

## Imran's close aide arrested

LAHORE (INP): After arrest of Chairman Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) in Toshakhana reference, his close aide Awais Niazi was also held on Saturday. The detainee was media coordinator of chairman PTI and he was arrested from Zaman Park. The Islamabad's session court has awarded three-year imprisonment to chairman PTI along with Rs100,000 fine after.

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ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif chairing the 50th meeting of the Council of Common Interests.

# Imran Khan arrested

## — court jails him for 3 years in Toshakhana case

### F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan was arrested from his Zaman Park residence in Lahore soon after being convicted in the Toshakhana case on Saturday and was taken to Islamabad, sources said Saturday.

In a major development, a district and sessions court in the federal capital convicted the former prime minister for corrupt practices related to the state gift depository — allegations which he denies. The 70-year-old cricketer-turned-politician was accused of misusing his premiership to buy and sell gifts in state possession that were received during visits abroad and worth more than 140 million Pakistani rupees (\$635,000).

Rejecting Khan's petition seeking inadmissibility of the case, Additional and Sessions Judge Humayun Dilawar sentenced the former prime minister to three-year imprisonment. "Charges of misdeclaration of assets have been proven against PTI chairman," Judge Dilawar mentioned in his judgment.

He then handed Khan three years in jail along with a fine of Rs100,000, while issuing an arrest warrant for his immediate arrest. According to police sources, the PTI chief was shifted to Attock Jail and his medical examination was conducted as per the jail manual. Khan's legal team said they would be filing an immediate appeal.

Legal experts say a conviction in the case could end Khan's chances of participating in the upcoming national elections. In his short order, ADSJ Dilawar declared that application against the reference filed by the ECP was maintainable on the ground that "nobody argued [the] application filed by [the] accused questioning [the] maintainability of [the] complaint... on the basis of earlier findings in [the] order dated 05.05.2023 and 08.07.2023 the said application is dismissed." Furthermore, he wrote that the court found the ECP's arguments "confidence-inspiring, well-knitted" and corroborated by evidence.

"So, the charge against the accused has successfully been proven that [the] accused has committed [the] offence of corrupt practices by making and publishing false statements/declaration in respect of assets acquired by way of gifts from Toshakhana and disposed of during

the years 2018-2019, 2019-2020 and making and publishing a false statement and submitting false and incorrect declaration in material particular relating to Form-8 for the year 2020-2021." The order further declared that Khan was guilty of corrupt practices by hiding the benefits he accrued from the national exchequer wilfully and intentionally. "He cheated while providing information about gifts he obtained from Toshakhana which later proved to be false and inaccurate. His dishonesty has been established beyond doubt."

Convicting the PTI chairman under section 174 of The Election Act 2017, the judge sentenced him to three years of imprisonment, with a fine of Rs.100,000. The former prime minister had challenged the allegations in the Toshakhana case, at several forums including the Supreme Court and Islamabad High Court (IHC). The trial court had summoned Khan in his personal capacity today (Saturday) for a Toshakhana case hearing after the high court had rejected his pleas challenging the maintainability order.

On Friday, the IHC also turned down Khan's request to transfer the case to another court and directed Judge Dilawar to continue hearing the case. On October 21, 2022, the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) maintained that the former prime minister made "false statements and incorrect declarations" about the gifts and disqualified him under Article 63(1)(p) of the Constitution. Subsequently, the election watchdog moved a sessions court in the federal capital, seeking criminal proceedings against the PTI chief for allegedly misleading the ECP regarding gifts received from foreign dignitaries while he was in office. The trial court indicted the PTI chairman on May 10 and rejected his petition to declare the case inadmissible.

On July 4, the IHC overturned the trial court's ruling and directed it to rehear the petitioner and decide the matter within seven days. On July 8, ADSJ Humayun Dilawar declared the Toshakhana case against Khan as maintainable, which was again challenged in the IHC. During the trial proceedings, Khan's lawyers also accused the presiding judge of bias on the basis of his Facebook posts and sought the transfer of the case. On August 2, the trial court rejected the list of witnesses presented by PTI

released before elections?

She said that Imran Khan, despite given ample opportunity to provide proofs and file response to questions regarding corruption and misuse of power, he failed to file replies to allegations against him.

Whenever, he was asked to file reply to allegations of corruption, he incited the PTI workers to attack national institutions, she said. She reminded the media that the investigation into the crimes of the PTI chairman had been going on for past one year time. "More than forty hearings of the Tosha Khana case were done and the accused was given ample opportunity to clear himself", she said. She said that after fulfilling all the legal requirements and completion of the trial, the court pronounced the verdict.

She said that Imran Khan sold the Tosha Khana gifts in the market even before purchasing them which was unique action. Marriyum Aurangzeb said the chairman PTI used to make excuses whenever he was asked for an answer in allegations of corruption and malpractices. She said that despite of the providing all the opportunities to clear his name, Imran Khan continued to lie in his answers in the Tosha Khana theft case.

Imran Khan, she continued, also lied in the case of 190 million pounds theft case and in the case of cipher. She also disclosed that the chairman PTI did not disclose correct assets in



chairman, stating that he failed to prove their "relevance" in the criminal proceedings against him. It was also challenged in the high court.

However, the PTI chairman again moved the high court seeking a stay and transfer of the case to another court. On August 4, IHC Chief Justice Aamer Farooq referred the matter back to the trial court with a direction to re-examine the jurisdiction and any procedure lapse in the filing of the complaint by the Election Commission. The chief justice decided four petitions by Imran Khan against jurisdiction, alleged defective filing of the complaint, transfer of the case and the controversial Facebook posts of the judge. Today, when ADSJ Humayun Dilawar resumed the hearing, no representative of the PTI chairman appeared before him. The court then adjourned the hearing multiple times and reserved the verdict after no one from the defence team appeared.

Later, the judge announced the verdict, stating that the PTI chief has been found guilty of corrupt practices and sentenced him to three years in jail. Under the rules governing Toshakhana — a Persian word meaning "treasure house" — government officials can keep gifts if they have a low worth, while they must pay a dramatically reduced fee to the government for extravagant items. The Toshakhana has been under a microscope ever since the emergence of the allegations that Khan purchased the gifts he received as prime minister at throwaway rates and sold them off in the open market for staggering profits.

election returns. The minister said that Imran Khan, had declared three houses in Form B and tax returns of three years. Imran Khan declared only Rs 500,000 furniture in his 300 kanal house in Bani Gala, 8 kanal house in Zaman Park and his wife's three kanal house in Bani Gala, she said.

She said that Imran Khan did not declare even a single tola of gold, but honestly declared two goats in his tax returns. Taking a jibe on Imran Khan, she said a thief was on the run for 15 months trying to hide his theft. She said that no one could compare the arrest of Imran Khan with the arrest of Muhammad Nawaz Sharif. Imran Khan was gifted watches, diamond sets, rings etc but he sold the watch before buying it from Tosha Khana and could not provide any proof of selling the watch in the entire proceedings.

The minister opined that today, the public found out the real reasons behind the May 9 incidents as a thief was running away from accountability. She reminded that whenever Imran Khan appeared before the court of law, the judicial complex was attacked, when the police went to Zaman Park with a warrant, they were attacked with petrol bombs. The vehicles of the police and rangers were torched by the PTI goons when they went to Imran Khan's residence in Lahore on the courts directives.

## PTI chairman moves SC against IHC ruling

ISLAMABAD (INP): Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chairman on Saturday moved the Supreme Court against the Islamabad High Court's (IHC) verdict in the Toshakhana criminal case.

The ex-premier filed an application in apex court against IHC ruling through his legal team. The petitioner pleaded with the court to declare the Toshakhana case against him non-maintainable. The Islamabad High Court on Friday set aside a session court's verdict that declared the Toshakhana reference against the PTI chairman as maintainable.

IHC Chief Justice Aamer Farooq had ordered the lower court to rehear the case. The court also rejected the PTI chairman's appeal to transfer the case to another court and issued a notice for next week on the appeal to restore the right of defence. Earlier, the trial court had declared the ECP reference against the PTI chief maintainable. The decision was subsequently challenged in the IHC.

The Toshakhana issue became a major sticking point in national politics after the Election Commission of Pakistan disqualified the PTI chief for making "false statements and incorrect declaration". The reference, which alleges that Imran failed to share details of the gifts he retained from the Toshakhana (during his time as the prime minister) was filed by lawmakers from the ruling coalition last year.

# CCI okays 7th digital census

— Pakistan's population rises to 241.49m

### F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: The Council of Common Interests (CCI) Saturday unanimously approved the 7th digital census in the country. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif chaired the 50th meeting of the CCI in which the approval was given after detailed consultation and decision-making.

The four provincial ministers and the representatives of all political parties completely agreed with the results of the census. Dr Khalid Magsi of Balochistan Awami Party, Syed Aminul Haque of Muttahida Qaumi Movement, Maulana Asad Mehmood of Jamiat Ulema e Islam and Qamar Zaman Kaira of Pakistan Peoples Party besides the members of CCI attended the meeting on special invitation.

The prime minister in his remarks said the Council of Common Interests was an important constitutional institution for strengthening the federation. He said the first digital census in Pakistan was completed in the best manner which was a good step for the country. The provincial governments and the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics played an important role in this very vital national responsibility, he added.

He said all national institutions and provincial governments should take emergency steps to stop the increase in population. "The limited resources of the country are insufficient for the rising population. If the population increased by the same rate, then despite our best efforts, poverty and unemployment will increase in Pakistan." "So in order to secure our future, we have to take steps to stop population growth and to ensure progress and prosperity of the present population," he stressed.

The PM said Federal Minister for Planning Ahsan Iqbal, officers of the ministry and especially the Statistics Bureau and those personnel who went from home to home for data entry and made the digital census successful were appreciable. The officials of the Ministry of Planning and Pakistan Bureau of Statistics gave detailed briefing about the results of the census and the methodology used in it.

## Quake shakes KP cities

PESHAWAR (PPI): A powerful earthquake measuring 5.4 on Richter Scale jolted a number of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa cities on Saturday morning. However, there was no report of any loss of life or damage to public properties. According to PMD, tremors were felt in Shangla, Takhtbhai, Swat, Lower Dir, Kurram, Swabi, and surroundings as the quake struck at 8.06 am.



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## Shazia Marri inaugurates ‘Mobile Registration Centres’

KARACHI (APP): Federal Minister for Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety and Chairperson Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) Shazia Marri on Saturday cut a ribbon to launch ‘Mobile Registration Vehicles/Centres in Site area of the metropolis.

While addressing the launching ceremony, she said that the vehicles would be sent to 25 districts of Sindh and Balochistan. She said that the initiative would start in Sindh from Ghotki, Tharparkar and would be extended to Umerkot, Sanghar and Jamshoro.

She said that Chaki, Khuzdar, Pishin, Gawadar, Loralai, Sibi, Sohbat Pur, Qila Saifullah, Qila Abdullah and other areas of Balochistan were included in the programme.

The minister said that the previous government eliminated 8.2 million BISP beneficiaries from the programme without any reason. We have opened this case and had given opportunity to the affected to appeal for the inclusion in the Programme, she added.

Marri said that over 2.5 million people were identified and 95000 people had been given stipend after verification. She said that BISP evolved over the years. She said that it had static registry and it had moved

now toward dynamic registry.

She said that there were many low-income households, who could not meet their needs with that income. The minister said that they started to support the poor households with Rs1000 stipend and it had reached now Rs 8750, which was given quarterly.

The government is in difficult situation and facing economic crisis, she said adding that when the government came into power, the number of beneficiaries was 7.6 million and today, it had reached 9 million.

She said that 33 million Pakistanis were affected due to the floods Marri said that Sanghar, Jamshoro, Dadu, Khairpur were among 23 to 24 districts, which were inundated with flood waters. We were seeking climate justice and we were vulnerable to climate change, she said adding that the government announced to give Rs 70 billion to flood affected areas. She said that Rs 25000 each were distributed among 2.8 million families.

The minister said that they had included in one year transgender persons in BISP programme. She said that women were already included in the programme, now the houses, which had persons with disabilities

had now been put on top priority.

She further said that BISP had completed its 15 years. The BISP commenced its operations in 2008. The programme was initiated for low-income households and the females of the households were considered as the head of their family.

The Minister said that PPP gave a clear message of women empowerment. She said that Shaheed Benazir Bhutto as a female led PPP and they were struggling for strong democracy by following her vision.

She said that Mohtrama commenced 50000 Lady Health Workers programme. She also established women police station, first women bank and struggled for women judges. A female political leadership paved the way for women in various fields, she said. Marri said that Fatima Jinnah and Nusrat Bhutto struggled for the welfare of the people and stood against dictators. She also thanked the German government for collaboration in the Programme.

Consul General of Republic of Germany Dr. Rudiger Lotz, Secretary of Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) Amir Ali Ahmed and others were also present on the occasion.

## Aug-5 remains darkest day in history of IIOJ&K : CM

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Caretaker Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi expressed his heartfelt sentiments on the occasion of Kashmir's Youme-e-Istehsal, stating that August 5 remains the darkest day in the history of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJ&K).

In a statement, he condemned India's illegal and unilateral actions on August 5, 2019, which sought to change the status of Kashmir.

The CM strongly criticized India for committing a grave crime against humanity by revoking the special status of Kashmiris and

attempting to erode the identity of the Kashmiri nation. He highlighted the plight of Kashmiris, with the occupying Indian army subjecting eight million Kashmiris to confinement in their own homes.

He expressed concern over the extrajudicial killings of Kashmiri youth in fake encounters and so-called search operations, while the Kashmiri leadership remained under arrest. Despite facing atrocities, the spirit of freedom among Kashmiris remained resilient, he said.

Mohsin Naqvi extended the Pakistani nation's support and

admiration for the unwavering efforts of Kashmiris. He emphasized that India's actions have exposed it as an oppressive and occupying state in the eyes of the world.

