

Zartaj Gul booked
LAHORE (PPI): Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader Zartaj Gul booked over alleged corruption charges. The Anti-Corruption Establishment (ACE) team conducted a raid at Zartaj Gul's residence to arrest her but she was not at home. ACE stated that she was summoned several times in corruption cases but did not appear before it. ACE Punjab has again summoned Zartaj Gul over corruption charges.

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6 soldiers martyred, 4 terrorists killed in S Waziristan: ISPR

F.P. Report

RAWALPINDI: Six troops were martyred and four terrorists killed during exchange of firing at South Waziristan tribal district on Tuesday. According to ISPR, fire exchange took place between own troops and terrorists in general area Asman Manza, South Waziristan District. "Own troops effectively engaged the terrorists' location and resultantly four terrorists were sent to hell, while two terrorists were injured. However, during intense exchange of fire, six brave soldiers having fought gallantly, embraced Shahadat.

Sanitization of the area is being carried out to eliminate any other terrorists found in the area. Armed forces of Pakistan are determined to eliminate the menace of terrorism and such sacrifices of our brave soldiers further strengthen our resolve. On August 19, two terrorists were killed during an intelligence-based operation (IBO) in Bara area of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's (KP) Khyber district. According to the military's media affairs wing, the security forces conducted an intelligence-based operation (IBO) in Bara area of Khyber District. "The killed terrorists remained actively involved in terrorist activities against security forces as well as killing of innocent citizens," the ISPR said, adding sanitisation of

the area is being carried out to eliminate any terrorists found in the area. Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaarul Haq Kakar on Tuesday expressed his deep grief over shahadat of six personnel of Pakistan Army during an exchange of firing with terrorists in Asman Manza, South Waziristan. The personnel of armed forces who embraced martyrdom, were the pride of the nation and motherland, PM Office Media Wing, in a press release, quoted the prime minister as saying. He said that he along with the entire nation paid tribute to shaheed personnel. Due to these sacrifices of the armed forces, the specter of terrorism would be banished forever, he added.

Asif Ali Zardari and Chairman PPP, Bilawal Bhutto Zardari have expressed their profound sorrow and grief over the martyrdom of security personnel in South Waziristan. They said that these martyrs are the heroes of the nation who sacrificed their lives protecting the motherland and fighting against the terrorists. They condoled with the families of the martyred soldiers of security forces. They said that the war against terrorists will continue till the elimination of the last terrorist and their patrons. Caretaker Interior Minister Sarfraz Bugti has expressed deep sorrow and

grief over the martyrdom of six soldiers in exchange of gunfire with militants in North Waziristan. In a statement issued here, the caretaker interior minister while appreciating the valour of brave soldiers prayed for the departed souls to rest in eternal peace. Sarfraz Bugti said that brave soldiers killed four terrorists in the ambush while defending their motherland and sacrificed their lives. The minister said the sacrifices of Pak Army for the country were unforgettable and the security agencies were busy in defending the motherland to curb terrorism from the country. He said the cowardly acts of terrorist could not demoralize the brave soldiers of Pak Army.

Funeral prayers of Shuhada held: Funeral prayers of Shuhada who embraced shahadat on Tuesday while fighting valiantly against terrorists during intense exchange of fire between own troops and terrorists in the general area Asman Manza, South Waziristan District were offered at Wana. Shuhada will be laid to rest with full military honours in their respective hometowns. Corps Commander Peshawar and other senior serving officers attended the funeral prayers. Armed Forces of Pakistan stand resolute and committed to eliminate the menace of terrorism from the motherland at all costs.

Rupee falls to historic low of 299 vs dollar

KARACHI (Agencies): Rupee plunged to a historic low on Tuesday, depreciating by 0.63% against the US dollar in the interbank market due to an easing in import restrictions that has lifted demand for the dollar. The local currency fell by 1.88 against the greenback and closed at 299.01 at the end of the day's trading, according to the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP). Its previous record low was 298.93, which was hit on May 11. On Monday, the rupee closed at 297.13 against the dollar as compared to Friday's close of Rs295.78. Head of research at Arif Habib Tahir Abbas said he expected the rupee to trade between 295 and 305 to the dollar for the time being. "The declining trend is mainly attributable to the ease off in the import restrictions coupled with clearance of backlog for goods and services," he said. He added that multinational corporations were able to repatriate some profits, furthering rupee outflows. Commenting on the development, AA Commodities Director Adnan Agar told media that the rupee depreciation is mostly due to political reasons as there are fears of a delay in the general elections, consequently delaying the fulfilment of commitments from the IMF and other global lenders.

Indian diplomat summoned

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan on Tuesday summoned senior Indian diplomat to register a strong protest over the killing of a 60-year old civilian at the Line of Control, consequent to the firing by Indian forces. The Indian Charge d' Affaires was summoned to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs following the killing to 60-year-old civilian Ghias, resident of Oil village of Kotli district. The incident took place in the Nikhal Sector of the Line of Control (LoC) on August 21. Emphasizing the need for maintaining peace and tranquility at the LoC, it was underscored that such acts were in clear violation of the 2003 Ceasefire Understanding, reaffirmed in February 2021. It was stressed that utmost caution should be exercised by the Indian forces as targeting innocent civilians was contrary to human dignity and international human rights and humanitarian laws.

Caretaker govt to ensure transparent election: PM

F.P. Report

KARACHI: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaarul Haq Kakar on Tuesday reiterated that the interim government would ensure holding of the upcoming general elections in the most transparent and impartial manner, accepted to all. Talking to media after visiting Mazar-e-Quaid to pay tribute and offer Fateha, the prime minister said that the caretaker government would function in the limited time frame only to ensure the election process. They would play their part in this regard by holding transparent and impartial polls, so that Pakistan could move through its constitutional transitional period, he added. On the occasion, the prime minister was accompanied by Governor Sindh Kamran Khan Tessori, Caretaker Chief Minister Justice (Retired) Maqbool Baqir and the members of his cabinet. It was the maiden visit of the caretaker prime minister to Karachi after assuming his office. The prime minister said that he along with his few cabinet members came here to pay homage to Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah and reaffirm to work for the progress and prosperity of the country by highlighting the social contract under which a separate state came into being. Referring to an address of the founder of the nation on August 11, 1947 before the Constituent Assembly, he said it focused on rights of the minorities and equality among individuals. Prime Minister Kakar expressed the optimism that the people of the country would excel in different fields on the basis of their talents and it was the future of the country. Earlier, the prime minister laid a floral wreath at the grave of the founder of the nation and offered Fateha. He also penned down his expressions in the visi-

tors' book.

Kakar assures all-out efforts for addressing Balochistan issues: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaarul Haq Kakar Tuesday assured of making all-out efforts, on part of the government, for the resolution of issues of Balochistan province. The prime minister was talking to a six-member delegation from Balochistan province led by Sardar Kamal Khan Bangulzai, a former member of the National Assembly, that called on him, PM Office Media Wing said in a press release. The delegation felicitated the caretaker prime minister on assuming his office and apprised him of the issues faced by the province. **Chairperson NCRC calls on Caretaker PM:** Chairperson of the National Commission on the Rights of Child (NCRC) and former senator Ayesha Raza Farooq on Tuesday called on Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaarul Haq Kakar. During the meeting, the chairperson felicitated the prime minister on assuming his office and expressed good wishes, PM Office Media Wing said in a press release. The prime minister appreciated the performance of the Commission led by Ayesha Raza Farooq and assured of the utilization of all resources to further facilitate the commission. The chairperson apprised the prime minister of the crimes against children and the child labour situation in the country. The caretaker prime minister said that formal proceedings would be initiated against the violators of child rights and they would be brought to book. He further assured that effective legislation would be enacted for the protection of the rights of the children and for the commission to facilitate the children.

Imaan Mazari gets bail, Wazir sent to Adiala jail

ISLAMABAD (Agencies): A district and sessions court in Islamabad on Tuesday granted human rights lawyer Imaan Zainab Mazari-Hazir bail and sent Pashtun Tahafuz Movement (PTM) leader Ali Wazir to jail on a 14-day judicial in a case related to "interference in state affairs" and damaging the public property. Two first information reports (FIR) were registered against Imaan and Wazir on August 19 at the Tarnol police station and Counter-Terrorism Department police station, following a rally of the PTM in the federal capital. They were booked on the charges of sedition, preventing government officials from carrying out their duties and damaging public property. The Islamabad Capital Police on Sunday claimed to have arrested the human rights lawyer and the PTM leader for "investigations". On the same day, the duo were produced before a local court in the capital. Judicial Magistrate Ehtisham Alam Khan sent Mazari to jail on a 14-day judicial remand and

handed Wazir to police on a two-day physical remand. In the meantime, Mazari filed a plea seeking bail in the case which the court approved today. On the other hand, the PTM leader was produced before the court on the expiry of his two days physical remand. At the outset of today's hearing, the prosecutor apprised the court that Wazir was not cooperating with the police during the investigations. After hearing arguments from both sides, the court sent Wazir to Adiala Jail on a 14-day judicial remand. The FIR relating to "interference in state affairs", was filed on the complaint of Tarnol Station House Officer (SHO) Miam Mohammad Imran following the PTM rally, under Sections 148 (rioting armed with a deadly weapon), 149 (unlawful assembly), 186 (obstructing public servant in discharge of public functions), 188 (disobedience to order duly promulgated by public servant), 341 (punishment for wrongful restraint), 353 (assault or

criminal force to deter public servant from discharge of his duty), 395 (punishment for dacoity), 440 (mischievous committed after preparation made for causing death or hurt) and 506ii (criminal intimidation) of the Pakistan Penal Code (PPC). Tasked with maintaining law and order situation during a rally of the PTM, the SHO said that he was present with other police officials at Tarnol Phatak Chowk on Friday at 5pm, when the rally — in violation of its NOC — started moving from the place allocated to it. He maintained that the participants of the rally equipped with batons clashed with the police when law enforcers attempted to stop the rally. The crowd blocked both lanes of GT Road after being stopped by the police, read the FIR. When the leaders of the PTM and supporters were asked to open the road, they attacked the police and issued threats of dire consequences and damaged vehicles and vandalized nearby shops, said the SHO.



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar giving remarks after laying a floral wreath at the Mausoleum of Quaid-e-Azam.

Six Indian smugglers captured from Pakistan

F.P. Report

RAWALPINDI: As many as six Indian nationals were arrested by the Rangers from Pakistan's territory. According to the Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) information on Tuesday, the officials of Punjab Rangers arrested six Indians involved in the smuggling of arms, ammunition and drugs. The suspects include Gurmeej Singh, Shunder Singh, Juginder Singh and Vishal Singh from Ferozpur. Moreover, Mahinder Singh from Ludhiana and Gurwindar Singh from Jalandhar were also arrested by the Rangers. The ISPR said that the suspects were involved in the smuggling of drugs and arms. It is highly likely that the smugglers also enjoyed the backing of India's Border Security Force (BSF). It is surprising that the smugglers could cross the heavily fenced border which is under surveillance of Indian BSF. "The smugglers will be dealt as per the laws of Pakistan for anti-state activities," said the ISPR.

Operation in Battagram in full swing

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Murtaza Solangi said on Tuesday that rescue operation in Battagram was in full swing. In a tweet, the minister said that said that the relevant authorities including Ministry of Information and Broadcasting would continue updating the people on what was happening on ground. Meanwhile, the All Pakistan Newspapers Society (APNS) on Monday formally congratulated Murtaza Solangi on his appointment as Caretaker Minister for Information and Broadcasting. "On behalf of the office bearers and members of the executive committee of the All Pakistan Newspapers Society, I would like to welcome and congratulate you on your appointment as caretaker Minister for Information," said APNS Secretary General Sarmad Ali in a letter. The body expressed the hope that the issues faced by the print media would be resolved during Murtaza Solangi's tenure as minister. It also believed that the minister would play his role in strengthening the caretaker government's relation with media. "I would also like to note with pleasure that a prominent person of media fraternity has been appointed as caretaker Minister for Information and hope that under your stewardship the issues pertaining to the Print Media which are still lying unattended would be addressed," Sarmad Ali noted.

Battagram's cable car rescue operation All trapped children rescued: ISPR

F.P. Report

BATTAGRAM: All trapped children rescued by the Pakistan Army teams from a cable car, which have been dangling mid air on a ravine after breaking of its cable at teshil Allai on Tuesday, said ISPR. The army's rescue operation continued and all children were rescued," said ISPR in its latest update. General Officer Commanding, Special Services Group was leading the rescue operation. A total of eight persons including seven school children and a teacher traveling in the ill fated cable car were dangling mid-air after cable of a gondola broke at Allai Teshil of Battagram district at a height of 6,000 feet passing on a ravine. Those who were stuck in the cable car lift include Abrar, Irfan, Usama, Rizwan Ullah, Ataullah, Niaz Muhammad, Sher Nawaz and Gul Faraz. The services of local cable crossings expert were also obtained for safe evacuation of the children and a local person. Following the incident, helicopters of the Pakistan Army Aviation and the Pakistan Air Force participated in the rescue operation along with the SSG troops. The rescue mission was complicated at night due to gusty winds and darkness in the area, said ISPR. According to reports the incident seven schoolchildren and a local person were travelling in the cable car to go to the Batangi Government High School. One cable of the gondola broke at around 7:45am which led to the cable car being stranded mid-air. Battagram's Deputy Commissioner contacted Hazara's Commissioner after he received report about the incident. The DC asked for the arrangement of a helicopters that was swiftly reached at the location to rescue the trapped people. Emergency has been imposed at the nearby health centres while doctors at District Headquarter Hospital (DHQ) Battagram has also been put on high alert. The local residents and families of the trapped children rushed to the site after the report of the incident and called for the

rescue operations. Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor, Haji Ghulam Ali directed Chief Secretary and Commissioner Hazara division for taking emergency measures for safe evacuation and rescue of trapped children. The Governor also inquired about the well being of the trapped children and directed emergency utilization of all available resources for their safe rescue. Senator Abdul Ghafoor Haideri also telephoned the governor and inquired about the health of children besides rescue efforts. The Governor said all the concerned organizations and district administration were jointly taking part in rescue operation and helicopter was also moved to Battagram for rescue of all children. The elders of Battagram thanked the governor for speedy start of the rescue operation. The Governor assured that the rescue operation would soon be completed. Caretaker Chief Minister, Muhammad Azam Khan while taking notice of cable car incident directed the Chief Secretary KP and Commissioner Hazara division to take urgent measures for rescue of all trapped people. The Chief Minister remained in close contact with the divisional and district administration and get updates about Rescue Operation in the day. He said that all resources were being used including helicopters for the safe rescue of the trapped people. Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Tuesday directed the rescue agencies to ensure immediate evacuation of eight school children and teachers stranded in a chairlift in Pashto area of Battagram. The prime minister has directed National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) and all other relevant rescue agencies to utilize all out resources to ensure safe rescue of the students and teachers. He also instructed to ensure safety arrangements on all such chairlifts in hilly areas. The prime minister directed to immediately close all such chairlifts that were in poor and dilapidated conditions.

Toshakhana case: IHC adjourns Imran's appeal

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Tuesday adjourned an appeal of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf chairman till August 24, against his conviction in the Toshakhana case while granting time to the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) for production of case record. The IHC bench comprising Chief Justice Aamer Farooq and Justice Tariq Mehmood Jahangiri, which heard the appeal of PTI chairman against the verdict of trial court, also served notices to the respondents. During the course of proceedings, the petitioner's lawyer Latif Khosa Advocate said that as per the inspection report of District and Sessions Judge Attock, a camera had been fixed in front of the cell of PTI chairman in jail. Sher Afzal Murawat Advocate said that the lawyers were not being allowed to meet the former prime minister. The chief justice remarked that he did not know why the jail administration was not permitting the lawyers to meet the PTI chief despite his order. He said that he had instructed that two or three lawyers could visit the prisoner in jail. The court said that it was serving notices to the respondents to the plea

seeking provision of facilities to the PTI chairman in jail. To a court's query regarding the case record, ECP's counsel Amjad Pervaiz prayed the court to grant two weeks time in that regard. The petitioner had also prayed the court to suspend his sentence in his plea and he also needed some time for preparation, he added. Latif Khosa Advocate opposed the request of ECP's lawyer and said that the trial court had announced verdict in the absence of his client, and his basic rights were being violated in jail. The PTI chief wanted only his right and not of any concession, he added, praying the court to decide the matter pertaining to the suspension of imprisonment sentence same day. The PTI chief's lawyer argued that the sessions court had announced the sentence against the law as it was even not authorized to hear the case. The ECP Secretary was not authorized to file such complaint, he said, adding the trial court had abolished the right of defence of his client and announced the verdict in one day. The lawyer said that delaying tactics were being used in the case. The court, however, adjourned hearing

of the case till August 24. **Court summons Imran in five different cases on separate dates:** An anti-terrorism court (ATC) in Islamabad on Tuesday summoned former prime minister and PTI Chairman Imran Khan in five different cases on different dates. Imran's lawyers Jan Muhammad, Sardar Masroof and Naeem Panjotha appeared in the court. Advocate Jan Muhammad told the court it was not easy to produce Imran in the court every day. Judge Abul Hasnat replied he knew it was not appropriate to bring him to the court every day. "Co-suspects in these cases should also be produced in the court," the judge remarked. PTI lawyer then requested the court to summon his client in these cases on the same day rather than summoning him on different days so that there could be no inconvenience in marking him present. "PTI chief also has some security issues," Advocate Jan Muhammad said. The judge replied that why make it an issue when Imran had to appear in the court on a single day. "Since there is a large number of co-suspects, it will be difficult to mark them present separately," he said, added.

Fawad's bail extended

ISLAMABAD (INP): An anti-terrorism court in Lahore has extended Fawad Chaudhry's interim bail in two cases, including a case of arson at the PML-N office, until September 2. ATC Judge Ijaz Ahmed Buttari presided over the hearing, which revolved around Chaudhry's bail application. During the proceedings, Judge Buttari granted an extension of Chaudhry's interim bail, allowing him to remain free until September 2.

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KP govt prioritized various potential sectors for investment

PESHAWAR (APP): Chief Secretary Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Nadeem Aslam Chaudhry has said that various sectors including mining, energy, Information Technology (IT) and Tourism have been identified as prioritized sectors for investment in the province.

Speaking at a meeting with the business community of the province here at Civil Secretariat on Tuesday, he said that the provincial government will take investment in these sectors to SIFC (Special Investment Facilitation Council), saying investors in these sectors would be provided full facilities.

Besides, FPCCI Coordinator for Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Sartaj Ahmad Khan and representatives of various chambers, administrative secretaries, CEOs and MDs of the subsidiaries of the industries and finance departments attended the meeting.

The chief secretary said

that Chinese investors are establishing a steel mill in the Rashakai Special Economic Zone. He said that local pharmaceutical safety match the industry and stressed the need for their value-addition.

He said that Pak-Afghan trade, which was once US\$ 1.5 billion is decreased to 600 million dollars and is in favour of Afghanistan and asked the business community to present proposals to make it in favour of our country. He said that hurdles in this regard would be taken with the federal government.

In response to the demands of the chambers, he assured the allocation of land at every district level for establishment of Gems Export City and District Economic Forums and directed the preparation of a summary to send it to Chief Minister for approval.

He also agreed with the proposal of 'One District with at least one Industrial

Estate' and setting up of a Gemstone Corner at Bacha Khan International Airport to promote the export of precious stones from province.

For establishment of the Gem City, the chief secretary directed the formation of a working group headed by the Secretary Industries with members from Mining Department, KP Economic Zone Development & Management Company (EZDMC), Small Industries Development Board (SIDB) and one each representative from FPCCI and All Pakistan Commercial Exporters Association (APCEA).

On this occasion, the Chief Secretary also directed the formation of a committee to activate Customs stations at Pak-Afghan border. The committee headed by the Additional Chief Secretary will be comprised of Home Secretary, Pakistan Customs and Frontier Corps.

He further directed all Deputy Commissioners for holding monthly meetings

with chambers including women members. Such meetings, he said should be held in first week of the month and their minutes shall be shared with him to resolve the problems of the business community on priority basis.

The chief secretary has also directed that all industrial estates of the province should have a police station and a complaint office of the Peshawar Electric Supply Company (PESCO).

During the meeting, the CEO KP-EZDMC, Javed Iqbal Khattak gave a detailed presentation on Rashakai Special Economic Zone and progress on other economic zones of the province and investment opportunities in them.

Earlier, FPCCI Coordinator of Sartaj Ahmad Khan highlighted the problems of the business community of the province in detail and also presented suggestions for their resolution.



PESHAWAR: Caretaker Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Muhammad Azam Khan presenting shields to position holders of SSC Annual-I Examination 2023(9th & 10th).

PHC grants bail to alleged murderer

Humayun Khan

PESHAWAR: Justice Syed Arshad Ali of Peshawar High Court (PHC) has granted bail to murderer allegedly involved in killing of Rickshaw drivers, on Tuesday.

According to prosecution, Bilal Ahmad has killed rickshaw's driver in the premises of Muhammad Riaz police station Kohat on 11th April 2023.

The counsel Amin Khattak Advocate argued that the deceased Sajid Ali was earlier a drug-addict while latterly he started driving rickshaw and his dead body was recovered on 11th April 2023.

The counsel added that the deceased brother didn't nominate anyone in First Information Report while latterly the petitioner is booked for the offense.

He argued that neither there is evidence nor any witness is available while police claims that knife used in the murder is recovered on the identification of petitioner.

The counsel further argued that neither motive behind the murder nor time is known of the offense as well as lack of witness also creating ambiguity in the case.

Justice Syed Arshad Ali of PHC has ordered release of alleged culprit on bail after completion arguments in the case.

SSC results declared

PESHAWAR (APP): Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Educational Boards on Tuesday declared Secondary School Certificate (SSC) results for the year 2023.

Adnan Shahid topped Board of Intermediate and Secondary Education Peshawar got 1086 marks.

He clinched the first position with an impressive score of 1086 marks in all boards.

Similarly, Umamah Noor Abbottabad Board got first position with 1064 marks.

Javed Khan's outstanding performance in the Bannu Board's matriculation exams has led him to secure the first position with a total of 1056 marks.

Syed Adnan Raza topped Kohat Board attained first position with 1048 marks.

Saira Bibi's hard work and dedication have paid off as she secures the first position in the D.I. Khan Board's matriculation results with an impressive score of 1064 marks.

Sarah Khan secured first position by getting 1075 marks.

Malakand Board topped by Muhammad Farooq with 1083 marks.

Similarly, in Swat Board, Jawad Alam grab first position with 1073 marks. Caretaker Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Muhammad Azam Khan congratulated the succeeded students and their parents.

Rescue of children at Batagram: Governor directs for taking emergency measures at Batagram

PESHAWAR (APP): Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor, Haji Ghulam Ali here Tuesday directed Chief Secretary and Commissioner Hazara division for taking emergency measures for safe evacuation and rescue of the chairlift trapped children at Batagram district.

The Governor also inquired about the well

being of the trapped children. The Governor directed emergency utilization of all available resources for safe rescue of the trapped children.

Senator Abdul Ghafoor Haideri also telephoned the governor and inquired about the health of children besides rescue efforts.

The Governor said all the concerned organiza-

tions and district administration were jointly taking part in rescue operation and helicopter was also moved to Batagram for rescue of all children.

The elders of Batagram thanked the governor for speedy start of the rescue operation.

The Governor assured that the rescue operation would soon be completed.

PSF shows lack of confidence over president

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: Pakhtun Student Federation (PSF) central cabinet and council members showed no confidence in President Ikhtisham-ul-Haq due to his negligence towards organizational procedures, on Tuesday.

