refilling gas cylinders. The

Kirpa police team arrested the accused namely Gulfaam Khan and recovered one dagger from his possession. Sihala police team arrested a drug peddler namely Shahzad and recovered 125 gram heroin from his possession. The Lohi Bher police team arrested three accused namely Adris Khan, Shahzad and Kashif and recovered three pistols with ammunition from their possession. The Nilore police team arrested an accused namely Zameer Ahmed and recovered one Kalashnikov rifle from his possession.

Cases have been registered against the nabbed accused and further investigation is underway. CPO/DIG Operations Islamabad directed all senior officials for effective crackdown against the accused involved in drug peddling and possessing illegal weapons and said that the safety of the lives and property of the citizens is our prime responsibility. The performance of police officials in this regard would be reviewed on a continuous basis, he maintained.

No evidence of torture or abuse of women prisoners found in May 9 incident

ISLAMABAD (APP): A meeting was held under the Chair of Mian Riaz Hussain Pirzada, Federal Minister for Human Rights in the Ministry of Human Rights.

The meeting was attended by senior officers from Federal and Provincial Governments including representatives of Prisons and Home Departments, Islamabad Police, and Ministry of Human Rights.

The Chairpersons of National Commission for Human Rights (NCHR) and National Commission on the Status of Women (NCSW) also attended the meeting. The Chair welcomed the participants and highlighted initiatives of the Ministry of Human

Rights for the protection and promotion of the rights of prisoners across the country, including effective coordination, as well as training, sensitization and capacity building of prisons authorities, with a view to improve human rights situation in prisons.

He also urged the stakeholders to undertake special measures concerning the protection of minorities' rights particularly on religious festivals in line with national and international commitments and careful application of 4th Schedule under the Anti Terrorism Act, 1997, besides setting up rehabilitation centers for drug addicts.

The Chairperson, NCHR

Ms. Rabiya Javeri Agha informed that the Commission, which is an independent statutory body, had taken cognizance of some allegations on the media regarding the violation of human rights of some women prisoners in the wake of the events of May 9.

She informed that the Commission, led by herself and accompanied by the representatives of the Human Rights Commission of Pakistan and the Justice Project visited a number of prisons, interviewed many prisoners and reviewed other evidence.

She informed that the report of the Commission has been finalized and no evidence of mistreatment,

torture or sexual abuse of women protesters was found by these independent observers. The team, however, found some gaps in procedure and some systemic issues in these arrests and prisons.

While sharing the findings of the report, she highlighted recommendations for improvement in the system of Prisons Administration. She informed that some prisoners complained about the use of excessive police force or verbal abuse of family members at the time of arrests.

She said that some of the prisoners were not aware of their rights. She also expressed doubts about the

efficiency of the oversight committees established to ensure outside review of the prison conditions.

The Minister for Human Rights appreciated the Commission for taking cognizance of the issue and directed that the report of the Commission may also be shared with all the provincial governments so that they may initiate requisite policy reforms.

He also stressed the need for making the oversight committees more effective.

The Chairperson, NCSW, Ms. Nelfor Bakhtiar stressed the need for improvement of the system of prisons particularly for women inmates. She said that separate cells for

women prisoners were required in Gilgit-Baltistan and Azad Jammu and Kashmir. She also emphasized proper food and nutrition arrangements for pregnant women and mothers with infants in custody.

Representatives of all four provincial governments informed that the rights of all the persons arrested after the May 9 incidents are fully protected under the law and it is being ensured that all the arrested persons are produced before the court according to law. They informed that a majority of those arrested have either been discharged or released on bail and only a very small number remain in

custody. In his concluding remarks, the Minister for Human Rights said that prison reforms are an important part of the Human Rights agenda of the government.

He said that the government and society need to work together to improve the Human Rights situation. He emphasized the need for the protection of the rights of Minorities and to ameliorate the lot of drug addicts by setting up rehabilitation centers in the public sector.

He said that the provincial governments also need to make policies to encourage the setting up of rehabilitation centers by the private sector.



WEST BANK: People carrying coffins of two Palestinians for burial, killed during clash with Israeli forces in Nablus.