He lamented the indifference of the international community towards the crisis in IIOJ&K, urging them to awaken to the voice of the Kashmiri people.

The caretaker chief minister expressed hope that Kashmiri brothers and sisters would one day witness the dawn of freedom, insha'Allah.

## Siraj calls for transparent, across the board accountability

LAHORE (INP): Ameer Jamiat-e-Islami (JI) Sirajul Haq has said that the former prime minister has right to appeal in Toshakhana case, calling for transparent and across the board accountability of all those individuals who had taken home the precious presents from foreign dignitaries, causing billions of rupees loss to the national kitty.

Talking to journalists after addressing book launch event at Mansoorah on Saturday, he said the country could not move forward in environment of selected accountability. When the JI would come into power, Siraj held, it would make answerable every powerful including politicians, judges and gen-

erals before the law.

The launching ceremony of JI vice-emir Dr Farid Ahmed Paracha's book “meray rahnuma meray hamnawa” was also addressed by veteran politician Javed Hashmir, JI vice-emir Liaqat Baloch, JI secretary general Ameerul Azim and others.

To a question, Sirajul Haq replied that first the PTI and later the PDM and the PPP governments were imposed through political engineering, fearing the same would happen in the future. The nation, he said, must stand for their rights and vote for the honest and dedicated leadership instead of providing further opportunities to the already tested parties.

He highlighted the

region's current vulnerability, including Pakistan, with an enemy eager to spark conflict. This high-stakes game, he said, alters geographies and shatters nations, as seen in Iraq, Syria, Lebanon, Yemen,

Sudan, and Libya.

The JI chief emphasized Pakistan's unique status as both an ideological nation and the sole Islamic nuclear power, consistently challenging adversaries. Thus, he added, global plots aim to destabilize it.

### SUIT NOTICE

In the court of Miss Ambareen Navid Judge Banking Court-I Peshawar Federal Judicial Complex, Phase-7 Hayatabad Peshawar. Case No: 62/1 of 2023 Date of hearing: 11-09-2023. Suit for the recovery of Rs.2,037,133/- HBL through Manager city branch (0223) Peshawar Vs: Ziaullah Khan. Notice Versus:- Ziaullah Khan son of Farid Ahmad Khan R/o- House No. 360, street No.6, Sector F-6, Phase-6, Hayatabad, Peshawar. Where as the plaintiff bank has instituted a suit for the recovery of Rs.2,037,133/- Against you under section 10(2) of the Financial Institution (Recovery of Finance) Ordinance 2001, you are hereby summoned to obtain leave of the court to appear and defend the suit within 30 days after receipt / publication of the notice in the newspapers. Failing which an ex-parte decree shall be passed in favour of the plaintiff Bank with costs.

Issued today On 25-07-2023 under my signature and seal of the Court.

**Registrar**  
**Banking Court,1 Peshawar**

## Request for Proposal Hiring of Software Development Firm for Customized App. Development

Employees' Old-Age Benefits Institution (EOBI) intends to hire the services of a Software/Technology Firm for customized application development for an IT Project titled as “Revamping EOBI Applications & Database for Strengthening Social Security System by the Institution”. Bids are invited from competent Firms to undertake the project in an efficient/timely manner and as per bid documents. Bidding will be conducted according to Rule 36(b), Single Stage Two envelope procedure of PPRA Rules 2004 and is open to all bidders who meet the following eligibility criteria:

- The bidder is a registered technology/software developer firm under the Companies Act 2017 and is operating in Pakistan for at least five fiscal years.
- Must be in the Latest Active Taxpayer List of FBR.
- The bidder must have an experience of providing customized software development services to at least three public sector and at least three private sector organizations during the last five years.
- The bidder should at least have an average annual revenue of Rs. 500 million during the last five fiscal years.
- The bidder must not be in litigation with EOBI and Federal Government and has not been blacklisted by Government.

### AVAILABILITY OF BID DOCUMENTS:

Bid documents shall be available from the date of publication of tender notice in the newspapers from the below mentioned address at Karachi or from EOBI Zonal Offices situated at 57-L, Gulberg-III, Lahore and Plot No.32, 33 & 34, Sector G-10/4, Islamabad, on production of Rs. 5,000/= Pay Order (non-refundable) drawn on any commercial bank in favor of “EMPLOYEES' OLD-AGE BENEFITS INSTITUTION, HEAD OFFICE, KARACHI”.

### BID CLOSING, OPENING, VALIDITY, & BID SECURITY:

Bids prepared in accordance with the instructions in the bidding documents containing Technical and Financial Proposals in separate envelopes, must reach at address given below on or before 21-Aug-23 at 11:00 am. Opening of technical bid is set for 21-Aug-23 at 11:30 am in the Board Room of EOBI Head Office, at 8th floor. Representatives of bidders may attend the bid opening. All bids submitted must have a validity of at least 180 days. Validity shall be counted from the date of opening of Financial Bid. Financial Bid shall be opened after evaluation of technical bids for which bidders will be informed. All bids are to be accompanied with a “BID SECURITY” pay order of Rs.500,000/= in favor of “EMPLOYEES' OLD-AGE BENEFITS INSTITUTION, HEAD OFFICE, KARACHI”.

### BID REJECTION:

Incomplete, conditional, and/or bids without Bid Security shall be instantly rejected. Bids without proof of eligibility conditions stated above shall also be rejected.

Director (General Administration Department) EOBI Head Office, 190/B/1, P.E.C.H.S Block # 2, Near Blue Ribbon Bakery, Off Shara-e-Faisal, Karachi, Tel No: 021-99225397

PID/K369-D/23



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NADRA invites candidates for Walk-in Test/Interview for below mentioned project based vacancies:

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		District Swat (8), Upper Chitral (3), Upper Dir (3), Lower Chitral (3), Lower Dir (6), Tank (2), Abbottabad (1) & Mansehra (2)	20-Aug-2023 (Sunday) 08:30 AM – 12:00 PM	21-Aug-2023 (Monday) 08:30 AM - 12:00 PM
	Minimum: Intermediate	District Bajour (4), Karak (3), Torghar (1), Malakand PA (1), Khyber (1), Nowshera (1) & Peshawar (10)	21-Aug-2023 (Monday) 08:30 AM – 12:00 PM	22-Aug-2023 (Tuesday) 08:30 AM - 12:00 PM
Security Guard Age: 50 Years	Middle/Matric & Preferably one-year Relevant Experience	District Peshawar (1) & Torghar (1)	-	23-Aug-2023 (Wednesday) 08:30 AM - 12:00 PM

**Venue:** Regional Head Office NADRA, Phase-5 Hayatabad, Peshawar

**Terms and Conditions:**

- Candidates from respective District shall be preferred.
- Interested candidates must bring their Original Documents i.e. Personal, Educational & Professional.
- A candidate can appear for test or interview against one position only.
- 05 years' age relaxation already included in maximum age.
- Posting request to other Project / Site will not be entertained unless the Management requires it.
- Candidates shortlisted after the Test for Data Entry Executive shall be interviewed.
- No TA/DA will be admissible.
- Females, Transgenders & differently – abled people are encouraged to apply.

**Note:** Positions are for a specific Project; therefore, selected staff shall be laid-off upon completion of Project. This Contract shall not confer any entitlement of regular / contractual employment in NTL or NADRA.

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- Consultant Physician Internal Medicine & Infectious Diseases
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- Consultant Physician Internal Medicine & Pulmonology
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- Consultant Breast Surgeon
- Consultant Upper GI Surgeon
- Consultant Orthopaedic Surgeon
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**Email: [careers.peshawar@shaukatkhanum.org.pk](mailto:careers.peshawar@shaukatkhanum.org.pk)**





# KP observes Kashmir Exploitation Day

— Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa leads a big rally

PESHAWAR (APP): Like other parts of the country Kashmir Exploitation Day observed in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa also to express solidarity with Kashmiri people and condemned Indian atrocities.

The major event in this connection was held in which Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor, Haji Ghulam Ali led a big protest rally.

The rally attended by people of all walks including caretaker provincial ministers, advisers, special assistants, politicians, local government representatives and officials was started from Chief Minister House and culminated at Governor House, Peshawar.

Raising placards and banners, the rally raised slogans against the oppression and cruelties of the fascist Modi Govt on innocent Kashmiris of the occupied valley.

The participants strongly condemned the lockdown and illegal occupation of Indian illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir and revoking the special status of the held Valley four years ago on August 5, 2019.

Thd Governor said that

the oppressed Kashmiris had become victims of India's oppression and cruelties for several decades.

He said that a message was passed in world that the moral, political and diplomatic support of oppressed Kashmiris would continue till they achieved right of self determination as promised to them by the UNO.

He said that today was a black day in the history of Kashmir as four years ago on this day Modi Govt had illegally revoked the special status of IIOJK and broke all records of cruelties and humans rights violations there.

He demanded the human rights organizations to take notice of ongoing cruelties in the IIOJK.

"We stand with oppressed Kashmiris in their just struggle of freedom of the Indian yoke," he said, adding durable peace in South Asia was not possible unless resolution of the Kashmir dispute.

Caretaker Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Muhammad Azam Khan in a message in connection of Kashmir Exploitation Day, denounced the Indian government's tyrannical and unjust measures in the

Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK).

The Chief Minister expressed solidarity with the who have endured state-sponsored terrorism from India over the past seven decades.

He accused the Indian government of depriving the people of Kashmir of their fundamental right to self-determination, emphasizing that the actions taken on August 5, 2019, have only added to the tale of suffering of the innocent Kashmiri people.

Muhammad Azam Khan highlighted the grave violations of human rights in the occupied territory, calling for the attention of international human rights organizations to take immediate action under the UN resolutions.

Similarly, the Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) Khyber Pakhtunkhwa observed the Day with active participation from all its employees here at the PDMA headquarters.

The event was led by Jannat Gul Afridi, Director General of PDMA, and included a rally. Participants, including Director PDMA Zia ur Rahman

Khattak, Muhammad Rehman and Director HR Muhammad Iqbal Wazir, carried flags with slogans condemning Indian aggression and showing solidarity with Kashmiri brethren.

To commemorate Kashmir Exploitation Day, a special function was held at Pakhtunkhwa House Mardan the auspices of the district administration.

Deputy Commissioner Captain retired Abdul Rahman was the chief guest on the occasion.

At the beginning of the program, a minute's silence was observed to express solidarity with the Kashmiri people.

Students of different schools presented speeches, songs and tableaux.

The students said in their speeches that on August 5, 2019, India violated the UN resolutions by terminating the special status of Kashmir.

Similarly, District Administration and Civil Society in Shangla district carried out a rally to highlight ongoing brutality and barbarism against innocents in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir.

The rally that was carried out in connection with Kashmir Exploitation Day was participated by large number of people from cross section of society.

One minute silence was also observed to express solidarity with people facing Indian atrocities in occupied valley. Holding placards and banners, rally participants also chanted slogans to give right of self-determination to people of occupied Kashmir.

Speakers condemned the Indian move on August 5, 2019 that violated UN resolution and resulted in termination of Kashmir special status. They said that struggle of people living in occupied valley would soon free them from clutches of cabal that is persecuting innocents from decades.

## FIA arrests three men involved in hawala hundi trade

PESHAWAR (INP): The Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) Commercial Banking Circle Peshawar on Saturday claimed to have arrested three men for their alleged involvement in hawala and hundi business.

According to the details, the suspects were found in possession of 750 euro, 3100 Chinese yen, 105 ringgit, \$20 US dollars, and Rs 5,50,000 in cash.

The suspects failed to provide satisfactory explanations to the authorities regarding the source of the currency, which raised concerns.

As per the FIA statement, the receipts related to hawala/hundi were also recovered in the possession of the suspects, meanwhile, cases have been registered against the suspects under the Foreign Exchange Regulation Act, and legal proceedings are initiated by the FIA.



PESHAWAR: Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Haji Ghulam Ali leading a rally to mark Kashmir Day of Exploitation.

## PDMA observes Yaum-e-Istehsal-e-Kashmir

PESHAWAR (APP): The Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) Khyber Pakhtunkhwa observed Solidarity Yaum-e-Istehsal-e-Kashmir with active participation from all its employees at the PDMA headquarters here on Saturday.

The event was led by Jannat Gul Afridi, Director General of PDMA, and included a rally.

Participants, including Director PDMA Zia ur

Rahman Khattak, Muhammad Rehman and Director HR Muhammad Iqbal Wazir, carried flags with slogans condemning Indian aggression and showing solidarity with Kashmiri brethren.

Director General Jannat Gul Afridi emphasized that Kashmir remains an integral part of Pakistan in religious, cultural, and geographical dimensions. He highlighted the violation of international human

rights by India on August 5, 2019, when it attempted to integrate Kashmir unlawfully.

He condemned India's actions as a breach of United Nations laws and basic human rights. He assured Pakistan's unwavering commitment to its principled stance and pledged continued support for the Kashmiri people.

DG Afridi instructed PDMA's field staff to commemorate Solidarity with

Kashmir Day and collaborate with district administrations to convey the message that Kashmir is an integral part of Pakistan, echoing Quaid-e-Azam's endorsement.

Following the rally, all employees gathered in the Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) auditorium for a collective prayer, expressing unity in support of Kashmir's freedom and the nation's integrity.

## Lead Welfare Trust trust commits for educating child labors

### F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: Lead Welfare Trust Pakistan is a charitable trust which operates with the help of mutual coordination of social flat forms and with the help of social media for the deprived people of Pakistan specifically for Ex-Fata Parachinar, where they get opportunities to help the community in education sector and different developmental programs.

This was claimed by Chairman Lead Welfare Trust Irfan Haider Bangash and added that various areas of community issues and then we get access to various projects like child Labors, Improper education system, poverty, disaster management, Health issues and also supporting needy families. The most important is child laboring as Lead Welfare trust

working on it on priority basis.