PSF issued a press statement in this regard stating that following its inception as the central president has ignored organizational activities and since no function has held during the tenure. Central President

Ikhtisham-ul-Haq also interfering in PSF Khyber Pakhtunkhwa council while created mess in Balochistan province.

The president didn't summon general body session despite the submission of a draft by Central Council which constitutional obligation to summon within 10 days which is against the constitution of PSF.

The statement added that after completion of two years neither convention nor session has held which

shows the incompetence of the president.

PSF argued that such allegations are continuously placing against Ikhtisham-ul-Haq while he didn't respond to allegation neither arranged activities nor Bacha Khan and Wali Khan anniversary. Central president are destroying the organization which is served by Ajmal Khattak, Ali Khan Mehsud especially Awami National Party president Asfandyar Wali Khan himself, the statement added.

Police arrests seven alleged culprits

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: Police has arrested seven alleged culprits during crackdown in Sheikhna Chowk and Sheikh Muhammad along with adjacent areas while recovered weapons as well as drugs from their possession in the premises of Badabhier police station.

Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP) Zia Ullah Khan ordered crackdown while Station House Officer Badabhier Nasir Khattak along with police party conducted raids on culprits in different areas. Police has recovered two Kalashnikovs, three pistols, different caliber bullets and

seven kilograms hashish from the possession of alleged culprits.

The alleged culprits were identified as Daulat, Peer Muhammad, Muhammad Amir, Nazeer Muhammad, Sher Zaman, Abdul Manan and Mohib while they confessed their crimes before police during interrogation.



PESHAWAR: A vendor selling corn cobs at Lahori Gate.

Power suspension on various feeders notified

PESHAWAR (APP): Peshawar Electric Supply Company (Pesco) on Tuesday notified that due to maintenance work power supply will remain suspended from 132 KV Warsak Power House on 23rd and 24th August from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Subsequently, it said consumers of 132 KV New Warsak, Peshawar Cantt, Regi Model Town, Jamrud, Sakhi Chashma Grid connected with 11 KV feeders will face inconvenience. It said that power supply will also remain suspended from 132 KV Sakhi Chashma Grid Station on 23rd August from 7 a.m. to 12 p.m. resultantly consumers of 11 KV Mian Gujar, Gull Bela, Lukki Star, Doran Pur, BRT, OPF, Pakha Gulam, Wadpaga 1,2 feeders will face inconvenience. The power supply will remain suspended from 132 KV Havelian Grid Station on 23rd August from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., resultantly consumers of 11 KV OPF 1,2, CAD, Infantry Brigade feeders will face inconvenience.

Moreover, the power supply will remain suspended from 132 KV Mardan Grid Station on 23rd August from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. resultantly consumers of 11 KV Dang baba, Misri Abad, Jan Abad, Shankar, Saleem Khan, Malakand Road,

Likewise, power supply will remain suspended from 132 KV Dalazak Grid Station on 23rd August from 7 a.m. to 12 p.m. due to which consumers of 11 KV Mian Gujar, Gull Bela, Lukki Star, Doran Pur, BRT, OPF, Pakha Gulam, Wadpaga 1,2 feeders will face inconvenience. The power supply will remain suspended from 132 KV Havelian Grid Station on 23rd August from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., resultantly consumers of 11 KV OPF 1,2, CAD, Infantry Brigade feeders will face inconvenience.

Moreover, the power supply will remain suspended from 132 KV Mardan Grid Station on 23rd August from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. resultantly consumers of 11 KV Dang baba, Misri Abad, Jan Abad, Shankar, Saleem Khan, Malakand Road,

Ring Road feeders will face inconvenience. The power supply will also remain suspended from 220 KV Mardan Grid Station on 23rd August from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. resultantly consumers of 11 KV Ahmad Abad, Gujar Garhi, Muhabat Abad feeders will face inconvenience.

It further said that power supply will remain suspended from 132 KV Nowshera City Grid Station on 23rd August from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. resultantly consumers of 11 KV Rashakai feeders will face inconvenience. The power supply will also remain suspended from 132 KV Rajar Grid Station on 23rd August from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. resultantly consumers of 11 KV Sheikh Abad, Khanmai and Small Industries feeders will face inconvenience.

PDMA issues alert

PESHAWAR (INP): The Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on Tuesday issued an alert about rains in different parts of the province from Wednesday.

All concerned Deputy Commissioners are advised to take precautionary measures to avoid any human and material losses during the rain period, the PDMA said.

The control room of PDMA is fully operational and people are advised to contact control room on its helpline 1700 in case of any emergency.



PESHAWAR: President Chamber of Small Traders & Small Industry Malik Salman Elahi addressing during a signing ceremony. — F.P. photo

Five-day events to celebrate Independence Day concluded

PESHAWAR, (APP): The 5-day series of events organized under the theme of "Pehchan" to celebrate Independence Day by the Prime Society for Literature & Arts (PAL) concluded on Tuesday at Peshawar Medical College (PMC).

Professor Dr. Hafeez ur Rahman, Dean of PMC, was the chief guest at the prize distribution ceremony. Prof. Dr. Mohammad Aman Khan, Principal of PMC, faculty members, and students from PMC, PDC, and RNC participated in the ceremony.

The chief guest awarded prizes to students who performed excellently in various competitions, including speeches, Milli Naghma, essay writing, poetry, quizzes, painting, and videography.

These events were

organized to celebrate the greatest gift of Allah in the form of our independence through various activities aimed at refreshing the true essence of the ideology of Pakistan in the youth, enabling them to embark on a journey of self-discovery.

The events were designed to revisit the heroic and great sacrifices made by the Muslims of the subcontinent for self-determination.

These events were organized to remind the youth of our homeland's significant and sensitive ideological and geographical position and instill in them patriotism, empowering them to courageously and determinedly safeguard our free homeland's ideological and geographical boundaries.

Renowned scholar Prof. Dr. Najibul Haq spoke at

the inaugural session, delivering a presentation on Dr. Allama Iqbal's famous poems "Shikwa and Jawab-e-Shikwa".

Dr. Najib cited the intellectual contribution of the great philosopher to the revival of Islam and the self-actualization of the Muslim ummah. Prof. Dr. Najibul Haq delivered a presentation on Dr. Allama Iqbal's famous poems "Shikwa and Jawab-e-Shikwa" at the inaugural session.

In the speech competition Hamza Farooq, 3rd-year MBBS, secured first place. In the Urdu Essay Writing competition for male, Aadeb Yousafzai took the first position, while in the female competition, Sarah Shoaib, 3rd-year MBBS, secured first position. In the English Essay Writing competition for

males, Fazlullah, 2nd Year MBBS, was declared the winner, while in the female English competition, Amina Saqib, 5th Year MBBS, won first place.

In the Poetry Writing competition for male, M. Hassan Wahid, Final Year MBBS, grabbed the first prize and in the female competition, Zobia Ali, 3rd Year, secured first place. In the Painting Competition for female Karobi Farooq, First Year MBBS, was awarded the first position. In the Milli Naghma competition, Hamza Farooq, 3rd Year MBBS, achieved first place while in the Videography Competition Ali Rahman, 4th Year BSN, stood first in the male competition and Muizza Batool, Final Year MBBS, was declared first in female competition.

UoP demands Rs325m funds to overcome financial issues

PESHAWAR (APP): The University of Peshawar (UoP) was once again faced with financial matters as according to a letter written to Higher Education Department, the largest provincial university has no funds to pay salaries of its employees for the month of August.

The university management has written a letter to the Higher Education Depa-

rtment and demanded the release of funds by the provincial government to overcome its financial issues.

According to the letter, the university was in need of funds amounting to Rs 325 million to settle its financial matters for one month. It said of these funds Rs 200 million would be spent to pay the salaries of the university employees

while Rs 35 million were required to pay the electricity expenditures.

Moreover, it said that the university needed Rs 100 million to pay the pension of its retired employees while Rs 20 million were required for miscellaneous expenditures. According to the acting vice chancellor of the university, in case of nonpayment of the funds,

not only the difficulties of the staff would further increase but other matters of the university would also be badly affected.

He said the governor, chief minister, and Higher Education Department have been informed regarding the situation and hoped that after the release of funds, these problems would be overcome to a big extent.

Ex-Admn Auqaf arrested

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: As per information received from source, an accused Former Administrator Auqaf Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, presently posted as Additional Commissioner Kohat Division and another accused, Ex-Manager Auqaf Mardan, presently posted as Manager Auqaf Peshawar were arrested on 17th August 2023.

The case was referred by Chief Secretary KP three years back and the inquiry/investigation proceedings revealed that the said accused persons were involved in illegal lease of 3x Auqaf properties measuring 156 Kanals, 100 Kanals and 230 Kanals, total measuring 486 Kanals valued at approximately Rs. 842 Million.

The accused persons in connivance with each other managed to change the nature of land from agriculture to industrial land and illegally/ unauthorized signed agreement with the lessees in violation of rules and also orchestrated a Sham auction proceeding for award of said lease. Moreover, leases were awarded for thirty (30) and thirty three (33) years instead of the permissible period of three years. It has also been learned that the subject land has been converted into housing societies and has grabbed hard earned money from innocent people.

Peshawar, KP plain areas in grip of severe heat

PESHAWAR (APP): As earlier predicted by the provincial meteorological center, the plain areas of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa including the provincial metropolis Peshawar has been in the grip of severe hot and humid weather.

The dense humidity and sun heat has badly affected daily routine life, forcing the people to remain indoors to remain safe from the heat stroke.

The Bannu and Dera Ismail Khan district were among the hottest places of the province as the other

day the highest temperature of 43 degree Celsius was recorded in Bannu followed by Dera Ismail Khan with 42 degree Celsius. Humidity remained 69 percent in Bannu. However, the real feel of temperature in the both districts was 50 degree Celsius and the situation remained miserable for the locals.

In Peshawar the temperature remained at 38 degree Celsius while the humidity ratio was 75 percent but the real feel of the temperature was about 48 degree Celsius. Coupled with

humidity the severe hot weather seemed unbearable for the peshawarites.

For the last many days, Peshawar has been in the grip of severe heat while on Tuesday too, a very hot weather was predicted for the city. Locals said the heat and humidity of Monday has broken all the earlier records of heat.

The severe hot weather in Peshawar has also forced most of the traders to keep close their business places wherein the markets were presenting a deserted look in most of the areas.



In brief

Construction of dams demanded
F.P. Report

LAKKI MARWAT: A senior parliamentarian and former Member National Assembly (MNA) Humayun Saifullah Khan has asked the federal government to build small dams in Lakki Marwat district so as to boost agriculture and its component sectors and alleviate poverty in the region. Talking to journalists, the former lawmaker said that he had briefed the federal minister for water and natural resources Ahmad Irfan Aslam about the ongoing Baran dam, Pezu dam and Marwat canal rehabilitation projects. He said that he also invited the minister to visit the southern district to inaugurate mega projects in the water sector. Former MNA said that construction of small dams was the need of the hour to conserve rain and floodwaters for agriculture and other useful purposes. He said that he also briefed the federal minister about proposed sites of small dams and told him that construction of dams would bring sustainable development to the entire region. "The rehabilitation of Marwat canal is near completion and water will be released in it soon", he revealed, saying that the canal project will bring a green revolution besides raising the living standard of the local population.

Political activists join PPP
F.P. Report

TIMERGARA: In PK-13 people joining Pakistan People's Party in droves after being influenced by the services of former MPA Mohammad Zamin Khan. On this occasion in Khall Kamartall UC Sultan khail dozen of people's along with their family and relatives joined on this occasion Former MPA Muhammad Zamin Khan, Akhunzada Zahoor, Subhanuddin contractor Haider Khan and Noor Islam Khan addressed a ceremony in this connection bodies from different political parties Gulabzada, Jafar, Anwarullah, Iftikhar and others along with their families and hundreds of colleagues resigned from PTI and joined Pakistan People's Party. On this occasion former member of Pakistan People's Party Muhammad Zamin Khan Advocate, Akhunzada Zahoor Subhanuddin Contractor Haider Khan and Noor Islam Khan spoke. While saying that the next era belongs to the Pakistan People's Party and the Pakistan People's Party coming to power will lead the country on the path of development and prosperity and provide full relief to the people, he urged the workers to start full preparations for the upcoming general elections.

FIA arrests three travelers

MULTAN (PPI): The Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) informed on Tuesday that its team has apprehended three individuals at Multan Airport who were attempting to transport counterfeit currency abroad. The swift action by the FIA unfolded when airport authorities detected suspicious activity during routine security checks. Upon closer inspection, it was revealed that the passengers – identified as Khaliq Noor, Noor Ali Jan, and Qasimullah, from North Waziristan – were carrying a substantial amount of counterfeit currency, amounting to 100,000 dirhams. A spokesperson for the FIA confirmed that the counterfeit currency was discovered in the possession of the arrested individuals after a thorough search.

Monsoon tree plantation drive kicks off in Dir

F.P. Report

LOWER DIR: The Al-Khidmat Foundation (AKF) in collaboration with the Chakdara campus of Rifah International University kicked off a monsoon tree plantation drive in Adenzai. The AKF and the Chakdara campus of the Rifah International University in this regard



arranged a joint venture at the Chakdara campus. The campus director Dr Iftikhar, AKF district president Hafeezullah Khaksar and others spoke on the occasion.

They highlighted the importance of forests and trees. The speakers termed deforestation and cutting of trees tantamount to bringing a climatic change. Talking to local journalists the AKF district president Hafeezullah Khaksar said

the Foundation had planned to plant thousands of trees during the monsoon season in parts of the district. He said the AKF in collaboration with the Rifah International University and the University of Malakand would make the drive a success.

He said that youth and students could play an active role in making the

occasion the AAC asked youth to take active part in the ongoing monsoon tree plantation drive. Highlighting the importance of trees, the official said that plants were the blessing of Allah which provided fresh air and clean environment not only to the human beings but to all creatures.

The AAC also directed the Peshawar Electric Supply Company (Pesco) to reduce the duration of power outage owing to the hot weather. He said the Pesco officials should share its load shedding schedule with public through social, print and electronic media. The AKF also arranged a similar function at the Timergara campus of Abdul Wali Khan university regarding its ongoing monsoon plantation campaign.

Youth assembly: Prominent lawyer Qazi Sajid Mahmood was appointed as Governor of the Malakand Youth Assembly during a core committee meeting held here on Monday. The core committee granted approval to the appointment. The newly appointed Governor National Youth Assembly Malakand thanked the core committee members and said he would utilize his entire energies for welfare and uplift of youth in the region.

Residents shifted to safe places in wake of floods

F.P. Report

MULTAN: On the instructions of CPO Multan Mansoor Ul Haq Rana, the residents of Jalalpur Pirwala are being shifted to safer places to deal with the possible flood situation in the riverine areas of Multan Police.

In this regard, SDP Jalalpur Pirwala Bashir Ahmad Haraj and Assistant Commissioner Jalalpur Pirwala Mirza Raheel Baig visited the riverine areas and relief camps. He visited Relief Camp Government High School Khan Bela, Government High School Noraja Bhatta and Government High School Kotla Chakar.

The two officers reviewed evacuation to safe places and relief activities of Multan police are going

on vigorously to protect and help the lives and property of the affected citizens. Police is using all resources to help the citizens in this difficult time.

CPO Multan Mansoor-ul-Haq Rana ordered SDPO Jalalpur Pirwala to monitor the situation himself and asked him to stay in the field during the relief activities and coordinate with the district administration, rescue and other agencies in the relief activities.

Ceremony in honor of promoted officials held: A ceremony was organized in honor of the promoted police officers and Commissioner Multan at Regional Police Office Multan. Where police officers were ranked and good wishes were expressed for them.

The parents of CPO

Mansoor Ul Haq Rana specially participated on this occasion. He also ranked the promoted police officers.

On this occasion, Additional IG South Punjab Maqsood Ul Hasan said that the City Police Officer is one of the police officers with a unique personality in the performance of professional duties. Who worked hard day and night and reached this place.

He also congratulated Commissioner Multan for getting promoted to Grade 20. Captain (R) Muhammad Sohail Chaudhary said that the city police officer is considered among the capable and hardworking police officers. The promoted officers attributed their progress to the hard work and prayers of their parents.

Fresh graduates and job's market

Syeda Kiran Naz

A large number of young people who graduate from our universities are only interested in 17th scale jobs in the beginning. Due to lack of proper skills, they have to get a job for 30 or 35 thousand per month in the initial days. It doesn't look good and they think that if they had to do a job worth 30 thousand, then why did they graduate from the university even after the intermediate.

In this sense of inferiority, we are seeing a large number of young people becoming mentally ill and irritable due to unemployment, on the other hand,

problems of depression are arising that if there is no job, how will there be a marriage. The matter does not stop there, we have lack of patience and the material to learn things slowly.

Because there is either a job in the market or not, even if there is, a big mountain of problems is waiting for a young person who has done Master's or BS in a general subject after graduation, because general subjects have become useless in our country.

For example, sociology is valued in developed countries, it helps in building society, but in Pakistan, a student studying sociology will either be accepted by the department of social welfare or he will be hired

as a lecturer somewhere or in an NGO, the market has not accommodated such subjects, which is a failure of the policy makers. Second, there are major problems of jobs in government sector, the seats are already fixed before advertisement.

See if you want to do business then you need proper speaking and marketing skills to start your business even for Rs 1 lakh and for quick success you need someone paper with 100 marks MCQs (with values) or another way is CSS Which is not in everyone's fortune because CSS books or even academy requires adequate money which is not possible without small jobs.

Social welfare dept commits uplift of special persons

F.P. Report

MARDAN: District Social Welfare Officer Mardan Jamal Shah Mohmand has said that special people are part of human society who deserves more attention than ordinary people. No civilized society can imagine ignoring the disabled or depriving them of a respectable place in society. Islam is a religion of respect for humanity.

As people with disabilities deserve special attention for their identity and dignity in society, Islam has given special teachings in this regard. He expressed these views in his office in Mardan during a meeting

with the delegation of the apologetics under the leadership of President of Saiban Development Organization Muhammad Arif in collaboration with Individual Land and Saiban Development Organization on behalf of CPDI. He said that the organizations associated with special people are working together. The Department of Social Welfare also provides suggestions to other institutions for the betterment of special persons.

Deputy Commissioner Mardan will discuss for the construction of ramps in buildings for special people. He said that the Department of Social

Welfare is striving hard for the welfare of the disabled and special persons and has taken many effective measures in this regard, the aim of which is to provide such facilities to the disabled persons with the help of which they can integrate themselves into the society. Being a useful citizen can play an active role in the development of the country.

He said that government institutions as well as private sector and welfare institutions have played a very appropriate role for the rehabilitation of special people in the beloved country and to deal with the challenges faced by them.



MULTAN: A gypsy woman washing clothes while sitting on the bank of the Canal.

Supply of water suspended from blasting in mountain

F.P. Report

CHITRAL: Supply of drinking water of Public Health engineering Department suspended from Sunday due to blasting in mountain near death goal. As contractor of National Highway Authority blasting in mountain for expanding of road as a result the whole Hill collapse which damaged pipeline of PHE which is the only source of water supply from Golain fountain to Chitral town. Some 50000 people of Chitral town suffering from shortage of potable drinking water.

PHE department arranged alternate source of water supply from Angarghoan Shahshah of Water and Sanitation Unit. In connection this scribe also contacted office of Executive Engineer of Public Health Engineering Department regarding restoration of water supply. PHE spokesman said that there is million of Tons debris and boulders on our pipe until and unless the contractor not dispose off that we can not repair our pipe. As well as the cracked

mountain above this pipe is very dangerous and in case of repair work under that cracked mountain it can fell down over our staff which can cause of any casualty.

Prominent social and political personality Chairman Faizur Rehman of Booni told that he himself was a contractor and we cutting mountain with jack hammer or excavator that is the safe way but due to blasting beneath the mountain after digging 35 feet long small tunnel it causing of cracking the whole mountain which can fell over the passengers any time because this is a busy road.

He said that there was a best quality blacktopped road which was evacuated and damaged by contractor two years ago now we travelling on an earthen road having big ditches in its middle. He said that due to using heavy explosive of large quantity the mountain fell down and it damage pipe of drinking water as a result thousands of people deprive from drinking water. He demanded from the Chief of Army staff to intervene in this issue and call chairman of

NHA at his office to bound him for protection of lives and protery of people by contractor who working of very substandard quality and now this road is more vulnerable and dangerous one for people of Upper Chitral who travelling on it.

Social and political circle of Chitral demanded from higher authorities including judiciary to bound the contact for cutting the mountain with jack hammer or use other safe way instead of blasting in mountain which causing cracking the whole mountain and most dangerous for passerby.

They also demanded from the authorities to bound the contact for using standard quality material because at present all work of collapsing mountain, retaining and protection wall, culverts and drainage pipe are totally of substandard quality and it will be damaged within one year and people of this backward area will be once again faced numerous problems. They also demanded for restoration of drinking water on emergency basis.

IGFC hails police efforts for law, order
F.P. Report

KHYBER: Inspector General (IG) Frontier Corps (FC) North inaugurated newly constructed District Police Officer, Counter-Terrorism Department and Special Branch buildings, on Tuesday.

In a ceremony held by the Frontier Corps North, the newly constructed DPO, CTD, and Special Branch buildings were inaugurated, aimed at enhancing the capacity of the police in Khyber district. Inspector General Frontier Corps North, Major General Noor Wali Khan and Inspector General Police Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Akhtar Hayat graced the event as chief guests.

Major General Noor Wali Khan praised the commendable efforts of the police in maintaining law and order in Khyber. He said that Pakistan Army and Frontier Corps North are emphasizing on the police training in the Tribal Areas to effectively engage those who disrupt peace. The event saw the participation of District Administration and Security Forces officials and local elders.

74 schools closed due to Suttlej flood

PAKPATTAN (PPI): As many as 74 schools were shut down by the education department amid the fear of flood in River Suttlej, officials said Tuesday. According to a report, 51 schools were closed in Pakpattan while education activities were put on halt in 23 schools in Arifwala.

The district administration has also set up 6 camps for the displaced people, keeping in view the increasing water level in Suttlej. The relief camps were established in Pir Ghani, Malik Bahawal, Malik-e-Taro, Beli Dilawar, Tibi Lal Baig and Noora Rath areas. Suttlej River has been in high flood at Head Sulemanki, with 1,91,000 cusecs water passing through the headworks.

Residents hold protest against Ranipur rape case

F.P. Report

SHAHDADKOT: The political and social organizations, PPP and other social organizations arranged protest against the murder of a 10-year-old girl Fatima Paharo in Ranipur in Shahdadkot after a brutal person allegedly raped her.

A demonstration was held in which Habbdar Mirjat, Al-Hadad Khokh, Wazir Kahusa and others said that a few days ago in Ranipur, a brutal person killed a ten-year-old girl, Fatima Pahr, after raping her. He said that due to the increase of lawlessness in Sindh, such incidents are becoming common.

Traders increased fertilizers' prices: In Qamber Shahdadkot district of Sindh, the so-called traders are selling their fake prices at Rs 4000 per sack by adding one thousand rupees to the fixed amount per sack of Engro Urea Company. According to the incompetence of the officers of the Department of

Agriculture in Shahdadkot, the gold urea of Engro Company and Engro Urea are being sold on the black market at an artificial price of one to fifteen hundred more than the fixed price, the district of Sindh province which was severely affected in the last flood rains.

The deputy commissioner of Qamber Shahdadkot, Imdad Abro, and the assistant commissioners of all the seven tehsils of the district are silent spectators who are watching the farmers and farmers looting but are not daring to take action against them. The leaders of Abadgar Board District Qamber Shahdadkot, Abdul Khaliq Kahusa, Habibullah Jarwar, Zulfikar Ali Jamali and others protested and said that the influential Delran and Beupari Deputy Commissioner of Kahad of District Qamber Shahdadkot are not considered as DC while Uria appointed by the government.