Reduction of 28.5% in weekly inflation lowest since Oct 2022

F.P. Report

KARACHI: A reduction of 28.55 percent in weekly inflation, lowest since 2022 has been witnessed as food and energy prices moderated. As per the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) data, the sensitive price indicator (SPI) went up 0.70% week-on-week and 28.55% year-on-year.

The PBS attributed the current level of SPI to an increase in food prices, including tomatoes (42.25%), onions (8.70%), potatoes (4.79%), wheat flour (4.05%), gur (4.01%) and sugar (3.48%), and non-food items, including shirting (3.02%) and diesel (2.95%).

Meanwhile, a major decrease was observed in the prices of bananas (7.51%), chicken (2.80%), eggs (1.17%), LPG (0.96%), vegetable ghee 2.5kg (0.74%), cooking oil 5 litre (0.72%), vegetable ghee 1kg (0.71%), pulse masoor (0.47%), pulse moong (0.31%) and pulse gram (0.24%).

Taking to its official Twitter handle Topline Securities — a brokerage firm based in Pakistan — said, “Pakistan’s weekly inflation (SPI) has dropped to 29 percent for the week ending July 6, 2023, which is the lowest since October 20, 2022.” During the week ending October 20, 2022, Pakistan’s annualised inflation stood at 27.13%. Since that month, inflation has remained above 28%.

Analysts have concluded that inflation has peaked and is now moderating. For the week under review, SPI was recorded at 257.79 points against 256 points registered last week and 200.53 points recorded dur-

ing the week ending July 6, 2023. Fahad Rauf, head of research at Ismail Iqbal Securities, said that SPI went up mainly due to food inflation — particularly higher wheat flour and milk prices.

“The government is looking to import wheat to meet demand and bring down the prices,” he said, adding that the prices of perishables, mainly tomatoes, increased because of Eid ul Adha. PBS compiles SPI via collecting prices of 51 essential items from 50 markets in 17 cities of the country. During the week, out of 51 items, prices of 27 items (47.06%) increased, 10 (19.62%) items decreased and prices of 17 (33.33%) items remained unchanged.

Different weightage is assigned to various commodities in the SPI basket. Commodities with the highest weights for the lowest quintile include milk (17.5449%), electricity (8.3627%), wheat flour (6.1372%), sugar (5.1148%), firewood (5.0183%), long cloth (4.2221%), and vegetable ghee (3.2833%). Of these commodities, the price of milk, wheat flour, sugar, and long cloth went up; vegetable ghee decreased, whereas prices of electricity and firewood remained unchanged.

The price of a 20kg wheat flour bag now stands at Rs2,746.36, which is up from Rs2,639.51 per bag in the week before Eid. PBS did not issue data during the week ending June 29, 2023, due to Eid ul Adha holidays. Residents of Karachi are paying the most for a wheat flour bag, which is sold for anywhere between Rs150-190 per kg in different markets of the city.

Although the official data shows the average price in the city at Rs2,957.16, it is higher by Rs210.80 from the national average. During the week ending June 22, 2023, the average price of a 20kg bag was Rs2,639.51, while in the preceding week, the price was Rs2,514.99. A retail shop owner in Karachi said he was selling wheat flour for Rs160-170 per kg, depending on the quality.

“If someone is selling wheat flour for more than Rs170, they are stealing from the customers,” he said. A city-wise breakdown of the PBS price statistics showed that last week, the commodity proved to be the most expensive for Islamabad after Karachi, at Rs2,933.29 per bag. Among other cities, from the highest price to lowest, Rawalpindi residents paid Rs2,924.41 per bag; Hyderabad residents paid Rs2,879.98; Sialkot Rs2,800; Sukkur Rs2,760.60; Gujranwala and Sargodha Rs2,733; Lahore Rs2,730.84; Larkana Rs2,726; Peshawar Rs2,720.80; Multan Rs2,704.86; Quetta Rs2,689.99; Faisalabad Rs2,632.91; Khuzdar and Bahawalpur Rs2,600; and Bannu residents paid Rs2,599.68, which was the lowest in all 17 urban centres.

The YoY trend depicts an increase of 28.55%, on account of rising prices of wheat flour (121.69%), cigarettes (112.94%), gas charges for Q1 (108.38%), tea (102.86%), broken basmati rice (77.40%), rice irri-6/9 (74.61%), potatoes (69.06%), chicken (63.22%), gents sponge chappal (58.05%), powdered salt (51.61%), sugar (50.08%), bananas (48.96%) and bread (46.86%).