Unfortunately, the actual number of child laborers in Pakistan-Parachinar goes un-detected. Children are forced to work is completely unregulated condition without adequate food, proper wages, and rest. They are subjected to physical, sexual and emotional abuse.

The main causes of child laboring are lack of education, increasing in terrorism activities, poverty, lack of social security, high cost of health facilities and the increasing gap between the rich and the poor have adversely affected children more than any other group.

These are the factors contributing to child labour. The competent authorities failed to provide universal education, which results in children dropping out of school and

entering the labour force. Due to high poverty and poor schooling opportunities, child labor is quite prevalent in Parachinar.

As the Lead Welfare Trust mission is to educate child labors, empowers them for education, as currently Lead trust supporting number of child labors financially and morally and enroll them in different top standard schools in Parachinar and also collective efforts are needed on the part of society and the government to put an end to the practice of child labor.

In fact, every citizen should take a pledge to never employ child laborer, rather discourage others too from doing so. We should create awareness amongst people employing child laborers and the parents sending their children to work. We need to provide our children a happy

childhood where they are able to enjoy the best period of their lives with a merry and carefree attitude.

The government should make efforts to increase the incomes of parents by launching various development schemes and also the government should bring down the incidence of child labor through reform and investment in education. Mid-day meals should be re-emphasized; homeless children should be provided housing schemes, and laws banning child labor should be more strictly enforced.

## ANP announces election manifesto

PESHAWAR (APP): Provincial President Awami National Party (ANP), Aimal Wali Khan here Saturday announced election manifesto for upcoming polls.

Main points of manifesto include free education in public sector universities, provision of research grant, creation of new employment opportunities, easy loans to youths, free testing service for jobs, establishment of e-commerce zones at district level, new educational institutions, district autonomy, establishment of provincial finance commission, laws to end violence against transgender community, development of infrastructure and permanent opening of 16 trade corridors with Afghanistan.



PESHAWAR: Employees of District Population Welfare Office chanting slogans in favour of Kashmiris to mark Kashmir Day of Exploitation. — F.P. photo

## Medical aspirants argued PMC to extend timeframe for MDCAT

### F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: Candidates for Medical and dental Colleges entry test argued Pakistan Medical Commission (PMC) to extend the date of MDCAT, most of the students did not get enough time to study.

The students who want to take admission in the Medical and Dental Colleges organized by the Pakistan Medical Commission say that the 27 of August has been fixed for taking the entrance test in

the colleges by the Pakistan Medical Commission, which is very close and is on the head to prepare for it. There is no adequate time for its preparation, so the test should be extended by at least one month.

The students said that they have been busy in intermediate/FSC exams till June 24, while the entry test in medical and dental colleges has been scheduled on 27th of August, which is very inappropriate.

The stand of the fresh candidates is that the repeaters have got much more time to prepare for the test compared to them, while the freshers are being given a chance of only two months due to which they are having to bear the loss.

The fresh students who want admission demanded the authorized officers of the Pakistan Medical Commission and the admitting universities to extend the date of the entry test for medical and dental colleges by at least one month.

## AC supervises polling material disbursement

PESHAWAR (APP): Assistant Commissioner Abbottabad, Saqleen Saleem, along with Returning Officer Lubna Iqbal Saturday supervised the distribution of polling material, polling staff and transportation during the local government by-elections in Tehsil Havelian.

According to the information, under the supervision of the district administration, the polling for Tehsil Havelian's local government elections will take place on Aug 6.

In this regard, Assistant Commissioner Abbottabad Saqleen Saleem, along with Additional Assistant Commissioner 1 Ali Sher and District Monitoring Officer Lubna Iqbal ensured the provision of all services related to the polling material, polling staff mobilization, and transportation.

This electoral constituency of Tehsil Havelian spans across nine union councils and encompasses 37 village councils, uniting a total of 165,800

registered voters. The demographics reveal a split of 88,364 male voters and 77,436 female voters. The electoral landscape is divided into 134 polling stations, which will feature 218 booths for male voters and 174 for female counterparts.

Keeping in view of the sensitivity of the electoral process, the district administration also deployed a large number of police forces for the security and successful organization of the election.



PESHAWAR: A view of ongoing work progress on Saddar Road.

## SCN to launch Autumn Plantation Drive to mitigate impacts of heatwave, climate change

PESHAWAR (APP): Sarhad Conservation Nature (SCN), a non-governmental organization striving for conservation of environment, culture and heritage, has planned organizing an Autumn Plantation Drive in order to play its part in mitigating the impact of increased heatwave and climate change on the population of Peshawar.

Titled as 'Adopt a Tree Campaign', the plantation drive will start after August 14 and a number of organizations and individuals will participate in the drive.

The decision in this regard was taken during an online meeting arranged by SCN's Convener, Dr. Adil Zareef wherein people from different walks of life including experts in

Forestry, Botanists, environmentalists and media persons participated and gave their input for making the drive successful.

The meeting discussed as how and where to execute the plantation drive, suitable species, no of saplings needed, sources & links on how to acquire these on time as well as logistics of carrying on the plantation exercise in selected clusters in partnership & support of local communities.

After the discussion a number of participants made pledge of taking part in the plantation drive besides donating thousands of indigenous trees mostly chir pines.

Ms. Shamsa of IRC (International Red Cross) apprised the participants of the online meeting that IRC

would hold a consultative meeting on 10th August on the logistics of the drive in 3 districts, including Peshawar, and would involve community stakeholders & religious leaders for future environmental interventions.

Dr. Asad Ullah, Director Botanical Garden, Azakhel University of Peshawar, volunteered to donate 50 Sukh Chain plants & 10 indigenous chir pine trees.

He suggested a task force for autumn plantation drive. Also, the Botanical Garden vehicle will be available to transport saplings from nursery to selected locations.

Tariq Ali Shah, DFO Kohat informed that the TMA & District government should be involved in this drive for the follow up on caring responsibilities

trees planted.

Aurangzaib Khan, a journalist, advised structured community mobilisation and engagement of local government in the drive for sustainability.

He identified university road & ring road shopping areas, father's colony near airport for plantation drive; & engagement with local communities for sustainability.

He suggested indigenous species like Neem, Bikyarrana, Sukh chan trees etc.

Augustine Jacob, a representative from Christian community, offered support of Christian youth volunteers in the autumn campaign drive.

He advised to request support from the cantonment board & PDA in the plantation drive. He also

demanding approximately 250 indigenous species for plantation in Gora Qabristan & Falcon colony graveyard.

A suggestion was also presented for involvement of community elders, religious scholars also from minority community to attract maximum number of people in the upcoming Autumn Plantation Drive.

The meeting decided that indigenous plants including Pinus roxburghii (Chir Pine), Platanus orientalis (Chinar), Bombax ceiba (Simal), Dalbergia sissoo (Sheesham), Azadirachta indica (Neem), Syzgium cumini (Jaman), Morus alba (Mulberry/ Toot), Albizzia lebeck (Sreekh), Bauhinia variegata (Kachnar) and other will be planted in the drive.





## In brief

### PPP praises Liaqat Shabab Syed Waliullah Shah

NOWSHERA: Pakistan People's Party (PPP) observed Cehlum of former provincial minister and party's central leader Liaqat Shabab by reciting Holy Quran for highest rank to the departed soul in the heavens, on Saturday. During the observance of "Cehlum" PPP's workers across Khyber Pakhtunkhwa as well as from erstwhile Fata while local political leadership of various parties, lawyers and people from every walk of life were present on the occasion. The participants offered prayers for Late Liaqat Shabab and paid tribute to his political struggle. The participants claimed Liaqat Shabab was affiliated with PPP from his students and remain loyal to the party's ideology till his death. They claimed that Liaqat Shabab has faced imprisonment for restoration democracy and supremacy of constitution.

### Three killed, three injured F.P. Report

BANNU: At least three people were killed and three others injured in armed clash over property dispute here, police said on Saturday. According to details, the incident took place in Piran Tughal Khel area of Bannu where nephews traded fire with their uncle over ownership of a piece of land. In cross firing three people including a woman were killed while three others sustained injuries. The culprits fled the scene of crime. The bodies and injured were shifted to hospital for medico-legal formalities and police after registering a case against the culprits started raids for their arrest.

### Two kidnappers killed, four held

SHEIKHUPURA (INP): The police rescued an abducted landlord. Two kidnappers were killed and four held with arms, millions of rupees cash and a vehicle after fire exchange. According to details, the police using modern technology rescued renowned landlord within 48 hours of abduction besides arresting two notorious shooters Hussnain alias Manoo Opal and Sajid alias Shehzad Jutt. Accomplices of the nabbed kidnappers in attempt to free their companions attacked police near Marh Bhangwan Chak No. 11, Sheikhupura. In retaliatory firing, two abductors were killed while two others were held. The police have recovered arms, 15 million rupees cash and a vehicle worth million of rupees from possession of the killed, detained abductors. The bodies were shifted to hospital and police after registering various cases against the detainees started investigations.

### 13 vehicles impounded

SARGODHA (INP): Thirteen commercial vehicles were impounded in Sargodha district on Saturday for overcharging and carrying illegal gas cylinders. According to the media reports, the crackdown was launched by Deputy Commissioner (DC) Sargodha, Cap (R) Shoab Ali, and senior district administration officials. The vehicles were impounded at different bus stops in the city. DC Ali said that the crackdown would continue without any discrimination and that strict action would be taken against vehicles that overcharge passengers or carry illegal gas cylinders. He added that the crackdown was part of the government's efforts to ensure the safety of passengers and to prevent accidents.



LANDI KOTAL: Locals and officials holding a banner to hold a rally in connection with Youm-e-Istehsal-e-Kashmir. — F.P. photo

## Conviction of Imran in Toshakana PTI's workers took streets in Dir

F.P. Report

TIMERGARA: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) workers took to the streets against the arrest of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf Chairman and former Prime Minister Imran Khan, calling the decision of disqualification and arrest unilateral, on Saturday.

In this regard, the workers of PTI Tehsil Timergara took to the streets immediately after the arrest of former Prime Minister Imran Khan, protested outside the District Press Club and later from the press conference PTI Tehsil Timergara President Iqbal Tajik. General Secretary Asif Iqbal Sadat, District President of Insaf Youth Wing Mian Sajjad, General Secretary of Insaf Lawyers Forum Malakand Division Basheerullah Advocate, Zia-ul-Haq and others said that today's decision is illegal and unconstitutional. Engaged in efforts to illegally ban PTI workers and the party since the beginning, the PDM government turned the peaceful protest of May 9 into violent protests under a well-thought-out conspiracy to make the political party

popular in the country and the people.

PTI workers believe in peace, law and the rule of law. It is their constitutional and legal right to peacefully protest against the illegal decision. There is no one to be afraid of going to jail and the high tactics of the incompetent government and God willing PTT's legal team will trash the illegal and unconstitutional decision in a couple of days and Imran Khan will once again be among the people. He said that the PDM government should not commit so much atrocities that they will not return tomorrow.

He said that the people who were against Imran Khan have become his supporters with this illegal decision, which is our great moral victory. The workers of PTI made it clear that they have faith in PTI workers and if the forest law in the country continues like this, then it will be difficult to stop the way of PTI workers.

**Rescue 1122 observes one-minute silence in solidarity with Kashmiris:** On the special instructions of Director General Rescue 1122 Dr. Khateer Ahmed, under the leadership of District Emergency Officer

Abrar Ali, a minute's silence was observed in the stations of Rescue 1122 Dir Lower on the occasion of Kashmir Exploitation Day on August 5, and a special rally was organized to express solidarity with Kashmiris.

According to the details, on the special instructions of the District Emergency Officer Abrar Ali, the rescue men celebrated August 5th to express their solidarity with their oppressed Kashmiri brothers. District Emergency Officer Abrar Ali saluted the struggle of Kashmiris. Kashmiri people are enduring worst atrocities and violation of human rights, salute their struggle, time has come to end this human tragedy. He said that the Kashmir issue should be resolved according to the wishes of the Kashmiri people and the resolutions of the United Nations.

In the rally, all the participants were holding flags regarding Kashmir Exploitation Day and slogans for the right of Kashmir and Kashmir will become Pakistan were planted. At the end of the rally, prayers were offered for the freedom of Kashmir.

## Indian brutalities condemned F.P. Report

LANDI KOTAL: To flay unlawful action by revoking the special status of Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir a rally was taken out here inside the compound of tehsil Landi Kotal, district Khyber on Saturday.

Assistant Commissioner Landi Kotal Irshad Mohmand, tehsil chairman Haji Shah Khalid, ex-parliamentarian Wilson Wazir, scores of tribesmen, councilors participated in it. Addressing on the occasion speakers said Haji Shah Khalid, Wilson Wazir and others categorically condemned the Indian government for forcibly annexation of Jammu and Kashmir.

Abrogation of article 370 and 35-A was not only a violation of the Indian Constitution but also against the spirit of the UN resolutions, they said. Kashmiris had never accepted India's forcible and illegal occupation of their motherland, they added and said it was an attempt to change the demography of their territory and to deprive them of their resources, jobs, identity, cultural, land and above all the promised right to self-determination.

They urged the United Nation to adopt concrete initiatives to accept the ground reality and resolve the dispute peacefully in accordance with the universally accepted principle of right to self-determination. The participants who also carried banners inscribed with statements in favor of Kashmiri people and chanted slogans against the occupied Indians forces. After offering prayers for the independence of Kashmir, they dispersed peacefully.

## Abducted doctor found murdered

JHANG (INP): Police on Saturday recovered the dead body of a doctor who was kidnapped from his private clinic in Waryamwala, Shorkot in Jhang three days ago.

Four unknown armed persons abducted Dr Umar Rafique at gunpoint from his private clinic in Shorkot, Cantt three days ago.