The price per bag is

2910 according to the control price, but the so-called traders and dealers are enjoying the silence of DC Qamber Shahdadkot and selling the price up to 400 per bag, which is unfair and abusive to the farmers and cultivators of the district. He made the alleged accusation and said that with the connivance of the Deputy Commissioner and Assistant Commissioners of the district and the officers of the Department of Agriculture, traders and dealers are selling the so-called Engro-Urea at an artificial price, as it is said that Andher Nagri Charbat Raja, he said.

The Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, the Army Chief, along with the top officials of Sindh, demanded that notice should be taken of the artificial prices of fertilizer in Qamber Shahdadkot district and cases should be registered against all the district officers involved so that farmers and farmers can get justice be smooth.

MERC responds to 1500 accidents

F.P. Report

ZHOB: Since the establishment of Medical Emergency Response Centers along the national highway connecting Balochistan with Khyber Pakhtoonkhwa, so far responded to around 1500 road accidents and rescued over 2500 precious lives, this number has been revealed by an official at the MERC in northern Balochistan.

'MERC provides medical assistance in road accidents or RTAs, poisoning, drowning, burn injuries, snake bite cases and heat wave cases,' the official added. The Balochistan government under the administration of the Public Primary Health Initiative (PPHI) has established specialized emergency service centers on major highways in the province in 2019, which provide emergency healthcare to the people in

their catchment areas. All the MERC centers are equipped with state-of-the-art facilities, trained emergency staff, medical supplies and advanced lifesaving ambulances.

Along the national highway N-50, two centers MERC Badinzi in Zhob - from Sawara bridge Musafirpur to District headquarter civil hospital and MERC Mani Khwa in Sherani district - from Kataw Dabara Dhana Sar to DHQ hospital have been playing an active role in this remote and mountainous area of Balochistan. The trained rescuers and paramedics are working round the clock to provide medical treatment and rescue facilities in case of a road accident and other emergencies. The mentioned above centers have responded to thousands of accidents on the highway so far, whereas injured people have been provided

treatment on an emergency basis.

People in this remote and mountainous part of Balochistan have lauded the hectic efforts and services of Rafiullah Mandokhail in charge of MERC Mani Khwa and Abdul Razzaq Kakar in charge of MERC Badinzi and demanded of the high authorities to award them appreciation certificates in recognition of their best performance.

According to the data, during the recent five years, the province has witnessed a staggering 900 lives lost and over forty thousand injuries on the provincial highways in traffic accidents. On the other hand the MERC data shows that more than thirty thousand traffic accidents took place on highways during the above mentioned period, and last year alone the MERC responded to 14000 people on highways.



Power cuts in Niger threaten to spoil millions of vaccines

NIAMEY (AP): The UN is spending over 20 times more money than usual on fuel for generators to keep millions of vaccines in Niger from spoiling due to incessant power cuts. The outages are the result of severe economic and travel sanctions imposed by regional countries after mutinous soldiers toppled the country's president last month.

Country representative for the United Nations Children's Fund in Niger, Stefano Savi, told The Associated Press that it has spent \$200,000 powering generators to keep vaccines, including for polio and rotavirus, across the country cold during the first three weeks of August. That's up from approximately \$10,000 a month previously and might soon run out of money, he said. Niger relies on neighboring Nigeria for up to 90% of its power, but after soldiers ousted democratically elected President Mohamed Bazoum in July, Nigeria cut off part of its electricity supply as part of sanctions imposed by the West African regional bloc, ECOWAS.

The sanctions are taking a toll on the population with the price of goods rising, residents unable to easily access cash, and people living in the dark. Now there are mounting concerns it will gravely impact the health system, particularly the ability to keep some 28 million vaccine doses in the country cold. Although there were power cuts before the sanctions, they usually lasted a few hours, but now the cuts are

much longer - sometimes up to 18 hours a day, said Savi. UNICEF only has enough money until the end of August and is appealing to donors for emergency funds, he said. ECOWAS has struggled to stave off coups in the region - Mali and Burkina Faso have had two each since 2020 - and views Niger's coup as one too many, imposing harsh sanctions and threatening military force if Bazoum isn't reinstated. While the threat of force hasn't materialized, Niger's junta ignored a deadline to reinstate Bazoum and last week announced it would transition to civilian rule within three years.

During a weekend meeting between junta leader Gen. Abdourahmane Tchiani and a delegation from ECOWAS, Tchiani pushed the bloc to lift the sanctions and said the military was under pressure to ease the suffering on the population, an official in the meeting who was not authorized to speak to the media told AP. The official said Tchiani repeatedly complained about the sanctions but wasn't willing to give much in return. While none of the vaccines have gone bad yet, there's concern it could happen, say health officials. Most of Niger's roughly 1,300 local health centers are powered by solar panels and able to keep the vaccines cold, but the capital, Niamey and regional and district levels rely on electricity and generators. "If the situation continues like this, we will run out of diesel fuel, we will not be able to power the room with elec-

tricity and we might lose all these vaccines that cost (millions of dollars)," said Mallam Brah Hararou, a logistician at the national vaccine center in Niamey.

The sanctions and the junta's closing of the air-space have also prevented goods from coming into the country, threatening the resupply of medical equipment and food. UNICEF has some 50 containers with immunization, cold chain equipment and therapeutic food stuck at different entry points unable to get into the country, said a statement from the group. The only open route by road is through neighboring Burkina Faso, which is dangerous because it's riddled with militant groups. Approximately 300 trucks with food and other essential supplies crossed into Niger from Burkina Faso. It was escorted by a military convoy on both sides of the border.

"The issue there is security. As you know the area is infested with let's say bandits, who started to burn down trucks. But now with the professionalism shown by both armies those trucks have been able to arrive safely," said Col. Adamou Zarouneye, Niger's regional customs director. Still, it's unclear how viable that route will be. Drivers who transported the goods say they were stuck for two months in Burkina Faso unable to cross into Niger because of the insecurity. "I found it difficult on the road," said Bashir Djouri a truck driver from Ghana. "You can't take roads, really," he said.

Wagner chief Prigozhin seen in first video address

LONDON (BBC): Wagner chief Yevgeny Prigozhin has appeared in his first video address since his failed mutiny in Russia, which suggests he is in Africa. The BBC has not been able to verify where the video was filmed. The video posted on Telegram channels linked to the Wagner mercenary group shows Prigozhin in combat gear, saying the group is making Africa "more free".

Wagner is believed to have thousands of fighters on the continent, where it has lucrative business interests. Prigozhin's soldiers are embedded in countries including Mali and the Central African Republic (CAR) - where rights groups and the UN accuse them of committing war crimes. The UK last month imposed sanctions on the two heads of Wagner's operations in CAR, accusing them of torture and killing civilians. Wagner fighters have also been accused by the US of enriching themselves with illicit gold deals on the continent. In the video, Prigozhin says Wagner is exploring for minerals as well as fighting Islamist militants and other crimi-

nals. "We are working. The temperature is +50 - everything as we like. Wagner PMC conducts reconnaissance and search actions, makes Russia even greater on all continents, and Africa even more free," Prigozhin can be heard saying. "Justice and happiness - for the African people, we're making life a nightmare for ISIS (Islamic State) and Al-Qaeda and other bandits." He says Wagner is recruiting and the group will "continue fulfilling the tasks that were set - we made promises we would succeed". Prigozhin was photographed in St Petersburg during last month's Africa-Russia summit, shaking hands with Ambassador Freddy Mapouka, a presidential advisor in the CAR. Prigozhin has been keeping a low public profile since heading his short-lived mutiny in June, which lasted only 24 hours. About 5,000 Wagner troops seized control of the southern Russian city of Rostov-on-Don and moved towards Moscow, with the stated aim of removing the military leadership. However, Prigozhin

stopped the advance after negotiations with the Kremlin, which were mediated by Belarusian leader Alexander Lukashenko. Under a deal to end the mutiny, charges against Prigozhin were dropped and he was offered a move to Belarus. There had been very public infighting between Wagner and Russia's ministry of defence over the conduct of the war. Prigozhin repeatedly accused the ministry of failing to supply his group with ammunition. Prigozhin says he founded the Wagner group in 2014. A wealthy businessman with a criminal record, Prigozhin is known as "Putin's chef" because he provided catering for the Kremlin. In 2014, Wagner started backing pro-Russian separatist forces in eastern Ukraine, and is thought to have helped Russia annex Crimea. Before the war in Ukraine, Wagner had an estimated 5,000 fighters - mostly veterans of Russia's elite regiments and special forces. However, Prigozhin said last June that its numbers had grown since the start of the Ukraine war to 25,000 fighters.

UN calls unauthorized construction

UNITED NATIONS (AP): The UN Security Council called unauthorized construction by Turkish Cypriots inside the UN buffer zone dividing Cyprus a violation of the status quo that is contrary to council resolutions and it condemned their assault on UN peacekeepers.

The council statement was issued after emergency closed consultations by its 15 members. It followed criticism of the UN peacekeepers for blocking construction by Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan. Speaking after a Cabinet meeting in Turkey's capital, Ankara, Erdogan called the UN action "unacceptable" and accused the peacekeeping force of bias against Turkish Cypriots. He said Turkey would not allow any "unlawful" behavior toward ethnic Turks on Cyprus.

Cyprus was divided into a breakaway Turkish Cypriot north and an internationally recognized Greek Cypriot south in 1974

following a Turkish invasion that was triggered by a coup aimed at uniting the island with Greece. Turkey maintains more than 35,000 soldiers in the Mediterranean nation's northern third. The Greek Cypriot south is a member of the European Union. Since 1974, a UN peacekeeping force known as UNFICYP has supervised the de facto cease-fire and maintained a buffer zone between Turkish and Turkish Cypriot forces in the north and Greek Cypriot forces in the south.

Angry Turkish Cypriots last week punched and kicked a group of international peacekeepers that blocked crews working on a road that would encroach on the island's UN-controlled buffer zone. The road is designed to connect the village of Arsoy, in the Turkish Cypriot north, with the multi-ethnic village of Pyla, which is inside the buffer zone and abuts the Greek Cypriot south. The

Security Council welcomed the halt in construction by the Turkish Cypriot side and the removal of equipment and personnel. It called on both sides to show flexibility and support efforts by the UN envoy "to negotiate mutually agreed development in the area concerned." Council members "underscored the need to avoid any further unilateral or escalatory actions by either party that could raise tensions on the island and harm prospects for a settlement," the statement said.

But Erdogan said: "Preventing the Turkish Cypriots living in Pyla from reaching their own land is neither legal nor humane." "The peacekeeping force has overshadowed its impartiality with both the physical intervention against the villagers and the unfortunate statements it made after the intervention and has damaged its reputation on this island," he said.

Kenyan officials meet with Haiti police

PORT-AU-PRINCE (Reuters): A Kenyan delegation has arrived in Haiti and has been meeting with the country's national police, as it assesses leading a possible United Nations-backed multinational security force to help police fight escalating gang warfare. The Caribbean country's government first called for international security assistance last October.

UN chief Antonio Guterres has also long called for the international community to lend its support and last month Kenya became the first country to say it was prepared to lead such a force. The Kenyan officials were at the police headquarters in Port-au-Prince, where they met with Frantz Elbe, the head of Haiti's National Police, a source told Reuters. Talks are set to continue Tuesday. With scarce resources, Haiti's police have been battling powerful gangs now estimated to control large parts of the country, where residents grapple with severe food shortages, frequent killings, kidnappings and widespread sexual violence. Since the start of this year, the UN estimates at least 2,439 people have been killed and some 200,000 internally displaced amid frequent turf wars and as fighting expands to farmlands north of the capital.

After the Kenyan assessment, the plan to send a security force to Haiti will pass to a vote at the UN Security Council. The United States has already voiced its support. In a report last week, Guterres told the Security Council a "robust use of force" by a multinational police deployment and use of military assets were needed to restore order and disarm gangs. Guterres said the support should focus on re-establishing access routes for basic services. Foreign-backed aid groups have been forced to shut down operations in recent days given an escalation in the violence.

Human Rights Watch has called for the planned multinational force to include safeguards to prevent abuses. Previous interventions left behind a devastating cholera epidemic, as well as many allegations of sexual abuse. Countries have also been wary of backing the administration of unelected Prime Minister Ariel Henry.

UK, Iraq agree to increase coop

BAGHDAD (AP): Britain's security minister pledged more U.K. support for Iraq's security forces in combating drug production and trafficking. In a visit to Baghdad, Security Minister Tom Tugendhat said British officials "want to build on our strong counterterrorism cooperation" and expand the countries' security relationship to "identify and address shared serious organized crime threats" including "human smuggling, trafficking, narcotics and money laundering that work together as a criminal network that undermines the entire state of Iraq."

While Iraq has in recent years primarily served as a transit country for drugs - particularly the amphetamine Captagon, which is largely produced in neighboring Syria - there have been some indications that Iraq is also moving into production. Tugendhat pointed to the discovery by Iraqi authorities last month of a factory that was producing Captagon in Iraq, in a province bordering Saudi Arabia. The Gulf country is a major market for the pills. "There is always an overlap between drugs, human trafficking, terrorism and violence," Tugendhat told the Associated Press. "We are seeing criminal groups, human trafficking and drugs affecting not just Iraq, but the whole region and many of our friends and allies in the region."

Iraqi Prime Minister Mohammed Shia al-Sudani said in a statement that his country has made "significant efforts" to combat drugs and human trafficking. Sudani said the Iraqi and British interior ministries were preparing to sign agreements outlining their cooperation on these issues.

Immigrant workers' lives, livelihoods, documents in limbo

LAHAINA, Hawaii (AP): Freddy Tomas was working in his yard in Lahaina when the fire advanced with stunning speed right up to his fence. He rushed to save valuables from a safe inside his house but realized he didn't have time and fled, his face blackened with soot.

Days after fleeing in his pickup truck, amid smoke so thick he could only follow the red taillights of the vehicle in front of him and pray they were going the right way, the retired hotel worker from the Philippines returned to his destroyed home with his son to look for the safe. Tomas, 65, said it had contained passports, naturalization papers, other important documents and \$35,000.

After sifting through the ashes, father and son found the safe, but it had popped open in the fire, whipped by hurricane-force winds, and its contents were incinerated. For immigrants like Tomas, Lahaina was an oasis, with nearly double the foreign-born population of the US mainland. Now, those workers are trying to piece their lives back together after the Aug. 8 fire leveled the town.

Maui County and the Maui Police Department confirmed the identities of another five victims of the wildfires that devastated the area, the county website said. The confirmed death toll remained at 114 as investigators continued to search the area. Hawaii Gov. Josh Green said on the CBS News show "Face the Nation" that "an army of search and rescue teams" with 41 dogs have covered 85% of the impacted area. Maui County Mayor Richard Bissen said in a social media post that 27 victims have been identified and 11 families were notified of the losses. The FBI and the Maui County Medical Examiner and Coroner office are working together to identify the recovered remains.

"There are currently 850 names on the list of missing persons," Bissen said, adding that the number represented a positive change from the original list containing more than 2,000 names. "Over 1,285 individuals have been located safe. We are both saddened and relieved about these numbers as we continue the recovery process. The number of identified will rise, and the number of missing may decrease," Bissen said, explaining there is an expectation of daily fluctuations and that he plans to provide an update each day.

Jobs had been plentiful in the town that boasted a row of restaurants and shops along Lahaina's Front Street, bordering the azure waters of the Pacific. Lured as well by its beautiful vistas and laid-back lifestyle, foreign workers had flocked to Lahaina from all over the world. And they contributed significantly to the population and economy. The presence of immigrant workers in Lahaina boosted the proportion of its foreign-born



residents to 32%, compared to 13.5% for the United States as a whole, the US Census Bureau estimated in July 2022.

The labor shortage related to the COVID-19 pandemic created more opportunity for job seekers. In February, employers were trying to fill 14,000 jobs in Hawaii - roughly double the number of unfilled job openings that existed before the pandemic, Hawaii News Now reported, citing state economists. Restaurants in Lahaina were literally hiring people off the street. Many foreign-born workers lost everything in the inferno. Some residents perished. The Mexican Consulate in San Francisco said two men were confirmed dead and was helping to arrange the return of their remains to their families in Mexico. A Costa Rican man was also among the 100-plus dead and many more remain missing.

The consulate said some 3,000 Mexican nationals are believed to be living on Maui, many working in pineapple fields, in hotels and restaurants, and other establishments with ties to tourism. Mexico's Consul General in San Francisco, Remedios Gomez Arnau, dispatched three staff members to Maui to help Mexican citizens deal with the tragedy. The Mexican government has been in contact with at least 250 of its citizens in Maui, she said, and reissued passports and birth certificates lost in the fire. "Many of them lost everything because their homes burned down, and they lost their documents," she said in an interview.

With businesses burned down, legions of those who survived are now jobless. Many are also without a place to live after the blaze also tore through housing of many people who worked at the town's hotels and resorts. And others are without a clear path forward. Immigration attorney Kevin Block noted that some immigrants have permanent residency or temporary protected status, and some are in the United States illegally. "A lot of those folks are nervous about applying for any kind of help," he said. "When (the Federal Emergency

Management Agency) rolls into town or when there's government agencies around or even medical help, they're very scared to get it because they're scared of getting deported."

A document provided by FEMA says anyone affected by a major disaster may be eligible for disaster assistance, including noncitizens whose deportation status is being withheld for at least one year, as well as noncitizens granted asylum. That assistance can include crisis counseling, legal assistance, medical care, food and shelter, and other relief services. However, callers to the FEMA assistance hotline are told in recorded messages that they should provide a social security number and are warned that lying in an application for aid is a federal offense. For immigrants who were brought to Maui as children, it is the only home they know.

"They are working as first responders, providing food, delivering supplies," Block said. "They are right there with everybody else checking to see who needs help. It's become more apparent than ever how vital they are to the community." Chuy Madrigal fled the blaze with nine members of his extended family, which originally is from Mexico. They lost the home that his mom worked 30 years to save up enough money to buy and the food truck they started operating just three months ago, said Madrigal, who is a recipient of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program, or DACA, for immigrants who were brought to the US as children but don't have legal status. Madrigal said he and others from the immigrant community have been knocking on doors to gather supplies for those in need and offering to translate. They have tried to comfort those, like him, who lost everything. "There has been a lot of fear," he said. "But once you talk to people and tell them, 'When we got here, we started from zero, this is zero again, we just got to get back on it and continue' - a lot of people have said, 'You're right.'" The family is planning to rebuild their lives again on Maui.

North Korea plans satellite launch as Seoul, US hold drills

SEOUL (AFP): North Korea has informed Japan it plans to launch a satellite in the coming days, Tokyo said Tuesday, less than three months after a failed effort saw a military satellite plunge into the sea. Prime Minister Fumio Kishida urged Pyongyang to call it off, saying his country was working with South Korea and the United States to gather more information on the sanctions-busting launch.

Tokyo is taking "all possible measures to prepare for any unforeseen eventuality", Kishida said, adding that missile defence units and naval ships had been mobilised in case the satellite landed in Japanese territory. Japan's Coast Guard said the "satellite rocket launch" would take place between August 24 and 31, with three designated danger areas: the Yellow Sea, East China Sea and waters east of the Philippines' Luzon island. In May, Pyongyang launched what it described as its first military reconnaissance satel-

lite, but the rocket carrying it plunged into the sea minutes after takeoff.

North Korea has vowed to successfully launch a spy satellite, which it claims to have developed as a necessary counterbalance to the growing US military presence in the region, "in the near future". Pyongyang's new launch plan comes a day after Seoul and Washington kicked off their major annual joint military drills. Known as Ulchi Freedom Shield, the exercises, which are aimed at countering growing threats from the nuclear-armed North, will run through August 31. Pyongyang views all such exercises as rehearsals for an invasion and has repeatedly warned it would take "overwhelming" action in response.

Suspected North Korean hackers have already targeted the exercises, with email attacks on South Korean contractors working at the allies' combined exercise war simulation centre. On Tuesday, North Korea's state news agency condemned

"the aggressive character" of the US-South Korea drills. In a commentary, KCNA warned that if the drills involve a "nuclear provocation", the possibility "of a thermonuclear war on the Korean peninsula will become more realistic". South Korea's spy agency told lawmakers last week that Pyongyang could launch a reconnaissance satellite in late August or early September. The launch is meant to happen ahead of the 75th anniversary of the regime's founding on September 9, member of parliament Yoo Sang-bum told reporters after the briefing. "Pyongyang appears to be timing its next satellite launch with the ongoing joint Ulchi Freedom Shield exercise, having improved and supplemented technical aspects of the launch over the past three months," Choi Gi-il, professor of national security at Sangji University, told AFP. "Given the nature of the North Korean regime, three months seems sufficient enough to find flaws from its failed May

launch and apply fixes -- though we have to see whether it can pull it off this time," he added.

The United States, South Korea and Japan condemned the North's satellite launch in May as a violation of United Nations resolutions prohibiting the nuclear-armed state from using ballistic missile technology. Analysts have said there is significant technological overlap between the development of intercontinental ballistic missiles and space launch capabilities. North Korean leader Kim Jong Un has made the development of a military spy satellite a top priority. The crash of the satellite in May sparked a complex, 36-day South Korean salvage operation involving a fleet of naval rescue ships, mine sweepers and deep-sea divers. The retrieved parts of the rocket and the satellite were analysed by experts in South Korea and the United States, with Seoul's defence ministry subsequently saying the satellite had no military utility.

Guatemala's pick of independent anti-graft progressive as president may face challenge

GUATEMALA CITY (AP): Guatemalans overwhelmingly picked an independent progressive to be the country's next president but his opponent remained silent, leaving open the possibility of a challenge to landslide results that resoundingly rejected the country's elite.

With 100% of votes counted, anti-corruption crusader Bernardo Arévalo got 58% of the vote to 37% for former first lady Sandra Torres in her third bid for the presidency. The results still have to be certified to become official. Torres made no public statements in the hours after her loss, creating the question of whether she would dispute the election and set her backers against Arévalo's, some of whom pledged to greet any controversy with street protests.

The United States has long had strong economic and diplomatic ties with Guatemala and President Joe Biden weighed, saying that his country saw Arévalo as the winner. "Congratulations to the people of Guatemala following a fair and peaceful second round of elections, and to Bernardo Arévalo de León on his election," Biden wrote on X, the platform formerly known as Twitter. "I look forward to working together to foster prosperity and security in Guatemala." Arévalo said that outgoing President Alejandro Giammattei had also congratulated him, and told him

that they could begin planning the transition the day after the results are certified. But certifying the results could be complicated by legal objections from Arévalo opponents. "We know that there is a political persecution underway that is being carried out through the institutions and prosecutor's offices and judges that have been corruptly co-opted," Arévalo said. "We want to think that the force of this victory is going to make it clear that there is no place for the attempts to derail the electoral process. The Guatemalan people have spoken forcefully." There are potential legal hurdles for Arévalo. The attorney general's office announced last month it was

investigating the signatures gathered to legally register his Seed Movement. A judge briefly suspended the party's legal status before a higher court intervened.

Torres remained silent. Her party released a brief statement that gave no indication about whether it would challenge the results. In the statement, the National Unity of Hope party said that it would take a "definitive position when the results are clarified with total transparency," and was disappointed that international observers had not reviewed irregularities, without being specific. Guatemalan electoral authorities, for their part, said that vote had gone well.