Parvaiz Elahi files plea for ‘better prison facilities’

LAHORE (Agencies): The former Punjab chief minister Parvaiz Elahi on Saturday filed an application seeking ‘better class’ in prison facilities. According to the details, advocate Amir Saeed filed a petition on behalf of Parvaiz Elahi, seeking better facilities in prison for the former Punjab chief minister.

Earlier, on the court’s order, Parvaiz Elahi was provided with first-class accommodations and other facilities. However, the jail authorities have subsequently withdrawn all the granted privileges. The petition asserts that Elahi’s rights are being violated and urges the court to intervene. The request presented to the court emphasizes the need to reinstate the facilities that were previously provided, including the provision of home-cooked food. Additionally, the petition seeks the court’s intervention in ensuring access to necessary medicines and treatment facilities for Parvaiz Elahi.

Gastro claims three lives in Khuzdar

QUETTA (INP): At least three persons including two women and a child died of the gastro outbreak in the remote area of Khuzdar district of Balochistan, claimed local people of the affected district.

As per area people, two women including Bibi Ganj-35 Bibi Shah-25 and a child namely Noor aged 4 died of gastro in Dasht area of Khuzdar’s Wadh arenji Tehsil during two days. A large number of patients with vomiting and motion complaints are being rushed to the district headquarters hospital and basic health units. However, on account of the limited resources available, patients did not get treated properly.

The scorching wave of heat, lack of basic facilities and contaminated water in the far-flung areas of the province are the main reason of the outbreak of epidemics all the time. “No health team has so far visited the affected areas, despite the surface of the several cases of the epidemic. “The death toll may rise, if the health teams did not reach the affected areas,” they feared, urging the health authorities mainly the Secretary health to immediately take notice of the issue that claimed several lives in the last couple of days.

Court orders release of 23 TLP workers

LAHORE (Agencies): An anti-terrorism court (ATC) in Lahore on Saturday ordered the release of 23 Tehreek-e-Labbai Pakistan (TLP) activists after the prosecution failed to prove their involvement in rioting and arson.

Asri Chaudhary, Muhsin Raza and SK Hayat Advocate represented suspects in the case against whom a case was registered at Chung police station of Lahore in 2021. Those who were released included Talib Beg, Ibrar, Kamran, Abdus Sattar, Abdul Ghani and Amjad.

PM phones Tareen

ISLAMABAD (Agencies): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Saturday telephoned Isteqdam-e-Pakistan Party Patron-in-Chief Jahangir Khan Tareen and condoled over the death of his brother, who committed suicide on Thursday last.

During the conversation, PM Shehbaz Sharif expressed his condolences to Jahangir Tareen. He prayed for the deceased and patience for the grieved family. Prime minister’s son Suleman Shehbaz also expressed his condolences with Jahangir Tareen on the death of his brother. Alamgir Khan Tareen owner of the Pakistan Super League (PSL) franchise Multan Sultans, had committed suicide on Thursday last.

Tareen’s brother shot himself in the head with a pistol at his residence located in the Gulberg area of Lahore. Punjab Chief Minister Syed Mohsin Raza Naqvi also visited the residence of Jahangir Khan Tareen and condoled the death of his brother.

Paris memorial march banned as fresh protests planned

PARIS (Agencies): Authorities in France have banned a planned protest against police violence, a week after the country was rocked by riots sparked by the killing of a teenager in a suburb of the French capital. The court ban on the memorial rally came on Saturday even as dozens of marches against police violence in France have been announced across the country.

Saturday’s protest was called by the family of Adama Traore, a Black Frenchman who died in police custody in 2016 in circumstances similar to the killing of George Floyd in the United States. Traore’s older sister, Assa Traore, had planned to lead the commemorative march north of Paris. But a Paris police spokesperson said the planned demonstration had been banned over risks to public order, citing a “context of tensions” after the recent unrest on French streets.

In a video posted on Twitter, Traore’s sister confirmed that following the

court order “there will be no march in Beaumont-sur-Oise”. “The government has decided to add fuel to the fire [and] not to respect the death of my little brother,” she said in the video. Instead of the planned event, she said she would attend a rally on Saturday afternoon in central Paris’s Place de la Republique to tell “the whole world that our dead have the right to exist, even in death”.