# Rally held to observe Kashmir exploitation day

F.P. Report

MARDAN: A special function was held at Pakhtunkhwa House to commemorate Kashmir Exploitation Day with the auspices of the district administration on Saturday.

Deputy Commissioner Captain retired Abdul Rahman was the chief guest on the occasion, Additional Deputy Commissioners Samiur Rehman, Engineer Shahzeb, Assistant Commissioner Takht Bai Maheen Hasan, Additional Assistant Commissioners Khola Haqdar, Junaid Khalid, District Education Officers and a large number of students from different schools also participated.

At the beginning of the program, a minute's silence was observed to express solidarity with the Kashmiri people. Students of different schools presented speeches, songs and tableaux. The students said in their speeches that on August 5, 2019, India violated the UN resolutions by terminating the special status of Kashmir. The speakers said that the world's silence on the violation of human rights in Kashmir is a criminal act.

Deputy Commissioner Captain Retired Abdul Rehman said that Pakistan will continue its political, moral and diplomatic support for the freedom struggle of Kashmiri Muslims and through their sacrifices, Kashmiri Muslims will soon achieve their freedom from India. He said that the purpose of celebrating this day is to reiterate the resolve that we will not

allow the exploitation of our Kashmiri brothers and sisters. At the end of the ceremony, a walk was organized to express solidarity with the Kashmiri Muslims and prayers were sought for the success of the freedom struggle.

**Traders held rally in solidarity with Kashmiris:** A rally was taken out in solidarity with the people of Kashmir on the occasion of "Exploitation Day" organized by the Markaz-e-Tanzeem Tajiran (Zahir Shah Group) on Saturday. It was led by Provincial General Secretary of the Markaz-e-Tanzeem Tajiran and Mardan Chamber of Commerce and Industry Zahir Shah Hundreds of businessmen including organizations of different markets of Mardan participated in the rally.

The protesters had raised Pakistani flags and were chanting that Kashmir will become Pakistan, long live Pakistan Army, we are ready to make any kind of sacrifice by the side of the army so that India refrains from its illegal occupation of Kashmir. The rally started from New Sabzi Mandi Mirwas and reached Charssada Road and took the form of a procession. General Secretary Waqar Bacha, Malik Najeef ullah, Shah Gee, Noman Saraf, Naveed Khan, Ibtar Khan, Gul Said and others were present on this occasion.

Addressing the rally, Zahir Shah, the Provincial General Secretary of the Central Organization of Trade Unions, said that Kashmir is the aorta of

Pakistan and no one can separate Kashmir from Pakistan. India's aggression on Kashmir is intolerable and India's nefarious intentions will not be allowed to succeed under any circumstances. On August 5, 2019, India forcibly changed the status of Kashmir and proved its unjust and cowardly act.

It is a proof of impure intentions that we will not let India's impure intentions succeed under any circumstances. The people are standing side by side with the Pak Army, India has refrained from illegal occupation and aggression on Kashmir. The goal of Kashmiris is freedom and Pakistan has always kept its position in front of the world.

This black day is celebrated by the people of Pakistan to express solidarity with their Kashmiri brothers as a day of exploitation is celebrating and the voice was raised on every international forum for the freedom of Kashmir and the day is not far that the goal of Kashmiris is freedom and we pay tribute to the Kashmiris for their patience, independence and unparalleled sacrifices.

If India does not come to its senses and stop inflicting cruelty and brutality on the people of Kashmir, then millions of people of Pakistan will join the army in the spirit of Jihad and India will be given a lesson, Zahir Shah said that Kashmiri people should be given the right to self-determination according to the United Nations Charter.

## Former CM Hoti praises late Shams Buner role

F.P. Report

BUNER: Former Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Awami National Party (ANP) Central Senior Vice president Amir Hider Khan Hoti has said paid tribute prominent poet and lawyer Late Shams Buner for his services for rule of law as well as for Pakhtun as a nation, on Saturday.

This he praised while talking to media personnel at residence of Late Shams Buner after condolence offered to the deceased family and claimed that restoration peace on Pukhtoon soil first priority

amid continued bloodshed of innocent Pukhtoon. Hoti said holding general elections were mandatory under constitution of the country but making sure peaceful environment equally for all of political parties and voters also mandatory was the present situation conducive for all, he raised question and stamped it that elections were second priority.

Former CM said that late Shams Buner tireless contribution for Pukhtoon even bored 10 years exile 10 years prison and 20 lashes. Hoti was sure the party leadership was prioritized restoration peace on Pukhtoon soul on Pukhtoon

soil first and other issues secondary. when asked who were behind terror bids on Pukhtoon soil and genocide of Pukhtoon soul, Hoti linked it to foreign interest based past rulers wrong policies for vested interests at the cost of innocent Pukhtoon.

He was crystal clear regarding the decades long unrest on Pukhtoon soil and killing of Pakhtoon adding the Pukhtoon leadership was prioritized long lasting peace for Pukhtoon on Pukhtoon soil and working out for achieving this high value goal of peace to lead progress and prosperity in future, he concluded.



SHANGLA: Adviser to PM, Amir Muqam inaugurating work on Poranpur Road.

## Journalists trained on Climate Advocacy for Resilient Actions

F.P. Report

SHANGLA: Pakistan Red Crescent Society (PRCS) arranged training for media personnel on "Climate Advocacy and Coordination for Resilient Action" with collaboration of German Red Cross at Shangla.

Chairman Department of Geography at University of Peshawar Professor Dr. Atta-ur-Rehman discussed situation regarding global and Pakistan specific issue due to climate change with in-depth references. He termed Pakistan is pulse of earth because it has diverse topography from highest mountainous region to desert within the premises of one thousand areal miles.

Professor Dr. Atta-ur-Rehman said that Chitral, Kohistan and Shangla dis-

tricts in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa at highest risk due to impacts of climate change. He claimed that risk communication is more important than risk management to overcome impacts of climate change and global warming.

PRCS Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Media and Communication Officer Zeeshan Anwar briefed participants on Red Crescent Movement. He said that the movement is initiated with aim to help victims of both natural and manmade disasters to serve the humanity irrespective of creed, race and nationality.

Moreover, Mozzam Shah discussed role media in promoting volunteerism among public and claimed that journalist community play decisive role in the area for larger interest of

humanity. He claimed that PRCS provide a platform for volunteers to serve their community by educating regarding first aid, risk management and other aspects related to the disasters.

A senior journalist named Itikhar Khan discussed different spheres for securing space for coverage of climate related topics. He claimed that human aspects of every news story should compel editors to cover the issue.

However, Ayaz Ali and German Red Cross Coordinator Naeem Akhtar briefed the participants on the importance of workshop and seriousness of the issue. They argued that collective efforts would be helpful overcome hazardous impacts of climate change on Pakistan as well as globally.

## Induction of Milgem Class Corvettes by Pakistan Navy

Anoshka Johum

**STRATEGICALLY located at the crossroads of South Asia, Central Asia, and the Middle East, Pakistan holds significant geostrategic importance, particularly in the context of the Indian Ocean Region (IOR). Its vast coastline along the Arabian Sea provides Pakistan with a unique vantage point to monitor and influence maritime trade routes in the IOR, thus accentuating Pakistan's maritime security which is crucial for protecting its sea borders, offshore assets, and maritime trade routes.**

In the prevailing context of a shifting geopolitical landscape, with political power transitioning from the West to the East and emerging challenges in the Indian Ocean such as piracy, smuggling, and illegal fishing activities, modernization of Pakistan's naval assets have

become crucial.

There is no denying the fact that modernized naval assets having advanced technologies, superior firepower, operational reach, effective defense, and deterrence capability act as a force multiplier, support the economic interests of a country, and also enhance its economic and political influence in the region. It allows a nation to foster stronger relationships with other nations, facilitate military-to-military cooperation, and promote diplomatic objectives. The modernization of naval assets translates into strength for a nation by equipping its navy with cutting-edge technology, firepower, operational reach, and capabilities. A strong navy enhances deterrence, protects maritime interests, supports national defense strategies, and contributes to a nation's overall geopolitical influence and security.

Keeping in view, Pakistan diligently continues to upgrade its weaponry and consistently modernizes its arsenal to stay prepared and equipped for any potential threats. Surprisingly, despite a financial crisis and political turmoil, Pakistan has continued to improve its naval fleet. This is evident from the fact that it is ambitious to attain new warfare assets and operate in the blue waters. Pakistan has been proactively procuring technologically advanced naval vessels from various countries such as Turkey and China.

On September 6, 2018, Pakistan and Turkey signed a contract for the construction of four Milgem-class corvettes based on the design of Turkish Ada-class ships, amounting to 1128.50 M. As part of this project, two of the corvettes are to be built at Istanbul Naval Shipyard (INSY) in Turkey, while the other are to be constructed at

Karachi Shipyard & Engineering Works (KS & EW) in Karachi, Pakistan. Under the deal, Türkiye will deliver four ships to Pakistan by February 2025. The project also includes the Transfer of Technology and up-gradation of Karachi Shipyard.

The first ship PNS BABUR was launched in Istanbul, Türkiye on 15 Aug 21. The second ship PNS BADR was launched at KS & EW Karachi on 20 May 22. The third ship PNS KHAIBAR after completing Hull Construction at Istanbul, Türkiye was launched on 25 Nov 22. Presently, all the ships are under various phases of completion. Launching ceremony of fourth PN MILGEM PNS TARIQ (Design) was held at Karachi Shipyard & Engineering Works (KS&EW). Prime Minister of Islamic Republic of Pakistan Mian Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif

graced the occasion as the Chief Guest. Vice President of the Republic of Türkiye H.E. Mr. Cevdet Yilmaz also attended the ceremony as Guest of Honour.

PN MILGEM ships are fitted with state-of-the-art weaponry and advanced sensor systems, comprising surface-to-surface and surface-to-air missiles, anti-submarine weapons, and highly sophisticated command and control systems. With these capabilities, the MILGEM-class corvettes will make a substantial enhancement to the Pakistan Navy's operational capabilities.

Pakistan's continued induction of higher-tonnage surface vessels reflects its ambition to enhance power projection in the region. The modernization of the Pakistan Navy has become an integral component of a comprehensive national security strategy and has already enhanced the

defense capability of Pakistan manifolds. The addition of these advanced Turkish-made state-of-the-art MILGEM-class

corvettes will be a huge boost to Pakistan's defense and will further augment Pakistan Navy's capability to operate in distant waters. An upgraded naval force will allow Pakistan to assert its presence in the region to safeguard its national interests in the Indian Ocean and the Arabian Sea.

In this increasingly interconnected and maritime-oriented world, a strong navy with an advanced naval fleet equipped with technologically advanced weapons will not only ensure Pakistan's security but the continued push for modernization and renewed strategic cooperation with China and Türkiye could change the status quo by transforming Pakistan into a genuine regional naval power.





## Fighting has plunged Sudan into a humanitarian catastrophe: UN

UNITED NATIONS (AP): The conflict in Sudan has left 24 million people half the country's population in need of food and other assistance, but only 2.5 million have received aid because of vicious fighting and a lack of funding, two senior UN officials said.

Eden Worsornu, director of operations for the UN humanitarian agency, and Ted Chaiban, deputy executive director of the UN children's agency UNICEF, who just returned from Sudan, painted a dire picture of devastation and upheaval in Sudan, with no peace talks in sight. Worsornu said hotspots, such as the capital of Khartoum and the southern Kordofan and western Darfur regions, "have been shattered by relentless violence." Nearly 4 million people have fled the fighting, facing scorching heat up to 48 degrees Celsius (118 F), and threats of attacks, sexual violence and death, she said.

The now nearly four-month conflict has killed more than 3,000 people and wounded over 6,000 others, according to the last government figures, released in June. But the true tally is likely much higher, doctors and activists say. "Before the war erupted on the 15th of April, Sudan was already grappling with a humanitarian crisis," Chaiban said. "Now, more than 110 days of brutal fighting have turned the crisis into a catastrophe, threatening the lives and futures of a generation of children and young people who make up over 70% of the population."

The fighting pits forces loyal to top army Gen. Abdel-Fattah Burhan against his rival, Gen. Mohammed Hamdan Dagalo, who commands the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces. Worsornu and Chaiban, who previously worked in Sudan, said ethnic violence has returned to Darfur, where attacks two decades ago by the



notorious Janjaweed Arab militias on people of Central or East African ethnicities became synonymous with genocide and war crimes.

Now "it is worse than it was in 2004," Worsornu said. The statistics are grim: 24 million people need food and other humanitarian aid, including 14 million children, a number equivalent to every single child in Colombia, France, Germany and Thailand, Chaiban said. The UN has been trying to get aid to 18 million Sudanese, but 93 of its humanitarian partners were able to reach only 2.5 million between April and June because of the severe fighting and difficulties getting to those in need.

"Right now, Sudan is one of the most dangerous places to operate," Chaiban said. "So, to do 2.5 million people, 780 trucks, mobilizing and negotiating to get in, has been no small feat." Worsornu said 18 aid workers had been killed so far in Sudan. But, she added,

"Humanitarian aid is just a band aid. Basic social services have completely broken down, banking systems do not work and schools have collapsed."

After the conflict erupted, the UN increased its humanitarian appeal to \$2.6 billion. Worsornu said the appeal had received just \$625 million, barely 25%. "We cannot do more without funding," she said. Chaiban said 3 million children under age 5 are malnourished, "with 700,000 at risk of severe acute malnutrition and mortality." He said UNICEF has gotten life-saving treatment to 107,000, but that is only about 15% of those who need it.

Sudan borders seven nations Central African Republic, Chad, Ethiopia, Eritrea, South Sudan, Libya and Egypt and most of them would be vulnerable to upheaval if the conflict should spill over. "We need to be careful that if the situation in Sudan is not contained, it will have a devastating impact on the region," Worsornu said.