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Anti-state sloganeering, rights activism or fifth column

AN anti-terrorism court (ATC) in Islamabad on Monday remanded human rights lawyer Imaan Mazari and Pashtun Tahafuz Movement (PTM) leader Ali Wazir into police custody for three days, while rejecting the prosecution's request for a 10-day remand and defense counsels' appeal for the bail of the accused. Both so-called human rights activists and self claimed public leaders have been charged by the Federal administration for sedition against the state and delivering controversial speeches at a public rally held by the PTM in the national capital. During the hearing, both accused denied the charges and claimed innocence, commission of nothing unlawful and against the interests of the state.

Advocate Imaan Mazari, a self-proclaimed human rights activist is the daughter of the PTI leader and former Federal Minister for Human Rights Dr. Sharin Mazari. Whereas, Ali Wazir is a left wing Pashtun leader and long held critic of the Pakistani state and its institutions over self founded charges of so-called state atrocities against Pashtuns residing in Erstwhile FATA, the KPK and across Pakistan. Both individuals gained popularity in a particular faction of society at home and anti-Pakistan elements sitting abroad particularly in Kabul, New Delhi and several western capitals, due to their anti-state narrative, controversial statements and hate speeches against Pakistan. Historically, the country has no scarcity of such fake human rights defenders and so-called well-wishers of the people who always remain ready to play on behalf of the enemies of Pakistan. These elements always received unprecedented admiration for their negative politics and anti-state narrative from across the Wagah border and on the other side of the Durand line throughout in the past.

In fact, human rights and civil liberties are a sensitive issue and usually bisect security concerns and overlap other state laws complicating the work of the law enforcers and creating hurdles for judges and prosecutors not only in Pakistan but all civilised nations across the globe. All nations offer a degree of freedom of expression, right to peaceful assembly and lawful protest but no country permits any person or a group to abuse the writ of the law, defame national institutions or spread chaos in the garb of civil rights, political freedom or democracy. Interestingly, these so-called liberals, human rights activists, and sub-nationalist leaders always joined hands to mourn alleged state atrocities, and maltreatment of minorities in Pakistan but they never came up to denounce Indian state atrocities and human rights violation in Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir, never criticised Israeli war crimes in Palestine or nor condemned the awful desecration of Holy Quran in Sweden and Denmark. That raised serious questions regarding their conduct and highlighted dual standards regarding human rights at home and abroad. Thus selective implementation of the global laws and dual use of civic principles clearly expose their true motives and anti-state agenda.

Historically, the constitution of Pakistan categorically covers all citizenry and fundamental rights of its citizens without any discrimination of religion, cast, colour and creed, while the state of Pakistan had always endeavoured whole heartedly to protect civil liberties and basic rights of its citizens throughout history. However, the state of Pakistan can not and should not allow any individual or a group of people to use civic liberties for furtherance of their hidden agendas and accomplishment of their nefarious designs against the country. The issue of enforced disappearances had been addressed at the highest level in Pakistan and thousands of individuals had been recovered by the powerful judicial commission in the past. Amid the ongoing hybrid propaganda and accusations against state entities, terrorist groups and banned organisations had used voluntary disappearance of their members to discredit and defame state institutions, while the same tactics had been used by the foreign Intelligence to globally pressurise Pakistan.

In fact, foreign pawns and people of no character are well versed in the tactic of trading national prestige and misusing civil freedoms for the sake of cheap popularity and getting attention from the foreign media. No nation either gives in to baseless propaganda or surrenders to blackmail of the hate mongers and apostates, who always joined the enemy's ranks and stabbed the nation in the back. Hence, the nation must recognise their faces, and unite against them to fail their nefarious plans against the country.

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Rethink investment and help Africa realize its vast potential

Hafeed Al-Ghwel

AS the world emerges from the series of crises triggered by the COVID-19 pandemic and worsened by the war in Ukraine, one region is being left behind amid the resurgence of foreign direct investment - Africa. Although data highlights Africa's high rates of return on investment, the continent continues to struggle to translate this and its vast potential into sustainable socioeconomic development. Such a sobering reality calls for a comprehensive reexamination of Africa's FDI conundrum and how best to harness dwindling inflows to close the \$4 trillion investment gap impeding the continent's sustainable development.

According to the UN, investment flows to Africa dropped from \$80 billion to about \$45 billion in 2022. While FDI is expected to increase this year, the global environment is much less favorable than before the pandemic and most investments are likely to be concentrated in the oil and gas sectors. Meanwhile, continued disruptions owing to the convulsions in Ukraine and the Black Sea are expected to drive economic contractions among net food importers, further hampering capital inflows targeting non-oil sectors, including mining.

Recognizing Africa's potential for exponential growth in the mining sector as a result of the global energy transition, forecasters can be forgiven for anticipating an influx of foreign investment within the continent, which holds an estimated 30 percent of the planet's mineral reserves. Africa possesses an impressive range of minerals, particularly those vital to the energy transition, such as nickel, cobalt, graphite, lithium and rare earth elements.

Nearly four-fifths of the world's total supply of platinum, half of its manganese and two-thirds of its cobalt come from Africa. The continent also boasts 40 percent of the world's gold reserves and an astounding 90 percent of its chromium. A single African country, Guinea, outperforms many others globally, producing more than 20 percent of the world's bauxite, a critical element in aluminum pro-

duction.

However, such vast resource wealth has yet to translate into Africa contributing a greater share to global supply chains. Nor has it sparked a "mineral rush" that often entails sharp increases in investment inflows. The nosedive of investment flows to Africa is a blow not just to the continent's economies but also to the global efforts to mitigate climate change, reduce migration drivers and achieve the UN's Sustainable Development Goals. This investment crunch also raises the specter of future crises, likely triggered by climate-related disasters and conflict.

Africa's burgeoning youth population has also become a ticking time bomb that could ignite social unrest and political instability if left unattended. The absence of sufficient investments to create jobs and opportunities could accelerate this danger. In other words, the declines have evolved beyond mere financial concerns for embattled governments, turning into crisis amplifiers, even though Africa, by virtue of its high returns on investments, should be a magnet for global capital.

Evidently, the economics of investment in Africa are more complex than raw numbers would suggest, since the continent registers, on average, returns exceeding 11 percent, compared with Asia's 9.1 percent and a global average of 7.1 percent. However, the continent's share of global net FDI remains alarmingly low.

Thus, a fundamental question arises: Why is Africa, a continent touted as a high-return investment destination, always grappling with diminished FDI inflows? Historically, economic growth in many developing countries has been stymied by the lack of sufficient capital from national savings to finance value-adding investments. This capital shortage often compelled these countries to resort to international monetary institutions for borrowing, ensuring finance for recurrent expenses and capital expenditures. However, unresolved repayment obliga-

tions and the stricter lending conditions of these institutions have increasingly curtailed this avenue of financing development.

In the past, these loans formed a key lifeline for governments of developing countries, viewed as vital infusions for financing. However, the rising spate of defaults, coupled with lenders escalating stringency, are placing limits on borrowing as a viable means of financing their development aspirations. As a result, an alternative path emerged for poorer economies to strategically import capital, while also offering additional benefits, including job creation, access to foreign markets and human capital enhancement through the transfer of skill sets, knowledge and technology. For these countries, where the investment demand often outstrips domestic savings, the solution was channeling FDI into priority sectors, thereby fostering growth while eschewing unaffordable debt. FDI, given its potential as an engine for growth and development, has since been the focus of many countries seeking to attract these monetary inflows, with policy reforms as their trump cards. Yet, despite these measures, developing countries, particularly those in Africa, continue to grapple with low and unstable FDI flows.

This persistent failure to transform the region's potential into rapid growth in gross domestic product requires an earnest examination of the underlying factors, which go beyond mere economics. To tap its unlimited potential, Africa must deal with the issues of political stability, institutional quality, inadequate human capital and infrastructural shortcomings, which are often directly linked with FDI attraction. Paradoxically, it will take substantial foreign capital inflows to tackle these underlying deficiencies, given the existing lack of resources, limited policy bandwidth and the deprioritization of much-needed reforms. Naturally, a lack of momentum on the policy front in terms of fundamentally improving FDI attraction only leads to capital flight and periods of unstable inflows, exacerbated by

instability at home or major disruptions from abroad, ultimately undermining economic development. In this, Africa can learn from middle-income countries that, even with lower investment yields, manage to attract a larger share of global FDI, underscoring the complex dynamics of global capital flow and the nuanced role of institutional and sociopolitical factors.

For Africa, the resolution lies not merely in boosting return rates on investment, but in cultivating environments that can sufficiently encourage these flows into the region. As such, transforming Africa's enormous potential into actual, sustainable socioeconomic development calls for an all-round, attentive reassessment - one that is not solely return on investment-focused but also appreciates the roles of sociopolitical stability and institutional robustness. Recognizing and rectifying the underlying factors that divert FDI may be challenging, but it is undoubtedly a challenge worth contending for Africa's prosperous future.

Ultimately, the decline in investment flows to Africa is not just limited to the continent; it is a global concern. The world cannot afford to sideline the continent that holds the key to many of our most pressing challenges, from climate change to sustainable development. We need to reexamine the factors responsible for the persistent failures at transforming the continent's enormous potential and high rates of return into rapid GDP growth and sustainable socioeconomic development. Whether through strengthening political institutions, enhancing human capital or investing in infrastructure, it is high time the world collectively rethought its approaches to investing in Africa beyond poverty eradication and meager improvements in human development indices. It is also about building resilient infrastructure, promoting inclusive and sustainable industrialization and fostering innovation - all of which require substantial investments. Only then can Africa transform from a continent of potential into a continent of prosperity.

Arab News

Biden's blunders are alienating his allies

Douglas Murray

IRECENTLY caught up on an excellent documentary about the American withdrawal from Saigon. It's as gripping and horrifying a subject as ever, but today it has a certain added piquancy. Because, of course, history never is history. Anyone who thought America might have learnt a lesson from that debacle will now have in mind the perils worse withdrawal from Afghanistan two summers ago.

The similarities are uncanny. The panic. The desperate locals clinging to the last flights out. US troops in the embassy in 1975 were ordered to burn millions of dollars in cash so that the North Vietnamese wouldn't get hold of it. That seems a bargain by comparison with 2021, when the Americans handed to the Taliban one of the most expensive and complete sets of military equipment in the world. So much for learning from history. Of course, the Biden administration claimed that in withdrawing it was merely taking a hardheaded approach, finally drawing down an indisputably over-long commitment to the country. But the manner of the withdrawal and the weakness it projected have had profound implications.

Many experts believe that Vladimir Putin's long-held desire to annex Ukraine was sparked into action by the ineffectual way in which the US withdrew. Worse is that the axis on which the global order moves has subtly shifted in the resulting period. For instance, if you are going to make one big mistake in a region, you had better make sure that every other alliance is in very good working order. The necessary isolation of Russia since its aggression in Ukraine has certainly pushed Russia closer into its own axis, of China and Iran. A motley collection of countries, to be sure, but far from being without clout, and all the more reason to shore up your natural allies.

The Biden administration has been exceptionally poor at doing that. Israel is generally thought of by outsiders as being almost defacto within the orbit of America. But the fraying of that relationship during the Obama administration (during which Biden was vice president) is undeniable. During that time, Israel inevitably had to keep other lines of friendship open, including with Russia. So Israel has, as a matter of realpolitik, kept itself out of the clear demarcations the rest of America's allies have held to since the start of the Ukraine crisis. Such things happen once you take to hectoring allies, rather than working with them. Until recently, there were few similarities between the Israelis and the Saudis. But Biden has managed to create some.

He publicly berated the crown prince for the murder of Jamal Khashoggi, and, as a result, the Saudis have been ever less inclined to simply do the bidding of Washington. With energy prices soaring last summer due to the fallout of the Ukraine war, Biden personally went to Saudi Arabia and asked them to increase oil production. There was a time when an American leader just needed to pick up the phone. But with midterms looming, Riyadh actually cut production. It

was an amazing middle finger, a sign not only that the Saudis didn't need to do what the US asked, but could do the opposite if they chose.

In such a situation, dangerous new alliances form. What has been most striking in the past year has been the audacious efforts by the Chinese to step into the roles once expected of the US. If there was a peace deal to be brokered in the Middle East, it used to be assumed that it would be America that would broker it. No more. When a deal was agreed in March to restore relations between the bitter enemies Iran and Saudi Arabia, it was Beijing that brokered it. Around the same time, it was the Chinese leadership that started touting a "peace deal" to end the war in Ukraine. That "deal" was the minimalist Russian position that Moscow should be allowed to retain territory that it has annexed. But as the Ukrainian counteroffensive makes slow progress, many nonaligned countries see China at least providing some solution to the conflict. The Americans, meanwhile, just talk the language of taking "as long as it takes". And whatever your views on the Ukraine conflict, it is hard to deny that the line from Washington has changed again and again.

Munitions that are ruled out one month are passed another month. Tanks and planes are presented as unthinkable to provide one month and provided the next. None of this is helped by the sheer lack of confidence that anybody dealing with the US president himself must feel. Last month, Biden held a meeting at the White House with the Israeli president Isaac Herzog. The hope was that it would reassure Israelis that the relationship was as solid as ever. This came at the same time as Biden was chiding prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu for his judicial reforms. That in itself is a classic Biden misstep. What business is it of the Americans if the Israeli government chooses to make long overdue changes to its supreme court system? Would anybody expect Netanyahu to step in and criticise the US government when the US supreme court is politicised? The idea is preposterous, but the belief that the Americans have the right to lecture everyone in the region is built into the system, when what America's allies need is encouragement beyond words or occasional photo ops.

Tehran is once again extorting the US by demanding money for prisoners. Iran has been a rogue state since 1979, but there are few rogue states in the world that America is so constantly and successfully blackmailed by. Expect pallets of cash to be handed over once more, as during the Obama-Biden years, to a regime dancing on the edge of trying to become a nuclear power.

For many countries in the region, Saudi Arabia and Israel perhaps most of all, that is the nightmare scenario, an Iran that goes nuclear fast. But then, Iran is in a good position. It has some strong friends - principally China - and some weak enemies, including the US. As I say, a subtle shift in the axis of global power. But on such subtle shifts whole worlds can change.

The Guardian

The government's 'Treasury brain' has got the UK in an economic mess

Fran Boait

BARELY a week goes by without more cracks appearing in our heavily privatised utilities and public services. From the near collapse of Thames Water and raw sewage discharges, to a deeper and more intense cost of living crisis due to the extreme marketisation of our electricity grid. Yet despite the increasing evidence of the failure of privatisation, the Treasury continues to dig in on the promise of the private sector.

The government department and Bank of England are in the process of designing a new digital pound, a publicly issued digital version of cash, which would circulate alongside the private electronic money currently issued by banks. It presents a vital opportunity to build a new public payments system, which could be a stable foundation for the economy, safe from the speculative booms and costly busts of the "too big to

fail" banks. This is why it is so disappointing to see that the Treasury is prioritising this new infrastructure as a "foundation for the private sector to innovate".

If we have to rely exclusively on profit-maximising financial tech firms ("fintech" for short) for accessing a digital pound, it risks becoming another source of data to monetise and feed up to AI and big tech - the very same industry this new form of money has the potential to protect the public from. The rapid growth of tech in financial services is increasing the democratic deficit in finance, with no transparency over what surveillance data is being collected by companies or for what purpose. A genuinely public payments system, designed with maximum privacy for customers, is exactly the kind of counterweight the finance industry needs. The Treasury's mantra of building a "foundation for the private sector to innovate" is well documented over the

past 40 years, but in practice research shows it is the public sector that often takes a vital role in innovating. With the UK economy struggling, and the added impacts of inflation and Brexit, surely the department in charge of setting the country's economic strategy should consider a new direction?

Many have pointed out the problem of the Treasury being in charge of both short-term fiscal and budgetary restraints and long-term economic strategy, and suggested that the resulting "Treasury brain" and orthodoxy is the barrier to investment. Our public-investment levels are the lowest of the G7. A strong economy requires investment, which means putting in money now and raising national debt for future economic gain. But the Treasury's prioritisation of the immediate public finances often leads it to restricting spending on basic public services, vetoing any

long-term investment and selling off public assets to bring in a quick buck. This is in part because of the problematic and inaccurate national discourse of "there's no money left", whipped up in the aftermath of the 2008 financial crash that continues to be used by both parties today. Rather than recognising a deregulated financial sector as the cause and restructuring the industry, public finances were blamed and austerity was implemented, with public debt being portrayed as national enemy No 1.

The Treasury brain's dedication and commitment to both the private sector and reducing public debt through arbitrary fiscal rules (which have changed six times in the past 10 years) have proved a lethal combination for the UK economy. Britain has one of the worst levels of income inequality in the developed world, one in four children live in poverty, and

it is failing on its climate commitments. Some propose drawing on Harold Wilson's idea for a department of economic affairs to break up the Treasury so that economic strategy sits in a different department from the running of day-to-day budgets. While the proposal has its advantages, critics argue this could just result in a war between departments. And we see this playing out in other areas of economic policy.

Since the crash, monetary and fiscal coordination has been disastrous, with the two pulling in opposite directions, and neither the Bank of England nor the government being willing to shoulder the responsibility for our economic woes. What is required is a more sophisticated understanding of government debt management, alongside an overarching purpose or mission for the economy - a mission-driven economy as Mariana Mazzucato puts it - that would help shape economic policy. Most agree it is in

times of crisis (putting aside its role in creating the crises) that the Treasury works at its best. The Covid-19 furlough scheme and the action to stop the global economy collapsing during the financial crisis were successful in part because we saw the day-to-day Treasury brain and orthodoxy going out the window. During the pandemic, the Treasury wasn't trying to provide a platform for the private sector to innovate, it was trying to protect people's livelihoods.

If the government sets the mission or purpose, such as creating a "just transition" domestically and supporting one internationally, then economic policy in all departments should support that purpose, and start having a common vision to coordinate around. Of course, that may sound like a lofty and idealistic proposition, but at the moment everything else just looks like moving the deckchairs on the Titanic.

Arms deals with Israel expose European powers' hypocrisy

A major \$3.5 billion arms deal, the largest in Israeli history, has taken German-Israeli relations to a new level. The German Bundestag voted to approve this purchase in June and it now has official American approval, which is required as the deal involves the joint US-Israeli Arrow-3 missile defense system. This comes at a time when Israel is exporting more and more weapons to European powers, profiting handsomely from the Ukraine crisis, while being ever more brutal to the millions of Palestinians whose lives it controls.

What does this reveal about the German-Israeli relationship? Israeli Jews have understandably always had mixed emotions about the nation that spawned the Nazi regime. This is not helped when antisemitic events still take place in Germany at a rate of seven incidents a day, according to one organization. Successive German leaderships have long attempted to establish a firm and lasting alliance with Israel. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu last week summed it up with one of his trademark soundbites: "Seventy-five years ago, the Jewish people were ground to dust on the soil of Nazi Germany. Seventy-five years later, (Israel) gives Germany - a different Germany - the tools to defend itself."

The issue of the Holocaust haunts the relationship. As recently as 2018, then-German Foreign Minister Heiko Maas stated that "it's because of Auschwitz that I chose to go into politics." This arms deal is just the latest step toward ever closer links. The German-Israeli military relationship is a two-way affair. Israel has long sought to purchase German arms, and vice versa.

Israeli strategists have always understood the long-term value of binding major nations to Israel's future and how military and security cooperation serves that purpose. If Germany benefits from a military partnership with Israel, then it becomes so much harder to speak out about the appalling Israeli treatment of Palestinians. Germany does criticize Israel, not least over settlements, but it refuses to take meaningful action.

German nervousness on this issue was highlighted when its antisemitism commissioner, Felix Klein, this month claimed that accusing Israel of running an apartheid regime was antisemitic. This is despite the near-consensus in the human rights and development community that apartheid is exactly what Israel is guilty of. Nothing has been said in Germany or elsewhere about the failure to tackle this discrimination and the shocking levels of racism shown toward Palestinians. What will this deal do for Germany? The Arrow system should be operational by the end of 2025. Its key selling points are that it is hypersonic and can intercept a missile outside the Earth's atmosphere. It can defend against both conventional and nonconventional missiles.

The Russian invasion of Ukraine ripped up the global arms scene. Before this, Germany had delayed plans to purchase an anti-ballistic missile system. It preferred to invest in anti-drone systems. Russia's actions have totally altered the threat perception for countries like Germany. Funds have become available that were not in previous budgets. The Russian leadership will not be happy with

Israel for making such a deal. Israel will argue that these are defensive weapons. Israeli anti-drone radars have even been deployed in Ukraine courtesy of Lithuania, although Tel Aviv has refused to provide any direct support. While Russian President Vladimir Putin has always had a strong relationship with Netanyahu, he may well alter his stance. Israel has tried to keep its distance from the Ukraine crisis for fear that Russia could make Israeli military attacks on Syria more challenging. Israel regularly strikes targets deep inside Syria, typically claiming that these attacks are designed to thwart Hezbollah's attempts to secure advanced weaponry.

The Israeli arms industry is enjoying a boom period, again largely as a result of Ukraine. Last year was a record year for the Israeli defense industry, with \$12.5 billion of exports, about 30 percent of which involved sales to European states. Other countries in Europe are increasing their defense spending, not just Germany. The Eastern European, Baltic and Black Sea states are willing customers, building up a deterrence against Russian threats. Hungary is also constructing drones in a joint project with Israel and Germany. Israeli leaders are not seemingly worried by the antisemitic record of Viktor Orban, the Hungarian leader. Meanwhile, German and other leaders are not alarmed that many Israeli weapons systems, including cyber weapons, are continually tested on Palestinians. Poland is buying hundreds of Israeli-made anti-tank missiles. Denmark has agreed to buy Israeli artillery systems in a \$256 million deal largely because it had donated its

existing stock to Ukraine. Romania is on the cusp of purchasing 32 F-35 lightning jets in a major \$6.5 billion deal, becoming just the third Eastern European power to adopt the American plane. As a Black Sea power, its nervousness is clearly understandable. Other European powers with deals with Israel include Greece, Italy, Estonia, the UK and Sweden. The US will be delighted to see NATO allies stepping up their defense spending. The US is pushing anti-missile defense regarding Russia, but it is also doing so with both Japan and South Korea as a counter to perceived Chinese and North Korean threats.

Anti-ballistic missile systems are featuring because the constraints on ballistic missile systems have all but disappeared. There is also every chance that anti-missile systems will improve in the years to come in terms of their performance against Russian weapons, given the easy access to missile wrecks in Ukraine that can be examined. The massive German-Israeli deal shows how realpolitik dominates any sense of moral outrage in times of crisis. The current Israeli far-right coalition, the most right-wing, violent and antidemocratic in its history, will be buoyed by this arms export success and will feel vindicated in its actions. By making such lucrative deals with Israel, European powers, the US and others are exposing their own hypocrisy, where in one conflict international law matters and in another it is ignored. This is all fueled by the illegal Russian invasion and occupation of parts of Ukraine, for which European nations have expressed outrage. For Palestinians, they get concocted outrage at best and little more than tepid press releases.

Ukraine: A necessary path to peace

Robert Jenkins

the specter of Ukraine's possible future accession to both the European Union and NATO.

For the Russian government, and possibly many Russians, this was highly emotionally charged. It clashed with a deep sense of close ethnic and personal as well as strategic economic and historical connections between Russia and Ukraine. With nearly one-third of Ukraine's population native Russian-speaking, eastern Ukraine has a large Russian majority, particularly in the industrial Donbas region, and even more in Crimea, historically part of Russia until 1954. The Ukrainian government's political de-russification action after 2004, in particular the de facto prohibition of education in Russian, was unnecessarily provocative. Faced with a loss of influence over Ukraine, its "near abroad," Russia's government has since sought to destabilize its neighbor, but with counterproductive consequences. Russia's leadership viewed Ukraine's 2013-2014 Maidan revolution, and the subsequent removal of unpopular pro-Russian President Yanukovich as unconstitutional, engineered by Western interference. Its ensuing annexation of Crimea in 2014 only served to reinforce Ukrainian nationalism and desire for independence, seriously damaging Moscow's relations with both Ukraine and the West.