However, this “march for justice” will also be banned, according to the Paris police headquarters. Around 30 similar demonstrations against police violence are scheduled across France this weekend, including in the cities of Lille, Marseille, Nantes and Strasbourg. Politicians including President Emmanuel Macron and the French authorities have denied institutional racism within the country’s law enforcement agencies.

The French police have come under scrutiny after the June 27 fatal shooting by a police officer of Nahel M at a traffic stop. The 17-

year-old of Algerian and Moroccan origin was driving a sports car without a licence. Since the shooting, rights groups have called on the police to address allegations of racial profiling and questions over recruitment and training.

The United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD) — a body of 18 independent experts — on Friday asked France to pass legislation defining and banning racial profiling and questioned “excessive use of force by law enforcement”. The CERD said it was concerned by “the persistent practice of racial profiling combined with the excessive use of force in the application of the law, in particular by the police, against members of minority groups, notably people of African and Arab origin”. More than 3,700 people have been taken into police custody in connection with the protests since Nahel’s death, including at least 1,160 minors, according to official figures.

Iran publicly executes two over shrine attack

TEHRAN (Agencies): Iran has publicly executed two people over a deadly attack on a shrine in southern Shiraz last year that was claimed by the ISIL (ISIS) armed group. The two men, identified as Mohammed Ramez Rashidi and Naem Hashem Qatali, were hanged in the early hours of Saturday after the Supreme Court confirmed their sentences, according to the official news outlet of the judiciary.

The Shah Cheragh Shrine in the province of Fars, one of the most important shrines in Shia Islam, was attacked on October 26, 2022. Clips from security cameras released at the time showed a lone gunman entering the shrine with an automatic rifle. After opening fire and making his way to the main compound, he shot a group of pilgrims and staff. Authorities initially said 15 people were killed, but that number was revised to 13, with 40 people injured. The gunman, who officials said was from Tajikistan, was killed after security forces

intervened.

ISIL released a video through its Amaq News Agency and accepted responsibility for the attack. The group had also been responsible for coordinated 2017 attacks on the Iranian parliament and the mausoleum of former Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini in Tehran. Iranian authorities arrested several people for allegedly providing support to the shrine shooter.

The two men who were executed were said to have been in contact with ISIL operatives in neighbouring Afghanistan, provided the gunman with the rifle and took him to the site of the shooting. Three other men were tried and received prison sentences over the attack. A man identified as Mohammad Rahmani, said to be a leading ISIL operative in Tehran, was given a 25-year sentence. Mostafa Jan Amani received a 15-year sentence for supporting the armed group while Hamidollah Kaboli was given a five-year sentence, the judiciary said.

The assault on the shrine came as Iran was rocked by nationwide protests that started in September 2022 following the death in custody of 22-year-old Mahsa Amini, who was arrested for alleged non-compliance with the country’s mandatory dress code for women. It took place 40 days after Amini’s death, when thousands had gathered to mark the occasion in her hometown in northwestern Iran.

Iranian authorities blamed “riots” backed by foreign powers for undermining the country’s security and paving the way for the Shiraz attack. The United Nations has expressed concern over the number of people executed in Iran this year, which at the current pace could go far higher than 582 registered executions last year. In 2015, 972 death sentences were carried out — the highest in a year so far. Most of the executions are carried out on drug charges. Seven executions have also been carried out in cases related to the anti-government protests.

Thousands march in Bosnia to mark 1995 Srebrenica genocide

SREBRENICA (Agencies): A solemn peace march has been held through forests in eastern Bosnia in memory of the 1995 Srebrenica massacre, Europe’s only acknowledged genocide since World War II. The annual 100km (62-mile) march held on Saturday retraces a route taken by thousands of men and boys from the Bosniak ethnic group, made up primarily of Muslims, who were slaughtered as they tried to flee Srebrenica after it was captured by Bosnian Serb forces late in the 1992-95 war.

The march is part of several events preceding the actual date and commemorating the massacre on July 11. Nearly 4,000 people joined this year’s march, according to the organisers.