## UN cut their food aid this summer

JENIN (AP): Except for a small bag of lentils and the orange juice she reserves for guests, there is no food in Ashwaq Abu al-Wafa's house in the northern West Bank city of Jenin. Ever since the UN cut her food aid in June, she has fallen behind on rent. All her money now goes to feeding her three children, she said.

"The fridge is empty," al-Wafa said from her apartment. "I can barely hold all of this stress in my heart." Thousands of families like al-Wafa's across the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip go through the day not sure where they will get their next meal now that the World Food Program has halted aid to 200,000 people, 60% of beneficiaries, its largest-ever cuts in the Palestinian territories.

The agency has made cuts across the world, from war-torn Yemen to West Africa, a region gripped by its worst hunger crisis in years. The WFP's deputy executive director, Carl Skau, announced last week that the agency has raised just \$5 billion of the \$20 billion it needs to operate fully, forcing it to suspend aid to 38 of its 86 countries where it operates. Zekriat Karam, who also lives in Jenin, said that her family has survived by racking up debt at local groceries. Now, shopkeepers demand payback. When Karam was recently hospitalized, her six children, ranging in age from 3 to 16, scraped together meals of olives and bread.

The cuts come at a particularly bad time for Palestinians in the occupied West Bank, which is witnessing a surge in violence unseen in nearly two decades. Al-Wafa and Karam's homes have smashed doors and cracked windows, scars from recent stepped-up military raids into the flashpoint city, the latest of which marked the most intense in nearly two decades and left 12 Palestinians and one Israeli soldier dead. Israel says the raids are meant to thwart future attacks.

Al-Wafa's 14-year-old son, Ammar, was shot in the chest during a January raid, she said, adding to her family's expenses and squeezing their food budget. Her husband's income depends on whether he can pass through Israeli military checkpoints to take produce into Jenin. When the Israeli army closes the roads, his work dries up and his family skips meals. "Food insecurity here is a symptom of something larger," said Samer Abdeljaber, WFP country director for the Palestinian territories. "Conflict, access and movement restrictions and the barriers to everyday life have led to soaring unemployment and poverty." The WFP said it suspended aid to those who could earn additional income or get other assistance, like the Palestinian Authority's cash transfer program for poor families.

Only the most vulnerable, 150,000 people in the West Bank and Gaza, continue to receive aid from WFP. Their aid will be cut if donors don't provide more funding by November, the agency recently warned. Meanwhile, more than 1 million Palestinian refugees in the West Bank and Gaza receive other kinds of assistance from a UN agency for Palestinian refugees and their descendants.

## South Korea sets nationwide civil defense drill

SEOUL (Agencies): As tensions with North Korea spike, South Korea will hold its first nationwide civil defense drill in six years later this month, requiring most of the country's 51 million residents to practice evacuating to shelters or underground safe spaces during the 20-minute exercise.

The drill, scheduled for 2 p.m. August 23, will see many drivers required to pull over to the side of roads and the exits to subway stations closed with commuters required to remain inside, a statement from the South Korean Interior Ministry said. "We expect to strengthen the response capacity of the nation through a practical drill reflecting the aspects of provocations of North Korea," Prime Minister Han Duck-soo said in a news release this week.

The release said the 20-minute drill is part of a larger exercise to test the South Korean government's response to potential threats including "advanced nuclear missile threats, cyber attacks, drone terrorists, etc." The prime minister also called on South Koreans to take the drills seriously, something that hasn't always been the case. Many South Koreans have become resigned to the fact that much of the population would only have

minutes to respond to any possible North Korean missile or airstrike.

The capital Seoul, for example, lies just 30 miles south of the demilitarized zone that separates the South from the North, which maintains a vast array of artillery along its border. But Han said citizens should "follow the lead of the nation during the exercise and actively participate in it."

Instructions from the Interior Ministry said 17,000 shelters would be open nationwide, and locations are searchable in popular Korean apps. To minimize disruption to key services, the ministry said hospitals, airlines, railways, subways and commercial sea traffic would not be affected by the emergency drill.

It also said 13 areas of the country designated as a disaster zone following recent heavy rainfall would be excluded from the drill. South Koreans have long become used to periods of fractious relations with the North, but the current level of tensions are especially high. North Korea last month launched an intercontinental ballistic missile with its longest flight time ever, the latest advancement in a missile program that has been testing at a breakneck pace over the past two years under leader

Kim Jong Un.

The launch of the Hwasong-18 missile was conducted "at a grave period when the military security situation on the Korean Peninsula and in the region has reached the phase of nuclear crisis beyond the Cold War," a statement in North Korean state media said. Later in July, a US Navy nuclear-capable ballistic missile submarine called in the South Korean port of Busan, prompting more threats from Pyongyang, with North Korean Defense Minister Kang Sun Nam saying the presence of the vessel may meet the country's criteria for use of nuclear weapons.

Pyongyang tested short-range ballistic missiles after the US sub made its call in Busan. Han, the South Korean prime minister, said the civil defense drill would be held in conjunction with large-scale US-South Korea military exercises that have drawn sharp criticism from Pyongyang in the past.

It will also come less than a week after South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol travels to the United States for a trilateral meeting with US President Joe Biden and Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida, where "the continued threat posed by" North Korea will be on the agenda, according to a White House statement.

## 'Vote ruling party or face death'

HARARE (AP): Zimbabwe's main opposition leader accused President Emmerson Mnangagwa of violating the law and tearing apart independent institutions to cling to power.

In an interview with The Associated Press, Nelson Chamisa also warned that any evidence of tampering by Mnangagwa's ruling party in upcoming elections could lead to "total disaster" for a beleaguered nation that is in economic ruin and already under United States and European Union sanctions for its human rights record. Chamisa, who will challenge Mnangagwa and the ruling ZANU-PF party's 43-year hold on power in the Aug. 23 presidential, parliamentary and local government elections, claimed widespread intimidation against his opposition party ahead of the vote.

Chamisa said Mnangagwa has utilized institutions like the police and the courts to crack down on critical figures, ban opposition rallies and prevent candidates from running. In the AP interview, he laid out a series of concerns that indicate the country, with its history of violent and disputed elections, could be heading for another one. In rural areas far from the international spotlight, many of Zimbabwe's 15 million people are making their political choices under the threat of violence, Chamisa alleged. People are getting driven to ruling party rallies and threatened to support Mnangagwa and the Zimbabwe African National Union - Patriotic Front if they want to stay safe or even alive.

Chamisa, who leads the Citizens Coalition for Change party, called it a choice of "death or ZANU-PF" for some. "Mnangagwa is clearly triggering a national crisis," he said during the interview in his 11th-floor office in Zimbabwe's capital, Harare. "He is driving the country into chaos. He is actually instigating instability. He is violating the law. He is tearing apart institutions of the country."

A man wearing the yellow colors of Chamisa's CCC party was beaten and stoned to death on the way to a political rally, police said. The CCC accused ZANU-PF followers of killing him and attacking other opposition supporters. Mnangagwa has repeatedly denied allegations of intimidation and vio-

lence by authorities or his party and has publicly called on his supporters to act peacefully during the campaign.

But Chamisa's portrayal of a highly repressive political landscape in the southern African nation where the removal of autocrat Robert Mugabe in 2017 appears to have been a false dawn is backed by reports released by Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch ahead of the elections taking place in less than three weeks. They will take place amid "five years of brutal crackdowns on human rights," Amnesty said, since Mnangagwa gained power from Mugabe in a coup and then won a disputed presidential election by a razor-thin margin against Chamisa in 2018. In its assessment, Human Rights Watch said Zimbabwean authorities have "weaponized the criminal justice system against the ruling party's opponents" and the buildup to the vote has not met free and fair international standards.

Zimbabwe has significant mineral resources including Africa's largest deposits of highly sought-after lithium and rich agricultural potential, and could be of huge benefit to the continent if it gained the political and economic stability that has eluded it for years. Zimbabwe was shunned by the West for two decades because of abuses during the regime of Mugabe, who died in 2019. Mugabe's removal sent Zimbabweans into the streets to celebrate, and Mnangagwa promised democracy and freedom would be born from the coup. He maintained recently that "Zimbabwe is now a mature democracy" under him.

Rights groups say it's a mirage and the 80-year-old Mnangagwa, a former Mugabe ally once known as his enforcer, has been as repressive as the man he removed. Under Mnangagwa, critics and opposition figures have been jailed, including CCC lawmaker Job Sikhala, who has been in detention for over a year after accusing ruling party supporters of hacking to death an opposition activist. Some have faced legal backlash for seemingly minor criticisms, like world-renowned author Tsitsi Dangaremba, who was arrested for participating in a protest that called for better services for citizens.

## Amazon nations to set up rainforest science panel

BRASILIA (Reuters): Amazon countries meeting next week for a summit on cooperation to save the rainforest aim to set up a scientific body like the UN's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) to share research, Brazil's environment minister told Reuters.

"The idea is to have a scientific panel for the Amazon with scientists from different countries, along the lines of the IPCC," Marina Silva said in an interview. The panel would help produce sustainable development policies for the countries of the region while remaining independent of governments, and monitor the impact of climate change on the Amazon rainforest and ecosystem, she said.

It would also seek to determine the limits of what scientists call the "point of no return" when the rainforest is damaged beyond repair. Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva said that leaders of the eight countries in the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization (ACTO) would seek to draw up a common policy for the first time to protect the rainforest.

Marina Silva said the meeting on Aug. 8-9 in Belem, at the mouth of the Amazon river, was long overdue. "The summit took 14 years to assemble. This is unacceptable, given everything that is happening in the world, the speed of changes occurring to the detriment of the Amazon and its inhabitants, and the dynamics of global geopolitics on the climate issue," she said.

## Niger coup: Decision time for Africa as deadline nears

NAIMEY (BBC): As the seven-day ultimatum given by West African leaders for the military in Niger to reinstate President Mohamed Bazoum draws to a close, both sides have crucial decisions to make.

The regional bloc Ecowas, headed by President Bola Tinubu of neighbouring Nigeria, said the junta had a week to restore constitutional order or face the possible use of force. Sanctions on the coup leaders have already been imposed and electricity supplies from Nigeria have been cut, along with borders, meaning goods are no longer arriving and the land-locked country has lost access to ports.

But as the political, diplomatic and military tensions rise, what could happen as the deadline passes? One option is for the Ecowas leaders to extend the deadline. This has the danger of being seen as a climbdown, but the heads of state could save face by saying that diplomatic efforts have made progress and they want to give them more time. The problem at the moment is that Ecowas mediation efforts have not borne fruit. A delegation sent to Niger returned within a few hours with apparently little to show for it.

Meanwhile, the junta stepped up its rhetoric against both the West and Ecowas. It announced that it was cutting diplomatic ties with Nigeria, Togo, the US and France, and said it was cancelling the military agreements with France which allows the former

colonial power to base some 1,500 soldiers there. And President Bazoum, who is being held by the military, used stark language in an article in the Washington Post. He described himself as a "hostage" and called on the US and the entire international community to help restore constitutional order.

The US said it will pause some of its aid to Niger's government, but will continue to provide humanitarian and food assistance. To try and cool things down and find middle ground, the junta and Ecowas could agree on a timetable for a return to democratic rule. This could include the release of President Bazoum, as well as other political detainees, in order to keep talks going and possibly buy more time. This has been a key demand of those who have condemned the coup in Africa and elsewhere.

The West African bloc has already approved democratic transitions in Niger's neighbours in the Sahel region, Mali and Burkina Faso, which were both taken over by the military in recent years. But the negotiations were fraught with problems, with deadlines for elections continually pushed back and it is still not guaranteed that the handovers of power will actually happen.

Sudan, which created a mixed civilian-military government in 2019 that was supposed to pave the way to democracy after a coup there, provides another model. But the collapse

of that country into a bitter conflict between rival military leaders offers a cautionary tale. The West African leaders did not say that force would definitely be used if President Bazoum was not reinstated but left it open as a possibility. Nigerian officials have described it as a "last resort". President Tinubu said there could be a military intervention "to enforce compliance of the military junta in Niger should they remain recalcitrant".

Ecowas has used military force to restore constitutional order in the past, for example in The Gambia in 2017 when Yahya Jammeh refused to step down after losing an election. But the calculation about whether to go ahead this time would be far more difficult. Firstly, Niger is geographically the largest country in West Africa, while The Gambia is a tiny sliver of land surrounded by Senegal and the Atlantic Ocean, so sending troops in would be a whole different prospect.

Secondly, regional power Nigeria, which is leading the charge to restore President Bazoum, is facing a host of security challenges at home, so sending a significant portion of the army to Niger would be something of a gamble. Thirdly, both Mali and Burkina Faso have said that military intervention in Niger would be seen as a "declaration of war" and they would go to defend their fellow coup leaders.

## Ukraine says its drones damaged a Russian warship

KYIV (AP): Ukraine said its sea drones struck a major Russian port and damaged a warship in an attack that underlined Kyiv's growing naval capabilities as the Black Sea becomes an increasingly important battleground in the war. The strike on Novorossiysk halted maritime traffic for a few hours and marked the first time a commercial Russian port has been targeted in the nearly 18-month-old conflict. The port has a naval base, shipbuilding yards and an oil terminal, and is key for exports. It lies about 110 kilometers (about 60 miles) east of Crimea, where Russia's Defense Ministry said it thwarted another attack.

The Security Service of Ukraine and the country's navy carried out the attack that damaged the Olenegorsky Gornyyak, a landing vessel of the Russian navy, according to an official with the security service. The official, who spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to give the information to the media, said the attack rendered the ship unable to perform combat missions. Satellite photos analyzed by The Associated Press appeared to show the ship leaking oil. An image from Planet Labs, taken a few hours after the attack, showed a ship dockside with another vessel next to it. The ship in the image matched

the measurements of the Olenegorsky Gornyyak, as well as known physical features of the vessel. Images posted on social media showed a ship listing.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy noted that he had received a report from the country's security service, the SBU, but didn't say what was in it. "I will only say that we are all grateful to the Security Service of Ukraine for pushing back the war to the aggressor state. What you bring to the world, you end up with the same," he said. Oblique references to attacks carried out against Russia are common for Ukrainian officials, who often do not take credit for them or only do so days after the fact.