In its eventual 2022 military action over Ukraine, the Kremlin's narrative about its rationale and objectives has been both changing and inconsistent. Starting as the de-militarization and de-Nazification of Ukraine, it has become an existential hybrid war against NATO and the West, seeking Russia's dismemberment and destruction. In this supposed struggle for the defeat of a US-dominated unipolar world and its replacement by a new multipolar world order, misinformation and propaganda provide no basis for any settlement or peace. A threefold strategy for peace is proposed, envisaging a dual-track approach: The West needs to affirm with total clarity its sustained support for Ukraine. At the same time, it would put forward a solution for a new comprehensive European security architecture. Guaranteeing the territorial integrity of all, including that of Ukraine and its sovereignty as an independent state, would enable no NATO expansion, meeting Russia's long-standing stated concerns about this. Such proposals would, in turn, create the conditions and context to make possible a settlement of the conflict between Russia and Ukraine.

Firstly, a European Security Treaty would be its foundation, with Russia a full participant in its creation, and NATO and Ukraine both fully integrated into this process. The existing Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe could provide the institutional infrastructure for this. Long proposed by both the Soviet Union and Russia, a European Security Treaty would enshrine and provide comprehensive guarantees for the self-determination, sovereignty and territorial integrity of all member states. It would further provide guarantees and undertakings to protect all against foreign interference in their internal affairs, including in cybersecurity, with an international institutional infrastructure for ensuring treaty compliance and governance.

Secondly, a proposed European Security Treaty should facilitate Russia and Ukraine agreeing on a resolution to their conflict - and would be conditional on this. Indeed, all parties, including Russia, have a humanitarian and moral responsibility to permanently end the fighting. A territorial settlement over Ukraine may need to contain compromise, including on the political status of Crimea and the Donbas. A political settlement could provide constitutional arrangements for a devolved government and protection of the rights of all Ukraine's citizens, including its significant native-Russian-speaking minority. With the devastating destruction to Ukraine caused by Russia's unilateral military action, a settlement could also be expected to require a major financial contribution from Moscow toward Ukraine's reconstruction. The agreement would also be necessary for an international investigation of all war crimes. Such

necessary compromises may be hard to conceive but could be made possible, and only so, in the context of a wider settlement with comprehensive security guarantees.

Thirdly, a resolution of the Ukraine conflict on this basis would provide the basis for international legal undertakings on no future NATO expansion. The Ukraine conflict may only have driven Finland and Sweden along with Georgia and Ukraine to seek NATO membership. The longer the conflict continues, the more difficult it may prove to reverse this. However, the envisaged solution would enable its reversal or suspension. They could legally commit to this and not renew their NATO accession applications, on condition of full compliance with a European Security Treaty. NATO would similarly commit to no future enlargement, in the absence of a country application for this, and without contradiction to its founding treaty Open Door provisions permitting additional country accession. Such commitments on no NATO enlargement would be conditional on full compliance with a European Security Treaty. Of ultimate importance, over the long-term, this would further create the basis for gradual, progressive demilitarization in eastern Europe by all its signatory states, including Russia, together with NATO legal undertakings on this. The consequence of Russia's Ukraine unilateral aggressive military action of course means that this would take time, perhaps a generation or more, to accomplish.

Could Russia respond positively to such a Western initiative? By clearly addressing Russia's legitimate security requirements, the proposed strategy for peace could prove a catalyst or contributor agent of change within Russia. The ruinous consequences of Russia's unilateral military action over Ukraine are self-evident. For Russia, these have been the exact opposite of its stated objectives. It has only reinforced Ukraine's national self-identity, including among its large native Russian-speaking population. It has strengthened NATO's cohesion and unity, with long-standing neutral Finland and Sweden, as well as Ukraine, seeking to join it. It has also weakened Russia internally, with the negative reaction to its Ukraine military action not confined to the non-Russian region of the Caucasus. It has brought about Russia's international economic and political isolation.

The proposed strategy for peace would present a crucial challenge and choice for Russia. It would require Russia to recognize Ukraine's right to exist as an independent state and determine its own future. This is a path that Ukraine incontrovertibly chose in August 1991, by an overwhelming 92% majority, with over 84% of its electorate voting, in a clearly democratic referendum.

In the disinformation war central to the conflict over Ukraine, the Russian narrative that NATO itself did not respect this principle in the Balkan conflict over Kosovo in the 1990s characterizes this wrongly. In reality, it was a necessary international intervention to prevent a potential civil war or genocide in the political vacuum following the break-up of Yugoslavia. A settlement of Ukraine's conflict, within the wider context of a European Security Treaty, addressing Russia's legitimate security requirements, would be overwhelmingly and obviously in Russia's real and strategic national interests. It would represent a solution that Russia should feel compelled to consider. It would make possible permanent peace in Europe and its eventual progressive de-militarization. It would address its stated concerns that NATO's real agenda and that of the US in particular is to weaken Russia and seek US dominance in a unipolar world. Rather it would make possible a future for Russia in which it is not isolated, with a leading position in a multipolar world, and of crucial importance to the 21st century geopolitically for the whole world. For Russia, this should be a compelling prize. Whether it would seize this, may turn, as much as anything, on Russia's internal politics, and what its people may determine to be in Russia's best and real interests.

The Moscow Times

I saw the tarmac murder that haunts the Philippines 40 years later

IT was 40 years ago. August 21, 1983. Seatbelts were fastened for landing. I had just completed my interview with Senator Benigno Aquino Jr on China Airlines Flight 811 from Taipei as it touched down at Manila International Airport. As the front door opened at Gate 8, a small group of uniformed security men boarded the plane. One of the men spotted Aquino, tapped his arm and ordered the senator to follow him off the aircraft.

Aquino's usually smiling face turned sombre. He got up, grabbed a small shoulder bag and walked down the aisle. A crush of media tried to follow. They were blocked as Aquino was escorted down the stairs. Seconds later, a series of shots rang out. I scrambled to the nearest aircraft window. The cabin erupted in screams. All I could see was Aquino lying face down on the airport tarmac with what appeared to be a geyser of blood spewing from the back of his head. I did not see who killed him. The Philippines's most famous and most promising opposition leader - widely known by his nickname "Ninoy" - had been shot dead upon return from exile in the United States. Among his last words to me: "If it is my fate to die by an assassin's bullet, so be it. But I cannot be petrified by inaction or fear of assassination."

For many Filipinos, it was the last straw. With the assassination, a People Power movement was born against longtime President Ferdinand Marcos. Staunchly backed by the Americans for 20 years, Marcos had taken the country down a dark path from democracy to martial law, human rights violations and widespread corruption. He had also left his country in economic shambles. Three years later, in February 1986, military leaders allied with Aquino's widow, Cory, deposed Marcos. I

watched as Marcos's opponents invaded the Presidential Palace at Malacañang. They rifled through the expensive belongings bought with what many believed was the family's vast ill-gotten wealth. The Marcos family fled to Hawaii. Spin ahead 37 years. Five men and two women have assumed the presidency since then. They include Ninoy's widow, who provided six years of amateur leadership, focusing on poverty alleviation even as most Filipinos seemed just pleased to be rid of dictatorship. Ninoy's son and namesake provided more competent presidential leadership from 2010 to 2016, as did the former military commander Fidel Ramos, who backed Cory's revolution and served as president from 1992 to 1998.

There was also Joseph Estrada, an ageing actor who, along with Marcos, was later named by the Berlin-based NGO Transparency International as one of the top 10 most corrupt leaders in the world. The nation's second woman president, Gloria Macapagal Arroyo (2001-2010), served longer than any leader since Marcos. A trained economist, she kept the nation chugging along with gross domestic product (GDP) growth rates at between 4 and 7 percent. Arroyo was plagued, however, by cheating accusations, attempted military coups and corruption charges, which were eventually dismissed. The last presidency, that of the former southern mayor, Rodrigo Duterte, who won on an anti-crime platform, ended in a cloud of accusations of extrajudicial killings and extensive human rights abuses. In many ways, the Philippines seems stuck. Now, the wheel has turned full circle and the Marcos family is back in power. Marcos's son Ferdinand Marcos Junior, known as "Bong

Jim Laurie

Bong", has been in office a little more than a year. He won in part by waging a remarkable disinformation campaign among voters too young to remember the 1970s or '80s. His campaign fostered nostalgia for an imagined time of prosperity and security. For most people, apart from the Marcos family, his father's years were neither prosperous nor secure. Bong Bong seeks to rewrite or at least forget history.

Longtime investigations into the illegal acquisition of his family's vast wealth have ended. After assuming office, his supporters in Congress moved to whitewash the historical realities of martial law. From 1972 to 1974, the first years of Marcos Senior's military rule, Amnesty International reported more than 50,000 people arrested. They included church workers, legal aid lawyers, labour leaders and journalists.

Bong Bong's supporters call that time a "golden era", when the nation had to be mobilised "to fight communist and separatist rebellions". Marcos's supporters have also proposed removing the name of Ninoy Aquino from Manila's International Airport and abolishing the national holiday observed on the anniversary of Ninoy's death. To the relief of Aquino's defenders, neither move has gained much traction.

So far, Bong Bong, who refuses to discuss the past in any depth, has pursued a cautious presidency with neither a clear blueprint nor bold actions towards domestic economic reform. In the 1980s, '90s and 2000s, the Philippines registered the lowest economic growth in Southeast Asia. Its regional neighbours overtook it in manufacturing and economic growth. Economic growth has improved dramatically since -

with GDP rates bubbling along. Yet, major issues seem intractable. A fundamental lack of industrial and agricultural development continues to this day. While the number of people living in poverty has been reduced in 40 years, at least 19 million Filipinos (or 18 percent of the population) still live on less than \$5 a day. And income inequality continues to grow. The same dozen or so families who 40 years ago dominated the economy, still do. While others in the neighbourhood - China, Japan, South Korea, Vietnam, Indonesia - have built largely robust export-driven, high-tech, economic powerhouses, the Philippines's largest export remains its people. Started as a stop-gap measure to erase unemployment and raise capital when Marcos Senior sent workers off to the Middle East in the 1970s, overseas employment has become a permanent fixture of the economy. Nearly 2 million Filipinos are overseas workers. In 2022, they sent home to their families more than \$21bn in remittances. By contrast, last year, semiconductors were the leading exported electronic products with an export value of less than \$3bn. Overall, government after government, president after president, catering to narrow interests, has failed to engage the true potential of the Filipino people; a people robbed of many opportunities during the Marcos Senior years.

We will never know, of course, if Benigno "Ninoy" Aquino would have provided the Philippines with the kind of leadership it needed 40 years ago. But two things are certain. Altering the truths of history is unlikely to help build a better future. And the Philippines is a nation deserving of a smarter, stronger and more effective democratic leadership than what it has had.

Aljazeera

Turbulent times: UK faces strikes, shortages, and soaring inflation

Nidhi Razdan

ONE of the first things you encounter in England are the long, chaotic lines at Heathrow airport. Last year, as I ventured on a visit to the UK post pandemic, it was an almost three hour long wait at immigration. As I grumbled about it, a close friend who had flown to London to drop her daughter off to college, had a much worse experience.

They waited in line for five hours. Welcome to Great Britain, which is not so great anymore. Don't get me wrong, I love the UK. I lived there as a child and went to school in a north London neighbourhood. London is still one of my favourite cities, with great food, great weather, some great plays and truly the cliched cultural melting pot. But the last few years have been brutal on the country - from Brexit to Covid and an economic decline that has seen a cost of living crisis affecting large numbers of it's people.

Today, a great city like London is a shadow of it's former self, plagued by crime, transport strikes, a healthcare system that is so bro-

ken that you are unlikely to get an ambulance in time when you call for one, and a services industry that has been crippled after Brexit. As I write this piece, the latest strike by junior doctors who are part of the legendary National Health Service or the NHS has just ended. This is their 5th strike in recent times over a pay dispute. Another two day walkout has been planned by consultants soon, leading to more massive delays in crucial treatments for patients.

The NHS has already collapsed, with horrific stories of long delays in getting appointments, cancer treatments being postponed, and crucial screenings getting put off. According to the BBC, around 780,000 hospital appointments have had to be postponed because of strike action by NHS staff since December. And new figures show that the hospital backlog has topped 7.5 million for the first time, meaning nearly one in seven people are on a hospital waiting list.

More than 385,000 people have

been waiting more than a year to start treatment. The NHS is facing a severe shortage of doctors and other staff, with thousands of European doctors also leaving after Brexit. And then there are strikes by transport workers and teachers - also over pay. Since last year, the UK has been plagued by repeated rail strikes which have affected long distance trains and the lifeline of London - the Tube. Newspapers now regularly publish a calendar of strike action, so that people can plan ahead.

Last year, the army had to be called in to take over immigration counters at the airports, after immigration officials went on strike. Actually the army did a much better job, but that's another story. After Brexit kicked in in January 2020, the free movement of labour between the European Union and the UK ended in 2021, and now there is a very visible shortage of workers in the services sector. Data says there has been a shortfall of 330,000 people. Inflation has touched 40 year highs, the cost of

living crisis has forced many families to choose how long to put their heating on in the dead of winter. The once coveted high street, Oxford Street, is in a state of visible decline as well, with several prominent stores closing, and seedy American candy shops taking their place. Some of these were shut down recently during anti money laundering investigations.

Crime is up in central London, with several stories of people being robbed of their expensive watches outside fancy Mayfair restaurants and in swanky neighbourhoods. I have heard horrible stories from friends who were robbed on the street and now refuse to wear real jewellery when they go out. The police had even set up a special task force to deal with these crimes, with gangs scaring away wealthy investors from London. Data shows that knife crime has also gone up in the UK capital. Will all of this stop me from going back to one of favourite cities? No. Because there is still so much to love about London. And I will always hope that things will get better.

Gulf News



China-Eurasia Expo in Urumqi:

Pakistan wins ‘Best Business Group Award’

BEIJING (APP): Pakistan has won the Best Business Group Award at the China-Eurasia Commodity and Trade Expo recently concluded in Urumqi, the capital city of the Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region of China, Commercial Counselor, Pakistan Embassy Beijing, Ghulam Qadir said on Tuesday.

“During the five-day event, we had a successful mango festival. Our exhibitors showcased different varieties of sweet and juicy mangoes such as Sindhri, Chaunsa, and Anwar Ratol, among others, allowing a large number of visitors to savour the King of fruits”, he told APP.

The six Pakistani delegation was led by Senator Rana Mehmood Ul Hassan at the expo. Former Federal Minister for Planning,

Ahsan Iqbal was also there. “The Pakistani delegation has not only interaction with the general people but also held important meetings with the ruling administration,” he added.

The commercial counsellor informed that during the meetings with the Chairman, of Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, Erkin Tuniyaz and the Party Secretary General were very productive. Some very good suggestions were floated from the Pakistani side and they had agreed upon.

The Pakistani delegation also held meetings with administrative ministries including the General Administration of Customs of China (GACC), the agriculture department, the commerce department and the foreign affairs depart-

ment to resolve all related issues.

“Now, there are chances that Pakistani mangoes and other fresh fruits will be exported to China through Khunjerab Pass and also different airports of Xinjiang, for example, Urumqi,” he added.

About the signing of agreements to enhance the import of mangoes, he said that five MOUs were signed, and many business-to-business interactions were made.

And the mango exhibitors also went to the wholesale market and made very good connections with the local importers.

“Some exhibitors want to stay in Urumqi to acquire warehouses and do more business over there,” he added.

Other Pakistani products

showcased at the expo included textiles, handicrafts, and more. Additionally, 20 top mango exporters from Multan also participated.

The expo covered an exhibition area of 70,000 square meters while seven international organizations participated.

The expo also attracted over 1,300 businesses from 40 countries including Pakistan and regions, including 25 of the world’s top 500 companies.

A total of 33 trade and investment promotional activities took place during the five-day event.

The (China) Eurasia Commodity and Trade Expo has been held three times since 2015, drawing over 3,700 businesses from 47 countries and regions to participate.

IMARAT Group launches yet another project IBM

**F.P. Report**

KARACHI: IMARAT Group, the leading name in Pakistan’s real estate and construction industry, is thrilled to announce the grand launch of IMARAT Builders Mall (IBM), a groundbreaking initiative that is set to redefine the shopping experience for construction, furnishing, and decor enthusiasts.

The event was graced by many notable dignitaries: Renowned politicians Malik Ibrar & Anjum Aqeel Khan; Former Deputy Mayor Islamabad, Zeeshan Shah Naqvi; Ambassador Azerbaijan Khazar Farhadov; Enis Malik Cetin, Commercial Counsellor, Turkish Embassy; CEO Centaurus and former President of ICCI Sardar Yasir Ilyhas Khan; Former President ICCI, Former VP PCCI, Former Member Assembly SAARC-CC Zafar Bakhtawri; IWCCI Senior Vice President Sadaf Asim Abbasi; President IWCCI Naima Ansari; Chairman Bar Council

Islamabad Qazi Adil Aziz; Community Leader Qazi Faisal; and thousands of valued guests.

This one-stop solution, set to host numerous international and local brands, is poised to become the center-point of innovation in the industry.

IBM boasts an impressive squad of renowned brands, including MOOOO Homes, Silaj Furniture, Baahir Outdoor Living, Eteli Illumination, Smart Innovations, BOMBAY Light House, GROHE, COTTO, FIONA, Orient Ceramica, Gala, Cappuccino, IMEP, FUJIHD, Tricom Power, INGCO, SIKA, Wintech (ADO), N-SETS, Multan Carpet Industries, Woodyfy Studio, among others, totaling over 80 of the best names in the business. But that’s not where it stops - IBM also enlisted the renowned Movit as a distribution partner.

At the highly-anticipated launch event, Chairman of IMARAT Group, Shafiq Akbar, shared his excitement, saying, “IMARAT

Builders Mall marks another milestone in our journey of innovation and excellence. A story that started with the Amazon Mall has taken a beautiful turn at IMARAT Builders Mall. We are proud to provide a platform where customers can explore the finest offerings from both international and local brands, all under one roof.”

Group Director, Farhan Javed, expressed his vision for the mall, stating, “We have curated a selection of top-tier brands that represent the epitome of quality and creativity. IMARAT Builders Mall is not just a shopping destination; it is an embodiment of our commitment to providing exceptional solutions for construction, furnishing and decor needs.”

The launch event, attended by industry leaders, dignitaries, and the enthusiastic public, commenced at 3 pm. The valuable guests had the opportunity to engage in a client connect and open house session, unveiling lucrative

investment prospects.

Furthermore, the magnificent event featured an art exhibition, oil painting workshops, and an immersive digital experience with a captivating light show showcasing awe-inspiring artworks.

Highlighting its dedication to Corporate Social Responsibility, IMARAT Group featured the TameerSeTaleem setup within the mall. This section displayed recycled and sustainable products, exemplifying the group’s commitment to eco-friendly practices. It doesn’t end there - the highlight of the event was the special key handover ceremony, symbolizing the transition of responsibility from IMARAT Developers to IMARAT Operations. This symbolic gesture was accompanied by a confetti activity, adding a touch of celebration to the proceedings.

In addition, visitors embarked on a captivating walk-in tour of the entire mall, getting an up-close look at the exquisite offerings from the industry’s finest brands.

The launch of IMARAT Builders Mall also marked the debut of Pakistan’s first builders themed café, aptly named “Hangout,” providing a unique and vibrant space for customers to unwind and connect.

From furniture to sanitary ware, kitchen appliances, lights, and more, IMARAT Builders Mall is an ideal stop for premium products that cater to every need of homeowners, builders, and decorators.



SIALKOT: A skilled worker stitching export quality gloves at his work place.

MD NEECA visits office of DG PSQCA

F.P. Report

KARACHI: The Managing Director, National Energy Efficiency Conservation Authority (NEECA) Sardar Moazim along with his team visited office of the Director General Dr. H.U. Khan, Pakistan Standards & Quality Control Authority (PSQCA) at PSQCA-Complex, Karachi on Tuesday.

The meeting focused on enhancing the Joint implementation mechanism for Energy efficiency regime, both sides discussed the Development of minimum energy efficiency performance standards with mutual collaboration, and ease of doing business and enhance Pakistan Export by harmonizing National Standards and energy labeling regime with best international practices.

With the changing dynamics the revision of the MOU and the potential for impactful collaboration were also agreed. Exploring areas of mutual collaboration together through joint proposal development was discussed in detail.

The Director General, PSQCA has constituted a committee to collaborate with NEECA. He also ensure to facilitate NEECA to mitigate sub-standard appliances and enhancement energy efficiency and conservation culture in the country.

Gold rates up by Rs4,600 to Rs234,500

ISLAMABAD (APP): The per tola price of 24 karat gold increased by Rs4,600 and was sold at Rs234,500 on Tuesday compared to its sale at Rs229,900 on the previous day.

The price of 10 grams of 24 karat gold also increased by Rs3,944 to Rs201,046 from Rs197,102 whereas the prices of 10 gram 22 karat gold went up to Rs184,292 from Rs180,677, the All Sindh Sarafa Jewellers Association reported.

The price of per tola and 10 grams silver remained constant at Rs2,800 and Rs2,400.54 respectively.

The price of gold in the international market increased by \$10 to \$1,901 from \$1,891, the Association reported.

100-index of PSX loses 30 points

ISLAMABAD (APP): The 100-index of the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) on Tuesday shed 30.06 points, a slight negative change of 0.06 per cent, closing at 47,417.90 points against 47,447.96 points the previous trading day.

A total of 185,753,898 shares were traded during the day as compared to 211,230,785 shares the previous day, whereas the price of shares stood at Rs6,223 billion against Rs7,076 billion on the last trading day.

As many as 316 companies transacted their shares in the stock market; 141 of them recorded gains and 152 sustained losses, whereas the share price of 23 companies remained unchanged.

The three top-trading companies were WorldCall Telecom with 25,867,346 shares at Rs1.29 per share; Nishat Power with

16,043,161 shares at Rs23.55 per share and Oil and Gas Dev with 13,626,842 shares at Rs99.51 per share.

Bhanero Tex witnessed a maximum increase of Rs49.00 per share price, closing at Rs999.00, where- as the runner-up was Mari

Petroleum with an Rs23.93 rise in its per share price to Rs1,627.16. Pak Tobacco witnessed a maximum decrease of Rs29.00 per share closing at Rs693.00; followed by Excide (Pak) XD with Rs20.50 decline to close at Rs347.68.

Rupee sheds Rs 1.87 against US Dollar

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistani rupee on Tuesday witnessed Rs 1.87 devaluation against the US dollar in the interbank trading and closed at Rs299 against the previous day’s closing of Rs297.13. However, according to the Forex Association of Pakistan (FAP), the buying and selling rates of the dollar in the open market stood at Rs311 and Rs313.9 respectively. The price of the Euro increased by Rs2.94 to close at Rs326.39 against the last day’s closing of Rs323.45, according to the State Bank of Pakistan.

The Japanese Yen went up by 01 paisa and closed at Rs2.05, whereas an increase of Rs4.18 was witnessed in the exchange rate of the British Pound, which traded at Rs382.34 as compared to the last closing of Rs378.16.

The exchange rate of the Emirates Dirham and the Saudi Riyal increased by 51 and 49 paisa to close at Rs81.40 and Rs79.71 respectively.