The event comes as ethnic tensions in Bosnia continue to persist, with Bosnian Serbs openly calling for separation. “I come here to

remember my brother and my friends, war comrades, who perished here,” said Resid Dervisevic, who was among those who marched.

“I believe it is my obligation, our obligation to do this, to nurture and guard [our memories].” Osman Salkic, another Srebrenica survivor, said: “Feelings are mixed when you come here, to this place, when you know how people were lying [dead] here in 1995 and what the situation is like today.” The Bosnian conflict erupted in 1992 after the former Yugoslavia broke up and Bosnian Serbs launched a rebellion and a land grab to form their own state and join Serbia.

More than 100,000 people died before the conflict ended in 1995. In July 1995, more than 8,000 Bosniak males were separated by Serb troops from their wives, mothers and sisters, chased through

woods around Srebrenica and killed. Bosnian Serb soldiers dumped the victims’ bodies in numerous mass graves scattered around the eastern town in an attempt to hide evidence of the crime.

A United Nations war crimes court in The Hague, Netherlands, has sentenced to life both the wartime Bosnian Serb political leader Radovan Karadzic and the former military commander Ratko Mladic for orchestrating the genocide. So far, the remains of more than 6,600 people have been found and buried at a vast and ever-expanding memorial cemetery outside Srebrenica. The remains of 30 more victims will be put to rest there on Tuesday as remains of newly identified victims are continuously being unearthed from mass graves and reburied each year on July 11, the day the killing began in 1995.

Ukraine war reaches 500 days, UN laments 9,000 civilians killed

NEW YORK (Agencies): More than 9,000 civilians, including 500 children, have been killed since Russia invaded Ukraine on February 24, 2022, the United Nations has said, condemning the cost to civilians as the war in Ukraine reached the 500-day mark.

The UN’s Human Rights Monitoring Mission in Ukraine (HRMMU) said in a statement that it “deplored the horrendous civilian cost of the war in Ukraine” and was able to confirm that 9,000 civilians had been killed so far in the conflict. The mission warned that the actual toll is likely to be far higher than the number of officially confirmed deaths.

“Today we mark another grim milestone in the war

that continues to exact a horrific toll on Ukraine’s civilians,” Noel Calhoun, the deputy head of HRMMU, said in the statement to mark the 500th day since the start of the invasion.

While this year the casualty numbers in Ukraine have been lower on average than in 2022, the figure began to climb again in May and June, the monitors noted. On June 27, 13 civilians, including four children, were killed in a missile attack on Kratatorsk in eastern Ukraine.

And far from the front line in Ukraine’s western city of Lviv, 10 people were killed and another 37 were wounded during a missile attack early on Thursday morning that the mayor

called the biggest attack on civilian infrastructure since the invasion began. The UN said that the attack was also the first to take place in an area protected by the World Heritage Convention and had damaged a historic building.

The UN monitoring mission in Ukraine also noted that three times as many civilians were killed in the last 500 days compared with the entire previous eight years of hostilities in eastern Ukraine, when Russian-backed separatists seized Crimea and other areas. Russia regularly bombs Ukraine with air attacks, including indiscriminate artillery and missile fire that have been especially deadly for civilians.

Imran named in third case related to May 9 violence

RAWALPINDI (INP): PTI Chairman Imran Khan has now been named in a third case related to the May 9 violence.

Imran Khan has been booked in a case of vandalism at sensitive installations at Rawalpindi’s Shalimar Chowk. The case of vandalism at sensitive buildings has been registered at Civil Lines police station in Rawalpindi.

According to the FIR, party workers broke the gates of sensitive buildings, entered inside and resorted to vandalism. Earlier, on Thursday, the PTI chairman was booked in two cases related to the May 9 vandalism and violence in Gujranwala and Faisalabad. In Gujranwala, Imran Khan was named in a case of murder and terrorism.

He was named as a suspect in a supplementary statement in the case under Section 109. The Rahwali checkpoint in Gujranwala was attacked on May 9 and a case over the incident was registered with the Cantt police station. One police volunteer was killed, and 18 people injured in the incident. On May 10, a case was registered against the local leadership of the PTI.