Attack was the latest in a series of strikes inside Russia, including two in Moscow that unsettled residents. It also reflected an increase in fighting in the Black Sea following the Kremlin's withdrawal from a deal that allowed Ukraine to export its grain through the waterway. Russian drones caused significant damage and a huge fire at grain facilities in the Odessa region. A day earlier, the Russian military said Kyiv's forces tried to attack two of its patrol vessels at sea southwest of the Russian-controlled city of Sevastopol in Moscow-annexed Crimea.

Mykhailo Podolyak, an adviser to

Zelenskyy, heralded the latest attack, saying it showed "drones are changing the rules of the game ... and ultimately destroying the value of the Russian fleet." Russia's far superior navy has controlled the seas in the war so far. Its ships have regularly launched cruise missiles at major ports and cities across Ukraine, and they have largely blockaded the country's coast as well as mined the Black Sea, making passage through it treacherous.

Podolyak's remarks and other recent attacks in the sea and on the Kerch Bridge connecting Crimea to Russia could indicate Ukraine is trying to change that dynamic. With the latest assault, "Kyiv showed that it can attack any vessel of the Black Sea Fleet, no matter the distance," said Ukrainian military analyst Roman Svytan.

The end of the grain deal, under which ships carrying food from Ukrainian ports were promised safe passage, "untied Kyiv's hands," he said, predicting the frequency of attacks on Russian ships would only increase. While attack served as an important morale booster for Ukraine, challenging Russia's naval power in the Black Sea will be hard for Ukraine.

The Russian Black Sea Fleet has

nearly 50 warships, seven submarines and many support vessels, dwarfing the capability of Ukraine, which said it lost more than 80% of its naval capabilities after Moscow's illegal annexation of Crimea. Despite Russia's superiority, Ukrainian missiles last year sank the fleet's flagship, the Moskva missile cruiser, and destroyed the Saratov landing ship in the occupied port of Berdyansk. Several more vessels have reportedly been damaged.

The Russian Defense Ministry claimed that the navy fended off attack, saying that its ships destroyed two Ukrainian sea drones. Footage published on Russian social media channels appeared to show a ship firing into the sea and a burning object exploding. But other images that appeared on messaging app channels claimed to show the Olenegorsky Gornyyak listing to one side, and some Russian military bloggers confirmed that it was damaged. Ukrainian media outlets also carried footage they said was from a drone's onboard camera showing it approaching the Russian landing ship.

The AP could not verify the videos. Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov refused to comment on the attack during a conference call with reporters. The Caspian Pipeline Consortium,

which operates an oil terminal in Novorossiysk, said maritime traffic was halted for a few hours but that its facilities were not damaged. The regional governor said there were no casualties.

Minutes after confirming the attack on the Black Sea port, Russia's Ministry of Defense said it had also repelled another attack by Ukraine on Crimea. The ministry said air defense systems shot down 10 drones and jammed another three. Videos shared on Russian social media channels reportedly from around the city of Feodosia showed what appeared to be air defense systems working, as well as loud explosions.

Last month, another Ukrainian attack struck a key bridge that links Russia to the peninsula it illegally annexed in 2014 and serves a key artery for sending military and civilian supplies to Crimea and sustaining Russia's war effort. The UN atomic watchdog said its monitors at the Russian-occupied Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant have observed no mines or explosives on rooftops of reactor units 3 and 4 and or the plant's turbine halls after having been given access the previous day. Ukraine's military intelligence said in June, without providing evidence, that Russia had placed suspected explo-

sives on the roof and was planning a "large-scale provocation." The International Atomic Energy Agency cited its chief, Rafael Mariano Grossi, saying that the monitoring team "continues to request to visit the roofs of the other 4 units." The IAEA has repeatedly expressed concern about a potential radiation leak from the plant. Its six reactors have been shut down for months.

Saudi Arabia said it will host an international meeting on the Ukraine war on Saturday to be attended by national security advisers and other officials. The talks will be held behind closed doors, like the first such meeting in Copenhagen in June. Officials have said Ukraine will be represented, while Russia was not invited. Saudi Arabia's assertive Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman has sought to position himself as a possible negotiator in the war. The kingdom hosted an Arab League summit earlier this year that President Volodymyr Zelenskyy attended. The kingdom maintains close ties to Russia through OPEC+.

The Moscow-appointed governor of the Russia-occupied part of the Zaporizhzhia region, Yevgeny Balitsky, said several Ukrainian drones were shot down near the Sea of Azov port city of Berdyansk during the night.



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# Youm-e-Istehsal and Kashmiris' quest for freedom

**P**RIME Minister Shehbaz Sharif has once again reiterated Pakistan's continued unstinted moral, political and diplomatic support to the rightful and just cause of the freedom struggle of the Kashmiri people. In a message on the Youm-e-Istehsal-e-Kashmir, Premier noted that it is Pakistan's abiding commitment and promise to our Kashmiri brothers and sisters that we will echo their voices, at every forum until the world takes action and urges India to end its egregious human rights violations and forcible occupation of the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK), undo all unilateral and illegal measures it has taken since August 5, 2019, and ensure necessary steps to carry out a fair and impartial plebiscite in accordance with the UN Security Council resolutions.

The Kashmirs in Indian held Jammu and Kashmir, Azad territory and Pakistanis in the country and abroad observed the fourth Youm-e-Istehsal on August 5, 2023. Huge public rallies, demonstrations and commemoration sessions were held in major cities worldwide to condemn the unilateral and illegal actions taken by the Modi led BJP Hindutva regime on that day. About four years ago, New Delhi attempted to change the status of the globally recognized Jammu and Kashmir dispute by revoking constitutional provisions under article 370 and section 35 A of the Constitution of India. Moreover, Modi regime did not limit to only legislative measures to suppress Kashmirs' just struggle for the right to self determination but resorted to other apartheid policies including but not limited to the suspension of fundamental citizen rights, brutal use of force, concerted efforts for demographic change together with the issuance of Kashmiri domiciles to Non Kashmiri Indian citizens, bogus delimitations of electoral constituencies, and crucial changes in property rights in the occupied territory. The Indian government has used multiple military and political measures over the past seven and a half decades to permanently dump the Kashmir dispute through bilateral adjustment with Islamabad, or any political accord with local Kashmiri leaders while keeping UN resolutions aside but failed in its plans one or other way. New Delhi has borrowed these policies and strategies of apartheid from its long held Strategic ally Israel, that governed the occupied Palestine through these recipes in the past decades.

Currently, New Delhi intends to disenfranchise the Muslim majority in the disputed territory through its unilateral legislative, and administrative actions to change the ground situation in its favor. Thus selective delimitation of electoral constituencies, issuance of fake domiciles to millions of non-Kashmiris, and addition of hundreds of thousands of temporary residents in the voters lists and massive purchase of Kashmiri land by non Kashmiri Indian nationals are part of a well thought-out strategy to change Kashmir's political landscape and demography. Pakistan has outrightly rejected all such unilateral and illegal steps taken by the Modi regime and specifically raised its concerns at all relevant global forums including the UN Security Council, UN Human rights bodies and others. Meanwhile, international media and the global human rights organizations including Amnesty International, and Human Rights Watch categorically denounced Indian unlawful actions and called for immediate steps to normalize the situation in the disputed zone.

Historically, India not only violates international law, but also makes a mockery of the globally accepted norms of fundamental rights and freedoms through its barbaric and inhumane occupation of the Muslim majority region. In fact, the years-long continuous military siege, media blackout and ruthless use of force by the Indian military could not silence the voices of the brave Kashmiri people, whose just freedom struggle has further intensified by unfair dealing and inhumane treatment by the Indian authorities. Three successive generations of innocent Kashmiris have sacrificed their lives and liberties but courageously continued to defy the increasing coercion of the Indian occupation forces.

Kashmir is a persistent hurdle in normalization of relations between Pakistan and India as the two neighbors had fought four full fludge wars on this issue. Currently, Kashmir is a nuclear flashpoint and a genuine risk of nuclear clash remains all time high, because, the armies of the two nuclear armed neighbors remained in eyeball to eyeball confrontation on the LoC throughout the year. The international community can no longer remain silent while India continues to perpetrate its oppression in forcibly occupied region. Pakistan always rendered sincere and crucial moral, diplomatic and political support to Kashmiris in their just and lawful struggle for freedom from Indian occupation. Pakistanis will continue their steadfast support for Kashmir cause until and unless our Kashmiri brethren grasp their fundamental right to self determination from the belligerent occupied regime any time in the future.

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## Trump has dug himself into the deepest possible hole

Michael Gerhardt

**F**ORMER President Donald Trump's legal troubles got dramatically worse Tuesday, when he was indicted on criminal charges by a federal grand jury in special counsel Jack Smith's investigation into efforts to overturn the 2020 election leading up to the January 6, 2021 attack on the US Capitol. Trump has now been indicted on nearly 80 felony counts and has dug himself into the deepest possible hole.

The ramifications of these charges for Trump and the country are enormous. The most recent set of indictments - four felony counts leveled by Smith's office - is bigger than Trump and bigger than anything his co-conspirators in the indictments might have done. The trial, which may well happen before the next presidential election, will be about the battle to protect American democracy itself. So far, Trump has denied all wrongdoing and has pleaded not guilty to the previous charges.

The charges in the third indictment are the most serious yet against the former president. Experts consider the first set of indictments, 34 counts for business fraud brought by the Manhattan district attorney in March, to be technical and unusual, given that the underlying crime, campaign finance fraud, is a federal offense for which Trump has not been charged. The second set of indictments, involving the handling of classified documents and including four additional charges in the superseding indictment released last week by Smith's office, is undoubtedly serious, as 32 out of the 40 counts he faces in that indictment stem from the Espionage Act. But the third indictment goes further - for the first time - by charging Trump with criminal attempts to undermine American democracy. The former president only has himself to blame for the misconduct he has been charged with, especially after having been repeatedly told by members of his staff, his Cabinet and state officials that there was no election fraud significant enough to affect the outcome of the election in 2020.

Trump's Attorney General Bill Barr told the press, in early December 2020, that "we have not seen fraud on a scale" that could have produced a different outcome in the presidential election, and, in 2022, Barr testified before the January 6 House select committee that Trump was "detached from reality" in persistently fantasizing he had won the election. Trump 2020 campaign adviser Jason Miller even described some of the election fraud claims as "conspiracy shit beamed down from the mothership." According to the indictment, Trump knew his fraud claims were false "but the defendant repeated and widely disseminated them anyway - to make his knowingly false claims appear legitimate, create an intense atmosphere of mistrust and anger, and erode public faith in the administration of the election." Tuesday's indictment does not charge Trump with being a bad loser, and it goes out of its way to acknowledge Trump had his First Amendment right to complain about the election. Instead, it makes a convincing case that Trump is singularly responsible for his own words and actions to subvert the constitutional mechanisms for the peaceful transfer of power.

In this newest set of charges, he finds himself before a judge who has spoken out strongly about the danger the nation faced due to the Jan. 6 riot. Trump is facing the possibility of more than 20 years of imprisonment if he is convicted on more than one of the recent indictments. On top of all that, his legal bills are straining his campaign's finances. The latest indictment exposes, like each of the other two, the absurdity of Trump's defenses. Indeed, Trump's defenses are screeds aimed at bucking up his political support, but none are legally significant, as he has claimed that the indictments are the product of a president and a Justice Department determined to weaponize the criminal justice system against him, that President Joe Biden and his son Hunter Biden are kingpins in the "Biden Crime Family" and committed

crimes worse than he ever committed and that he was merely voicing criticisms of the electoral system that are protected by the First Amendment. The third set of indictments is based on credible evidence of Trump's conspiring to hinder or undo the final certification of the Electoral College votes in Congress. Indeed, the media closely covered Trump on January 6, including his incendiary speech telling his supporters, "you'll never take back our country with weakness. You have to show strength, and you have to be strong." The evidence and testimony laid out in the January 6 House select committee's hearings are not imaginary or false; they plainly support the misconduct charged in the most recent indictment.

The indictment released Tuesday underscores the extent to which the Republican Party has abdicated its oft-repeated claims that it is the party of law and order and moral values. Many of the Republicans running for president alongside Trump have said or hinted they would likely pardon him in the federal indictments he now faces. A minority - former New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie, former Arkansas Gov. Asa Hutchinson and former Rep. Will Hurd of Texas - have expressly urged voters to turn away from a likely felon for president. Each set of indictments tests the country's commitment to the rule of law, which is the foundation of our democracy. This is especially true given the steadfast support Trump continues to enjoy among Republican voters. He's polling at more than 50% in the Republican national primary polls - more than all his opponents combined. But the rule of law is only meaningful if the law applies to everyone, including the mightiest among us.

As President Theodore Roosevelt declared in his annual message to Congress in 1903, "No man is above the law, and no man is below; nor do we ask any man's permission when we require him to obey it. Obedience to the law is demanded as a right; not asked for as a favor."

The federal judge over-

seeing the criminal proceedings against Trump in the classified documents case denied a request from Trump to delay them until after the election. His lawyers had argued that he couldn't get a fair trial while he was running for president. Both a superior court judge and the Georgia Supreme Court have rejected Trump's motions to stop a grand jury in Atlanta from considering indicting him for pressuring state officials to overturn the Georgia election. Trump rightly failed, in other words, to get special treatment as a candidate for president.

By now, it should be familiar to everyone that Trump projects onto his political rivals his own misconduct. If, as Republicans argue, Hunter Biden is not entitled to any special treatment because he is the son of the president (nor should he be), the same goes for Trump.