SM Tanveer inaugurates Hafizabad Chamber

LAHORE (APP): The Caretaker Provincial Minister of Industries and Commerce SM Tanveer Tuesday inaugurated the office of Hafizabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry, the industries department spokesman told media here Tuesday.

Talking to media after addressing the inaugural ceremony, the minister said that under the leadership of the Punjab Caretaker Chief Minister, the problems of industrialists and traders were being solved across the province.

“The work of providing interest-free loans to industrialists and businessmen has been started for the promotion of the industry. The draft of the first skills policy of the province has been approved under which 500,000 youths would be trained every year,” he added.

He added that master plans were being prepared for the provision of relief to the people and development and promotion of various sectors.

“A mega master plan is also being prepared for the improvement of agriculture and industry sectors,” he mentioned.

SM Tanveer said that

work was being done for the development of the agriculture sector.

“Modern agricultural machinery, drones and other technologies are being procured. Steps are being taken for the promotion of agriculture, paying special attention to the Cholistan region of Punjab,” he added.

SM Tanveer said that steps were being taken for the profit of fish farming landlords. For the first time, the rate of cotton has been set at 8500 per maund. Modern technology and satellite system are being used for the promotion and improvement of cotton crop and the water supply in the cotton producing areas.

A strict crackdown has also been started against the manufacturers of substandard and fake agricultural medicines so that the continuous hard work of our land farmers was not wasted due to the use of these fake pesticides.

He said that canola was cultivated on 800,000 acres across Punjab. With the efforts of the caretaker government, its cultivation has increased and now 1.5 million acres of canola can be cultivated, which would also solve the problem of

shortages of edible oil in the country.

He said that the per maund price of wheat has already been increased and the production of wheat per acre would increase further.

The provincial minister said the Punjab government would provide skill to 500,000 youths every year, so that they would be able to earn employment in a dignified manner. For skill development, he added, three technology parks would be established across the province, while laboratories of technical education institutions would be equipped with latest machines.

He congratulated all officials on the establishment of the office of Hafizabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry. He added that Hafizabad Chamber would help resolve the problems of the business community.

Former Federal Minister Saira Afzal Tarar, Deputy Commissioner, President of Hafizabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry Chaudhry Muhammad Saleh Ranjha, Senior Vice President Shafqat Hussain Tarar, Vice President Abdul Jabbar Raza and other leaders were also present.

IBA welcomes 4th MS in journalism cohort after program’s relaunch

F.P. Report

KARACHI: The Centre for Excellence in Journalism at the Institute of Business Administration (CEJ-IBA), warmly welcomed the 4th batch of the Master’s in Journalism (MSJ) program after relaunching it for the Fall 2023 intake. The CEJ arranged an event to welcome the new students. The event was attended by officials from US Consulate Karachi and Public Affairs Officer, Lee McManis warmly welcomed guests.

Ms. Amber Rahim Shamsi, CEJ Director, expressed great pleasure on relaunching the Program and said, “MSJ is unique since it is the only journalism program in the country that teaches reporting and digital skills from the start.”

Dr. Asma Hyder, Professor and Dean, School of Economics and Social Sciences, lauded the efforts of the CEJ team under the leadership of Ms. Shamsi and stated, “The CEJ is doing a brilliant job. I am looking for-

ward to the MSJ classes.”

US Consulate Karachi Public Affairs Officer, Mr. McManis expressed his excitement at being at the event and meeting the new journalism students. He said, “The US government helped establish the Institute of Business Administration, invested in the Center for Excellence in Journalism, and funded this Master of Science in Journalism program because we believe in education. We also highly value and promote freedom of the press, and a dynamic and independent press is essential for any democracy.”

The MSJ is Pakistan’s only practical-based journalism program, aimed at equipping aspiring journalists with the skills, knowledge, and adaptability needed to excel in today’s rapidly evolving media landscape. The program blends traditional journalistic principles with cutting-edge digital tools and multimedia storytelling techniques. With a strong emphasis on hands-on experience and real-



world application, students will graduate prepared to tackle the challenges and opportunities presented by modern journalism. Our faculty comprises experienced journalists, media professionals, and academics who work in the industry. Their insights ensure students receive relevant and up-to-date knowledge.

The CEJ’s MSJ grant, funded

as part of approximately \$800,000 in grants from the US government to support CEJ activities, was awarded to IBA to establish a state-of-the-art digital studio and newsroom in the CEJ, and to create the curriculum and classes for the Master of Science in Journalism, which was the first professional graduate program

in journalism in Pakistan.

The CEJ also partnered with Konrad Adenauer Stiftung (KAS) for the “Adenauer Fellowship” under its Media Program Asia, paving the way for brilliance and innovation as well as empowering the next generation of leaders. The application and interview process of the scholarship for

the students enrolled in the Fall 2023 intake has been completed, and successful candidate(s) will get 100% tuition fee support as well as a stipend.

In addition, the CEJ has established partnerships with prominent media organizations, providing students with valuable internships and networking opportunities.

The Centre is also in the process of reviving the internship program at US news organizations under the MSJ Program, where the students would be employed in television stations, newspapers, and online news outlets in major regional markets. The goal is to expose young journalists to the ethics, values, and operations of US news organizations to enhance their skills and understanding of the profession.

The CEJ-IBA stands as the nation’s most prestigious journalism training facility that has been instrumental in elevating the standards of journalism in Pakistan. It is a US government

initiative to advance the professional development of current and future Pakistani journalists and media professionals. The US State Department invested \$4 million to establish the Center for Excellence in Journalism in 2014 with the assistance of the International Center for Journalists (ICFJ), the Medill School of Journalism at Northwestern University, Chicago, and the Institute of Business Administration (IBA), Karachi. This initial US government grant was the largest single public diplomacy grant in Pakistan and the second largest in the world at the time it was awarded. The CEJ was established, and the ongoing trainings and Master of Science in Journalism program were created because the United States greatly values and supports freedom of the press as an independent arm of civil society that informs, educates, and at times brings critical information to light to the citizens in democratic states



In brief

Multan Stadium gets ready for Asia Cup

MULTAN (APP): Multan is gearing up for the opening match of the Asia Cup, as the cricket stadium undergoes thorough cleaning, here on Tuesday. The Waste Management Company is leading a special operation to wash and scrape the routes leading to the stadium and its surroundings. With more than 100 workers involved, the enclosures and buildings are being given a complete cleaning. Senior Manager Operations, Faheem Lodhi, along with Deputy Manager Operations, Usman Khurshid inspected the progress and issued certain instructions. The initiative aims to provide cricket fans with a clean environment. Additionally, the special clean operation is also being carried out in preparation for Urs Hazrat Bahauddin Zakaria Multani.

IBSA explore sports partnership

ISLAMABAD (APP): In a significant step towards fostering sports inclusion and expanding opportunities for visually impaired athletes, a meeting took place between Syed Sultan Shah, President of World Blind Cricket Ltd, and Ilgar Rahimov, President of the International Blind Sports Federation (IBSA). According to a media release, the meeting centred around the exploration of a potential sports partnership and the inclusion of cricket in future IBSA games. The two sides engaged in an enthusiastic discussion about the power of sports to break down barriers and to promote. They expressed their shared commitment to creating an environment where visually impaired athletes can thrive on the global stage. Syed Sultan Shah, President of World Blind Cricket Ltd, termed the meeting a promising step towards opening up new avenues for blind cricket. "By collaborating with IBSA, we can further develop and promote the Blind Cricket," he said.

Fraser-Pryce sets up 100m showdown

BUDAPEST (INP): Jamaican legend Shelly-Ann Fraser-Pryce produced an impressive display in her 100m semi-final to suggest she is in good enough form to equal pole vaulter Sergey Bubka's record six world titles in one event. The 36-year-old sporting a trademark colourful wig got her usual fast start and eased up before the line to time 10.89sec. She has had a truncated season due to a knee injury and if anyone is to deny her the gold it looks like either Shericka Jackson or veteran Ivorian Marie-Josée Ta Lou. Both looked sharp in a tough semi-final with reigning 200m world champion Jackson just getting the verdict over two-time world silver medallist Ta Lou though both recorded the same time of 10.79sec. They left third-placed Sha'Carri Richardson enduring nervy moments in the fastest losers' lounge to the side of the track. However, the charismatic American progressed as one of the two fastest losers, although she will have to avoid a repeat of her dreadful start if she is to win a medal. The winner of the third and slowest semi-final, Julien Alfred, did well to recover from receiving a yellow card for her reaction time when she was first called to her blocks. The 22-year-old St Lucia sprinter started slowly but powered through to pass Britain's Dina Asher-Smith, who also was overtaken by Brittany Brown.

Rauf takes five as Afghanistan fold for 59

HAMBANTOTA (Agencies): Fast bowlers having batters hopping and swaying away is the perfect fire to the ice that is spinners having batters in a tangle. In Hambantota on Tuesday, the joy of watching bowlers do their thing reached a perfect crescendo, with Pakistan bundling out Afghanistan for 59 to secure a big win.

First, the spin trio of Afghanistan - Mujeeb Ur Rahman, Rashid Khan and Mohammad Nabi - spun Pakistan out for 201. Then, Pakistan's pace treble of Haris Rauf, Shaheen Shah Afridi and Naseem Shah put in a fiery display to bundle Afghanistan out for 59, their second lowest ODI total, to win the first ODI in Hambantota by 142 runs.

Rauf picked up five wickets for 18, his best effort in ODIs, after Afridi and Naseem started the Afghan downfall. Afridi began by bouncing Ibrahim Zadran out in his second over before having Rahmat Shah flick a full toss to short midwicket off his next ball. Naseem, who had Gurbaz in a leash with his high pace and movement, dismissed Hashmatullah Shahidi off a bouncer. It got big on Shahidi, who went for the pull and almost cleared forward square leg. But Shadab Khan jumped towards his left and lobbed the ball up, before catching it in a single motion while landing down to

dismiss the Afghanistan captain.

With three of the top four batters out for a duck, there was not much to write home about of the rest of the Afghanistan batting show either. Rauf began his spell with a nip-backer that Ikram Alikhil, playing an ODI for the first time since November 2019, inside-edged to the wicketkeeper. Gurbaz was never comfortable throughout his stay and feathered an outside edge to the wicketkeeper for 18, the top score of the innings.

Azmatullah Omarzai attacked his way to 16 off 12 with three fours before retiring hurt, even as Rauf ran through the middle order and finished with a five-for after Mujeeb miscued one to mid-on. Earlier, on a hot afternoon, Babar Azam won the toss and Pakistan opted to bat on a dry surface but were reduced to 7 for 2 in two overs. Left-arm pacer Fazalhaq Farooqi troubled Fakhar Zaman with swing before nicking him off to slip. He slipped in an inswinging yorker on the second ball before getting one to move away, which Fakhar couldn't resist poking. Mujeeb, opening the bowling, slipped one full in line of the stumps that skid on, beating Babar's defence to trap him lbw for a three-ball blob.

Mohammad Rizwan, back at No. 4 after batting at No. 5 in the previous series against New Zealand, looked to be positive



from the get-go. He stroked Farooqi for two fours in the fifth over. First, he lofted a full ball aerially through the gap at extra cover before caressing one through the same region a ball later. Rizwan hit two more fours off Farooqi's next over to get Pakistan's run-rate up.

But Mujeeb, in his fourth over, trapped Rizwan lbw to set Pakistan back. He tossed up a carrom ball around leg that Rizwan missed in his attempted defence to the on side to be hit on the back leg. Replays showed

it would have clipped the balls. Agha Salman, coming off a successful series against New Zealand at home in May, was stuck before being flummoxed by a googly from Rashid as Pakistan stumbled to 62 for 4.

All the while, Imam-ul-Haq steadily carried on, punishing the bad balls from Farooqi but more importantly, playing Mujeeb, Rashid as well as Nabi's spin off the back foot. His half-century was a proper graft, in that it included just the two fours. He ran well between the

stumps even as wickets fell around him.

But in a bid to up the ante against Nabi, he top-edged one after coming down the track. However, Shahidi couldn't hang on after running back from cover. Imam got another life when a lofted drive to deep cover was shelled by Omarzai before a miscued pull fell just short of long-on running in. However, Imam's luck ran out when he looked to hit Nabi over mid-on, miscuing a shot to Rashid, who took a tumbling

catch after backpedalling.

Through his stay in the middle, Imam found an able ally first in Iftikhar Ahmed, with whom he added 50 off 69 for the fifth wicket, and then in Shadab for a 40-run partnership.

Iftikhar helped lead Pakistan's recovery by using the crease against spin and knocking them down for singles and doubles. He did not let short and wide deliveries go unpunished, using the cut shot for each of his two fours. But an offspinning delivery from Nabi, that held up in the surface, saw him chip a catch to short midwicket.

On the other hand, Shadab, playing just his fourth ODI in 2023, picked Rashid's googly early and smacked him over his head. He added a further 34 with Naseem for the ninth wicket before a direct hit from Mujeeb from fine leg saw him run-out at the bowler's end. Afghanistan managed to bowl out Pakistan for the first time in ODIs, but a meek batting surrender meant their wait for a maiden win against their opponents in the format continues. In the interim Mujeeb and Rashid has also cleaned up Usama Mir and Shaheen Shah Afridi to hasten Pakistan's end. Mujeeb returned three wickets while Rashid and Nabi finished with two apiece as Afghanistan bowled Pakistan out for the first time in ODIs. It was scant consolation at the end.

Visa issues puts in doubt participation of Pak archer in IBSA World Games

ISLAMABAD (INP): Visa issues have put in doubt, the participation of Pakistan's ace blind archer Tanveer Ahmed in the ongoing IBSA World Games. Tanveer Ahmed said, "I am waiting for my UK visa. I had applied for it on a priority basis some 10 days before."

Being supported by the BARD Foundation, Tanveer is the only man archer from Pakistan, who is scheduled to represent the country in the 10-day prestigious Games that kicked off on August 18 in Birmingham. "My event is taking place on Thursday, meaning I will have to fly on Wednesday, by all means, to compete in it," he added. The 39-year-old Tanveer, who has low vision and shoots blindfolded has won several medals in national and international competitions since taking on archery in 2017. Before that, he was a blind cricketer where he

showcased his talent for 16 years. "I've been playing cricket. But it is the archery that gave me real recognition," he said.

2022 has been a year of success for him as he earned five international medals in it, including the first-ever mixed team gold medal in the Andorra International Open for VI Archery, a silver medal in the 30-metre individual event of VI Archery and the bronze medal in the 18-metre individual event of VI Archery in Andorra International Open for VI Archery, bronze medal in World Ranking Event & European Cup and silver medal in World Archery Para Championships. "I'm the only archer from Pakistan, who has won five medals in a calendar year," he said.

He said he had been training hard for the games and believed he was fully fit to take on the challenge to make a podium finish. Besides Tanveer, Pakistan's

woman archer Dr Bakhtawar is taking part in the Games. She is the only Pakistani woman well as the only Asian woman to feature in the archery discipline of the games. She has reached Birmingham to represent the country in the quadrennial extravaganza. The 2023 World Games is the largest high-level international event for athletes with visual impairment. Around 1250 competitors from 70 nations are featured in the games.

The games staged every four years are the pinnacle of the international sporting calendar outside the Paralympic Games. The sports taking place during the 2023 World Games include archery, chess, cricket, blind football, partially sighted football, women's football, goalball, judo, powerlifting, showdown, tenpin bowling and tennis. Pakistan's men's blind cricket team is also scheduled to feature in the Games.

PCB to conduct nationwide women trials today

LAHORE (PPI): The Pakistan Cricket Board, as part of its continuous effort to unearth women cricketers at the grassroots level, will hold a nationwide women's cricket trials, across eight cricket academies from 23 to 31 August.

According to PCB information on Tuesday, these trials will provide an exceptional platform for talented female cricketers from various age categories to showcase their skills and progress to the higher levels of the game. The trials will be conducted by the National Selection Committee, which comprises of chairperson and former Test cricketer Saleem Jaffer, former international cricketers Asmavia Iqbal and Marina Iqbal. The trials will be conducted for three age groups: U19, in which players who are

born on or after 1 September 2004 are eligible; emerging and seniors categories.

The trials will help the selectors identify talent and select squads for Pakistan emerging and Pakistan U19 teams. Pakistan emerging side will compete against West Indies emerging team at home in October this year, while Pakistan U19 will feature in a triangular event involving Bangladesh and Sri Lanka in Bangladesh in January 2024. Head of Women's Cricket Tania Mallick: "We have recently awarded first-ever domestic contracts to 74 women cricketers, setting the tone for a brighter future in women's cricket. With the nationwide trials, we are eagerly poised to bring in a new wave of talented individuals forward.

"We have a great and

exciting amount of women's cricket events ahead, and these trials will help us identify splendid talent that the selectors can consider for the national teams' squads."

The following is the schedule of trials in eight academies. Hanif Mohammad High Performance Centre, Karachi - 23 August. Inzamam-ul-Haq High Performance Centre, Multan - 23 August. Women Sports Stadium, Bahawalpur - 24 August.

Kinnard College for Women, Lahore - 24 August.

Pindi Cricket Stadium, Rawalpindi/Islamabad - 28 August.

Qayyum Stadium, Peshawar - 29 August. Abbottabad Stadium, Abbottabad - 30 August. Bugti Stadium, Quetta - 31 August.

National hockey team's camp for Asian Games begins

ISLAMABAD (APP): The national hockey team's coaching camp for the next month's Asian Games began at Naseer Bunda Hockey Stadium on Tuesday. "The training camp for the all-important games have begun today (Tuesday). The camp which will continue till September 18, will allow players to come together, build chemistry and fine-tune their skills," head coach Shahnaz Sheikh told APP.

The Asian Games are scheduled to be held from

September 23 to October 8 in Hangzhou China.

The Games also serve as qualifiers for the next year's Olympics. The event winners will book their spot for Paris 2024.

Squad: Goalkeepers: Akmal Hussain, Abdullah Ishtiyak Khan, Waqar, Ali Raza, and Abdullah Sheikh.

Defenders: Mohammad Abdullah, Arbaz Ahmad, Mohammad Sufyan Khan, Aqeel Ahmed, and Mohammad Bilal Aslam.

Midfielders: Usama

Bashir, Mohammad Murtaza Yaqoob, Arbaz Ayaz, Ahtisham Aslam, Mohammad Baqar, Mohammad Nadeem Khan, Mohammad Imran and Syed Shehbaz Haider.

Forwards: Mohammad Imad, Afraz, Roman, Arshad Liaquat, Abdul Qayyum, Abdul Rehman (Wapda), Waqar Ali, Mohammad Ahsan, Mohammad Umar Bhat, Abdul Hannan Shahid, Mohammad Shahzaib Khan, Abdul Wahab, Zikriya Hayat, Bisharat Ali, Rana Waleed, Hamza Fayaz and Abdul Rehman.

Hamza Saeed clinch bronze

KARACHI (APP): In a grand display of talent, Pakistan's Hamza Saeed won the bronze medal for Pakistan in the ongoing World Taekwondo Octagon (Octagon) Diamond Games 2023 in Chuncheon, Korea.

Ryong Woo Li of Korea won 2-0 against Hamza Saeed in the semi-final of the event, said a news release issued here on Tuesday.

Earlier, Hamza Saeed defeated Mohammad Ashraf of Afghanistan by 2-1 in the quarter-final of the event.

Meanwhile, in World Taekwondo Beach Championship G-2, Pakistan's Aqdasullah Qadeer and Naila won bronze medals in the Poomsae Event.

Junaid Siddique found guilty of breaching ICC Code of Conduct

DUBAI (INP): UAE's Junaid Siddique has incurred a 25 per cent fine to his match fees along with two demerit points, which have been added to his disciplinary record.

The incident involving the fast bowler took place during the third T20I between UAE and New Zealand in Dubai.

Siddique was found guilty of breaching the Level 1 of ICC Code of Conduct twice.

In the first instance, Siddique flouted article 2.5 of the ICC Code of Conduct for Players and Player Support Personnel, which relates to "using language, actions or gestures which disparage or which could provoke an aggressive reaction from a batter upon his/her dismissal during an International Match."

This incident occurred in the fifth over of the New Zealand innings when Siddique moved close to the dismissed batter, Tim Seifert, and shouted aggressively at him. For this, Siddique was handed an official reprimand and one demerit point was added to his disciplinary record.

In the second instance, he was found in violation of article 2.8 of the Code, which relates to "showing dissent at an umpire's decision". This happened in the 17th over of the New Zealand innings, when Siddique showed dissent by using inappropriate language towards the umpire after an appeal was turned down. For this, he was fined 25 per cent of his match fee and one more demerit point was added to his disciplinary record.

The charges were levelled by on-field umpires Akbar Ali and Shiju Sam, along with third umpire Asif Iqbal. There was no need for a formal hearing after Siddique admitted to the offence and accepted the sanctions proposed by ICC match referee Andy Pycroft.

President lauds Pakistan Special Olympics team for winning medals in int'l event

ISLAMABAD (INP): President Dr Arif Alvi on Tuesday lauded the members of Pakistan Special Olympics team for winning medals in the Special Olympics games recently held in Berlin.

Talking to the members of Pakistan's Special Olympics Team who participated in Berlin Special Olympics, President Alvi and First Lady Begum Samina Alvi appreciated the Pakistan team on representing the country in the international event and promoting bright image of the country. "I congratulate the whole team of Pakistan Special Olympics and management on winning medals in the Special Olympics," he said adding that the whole team demonstrated their tremendous abilities in the games.



He said it was a matter of pride for the country that the country's Special Olympics team participated in 11 games of the event. Expressing pleasure over the participation of people with mental disabilities in the international event, the president said the participation of the special persons in constructive activities should be increased.

He said the persons with disabilities should be given the opportunity in health, education, employment and sports event. He also stressed the need to provide employment opportunities to the special persons according to their skills and capacities. President Alvi said he wished to formulate an inclusive and comprehensive society in the country.

Shahid Afridi's big hits help NY Warriors to gain success against Atlanta Riders

LAUDERHILL (INP): The New York Warriors put on a brilliant show, with both the bat and ball, and went on to register a 7-wicket win against the Atlanta Riders. Kamran Akmal top scored for the Warriors with 34 while Sohail Khan also bagged a three-wicket haul.

Batting first, the Atlanta Riders were off to a flyer with opener Robin Uthappa scoring a quickfire 24 off 9 deliveries, taking the score to 29/1 at the end of two overs. By that time, his opening partner Lendl Simmons had settled in, and was eyeing the boundaries.

Simmons was joined by Dwayne Smith, and the duo played a 4-run over to start with. The Riders were at 33/1 after 3. Simmons added a few lusty blows and was dismissed for 21, with the score on 57/2, around the

half-way mark. Smith was joined by Junaid Siddique, and the duo kept things steady, taking the score to 76/2 after 7 overs. Siddique was dismissed for 13 off 12 in the final over, as the Riders finished with 97/4. Smith lost his wicket off the last ball of the innings, scoring 34 off 26 balls.

In response, the New York Warriors opened with Tillakaratne Dilshan and Kamran Akmal, and both found the fence with regularity early on. The Warriors had quickly moved along to 29/0 in 2 overs. The duo matched each other shot for shot, and took the Warriors to 63/0 in 4 overs. The openers hadn't hit a six in the first three overs, and then Akmal smashed three in the fourth over. The fifth over began with Dilshan losing his wicket for 28 off 14 deliveries.

Richard Levi was cleaned up off the next ball for a duck, and Akmal was run-out for 34 off 11 deliveries off the third ball of the over, which ended with the score at 66/3.