SHO among three cops kidnapped

KASHMORE (PPI): A police team aiming to recover a child from katcha area was kidnapped by outlaws in Kashmore district of Sindh on Saturday night. The police team comprising Inspector Gul Muhammad Mehar, SHO Kashmore, constables Nabad Mangi and Bhagio Khan Nandoi went to katcha area to recover a child. As the policemen were trying to trace the child, armed men surrounded them and kidnapped them.

Anti-India rally held in Islamabad

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: The All Parties Hurriyat Conference Azad Jammu and Pakistan Kashmir (APHC-AJK) chapter and Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Commission of AJK government organized a rally in Islamabad, on Saturday, on the occasion of the martyrdom anniversary of popular Kashmiri youth leader, Burhan Muzaffar Wani.

The rally held outside the Indian High Commission in Islamabad was led by APHC-AJK General Secretary Sheikh Abdul Mateen and AJK minister Javed Ahmed Butt. The participants carrying placards, posters and banners with the picture of Burhan Wani raised high-pitched slogans against India and in favour of Kashmir’s freedom from the Indian illegal occupation.

Addressing on the occasion, the speakers said that Burhan Wani not only

shook the edifice of more than decades-old Indian occupation of Jammu and Kashmir but also gave a new spark to the Kashmir freedom movement. They said that the participation of tens of thousands of people in his funeral prayers was a manifestation of the Kashmiris’ love and affection for him and hatred against India.

The speakers said that the martyrdom of Burhan Muzaffar Wani on July 08, 2019, had triggered mass uprising in IIOJK, showing the indigenous character of the Kashmir freedom movement. They said during this popular agitation, Indian soldiers killed more than 150 Kashmiris and blinded hundreds of others with pellets. They said the Indian troops have been subjecting the people of the occupied territory to the worst atrocities for the past over seven decades but the morale of Kashmiris is high and they are determined to continue

their struggle till the mission of Burhan Wani and other martyrs is accomplished.

The speakers expressed concern over the plight of illegally detained APHC leaders, activists and ordinary Kashmiris and demanded their immediate release. They appealed to the international community to take cognizance of the Indian state terrorism in IIOJK and impress upon New Delhi to resolve the Kashmir dispute by giving the Kashmiris their right to self-determination. The speakers included Sheikh Abdul Mateen, Javed Butt, Director of Liberation Commission Raja Khan Afzar Khan, Muhammad Farooq Rehmani, Imtiaz Wani, Sardar Najeelul Ghafoor Khan, Mushtaq Butt, Manzoor Shah, Gulshan Ahmed, Rafiq Dar, Saleem Haroon, Bashir Usmani, Majid Sharif, Raja Asif and Sardar Azim Sarwar.

Six die in Punjab in rain-related incidents

F.P. Report

LAHORE: As many as six people have died in rain-related incidents in the Punjab during last 24 hours. The PDMA on Saturday issued a report on the fatalities occurred due to heavy rains in Punjab.

According to the PDMA spokesperson, a total of six deaths were reported in the province and seven people got injuries in various accidents in the last 24 hours. The spokesperson said that the best treatment facilities were being provided to the injured in the hospitals. He said two deaths were reported in Sheikhupura, two in Faisalabad, and one death each was reported in Jhang and Khushab. PDMA DG Imran Qureshi said that the

authority was in constant contact with the administration across Punjab and machinery and staff were kept on high alert to deal with any emergency situation. He said that citizens could inform about any casualty or accident by ringing on PDMA’s Helpline 1129.

Meanwhile, rain in different parts of the Karachi disrupted the flight schedule at Jinnah International Airport on Saturday.

The national carrier’s flight PK-306, scheduled to depart from Karachi to Lahore, was among the affected flights. Similarly, Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) flight PK350, which was supposed to fly from Karachi to Peshawar, also faced suspension due to the “severe weather”.

Similarly, PIA’s flight PK-350, which was supposed to fly from Karachi to Peshawar, was also affected by unfavorable weather conditions. Furthermore, flight PK370 to Islamabad was also affected by the weather conditions, leading to its suspension.

Passengers were informed about the cancellation, and alternative arrangements were being made to accommodate them on other flights. Light rain-fall and drizzle reported in various localities of Karachi’s Malir district on Saturday. Light rainfall reported at Shah Latif Town, Razaqabad, Pipri and Gulshan-e-Hadeed. Low-lying areas submerged after heavy rainfall in various areas of Malir district.