Last but not least, Trump and his congressional allies are trying, mightily, to distract public attention by fuming about the conduct of Hunter Biden and indicating their desire to impeach Joe Biden. The problem is that so far, there is no evidence of misconduct on the part of Joe Biden. In contrast, as each set of indictments shows, there is an abundance of actual evidence of Trump's misconduct. The third and most recent set of indictments goes further than either of the other two, in showing how in several states, including Georgia, Michigan and Arizona, Trump attempted to undermine the integrity of the presidential election and thwart the will of the electorate.

With the newest indictment against Trump, the adage, familiar to all lawyers, seems especially applicable to the former president and his Republican allies in Congress: If the facts are not on your side, argue the law. If the law is not on your side, argue the facts. When neither the law nor the facts are on your side, pound the table. Trump's legal troubles have produced a lot of table-pounding, none of which will erase the expanding charges and evidence of his criminal misconduct.

CNN

## Lebanon can prosper if it emulates Switzerland's political model

Khaled Abou Zahr

**A**S Switzerland celebrated its national day this week, Lebanon can learn from how this small country, with three official languages and bordered by three powerful neighbors - France, Germany and Italy - has been able to navigate great historical challenges. It has given its people freedom and let them decide their destiny at a local level. This has empowered the people and encouraged their development, which in turn has positioned the country at the forefront of finance, technology, tourism and much more. More importantly, it has built trust among the people and with the international community.

One of the main arguments stated against federalism in Lebanon is the risk of civil war. So, would a transition to federalism be a project toward war? The answer is simple. It is less of a risk than keeping the current system going. The current system breeds instability and increases military risks, not only by linking Lebanon to regional confrontations but also by pitting the confessions against one another. The reality is the political and business elites that oppose federalism want or need to hang on to the current archaic and destructive political system. They are mostly grifters who know how to take advantage of the system. The confessional system is based on trades. Trades between elites within confessional groups on the appointment of civil servants, on government tenders, on business deals, on crime amnesties. The list goes on and on for those who yield power or have access to it. Yet, for the rest of the population, it is desolation and poverty.

More importantly, this system has invited and institutionalized occupation. Indeed, depending on which is the dominant confession, the occupation invites itself and polices the Lebanese. This is simply because, as they all say, the Lebanese cannot rule themselves. And so we went from the Ottomans to the French, then the Syrians, and now we have Hezbollah protecting the interests of Iran and Syria. This cannot go on. Moreover, all the critics of a federal solution simply brush off the status of Hezbollah, which benefits from all the privileges of the autonomy of federalism, while locking in the rest of the population in a centralized system that it controls. When it comes to Hezbollah, they just look the other way. It is not an issue. Yet, how do they handle its supranational posture? They do not care. All they care about is their own interests.

And so, when it comes to avoiding war, how do they qualify this week's clashes between Palestinian groups? Needless to say that these groups are armed, whereas the Lebanese are not. The Palestinians have been left in horrendous conditions, living in what is now more of a ghetto than a refugee camp. Indeed, after more than 50 years of living

there, this cannot be considered a refugee camp anymore. What these grifters fail to understand or purposely ignore is that the current system is loaded with risks and invitations to interference that can lead to an armed conflict. We should add to this the continued impoverishment of the Lebanese, the destruction of the strong educational system, the disintegration of the family structure, the spread of trade in drugs, and the illicit activities led and promoted by Hezbollah. All this is not only turning Lebanon into a narco-state and a no man's land, it is also effectively dissolving the Lebanese identity.

Lebanon has failed in terms of building institutions. The nature of the confessional regime has made it impossible to give any institution sovereign authority. Quite the opposite, in fact, it has made each and every one a slave to confessional transactions. And it plays on the exact same fears the grifters have used to take advantage. How often have we heard them say, "We cannot take this decision as it will put this confession in the corner and risk a civil war?" But everything has a price, and so they have profited immensely from this. It has destroyed our sovereignty. Today, we can see the circus of Sunni political grifters trying to be a replacement for the late Rafik Hariri epoch, only to profit in title and wallet. They are willing to humiliate themselves and the country to achieve this, not understanding that these days are over, as they should be.

The only way to avoid this descent is to transform the political system. Federalism is the best answer to this situation. This does not mean that every confessional group is a united formation. It would be naive to think this. Yet, with a federal system and cantons, each would have greater decision-making powers and would be able to hold their political figures responsible for their actions. No longer would they be able to play on the fears of the entire community to cover their actions and benefit from the occupation. Consequently, each citizen would be accountable and have their rights protected. Is it an ultimate solution? Absolutely not. But it is one that would force each community to face the reality and take responsibility. Does it pose a risk of secession? Absolutely yes, but at least we would know the direction and the risk instead of dying in the unknown boiling water like crabs in a pot. Let us face this risk in order to take our fate into our own hands and fight together to stay united as a country.

Lebanon used to be compared to Switzerland before it became the word for descending into chaos and civil war. We need to flip it around and give Lebanon a new meaning: one of stability, progress and prosperity. This can only be done by exposing the occupier and its grifters, as well as creating a new federal political system.

The Guardian

## Why is Spain's inflation so much lower than the UK's?

Carsten Jung

**T**HE government seems to be claiming that it's winning the fight against inflation. But we are not out of the woods yet. Inflation currently is still far too high and the Bank of England has today increased rates again to 5.25% and lowered its growth forecast. But it doesn't have to be like this. The case of Spain is a great counter-example. Its inflation has just fallen to the 2% target. How is it that it has already achieved this important milestone?

The reason is more forceful management of the economy - the Spanish government took quicker, more concerted action than ours did. Spain capped energy prices by more than the UK, lowered the cost of public transport, taxed excess profits and put in place limits on how much landlords can raise rents. While also coming with costs, this kept inflation from spreading more widely and more persistently than elsewhere. Similar measures would

have made a big difference here. One year ago, at the Institute for Public Policy Research, we argued for a similar approach in the UK, of using fiscal policy to reduce prices directly. But the call was only partly heeded, in the form of energy price support measures. While in Spain energy price caps are set to continue into next year, in the UK, the degree of support has already been lowered, covering fewer businesses than previously, and is set to end completely in autumn.

Pubs, restaurants and other businesses have had to bear the full brunt of still very high electricity costs since this spring. With the possibility of another energy price spike this winter, the government should give households and businesses certainty by extending energy price support measures and assure them that they will be protected from another price shock. As it stands, the onus is now exclusively put on the Bank of England to stabilise UK

inflation. The justification for this is that it is an overheating economy that is causing high inflation - too much money chasing too few goods. But what we're seeing could alternatively be explained as "pass the parcel inflation". This is the theory that, rather than a red hot economy, inflation is the result of businesses and people trying to pass on higher costs to others, if they can. Bank of England analysis partly confirmed this, finding that about three-quarters of inflation stemmed from people passing on high energy and food prices at the end of 2022. But there was huge inequality in who was able to "pass the parcel" on inflation. The Bank of England recently highlighted that wage growth was "concentrated in higher-paying sectors such as financial and business services" while "pay growth in lower-paid sectors like wholesaling, retailing, hotels and restaurants had been broadly flat".

Moreover, while there has been an all-present focus on wages, there has been too little attention paid to the role of businesses in keeping price pressures up by "passing the parcel". In forthcoming IPPR analysis we show that a large chunk of businesses have either maintained or increased their profit margins in 2022. At the same time, many landlords were able to raise their rents in line with inflation - something that the temporary rent control policy in Spain was able to contain. If the costs of inflation were fairly shared, businesses and landlords would also take a hit and absorb some of the costs, rather than workers taking most of the hit. In countries such as Japan, there is greater societal pressure for businesses to lower prices when input costs come down, and to absorb some of the higher costs themselves. France has taken policy action, making sure that food manufacturers

and supermarkets play their part. Eminent institutions such as the Bank of International Settlements say that businesses reducing their profits is key for inflation to come down. Back in the UK, further Bank of England rate increases can, ultimately, be effective in bringing down inflation, as businesses will find it harder to put up prices and people harder to bargain for higher wages. But this comes at a high cost. It means fewer jobs, higher mortgage costs and lower growth in the future. A more balanced approach - including through measures like Spain's - would make this less necessary.

The Bank is very possibly already overdoing it. A lot of the interest rate hikes are yet to ripple through the economy. The Bank expects the effects of this to take a full one and a half years to feed through. This means that, next year, we might be in a situation where the economy is slowing down drastically with inflation already com-

ing down more quickly. There are some signs that this might be happening. The UK's largest fund manager is now betting on the UK going into recession next year. In the labour market, vacancies have started to fall and unemployment is ticking up. Consumer sentiment is down. Meanwhile, global growth is slower than expected and so is unlikely to bring relief.

One year from now, "pass the parcel inflation" might be over, but further Bank of England interest rates might also have killed the recovery. It is not too late to change course. The Bank should hold off from further rate rises and even consider lowering them soon. The government should follow Spain, doing more to hold energy prices down, making businesses play their part, and supporting renters. Spain shows that inflation can come down without the economy going into tailspin. The UK should attempt the same.



# Finally, 30 months after leaving office in disgrace, Trump must face the music

Lloyd Green

**A**MID the Hollywood writers' strike, Jack Smith, the special counsel, delivered a jolt of real-life drama. Late Tuesday afternoon, he dropped a four-count, 45-page conspiracy indictment on Donald Trump for his efforts to subvert the outcome of the 2020 presidential election. Six other unnamed conspirators also appear in the text. The charges go to the heart of our constitutional system.

"Despite having lost, the Defendant was determined to remain in power," the indictment charges. "So for more than two months following election day ... the Defendant spread lies that there had been outcome-determinative fraud in the election that he had actually won. These claims were false, and Defendant knew that they were false." If convicted, the 77-year-old former president could face years in jail and possibly die in prison. But let us not get ahead of ourselves.

In the interim, he towers over the Republican field with the support of a majority of the party's voters. College grad or blue-collar, it makes little difference. The Republican party belongs to him. He did not fade after two earlier indictments. Rather, his grip on the Republican party tightens. He has pledged to run even if convicted and from behind bars. Cloaked in the aura of seeming inevitability, Trump holds a 37-point lead over Ron DeSantis, his closest rival. With a half-year to go before the

first nominating contest, Florida's thuggish and humorless governor has burned through millions of dollars. His campaign reset resembles a cry for help. He is down to 17 points in the polls and falling. When you're a presidential candidate who is forced to fire people for posting Nazi-symbols, it doesn't inspire confidence. Likewise, if you're busy looking for slavery's upside or dangling the possibility of appointing RFK Jr as head of the FDA or CDC, national politics is not where you belong.

Past candidates have bounced back from edges of the abyss. Here, the late John McCain's run in 2008 comes to mind. After squandering an early lead, he demonstrated under-appreciated tenacity. But DeSantis is no McCain. He is not fun. Rather, "mean", "petty" and "dull" are the words that best do justice to the latest iteration of Florida Man. All that having been said, obstacles in the form of nearly-endless legal proceedings will likely complicate Trump's political path and life. Just days before Tuesday's indictment, the government leveled new and serious allegations against him in the already pending documents case. According to federal prosecutors, Trump and two aides schemed to delete Mar-a-Lago surveillance video in a bid to stymie Smith's investigation. To say the least, it's not a good look.

"It seems like you know you're committing a crime if you're hav-

ing an employee delete security camera footage," declared Will Hurd, the ex-Texas congressman and long-shot Republican contender. Chris Christie, former New Jersey governor and federal prosecutor, branded Trump a "one-man crime wave." Reality check: Christie is at low-single digits; Hurd is at a fraction of a percent. As the song goes, "freedom's just another word for nothing left to lose." By contrast, the rest of the Republican field remains studiously quiet. DeSantis refuses to say whether Trump's indictments disqualify him from running, and does not rule out issuing a pardon. The latest indictment adds to Trump's considerable legal woes. Between the race for the Republican presidential nod and his considerable troubles, Trump's dance card is looking full. His legal bills are already straining the resources of his Save America political action committee. He is spending more than he rakes in. He is still two months away from a full-blown trial in a nine-figure action.

In October, the New York attorney general's \$250m civil suit against the Trump Organization and Trump individually begins. On 15 January 2024, Iowa Republicans will caucus, and the second E Jean Carroll defamation case commences. Then come the criminal cases against the backdrop of nomination season. Next March, Trump is slated to be tried

in Manhattan in connection with alleged hush-money payments to Stormy Daniels, the adult film star. Two months later, in late May, he is scheduled to go on trial in Florida for his alleged mishandling of government documents. Expect Melania Trump to be a no-show at both trials. Whether Trump is convicted and how his base reacts are the tests of his staying power. At the moment, Tim Scott, South Carolina's junior senator, is receiving well-deserved attention. He is sober and measured, in stark contrast to Trump and DeSantis. He is also a people person.

Still, Scott's appeal beyond the Republican donor class appears limited. In his home state, he barely cracks double-digits, running fourth. In Iowa, he is running a distant third. Practically speaking, he represents a real threat to DeSantis but is a logical running mate for the former guy. A Trump conviction might shake things up but that is no certainty. Trump once led chants of "lock her up". Now he's a perpetual defendant. Beyond that, each time he speaks, he provides prosecutors with fresh targets. Discipline is not his strong suit. Trump is set to be arraigned on Thursday. At this rate, he stands to be the first nominee out on personal recognizance on four separate indictments, in four different jurisdictions. Possible indictment in Georgia looms. The 2024 election will be one for the ages. Regardless of the outcome, the US may never be the same.

# Here's the truth about Sunak's plans for North Sea

George Monbiot

**T**O understand this moment, we have to recognise that there is an existential struggle on both sides. While environmental scientists and activists fight for the very survival of the habitable planet, the fossil fuel, meat and internal combustion industries are fighting for their economic survival. Either they are regulated out of existence or human society across much of the world will fail. We cannot all win: either these industries survive or we do. But we can all lose, because, eventually, they will go down with the rest of us.