Shahid Afridi and Jonathan Carter were the batters in the middle for the Warriors after that, and they brought it down to 14 runs required in the final 3 overs. In the 8th over, both Carter (17*) and Afridi went big, and closed out the chase with 7 wickets in hand, and 11 balls to spare. Afridi put the seal on the win with a six and finished unbeaten on 22.

Brief Scores
New York Warriors - 103/3 (Kamran Akmal - 34, T Dilshan - 28; Elias Sunny - 2/11) Atlanta Riders - 97/4 (Dwayne Smith - 34, Robin Uthappa - 24; Sohail Khan - 3/21, Jerome Taylor - 1/19)

Second Chief of the Naval Staff All Pakistan Squash Championship from August 23-27

KARACHI (APP): The second Chief of the Naval Staff All Pakistan Squash Championship 2023 is scheduled from August 23 to 27 here at Roshan Khan Jahangir Khan (RKJK) Squash Complex.

According to the Pakistan Navy news release, the 1st CNS International Squash Championship was held in the year 2000, since then the championship has been organized without disruption. The second iteration of the Championship comprises 54 matches. The first qualifying round will be comprised of 8 matches played by 16 players each,

8 winning players from both categories (men & women) will join the eight top ranking National Players in the main round. Top national players will be seen in action during the tournament. The championship will display the spectacular skills and stamina of players throughout the event.

Pakistan Navy has an old and deep-rooted association with the game of Squash. This association of Pakistan Navy with Squash dates back to the independence of our motherland.

The game of squash started with a single court at Manora and today

Pakistan Navy has Pakistan's largest and world-class Squash Complex at RKJK.

The journey from a single court to the present place has been possible through very deep commitment of Pakistan Navy of this game. The RKJK was named after two legends of the game. Inaugurated by Admiral Yastur ul Haq Malik on 19 June 1991, this majestic complex comprises six courts including the newly built 4-sided glass court which was inaugurated on 21 July 2023 at RKJK, is also a testament to Pakistan Navy's efforts in the promotion of squash as a sport in the country.



In brief

Two mobile phone snatchers killed

RAWALPINDI (APP): The police on Tuesday arrested two suspects allegedly involved in the murder of a man who put up resistance to a robbery in Naseerabad. According to police spokesman, the suspects were identified as Farooq and Faheem. The suspects had killed citizen Adnan during the mobile-snatching incident in May. The case of the incident was registered on the complaint of victim's father. SP Potohar Muhammad Waqas Khan appreciated the performance of police team and said the accused would be challaned to the court with concrete evidence. The elements attacked the lives and property of citizens could escape from the grip of the law, he added.

30 new Covid cases reported

ISLAMABAD (APP): Health officials on Tuesday said that 30 new coronavirus cases were reported during the last week across the country. As per the data shared by the National Institute of Health (NIH), the case positivity ratio was 0.39 per cent while two patients were in critical condition. No death was reported from the coronavirus last week while 7,676 Covid-19 tests were conducted. Meanwhile, the official of the Ministry for National Health Services, Regulations, and Coordination said that the government has strengthened the role of Border and Health Services in Pakistan to deal with any sub-variant of Covid-19. He said there was a surveillance system at all entry points of the country including airports. There will be rapid tests and screening of passengers at all airports. He added 90 per cent of the country's population already got the Covid-19 vaccine.

Dr. Samina appointed as Rector IIU

ISLAMABAD (APP): Professor Dr. Samina Malik has been appointed as Rector of the International Islamic University (IIU). She is the first female Rector of the university. According to a news release issued here, President Dr Arif Alvi who is also Chancellor IIUI, appointed her Rector with immediate effect for a period of four years in terms of section 12 (1) of the IIUI ordinance, 1985. She has worked as Vice-President (Female Campus). She has been working as a Professor in the Department of Education at the IIU Pakistan. She possesses diversified experience in administration, research and teaching. She has experience in administration as Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences, Chairperson of the Department of Education, Additional Director, Directorate of Distance Education, IIUI and Director, Female Campus IIU. She is the winner of HEC best teacher award (2014). Prof. Dr. Samina Malik has done her PhD (Education) from the University of Arid Agriculture, Rawalpindi and Post Doctorate from Coventry University, UK. She has been in the field of education for over 25 years and has dealt with different levels of educational systems from the Secondary to University level. She has been a keynote speaker and presenter of papers at many national and international conferences. Moreover, she is a member of different professional organizations, boards of studies and faculty boards of various national level universities. Prof. Dr. Samina Malik has been guiding research scholars of M.Phil and Ph.D. levels in different areas of education.



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Islamic Republic of Iran Mr. Reza Amiri Moghaddam calling on Chairman Senate, Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani at Parliament House.

Rawalpindi's hospitals to be improved at cost Rs 2b: Dr Jamal Nasir

RAWALPINDI (APP): Caretaker Provincial Minister for Primary and Secondary Health Care and Population Welfare Dr Jamal Nasir has said that Caretaker Chief Minister, Punjab Mohsin Naqvi had provided over two billion rupees in funds for improving public health facilities at Rawalpindi's hospitals.

He said this while presiding over separate meetings at Holy Family and Benazir Bhutto Hospitals to review the procedure of utilization of funds.

The minister said that Rs1.8 billion would be utilized for the revamping of the Holy Family Hospital, while the upgradation of Benazir Bhutto Hospital OPD would be carried out at Rs 160 million. He further informed

that Emergency and OPD of the District Headquarters Hospital would be developed with the allocation of Rs 100 mln. Dr. Jamal Nasir said that the budget of Tehsil Headquarter Hospital, Murree had been restored for 82 beds while six dialysis machines had also been provided to the hospital to deal with the increasing number of patients.

Caretaker Provincial Minister for Primary and Secondary Health Care and Population Welfare Dr Jamal Nasir informed that training of technical staff had been completed and soon the citizens of Murree will avail the facility of high-quality dialysis.

He said that a new ward of 28 beds was also

being added in THQ Murree.

Dr Jamal said that the recruitment of 22 new nurses had been approved to overcome the shortage of nurses and paramedical staff in Murree.

The minister further added that the capacity of the Pothohar rehab centre was being increased from 50 to 100 beds in Wah General Hospital while a centre for disabled people was also being established there.

He said that at the local level, a hepatitis control program called LHEAP was underway in Rawalpindi, in which over 100,000 people were being provided free-of-cost Hepatitis diagnosis and treatment facilities in four union councils of the city.

China Cultural Counselor calls on Minister

ISLAMABAD (APP): Cultural Counselor, China Embassy, Zhang Heqing Tuesday called on Federal Minister for National Heritage and Culture Jamal Shah here at Heritage and Culture Division.

The counselor felicitated Jamal Shah on assuming charge as Federal Minister.

During the meeting, they discussed mutual interest issues particularly cultural exchange programs.

Zhang extended a special invitation to the minister for attending ongoing Gandhara exhibition being held in China.

The minister assured to attend the exhibition during his visit to China.

The counselor also congratulated renowned artist Jamal Shah on releasing his first ever Pak China joint feature film Ba'tie Girl.

The minister said that the two countries should collaborate in all fields of art as there lied huge scope, adding that it would further strengthen people to people ties between the two friendly nations. The minister also expressed his desire to restart cultural activities at China Culture Center and also re-initiate Pak China cultural exchange program.

Famous female Urdu poet Ada Jafarey remembered

ISLAMABAD (APP): Famous Urdu Poet Ada Jafarey Tuesday was remembered on the occasion of her birth anniversary. Born on August 22, 1924 in Badayun, Uttar Pradesh her birth name was Aziz Jahan.

Her father, Maulvi Badrul Hasan died when she was three and her mother reared her. She started composing poetry when she was twelve years old, under the pen name of Ada Badayuni. She was regarded as the first major female Urdu poet to be published and has been called "The First Lady of Urdu Poetry". She was considered a prominent figure in contemporary Urdu literature.

She received awards from the Government of Pakistan, the Pakistan Writers' Guild, and literary societies of North America and Europe in recognition of her efforts.

He informed that the seized drugs comprised 105,200 kg Opium, 262,846 kg Heroin, 2667,938 kg Hashish, 203,402 kg Methamphetamine (Ice) and 35 kg Crystal Heroin. ANF Balochistan recovered 2707 kg drugs and

British, Iranian envoys call on Chairman Senate

ISLAMABAD (APP): British High Commissioner (BHC) Jane Marriott and Iranian Ambassador Dr Reza Amiri Moghaddam on Tuesday held separate meetings with Senate Chairman Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani and exchanged views on matters of mutual interest and exploration of avenues for enhanced cooperation between Pakistan and the respective countries.

During the meeting between the Senate chairman and British envoy, issues of paramount importance such as trade, investment, parliamentary cooperation, and public relations between the two nations came under discussion.

The Senate chairman highlighted the need to amplify partnerships between Pakistan and the United Kingdom across various sectors, particularly in the realms of health, education, and technology. He emphasized on fostering collaboration through the mobilization of existing

parliamentary friendship groups. Sanjrani underscored the abundant investment opportunities that Pakistan offers within a favourable economic environment. He highlighted the government's ongoing efforts to promote investment and extend incentives to potential investors.

He underscored that Gwadar was being emerged as a burgeoning economic hub and encouraged British investors to explore investment prospects in the region. He acknowledged the convergence of Pakistani expatriates in the United Kingdom as a bridge between the two countries.

Jane Marriott praised Pakistan's hospitality and socio-cultural diversity. She affirmed Britain's recognition of Pakistan as a vital partner and expressed eagerness to advance and broaden the bilateral relationship. In a subsequent meeting, the Senate chairman and the Iranian ambassador discussed various facets of bilateral cooperation.

Their talks encompassed parliamentary relations, trade cooperation, and the stability of economic ties between Pakistan and Iran.

Sanjrani reaffirmed the shared pursuit of regional development and prosperity between the two countries, saying the commonalities in religious, cultural, and social dimensions were identified as robust foundations for advancing bilateral collaboration.

He lauded the commendable history of international cooperation between Pakistan and Iran, reflecting the depth of their relationship. He welcomed the reinforcement of political, social, and economic stability in bilateral ties. He highlighted the recent agreement to bolster parliamentary relations between the two countries and expressed gratitude for Iran's assistance in restoring electricity to Gwadar and Makran divisions, alleviating the hardships faced by the local populace.

Pink Ribbon, HEC honour universities leading breast cancer awareness

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pink Ribbon Pakistan, in collaboration with the National Academy of Higher Education (NAHE) at Higher Education Commission (HEC), hosted an Awards Ceremony at the HEC Headquarters on Tuesday to honour universities leading breast cancer awareness. The event was aimed to announce the winners of the PINKtober Youth Awareness Programme for the years 2019, 2020, 2021, and 2022.

It also celebrated the achievement of two million youth ambassadors from across Pakistan who have been educated on breast cancer awareness and prevention. A total of 63 awards were presented to universities and colleges in recognition of their exceptional participation in the annual PINKtober campaign.

Pink Ribbon Pakistan organizes this campaign every October to raise Breast Cancer Awareness.

Over 200 educational institutions have contributed through fundraisers, seminars, walks, competitions, and panel discussions under this initiative.

First position awards for the years 2019 to 2022 were conferred upon Kinnaird College for Women University, Government Graduate College for Women

Baghbanpura, Mirpur University of Science and Technology, The University of Lahore, Government College University Faisalabad, and Government Graduate College for Women Shadbagh.

Government College University Lahore, Institute of Business Administration Sukkur, Government Degree College for Women Kot Khwaja Saeed, WAH Medical College, Pakistan Institute of Fashion and Design, Habib University, and Fatima Jinnah Dental College secured the second position in the University and College categories, respectively. In his address, Chairman HEC, Dr. Mukhtar Ahmed, as a chief guest, praised the proactive involvement of students in addressing the critical issue of breast cancer. He highlighted the collaboration between academic institutions and HEC in the Pink Ribbon Youth Awareness Programme, underlining the importance of educating young adults on health awareness, particularly in the face of rapidly spreading breast cancer.

Dr. Ahmed urged universities to undertake research projects to understand the reasons behind the alarming prevalence of breast cancer in Pakistan.

ANF seizes over 3274 kg drugs in 35 operations

RAWALPINDI (APP): Anti Narcotics Force (ANF) Pakistan seized 3274.386 kg drugs and 1193 liters of Hydrochloric Acid Chemical (HCL) worth US\$ 92,079 million internationally, arrested 42 accused including a woman and a foreigner and impounded 11 vehicles while conducting 35 counter-narcotics operations throughout the country during last week, said an ANF Headquarters spokesman.

He informed that the seized drugs comprised 105,200 kg Opium, 262,846 kg Heroin, 2667,938 kg Hashish, 203,402 kg Methamphetamine (Ice) and 35 kg Crystal Heroin.

ANF Balochistan recovered 2707 kg drugs and

1193 liters Hydrochloric Acid Chemical (HCL) in seven operations and arrested five accused including a foreigner involved in drugs smuggling and impounded three vehicles.

The seized drugs comprised 60 kg Opium, 255 kg Heroin, 2162 kg Hashish, 195 kg Methamphetamine (Ice) and 35 kg Crystal Heroin. ANF Punjab recovered 179,607 kg drugs in 14 operations and arrested 17 accused besides impounding four vehicles. The seized drugs comprised 4,400 kg Opium, 3,990 kg Heroin, 166,950 kg Hashish and 4,267 kg Methamphetamine (Ice).

ANF KPK recovered 100 grams Methamphetamine (Ice) in an operation and arrested

an accused.

ANF Sindh recovered 261,625 kg drugs in five operations and arrested eight accused besides impounding two vehicles. The seized drugs comprised 1,600 kg Heroin, 256,800 kg Hashish and 3,225 kg Methamphetamine (Ice).

ANF North in eight operations recovered 126,054 kg drugs and arrested 11 accused besides impounding two vehicles. The seized drugs comprised 40,800 kg Opium, 2,256 kg Heroin, 82,188 kg Hashish and 810 grams Methamphetamine (Ice).

All cases have been registered at respective ANF Police Stations under CNS Act 1997 (Amended 2022) and further investigations are under process.

Railways expediting rehabilitation work on Quetta-Bostan track

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan Railways is expediting the efforts to complete the rehabilitation work of a 33.50-kilometre track 'through sleeper renewal' between Quetta-Bostan and Quetta-Chaman section at the earliest.

"The track will not only facilitate the passengers and small businessmen but also connect three major cities of the Balochistan province," an official source in the Ministry of Railways told APP.

He said the railway network in Balochistan province mainly consisted of Quetta Division having Dera Allah Yar Sibi-Quetta, Quetta-Chaman, Sibi-Khost, Spezend-Dalbandin-Taftan and Bostan-Zhob which were closed for the last 15 years. The source said there were two passenger trains namely Jaffer Express (40Up, 39 Down) and Chaman Passenger (349Up, 350 Down) operating in Balochistan while no stations had been closed during the last 15 years in the Quetta division.

He said the overall length of the railway track in Balochistan was 1470.36 kilometres including the closed Bostan-Zhob section. "Most of the track was more than one-hundred-year-old and on certain stretches, engineering speed restrictions have been imposed due to deferred maintenance and owing to resource constraints," he said, adding that the routine maintenance of the track was being carried out with available resources. To improve railway services in Balochistan, he said the department was taking several steps like approval of PC-I for the track's rehabilitation and the rehabilitation of another 100-km track between Ahmedwal

Dalbadin on the Quetta-Taftan section.

He said that 100-km rehabilitation of the track between Nokundi Kohi-Taftan on the Quetta-Taftan section while 160.024 kilometres of rehabilitation of the track between Bostan-Chaman on the Quetta-Chaman section would be carried out.

The source said the tourist train's two trips had been started between Quetta-Bostan while the Bolan Mail passenger train would also be operational shortly to facilitate the passengers.

He said the establishment of Chaman Terminal in collaboration with the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) and track renewal Sibi-Khost section was also in progress.

To control the deficit and earn more revenue, he said the department had introduced 'RABTA'- a platform for the improvement of its financial conditions. Rabta was essentially an attempt to enhance customer facilitation via artificial intelligence. Around 60 million passengers used Pakistan Railways annually, for which 40 per cent of the tickets were sold using an outdated process without any audit, he said.

To resolve this problem, Rabta allows customers to plan trips with the help of different options. Single interface customers can check train statuses, choose and purchase seats, book hotels, and order car rentals, meals, and refreshments.

He said Rabta also allowed passengers to lodge statuses during their journeys. They can book tickets through multiple platforms including mobile applications, websites, ticket agents, reservation officers, vending machines, and handheld devices, he added.



ISLAMABAD: A view of damaged bus stop shed at Islamabad Expressway needs the attention of concerned authorities.

Afghan comedian dies

KABUL (TOLOnews): Abdul Ahmed Khaksar, a famous Afghan actor and comedian, died in Kabul on Monday due to illness. Khaksar's relatives told TOLOnews. Khaksar died at age 67 due to lung disease in Ibn-e-Sina hospital. He worked for more than 40 years in theater and cinema. Relatives of Khaksar called his death a tragedy for Afghanistan's culture and cinema. He was born in 1334 (solar year) in Khanabad district of Kunduz province.

The Frontier Post

Saffar 05, 1445 — Wednesday, August 23, 2023

Students participated in games

KABUL (Agencies): The University International Sports Festival has been launched with the participation of many students from 282 different universities from around the world, including students from Kabul and Education universities from Afghanistan. The festival has been launched with the participation of students of 282 universities from 37 different countries and that these students are expected to compete in 14 different sports.

Western countries withholding formal recognition as pressure



KABUL (TOLOnews): Amir Khan Muttaqi, acting minister of the Foreign Ministry, said in an annual report of the ministry that the Islamic Emirate does not want Afghanistan to be a field of negative competition between the countries of the world and wants good economic and political relations with the world. Amir Khan Muttaqi added that by implementing a balanced foreign policy, the Islamic Emirate was able to convince the countries of the region, including the United States, that the current government does not support terrorism

in Afghanistan.

The Acting Minister of Foreign Affairs also said that Western countries use the issue of recognizing the Islamic Emirate as a form of pressure and do not have special and specific conditions for recognition, and he said the demand of the creation of an inclusive government, human rights, and security issues is an excuse from the world to not recognize the Islamic Emirate.

Muttaqi added that Afghan embassies are open in other countries and their embassies are also open in Afghanistan which, accord-

ing to him, means the recognition of the Islamic Emirate and the countries whose embassies operate in Afghanistan have recognized the Islamic Emirate.

At the meeting, an official of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Shoyib Baryali, also said that as a result of the efforts of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, 3,500 prisoners from other countries have been transferred to Afghanistan and this process continues.

Baryali added that in the past year, the ministry has issued visas to 2,500 domestic and foreign investors.

Female entrepreneur employs dozens of women

SHIBERGHAN (Pajhwok): A businesswoman in northern Jawzjan province has employed 70 other women and girls in her rug weaving and tailoring workshop.

Marzia Rasouli, the owner of the carpet weaving workshop in Shibergahan City, told Pajhwok Afghan News that she established the carpet weaving shop last month and the sewing center last week.

She has employed 50 women in the carpet weaving and 20 women in the sewing workshop.

"I wanted to create a workshop for women and girls who are unemployed and also to ensure that the ancient carpet industry in Jawzjan is kept alive," she added.

Rasouli said the women working in her workshop included poor and professional women and those who lost jobs and girls who have been out of schools.

She said more than 500 other women had expressed their interest in working in both sections of her workshop, but she would hire them if her business grows.

She added: "Currently, more than five hundred women want to work with us, but we don't have the facilities. If the government and other institutions cooperate with us, we will provide work for many women."

Saaveda Rajabi, one of the women working in Marzia Rasouli's workshop, says: "Before coming to this workshop, I was unemployed at home."

Rajabi was happy to have a job and could also meet her financial needs. She urged the Islamic Emirate to support the workshop in order more women could be employed.

Meanwhile, Manizha Rahmtayar, manager of the carpet weaving workshop, told Pajhwok: "I turned to carpet weaving because of unemployment and poverty."

She did not provide information about how much salary she gets, but said: "I earn a small salary, but working here is better than being jobless."

Manizha Rahmtayar urged the government to support the workshop and added: "I was unemployed and came to work here with 50 other women, I work with them, currently the women are financially stable."

On the other hand, Shujauddin Qiyam, director of the industrial parks of Jawzjan, told Pajhwok that the rug weaving industry had flourished again recently in the province.

According to him, the Commerce and Industry department is striving to support businesspeople and investors, especially carpet weavers.

He said the establishment of carpet weaving workshops created jobs and also helped grow the carpet industry.

According to the Commerce and Industry department, there are about 5,000 large and small carpet weaving workshops in the province.

IEA rejects UN report on rights violations against former officials, forces

KABUL (Agencies): The Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan (IEA) on Tuesday rejected a recent UNAMA report claiming 800 instances of extrajudicial killing, arbitrary arrest and detention, torture and ill-treatment and enforced disappearance carried out against individuals affiliated with the former government and its security forces.

UNAMA said this is despite the announcement by the IEA of a "general amnesty" for former government officials and forces.

Zabihullah Mujahid, the spokesman of the Islamic Emirate, said that the cases of revenge, which are only a few, have been seriously investigated by the relevant bodies of the Islamic

Emirate.

"Unfortunately, some agencies of the United Nations, instead of understanding the concrete realities in Afghanistan and seeing positive developments, are always looking for negative points and spreading propaganda, which first of all harms their own credibility," Mujahid said on X (formerly known as Twitter).

"UNAMA's report presents a sobering picture of the treatment of individuals affiliated with the former government and security forces of Afghanistan since the Taliban (IEA) takeover of the country. Even more so, given they were assured that they would be not targeted, it is a betrayal of the people's trust," said the UN

High Commissioner for Human Rights, Volker Turk. "I urge the de facto authorities to carefully consider the findings of this report and to uphold their obligations under international human rights law by preventing further violations and holding perpetrators to account."

UNAMA said that in interviews, individuals described instances of torture and ill-treatment carried out by IEA security force members, including beatings with pipes, cables, verbal threats and abuse.

To date, efforts by the IEA to investigate and hold perpetrators accountable for the incidents described in the UNAMA report have been extremely limited. Even in the few, isolated

cases where an investigation was announced by the de facto authorities, progress lacks transparency and accountability; impunity prevails, UNAMA said.

"While the announcement of a general Amnesty by the Taliban in August 2021 was a welcome step, it continues to not be fully upheld, with impunity for human rights violations prevailing," said Roza Otunbayeva, the Secretary-General's Special Representative for Afghanistan and Head of UNAMA. "The de facto authorities must demonstrate a genuine commitment to the general amnesty. This is a crucial step in ensuring real prospects for justice, reconciliation and lasting peace in Afghanistan."

Ministry: \$512m of trade between Afghanistan and Iran in 4 months

KABUL (TOLOnews): The Ministry of Industry and Commerce has said that in the first four months of this year, trade worth \$512 million was made between Afghanistan and Iran.

According to the statistics of the Ministry, Afghanistan exported only \$6 million during this period.

Afghanistan's trade with the Republic of Iran during the first four months of the current year is worth \$512 million, of which \$506 million are imports and \$6 million are exports," said Akhundzada Abdul Salam Jawad, spokesman for the Ministry of Industry and Commerce.

Meanwhile, some businessmen said that in order to increase Afghanistan's exports, it is necessary to provide more facilities by



the Islamic Emirate and Iran at the crossings.

"The lack of an agreement due to the increase in Afghanistan's exports in the Iranian market and the creation of export opportunities between both countries and the use of transit routes through Iran to other countries are also problems

between the two countries that are still standing," said Mahub Ullah Mohammadi, a businessman.

"We also have some problems with money transfers in the export field. If these problems are solved, both import and export challenges will be solved," said Zalmay Azimi, a businessman.

Meanwhile, the Chamber of Commerce and Investment said that Iran is a suitable market for the export of cotton and minerals.

"Iran needs many export items from Afghanistan, including dried fruit, and marble, and the tax is very high. Iran has not given a preferential tariff like Pakistan and China. We want Iran to give preferential tariffs to Afghan businessmen," said Mohammad Yonis Momand, first deputy of Commerce and Investment.

Based on the information of the Ministry of Industry and Commerce, the amount of export and import between Afghanistan and Iran reaches two billion dollars annually and efforts are being made to increase this amount to ten billion dollars.

One killed in traffic accident, eleven injured

LAGHMAN (Khaama Press): Amid a nationwide increase in traffic accidents, officials in Afghanistan's Laghman province have reported one fatality and 11 injuries resulting from an incident in the eastern province.

Habibullah Mubarez, the head of the traffic directorate of the Laghman province, said that the incident occurred on Tuesday morning in the Surkhakan area of the Kabul-Jalalabad road.

According to the officials, the incident happened due to colliding a car with a vehicle belonging to Taliban members, killing one person and injuring 11 others.

Among the injured, eight security forces of the Taliban and three civilians were included.

The injured people were taken to the nearby hospital for medical treatment.

One person died earlier on Sunday, and 11 others were injured in a traffic acci-

dent in Ghazni province.

The incident occurred due to the collision between two vehicles on the Ghazni-Bayan highways in the Qarabagh district of Ghazni province, leading to the loss of one person and leaving 11 others injured.

Recently, there has been a surge in road accidents nationwide due to reckless driving, dilapidated roads, higher-speed drivers and less attention to traffic rules and regulations.

Afghan delegation attends in 7th AFTF session



JAKARTA (Khaama Press): The seventh session of the Afghanistan Future Thought Forum (AFTF) took place in Jakarta, the capital of Indonesia.

During the event, participants discussed the ongoing challenges in Afghanistan and explored possible measures to build trust in the region, said Sultan Barakat, Director of Conflict and Humanitarian Studies at the Doha Institute for Graduate Studies. "At this meeting, there

was a discussion about trust building and reviewing current challenges in Afghanistan and potential trust-building measures; the meeting was held in continuation of the efforts in line with the policy of interaction with the Islamic Emirate," Barakat added.

The meeting reportedly took place in a closed-door setting.

Barakat said the Afghan Friends Task Force (AFTF) had active involvement from Afghan men and

women, totalling 30 participants. Fatima Gilani, who formerly chaired the Afghan Red Crescent Society, was the task force's leader.

During this event, diplomats representing countries such as Japan, Malaysia, Indonesia, Belgium, Sweden, Canada, Australia, and Norway and representatives from the European Union and the World Bank engaged in discussions with Afghan delegates.

Although Barakat did not furnish specific information regarding the attendance of representatives from the Taliban administration at the AFTF session, there were indications that Farooq Azam, the Ministry of Water and Energy advisor, took part in the meeting.

Barakat added that AFTF members thanked the Uelma of Alech for insights on enacting Sharia law within a framework of administrative autonomy.

Qomi calls technical team's visit positive step for Kabul, Tehran

KABUL (TOLOnews): Iran's ambassador to Kabul, Hassan Kazemi Qomi, said that the visit of the Iranian delegation to a water measuring station at Deh Rawud in Urugzan province, is a positive step for engagement and trust building between Kabul and Tehran.

Iranian experts have observed and measured water flow at the measuring station at Deh Rawud, and in the month of Asad, 1402, the amount of water flow was reported to be less than the monthly amount of a normal water year.

Iran's ambassador said online that it is expected that

the amount of water rights of Iran from the Helmand River will be measured correctly and with justice "according to paragraph b of article 3 of the treaty" between the two countries. Political analyst Zalmi said that the water rights mentioned repeatedly by Iran are a political issue.

"They have used Afghanistan's water in the past decades. Was water right an issue then? The only problem is that an Islamic government is ruling in Afghanistan now and this concerns Iran," he said. The Ministry of Energy and Water said that the Islamic Emirate is commit-

ted to honoring the rights of Iran based on the water treaty signed between Afghanistan and Iran in 1973.

"The Islamic Emirate is committed to the water treaty of 1973 with Iran. In this treaty, in addition to estimations, all problems and its solutions are included," said Matuallah Abid, a spokesman for the MoEW.

Some Afghan water analysts believe that there is a need to invest in a joint pipeline to carry water in a bid to solve the challenges of water affecting both countries. "To solve the problems permanently, there should be negotiations

on a water pipeline. When a water pipeline transfers water from Kajaki to Sistan and districts in Helmand and Nimroz, it benefits both countries," said Najibullah Sadid, water analyst.

Earlier, Ali Akbar Mehrabian, Iran's minister of energy, through the Iranian media asked the authorities of the Islamic Emirate to pay Iran's water rights from the Helmand River based on the amount of rainfall.

Iran's minister said that drought in Afghanistan is also serious, but Iran wants its legal right to water based on the amount of rainfall in Afghanistan.

At least 70% of Afghans struggle in poverty with no jobs: IOM

KABUL (Khaama Press): The International Organization for Migration (IOM) recently released a report saying that 70% of the Afghan population lives below the poverty line. This revelation sheds light on the dire economic conditions faced by the people of Afghanistan.

The organization said, "At least 70% of Afghans live below the poverty line and are jobless." It continued, saying, "Amidst a collapsing economy, small and medium-sized businesses continue to lay off staff."

The organization also warned on Tuesday on social media platform X and emphasized that "Time is running out, and Afghanistan cannot wait."

Afghanistan's soaring poverty rate profoundly impacts society, limiting access to essentials like food, clean water, healthcare, and education. Insufficient funds curtail individual and communal efforts to elevate living standards and break free from poverty's vicious cycle.

Previously, the United Nations noted the Taliban

administration's resurgence heightened the demand for Afghan humanitarian aid.

Meanwhile, reports indicate that the de facto administration's establishment led to the loss of approximately 900,000 jobs and a significant surge in the need for aid.

In addition, the United Nations Office for the Coordination of humanitarian affairs reported a stark

rise in Afghanistan's needy population, increasing from 6.3 million in 2019 to 28.3 million in 2023.

According to the 2023 report, the United Nations presented contrasting data to those released by the International Organization of Migration (IOM). The report said that following the Taliban's rise to power, Afghanistan's official economy experienced a signifi-

cant and devastating decline, with an estimated 95-97 per cent of the population now living below the poverty line.

Amid the current humanitarian crisis, the Taliban administration has enforced stringent constraints on women's involvement in aid agencies and local organizations. This has further worsened the already dire humanitarian situation.



Bilawal discuss political situation with party leaders

F.P. Report

KARACHI: Chairman Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Bilawal Bhutto Zardari had a busy day at Bilawal House on Tuesday, he held meetings with party leaders throughout the day and discussed the country's political situation as well as his party's organizational matters with them.

According to the statement issued by Media Cell Bilawal House, former Federal Minister for Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety Shazia Marri called on the Party's Chairman and apprised him about the performance of her ministry during the last 16 months. She said that the Benazir Kafalat Program has increased the stipend of the sponsorship program

House. In the meeting, the overall political situation of the country was discussed.

Meanwhile, former Minister for Labor and Human Resources Sindh Saeed Ghani also called on the PPP Chairman at Bilawal House. Saeed Ghani told his party chairman in the briefing that the Sindh government issued Benazir Mazdoor Card, under which various grants are being given to workers including health and education, adding that for the first time in history, the agricultural laborers of Sindh were given the right to form a union. "In Sindh, legislation was enacted to protect women agricultural workers and the process of online registration of industrial establishments was initiated," he added.

Rs 5,000 per acre to small farmers. "Under the scheme of the Sindh government, small farmers holding up to 12.5 acres of land are being given Rs. 60,000 as fertilizer and seeds. Different kinds of agricultural machinery has been given to the farmers along with subsidies," he added.

Barrister Hallar Wassan, son of Manzoor Wasan, was also present on this occasion. Former Excise and Taxation Minister Sindh Mukesh Kumar Chawla also called on the Chairman PPP and apprised him about the performance of his department. Chawla said in the briefing that security featured number plates and smart motor vehicle registration cards were introduced for the first time in Sindh. He said that an online vehicle tax system has been developed in Sindh under which tax can be deposited through the Easypaisa, the Jeezcash, ATM and credit card. He also briefed the party's Chairman the political situation of Sindh.

Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari was met by Lal Bux Bhutto, in-charge of PPP's Research and Coordination Cell, in which the upcoming elections and the political situation of Sindh were discussed. Former Sindh Minister Nadeem Bhutto was also present on this occasion.

Former Irrigation Minister Jam Khan Shoro also met Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari and informed him about the political situation in Hyderabad. Jam Khan Shoro told in the briefing that during his ministry, lining of 5 thousand kilometers of canals was done in Sindh, adding that small dams have been built in various cities of Sindh including Thar and Kohistan, irrigating 0.3 million acres of land.

He said that during the floods in Sindh, all the cracks at 4,500 places were immediately filled, due to which the flooded land was quickly prepared for cultivation of new crops and as a result, a record harvest of wheat was achieved. The districts on the right side of the Indus River received 16 million acre feet of water last year, four times more than the 4.9 million acre feet of water in the 2010 flood, but all that water was drained away. "7 million acre feet of water was pumped into the sea through the LBOD from the districts on the left side of the Indus River and for the first time there was no breach in the LBOD," he pointed out.

Hyderabad Mayor Kashif Shoro was also present on the occasion. Among those who called on the Chairman PPP was Karachi's Ibrahim Hydari Town Municipal Corporation Chairman, Nazir Ahmed Bhutto. During the meeting, he briefed the party chairman on public issues and measures to solve them.



by 25 percent, while 1.4 million families have also been included in this program. She pointed out that the transgender community was also included in this program for the first time, adding that in the previous PTI government, the aid to more than 0.25 million affected people was stopped. She said that during her tenure, the Benazir Nasonuma program was expanded from 15 to 157 districts, while also setting up 488 Benazir Nasonuma Facility Centers. "The Benazir Education Scholarship Program was increased by 201 percent," she added.

During the meeting, Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari and PPP Central Information Secretary Shazia Mari also discussed the overall political situation of the country. Senator Raza Rabbani called on Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari at Bilawal

Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari was informed about the political and organizational situation of Shahr Quaid by PPP Karachi Division President Saeed Ghani.

Among those who called on Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, former Sindh Agriculture Minister Manzoor Wassan was also included. During the meeting, the former Sindh Agriculture Minister gave a briefing on his two-year performance and said that the support price of wheat in Sindh was increased from 1800 to Rs 4,000/40kg, adding that the crop increased from 29 million tonnes to 39 million tonnes after the increase in wheat support prices.

He said that the support price of sugarcane was Rs 202, which was increased to Rs 425 per maund. Owners of agricultural land up to 25 acres affected by floods were given

SC disposes of plea seeking cancellation of Maryam's bail

ISLAMABAD (PPI): The Supreme Court on Tuesday disposed of National Accountability Bureau's (NAB) plea seeking cancellation of bail granted to PML-N Senior Vice President Maryam Nawaz in the Shamim Sugar Mills case.

A two-member bench, headed by Chief Justice of Pakistan Umar Atta Bandial, heard the case and disposed of the plea after the anti-graft watchdog withdrew its plea. "NAB is withdrawing its plea after new amendments to NAB law," prosecutor anti-graft watchdog told the court. The Sharif family has been accused of using Chaudhry Sugar Mills for money laundering and illegal transfer of its shares.

According to National Accountability Bureau (NAB), the family took a \$15 million loan on the pretext to set up the mill despite the fact that it had already been established before the loan was acquired. The NAB maintains that more than Rs7 million worth of shares were transferred to PML-N vice president Maryam Nawaz Sharif in 2008 through mill's shares, which were later transferred to her cousin Yousaf Abbas Sharif in 2010.

PPP's team call on Caretaker CM

F.P. Report

KARACHI: Former Sindh Chief Minister, Syed Murad Ali Shah and former Provincial Minister Saeed Ghani called on the caretaker Chief Minister of Sindh, Justice (R) Maqbool Baqir, at the Chief Minister House on Tuesday.

During the meeting, the PPP delegation expressed their concerns to the caretaker Chief Minister about the recent killings of PPP activists, Amjad Hussain and Shaukat Baloch, in Karachi. On this occasion, the People's Party delegation demanded an impartial investigation into the incidents of terrorism from the caretaker Chief Minister and urged for the immediate arrest of those responsible for these incidents.

Interim govt fixes Diyat amount at Rs 67,57,902

ISLAMABAD (INP): On the recommendation of the finance ministry, the Interim Federal Cabinet on Tuesday fixed the amount of Diyat, which is equal to 30,630 grams of silver, at Rs 67,57,902 for the year 2023-24.

The meeting of the cabinet was held here under the chairmanship of Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-

Haq. During the meeting, the prime minister informed the meeting about his previous day's visit to Jaranwala. He said extremism and religious agitation will never be allowed in the country and protection of minorities in Pakistan was the foremost duty of the state.

He expressed his resolve to punish all those involved

in the incident of Jaranwala. The meeting recommended to organize a national level inter-faith harmony conference next week. Scholars of different religions and schools of thought would be invited to the conference. The conference will prove to be an important milestone for the promotion of inter-faith harmony in Pakistan.

Judicial remand of civil judge's wife extended

ISLAMABAD (PPI): A district and session court in Islamabad on Tuesday extended the judicial remand of Somia Asim, the wife of a civil judge, in the housemaid Rizwana torture case. Somia is currently in jail after a local court in Islamabad rejected bail petition in the Rizwana torture case last week. Judicial Magistrate Hafeez Ahmed heard the case and extended the judicial remand of Somia.

The 14-year-old maid was allegedly subjected to brutal torture by the wife of

a civil judge in Islamabad and a case was lodged by the parents of the girl at a local police station. The wife of a civil judge namely Asim Hafeez deputied at the Federal Judicial Academy – Sargodha allegedly tortured her maid namely Rizwana after blaming her for stealing gold jewellery.

The family of the affected maid said that the girl was working as a servant at the civil judge's house in Islamabad for six months and she was subjected to brutal torture by the civil

judge's wife. They added that the owners did not pay a single penny of salary to the girl. Police said that more than 15 torture marks were found on the affected girl's face and body. The seriously wounded maid was immediately shifted to the District Headquarters (DHQ) Hospital for medical assistance. The doctors of the DHQ Hospital referred the girl to the Lahore Hospital for further treatment. Police said that the torture case will be lodged at a police station in Islamabad.

Iran unveils attack drone capable of striking Israel

TEHRAN (Agencies): Iran has unveiled a new drone that it says is capable of striking targets in Israel. The Iranian Ministry of Defence and Armed Forces Logistics unveiled the Mohajer-10 on Tuesday as part of an exhibition and ceremonies marking Defence Industry Day.

President Ebrahim Raisi and senior commanders in the army and the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) attended the event. The unmanned attack aircraft, which resembles the MQ-9 Reaper manufactured by the United States, was also shown in videos taking off from an unidentified airstrip and flying. It is said to be capable of carrying a variety of bombs and anti-radar equipment and of conducting surveillance.

According to state-linked media, the latest version of the Mohajer, which was first developed during the eight-year war with Iraq in the 1980s, can carry a 300kg (660lb) warhead, fly at a maximum speed of 210 kilometres per hour (130 miles per hour) and hold 450 litres (120 gallons) of fuel. The media reports said the drone can travel non-stop at an altitude of 7,000 metres (4,350ft) for up to 2,000km (1,242 miles), meaning that it could reach Israel.

Iranian media on Tuesday also published a poster of the Mohajer-10, which depicted it flying in clouds overlooking the Dimona nuclear facilities in Israel with the words "Be ready to travel to the Stone Age", written above it in Farsi and Hebrew.

Standing in front of an assortment of large missiles and flanked by military commanders, Raisi announced during the ceremonies on Tuesday that two previously unveiled long-range ballistic missiles are now ready to be handed over to the IRGC.

These include the Haj Qassem, named after General Qassem Soleimani, who was assassinated by the US in Iraq in January 2020, reportedly using an MQ-9 Reaper, and the Khorramshahr, named after the city whose recapture in 1982 marked a turning point in staving off the Iraqi invasion of Iran. Raisi told state television that Iran's military advances have significantly altered the way Tehran is viewed in the region and across the world.



ISLAMABAD: Christian Community holding a protest to condemn the attacks on churches in Faisalabad.

IHC dismisses ICA against Afridi & Shandana

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Tuesday maintained the objections of Registrar Office on an intra court appeal (ICA) seeking to dismiss the verdict against the arrest of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf leaders Shehryar Khan Afridi and Shandana Gulzar under the Maintenance of Public Order (MPO).

A two-judge bench comprising Chief Justice Aamer Farooq and Justice Tariq Mehmood Jahangiri announced the verdict in the ICA filed by the District Magistrate Islamabad challenging the verdict of single member bench. The chief justice, in the order, noted that the Registrar Office had raised the objection that the single member bench had not issued its detailed order so far. The single-member bench, in its interim order, had also directed to release Shehryar Afridi with some conditions.

The court asked whether the accused after his release had convened any political procession or harmed law and order situation. The Advocate General of Islamabad read out the verdict of the single bench and said that it had given complete relief to the petitioners. Justice Jahangiri observed that the court had not terminated the MPO instead it had just added some conditions to apply it. The court questioned that how the appeal against the interim order was maintainable.

The chief justice remarked that a precedent could be set if the court take up the appeal against an interim order. Justice Aamer Farooq said that the district magistrate could approach the court for the arrest of the accused if they violated the law. The (single member bench) verdict did not stop the arrest of the petitioners in other cases, he said, adding that the purpose of such orders was to stop the repeated arrests of an accused under the MPO. The court, subsequently, maintained the objections of Registrar Office and disposed of the plea.

Asad Umar secures interim bail

ISLAMABAD (INP): Special court hearing cases under Official Secrets Act on Tuesday granted interim bail to former secretary-general of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Asad Umar in cipher case. Umar, defying rumours of his arrest in the cipher case moved a special court in Islamabad for interim bail in the case, earlier in the day.

Judge Abu Al-Hasnat Zulqarnain took up the plea of Asad Umar and after hearing initial arguments from his lawyer Babar Awan, the former minister was granted interim bail until August 29. Asad Umar during his appearance in the special court refuted rumours of his arrest and added he had joined the investigation twice and that there is no reality in the news of his arrest. Earlier, Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) vice chairman and former foreign minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi was arrested from his residence in Islamabad. PTI vice chairman Shah Mehmood Qureshi was arrested in connection with the Cypher case and shifted to FIA/headquarters.

KP Educational Boards declare SSC results

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Boards of Intermediate & Secondary Education have announced the results of Secondary School Certificate (SSC-I) for the year 2023. A formal ceremony in this regard was held here at Chief Minister's House Peshawar on Tuesday with Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Muhammad Azam Khan as chief guest. For the first time in the history of the province matric results of all boards have been announced simultaneously.

According to the results, overall success rate in the examination under the BISE Peshawar was 86%. Adan Shahid of science group has secured the overall first position with 1086 marks whereas Lababa Alam and Aneeba Asad have secured second and third positions with 1083 and 1082 marks respectively.

Under BISE Abbottabad the success rate in examination was 82%. Amama Noor of Science group secured first position with 1064 marks whereas Toba Murtaza stood second with 1059 marks and Fakhta Sadiq secured third position with 1055 marks.

Under BISE Bannu, the success rate in the examination was 87%. Javed Khan from Science group secured overall first position with 1056 marks whereas Rizwanullah and Rabia Saadullah Khan have secured second and third positions with 1053 and 950 marks respectively.

Overall success rate in the examination held under BISE D.I.Khan was 88.07%. According to the results Saira Bibi and Dua Zainab of Science group have clinched the first position in the board with the 1064 marks. Iman Saleem have secured second position with 1063 marks whereas Momina Sadia and Hadia Zainab clinched third position with 1060 marks.

Under BISE Kohat, the overall success rate in the examination was 87.45%, as per details. Syed Adan Raza from science group secured overall first position in the board with 1048 marks whereas Ahmad Ali with 1045 marks stood second and Minhail Naeem with 1040 marks remained at third position.

Under the Malakand board, the success rate remained 91%. Muhammad Farooq of Science group obtained 1083 marks securing the overall first position in the board.

Can BRICS end 'apartheid' against the Global South?

JOHANNESBURG

(Agencies): Delegates from the world's major emerging economies, and dozens of leaders from across the developing world, are meeting in Johannesburg for the BRICS summit starting Tuesday, with one question taking precedence: Is it possible to reshape global governance so the world's majority has an equal voice in decisions that affect its future?

The Global South, which accounts for 85 percent of the world's population, is "on the margins and outliers in terms of global decision-making" while political and financial institutions are still dominated by a select few in the West, said Anil Sooklal, South Africa's ambassador to the BRICS, which also includes Brazil, Russia, India and China.

"You have almost a system [akin to] apartheid South Africa where the minority decides for the majority, and that's still the situation on the world stage today," he told Al Jazeera before the three-day meet. "We don't want to be told what is right for us, we want the fault lines of the current global governance architecture to be redesigned, to be reformed, to be transformed. And we want to be part of the process to create a more equitable, a more inclusive, a multipolar global community where we have fairness and justice in terms of how we conduct ourselves."

At the summit, BRICS leaders are expected to discuss alternative currency options to challenge dollar dominance and the possibility of expanding their grouping of five to include other countries. But analysts say that when it comes

to the specifics, the grouping could struggle to reach an agreement due to their different, and sometimes competing, interests. It is not yet clear how they plan to go about implementing the changes they seek while some experts also question whether the BRICS is the best forum to take this on.

The moniker BRIC first entered the mainstream in 2001, when former Goldman Sachs economist Jim O'Neill used it in a paper to highlight the economic potential of Brazil, Russia, India and China for future investors. The countries formed a grouping in 2009; a year later they were brought in South Africa – going from BRIC to BRICS. Thirteen years on, the BRICS countries, who make up 40 percent of the world's population, now account for a quarter of the global economy and a fifth of global trade.

Yet many question its relevance and achievements. O'Neill recently told the Financial Times that the grouping "never achieved anything since they first started meeting". "[BRICS] has really just been a kind of stalled acronym," Chris Weafer, an investment analyst with Macro-Advisory, a strategic consultancy that focuses on Russia and Eurasia, told Al Jazeera, adding that for years the group met to talk more about future intentions than practical steps.

But in the last 18 months, he has seen a change. "This is probably the first serious meeting; the first meeting where issues of making BRICS into a more effective organisation will be addressed," he said. "I think there is now much more serious effort on the part of

the countries to make BRICS into something kind of more substantial and to make it into a group that can actually cooperate between each other and can represent the interests of each other."

South African President Cyril Ramaphosa, Chinese President Xi Jinping, Brazil's President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi are attending in person, while Russia's Vladimir Putin will make a virtual appearance. The International Criminal Court has issued an arrest warrant against Putin related to Russia's ongoing war in Ukraine. South Africa, as a signatory to the ICC's Rome Statute, would be obligated to detain Putin if he visits.

Weafer said Russia's international isolation and the sanctions it faces for invading Ukraine, and separately the trade and technology sanctions imposed by the United States against China have pushed Beijing and Moscow to seek a stronger BRICS. South Africa's Sooklal criticised the "unilateral sanctions" the West uses "to contain countries, prevent them from rising and becoming what they see as competition to their dominance of the world". Measures, like those taken by the US against China, are "unfortunate because no one benefits in the end", he said.

The tensions between China and the US, in particular, are "changing everybody's calculation", said Danny Bradlow, a professor with the Centre for Advancement of Scholarship at the University of Pretoria.