But "eventually" counts for nothing in their spreadsheets and annual reports. "Eventually" has no effect on share prices and dividends. "Eventually" has little traction in a four- or five-year political cycle. So, as the evidence of climate breakdown becomes undeniable to all but the most deluded, the polluters must fight as never before. There was once a widespread belief (which some of us cautioned against) that governments would step up when - and only when - disaster struck. But it is precisely because disaster has struck, visibly and undeniably, that they are stepping down. To buy himself a few more months of political survival, Rishi Sunak, representing a party that has recently taken £3.5m from major polluters and climate deniers, is threatening the welfare of the human species. He has switched, over the past fortnight, from doing a grand total of nothing to prevent climate chaos to actively sabotaging both the climate programmes he inherited and the efforts of other public bodies.

How can you tell when a politician is doing the work of the oil and gas companies? When they start promoting carbon capture and storage (CCS). CCS has been the magic fix for climate breakdown promised by successive UK governments for 20 years - and never delivered. Most of the very few projects brought to fruition around the world have been abject failures. The sole purpose of CCS is to justify the granting of more oil and gas licences, on the grounds that one day someone might be able to capture and bury the CO2 they produce. It's no coincidence that Sunak announced both policies - more licences and CCS - in the same statement. It would be wrong to say the technology doesn't

work. It works precisely as intended, even if it never materialises: it is a highly successful method of buying more time for the fossil fuel industry. But the worst thing Sunak has done is something few people have noticed. Underpinning the UK's climate programme, weak and contradictory as it has always been, was the carbon market. The promise of successive governments, in and out of the EU, was that, by putting a price on carbon pollution, they would ensure that industries had no option but to switch to greener technologies. A further promise by the Conservatives was that, after Brexit, there would be no decline in environmental standards. But Sunak's government has quietly been flooding the UK market with pollution permits, triggering a collapse in the price of carbon. While the carbon price in the EU emissions trading scheme stands at 88 (£75) a tonne, in the UK it has fallen to £47. In the US, Donald Trump's team plans to go much further. A programme devised for him by fossil fuel-funded junktanks intends to rip down just about every effective law and agency protecting the living world. If he gets in again, it seems as if he doesn't intend to leave. All this is happening against a backdrop of the most dire events and warnings. Last week, as Sunak's team was preparing his announcement of new oil and gas licences, research published in the journal Nature suggested that the Atlantic meridional overturning circulation (Amoc) could collapse around mid-century. Amoc is a vast movement of water around the Atlantic, driven by the downward flow of cold, salty water (which is denser than warmer, less salty water) in the far north of the ocean. It plays a major role in transferring heat from the tropics to the north, especially to northern Europe. Without it, the average temperature in this region would be between 3C and 8C cooler. The difference between the average temperature today and that of the Last Glacial Maximum 20,000 years ago (the point during the last ice age when the ice sheets were at their largest) is approximately 6C. Amoc has tipped between the "on" state and the "off" state many times in prehistory. As seawater in the northern Atlantic

region warms and is diluted by meltwater running off ice and snow on land, the system reaches a critical threshold, beyond which the circulation shuts down. Scientists have been warning that, thanks to global heating, the system is weaker than it has been for 1,000 years, but a tipping was deemed unlikely this century. The new assessment suggests this might be optimistic.

Amoc is also a crucial regulator of global weather. We should be cautious about projecting its impacts far beyond Europe. But an analysis for the OECD suggests that, in combination with 2.5C of global heating, possible implications of a shutdown could include a profound drying of parts of Africa and India, including a major disruption to the summer monsoon, a severe decline in global food production and cascading dieback in the Amazon rainforest, through loss of rainfall. These effects remain quite speculative. Sunak, Trump and others know what they are doing. They cannot be unaware of the heat domes and fires, the sea surface temperature anomalies and the shocking news from Antarctica. Their economic and security advisers must have briefed them about the likely civilisational risks presented by the closing of the human climate niche. In response, they double down on their support for the forces causing this destruction. People seem mystified by this apparent perversity. But it's a clear manifestation of the pollution paradox, which I see as essential to understanding modern politics. The most damaging companies have the greatest incentive to invest money in politics (by making donations to political parties, funding lobbyists and junktanks, hiring troll farms and microtargeters and all the other overt or covert techniques). So politics, in our money-driven system, comes to be dominated by the most damaging companies.

Sunak, Trump and many others like them are not just desperate politicians who will try anything to retain or regain power (though they are that). Nor are they simply representatives of capital. They are representatives of the dirtiest, most destructive varieties of capital, the varieties engaged in a war against humanity. In the conflict between the two existential crises, they know which side they're on.

# Putin is using food as a weapon

Josep Borrell

**O**N 17 July, nearly one year after the agreement was signed in Istanbul, Russia decided not to renew the Black Sea grain initiative (BSGI) that allows Ukraine to continue exporting agricultural goods to global markets during the war. As underlined by António Guterres, the secretary general of the UN, this initiative has been "a beacon of hope in a world that desperately needs it".

Before Russia's war of aggression, Ukraine was a critical global food supplier: a fifth of the world's barley came from Ukraine, as well as a sixth of the maize and an eighth of wheat. After Russia invaded Ukraine in February last year, attacking grain fields and silos and blocking Ukrainian ports, global food prices spiked to record levels and endangered much-needed food supply for many importer countries. The BSGI aimed to re-establish a vital route for agricultural exports from Ukraine and to lower global food prices. Despite many challenges, it achieved its key purpose. Since August 2022, the export of almost 33m tonnes of grains and food from Ukraine to 45 countries played an instrumental role in reducing global food prices by 25% since the record high reached shortly after Russia's attack. As public trade data shows, over half of the grain, including two-thirds of the wheat, went to developing countries.

In addition, the BSGI ensured continued access to grain for the World Food Programme (WFP). In 2023, Ukraine supplied 80% of the wheat procured to support humanitarian operations in the most food insecure countries such as Afghanistan, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, Sudan and Yemen. Without the Black Sea route, the WFP has to get its grain elsewhere at higher prices

and with a longer lead time at a moment when the world is facing an unprecedented food crisis. Russia's decision was taken despite the UN secretary general's renewed proposals to work to address the country's concerns. In order to shift blame, Russia claims that its own agricultural exports were not sufficiently facilitated. This is not borne out by publicly available trade data, which shows that Russia's agricultural exports are thriving. Russia gained important benefits from the memorandum of understanding with the UN on fertiliser exports, which had been brokered in parallel to the BSGI. The UN has worked relentlessly to clarify regulatory frameworks and engage with the private sector to find dedicated solutions across banking and insurance sectors. These efforts have been conducted in close collaboration with the EU and its partners. Contrary to the lies spread by Russia, the EU has indeed ensured that our sanctions have no impact on global food security. There are no sanctions on Russian export of food and fertiliser to third countries and the EU has provided extensive guidance to economic operators, clarifying that these transfers to third countries are permitted. We have also worked with the UN to allow related payments.

Despite these well-known and verifiable facts, Russia decided to pull out of the BSGI in July, using food as a weapon and endangering the global food supply. Hours after withdrawing, Russia started to destroy Ukraine's grain storage facilities and port infrastructure with daily targeted attacks, not only in the Black Sea itself but also in the Danube. As an immediate reaction, wholesale wheat and maize prices saw their biggest increase since the start of Russia's war of aggression. The increased

food price volatility is likely to persist as long as Russia puts global food supply under deliberate stress, aggravating the global cost of living crisis - most acutely for food-insecure people in import-dependent countries. This is unacceptable and should be resolutely condemned. As the world deals with disrupted supplies and higher prices, Russia is now approaching vulnerable countries, notably in Africa, with bilateral offers of limited grain shipments, pretending to solve a problem it created itself. This is a cynical policy to deliberately use food as a weapon.

In response to Russia's irresponsible actions, the EU is active along three main lines. First, we will continue to support the tireless efforts of the UN and Turkey to resume the BSGI. Second, we will continue to strengthen our "solidarity lanes" as alternative routes for Ukrainian agricultural exports to reach global markets through the EU. These lanes have allowed the export of more than 41m tonnes of Ukraine's agricultural goods so far, and we are increasing this as much as possible to mitigate the consequences of Russia's termination of the BSGI. Third, we have increased our financial support to countries and people most in need, providing 18bn (£15.5bn) to address food security until 2024. We call on the international community and all countries to step up their own assistance in support of global food security. We ask all our partners to urge Russia to return to negotiations as the African Union already has, as well as to refrain from targeting Ukraine's agricultural infrastructure. With a clear and unified voice, we can get Russia to resume its participation in the BSGI. The world has a shared interest in responsible stewardship of global food security. We owe it to the people most in need.

# How can West best tackle threat from China?

**I**N the figure of Xi Jinping, with his dominant political personality and assertive communicative style, many in the west have found the autocrat they always feared would one day confront them. For Xi and the people around him, combating what his administration calls "western universalism", and western attempts to infiltrate China's politics through economic and cultural engagement, has been a major task.

Now the Xi threat has come right into our own back yard. A recent report by the British parliamentary intelligence and security committee (ISC) defines the nature of Chinese intentions as "ambition at a global level - to become a technological and economic superpower, on which other countries are reliant". This, it says, "poses a national security threat to the UK". Its words align with those of the CIA and FBI in the US, who have in recent years regarded China as their greatest adversary.

"Threat" is a vague term, though, and covers a spectrum of issues. We can be threatened by bad weather, or an unwanted visitor coming to disturb our peace. There are small threats, big threats and threats that exist more in perception than reality. In many cases, too, you can be threatened by things and people that have no real ability to do the things we fear they will. Indeed, more often than not, the biggest threat is our own fears. There is much about China that is a problem, for sure. Under Xi, the Chinese Communist party has been ruthless in dealing with internal dissent, closing down space for what was once legitimate domestic debate, and placing media and non-

governmental organisations under huge restrictions. Much of this has spilled over to the outside world, with state agents pursuing their enemies across the world, prompting claims of China having police based abroad.

Despite this, the ISC report imputes to China a level of coherent strategic intent and a threat so systemic and grave that it is flattering - at least to the people around Xi. In recent weeks we have seen plenty of evidence of how chaotic and divided even the upper reaches of the party can be: earlier this month the foreign minister, Qin Gang, went missing, and was soon after removed from power; and in recent days there has been an apparent purge of key military figures in sensitive sectors. But the threat could still be being exaggerated. One striking phenomenon in recent years has been that talk of China's threat has increased almost in parallel with the decline of western self-confidence. The question is whether the former has caused the latter, or vice versa. I remember a banker in the City of London telling me during the 2008 global economic crisis that we had little to fear from Chinese money being invested in Britain, because it would need to be used in accordance with our rules and systems. That sentiment has evidently changed since then. Chinese investment is now seen as a key potential driver of Chinese state intentions and influence. Somehow, our confidence in our ability to engage with others, on our own terms and in our own space, has disappeared.

Attributing that shift to China

would be to grant Beijing far more effectiveness than it deserves. The west has been the author of its own misfortune. It has dealt with a number of paradigm-shifting issues in the last 15 years, many of which have fuelled this erosion. The end of the interminable "war on terror" in Afghanistan was a particular case in point - a depressing retreat after spending trillions of dollars, leaving local people at the mercy of the very forces they had originally been liberated from. China watched this world-class demonstration of incompetence and inefficiency with a mixture of amazement and schadenfreude. So much for all those grand plans to spread liberty and democracy. The US and Europe cannot blame anyone else for that failure. But it is when looking at Russia that China's leaders see the most powerful argument for being sceptical about western aspirations, and for proof of how far short of their objectives they can fall. The collapse of the USSR in 1991 struck a deep fear into Beijing, which was itself reeling from the 1989 protests, including Tiananmen Square. The west had a golden opportunity to show how post-communist rule could be better. But we know how it turned out for Russia - a decade of collapsing economic and human indicators, followed by the rule of Vladimir Putin and its dismal situation today.

The west doesn't trust China, for sure. But China has every reason to distrust the west, too, having seen the outcomes of its well-intentioned meddling, and its lack of capacity to follow through and

bring about change for the better. A bit of self-reflection in the UK and elsewhere in the west might bring some understanding of our own inconsistent behaviour, and the ways we often mix lofty talk about values with the much earthier pursuit of our own commercial and material interests. This has resulted in a China that is far more certain on its feet, working out its own pathway and carving out its own space in the world as never before. It might be inconvenient, but it is not irrational. China is a hard global partner, but it is not a mad one. The mindset of the UK has clearly been challenged by the question of how to deal with China in an era when, for the first time in modern history, the economic, geopolitical and military advantages are increasingly with Beijing rather than London. There is a proclivity to moralise, finger-point and divert ourselves with fairy stories about the wicked communist leadership in Beijing, when in reality there is a far more complex problem - and no easy solutions.

The MPs' report makes plenty of recommendations. But one of the most effective and important it passes over in silence: that would be a clear and frank admission that the greatest threat to us from China is our own muddled, panicked state of mind, crediting a false level of coherence and strategic nous to Beijing in order to compensate for our own complacency, incompetence and lack of self-knowledge. Until we face up honestly to that, Xi and his colleagues will continue to have the upper hand, even as they grapple with domestic issues that are far more serious than any threats or condemnations emanating from the UK.



# FBR Chief announces perpetual committee

KARACHI (PPI): Chairman Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) Malik Amjed Zubair Tiwana announced to form a perpetual committee comprising three representatives of Karachi Chamber of Commerce & Industry (KCCI) and three Chief Commissioners of FBR which, in addition to expediting deferred cases of Sales Tax Refunds claims, would also discuss other taxation issues and review policy changes wherever required on a monthly basis.

Chairman FBR, who was accompanied by senior FBR officials during his visit to KCCI, informed that Refund Payment Orders (RPOs) against all refund claims till July 10, 2023 have already been issued whereas refund claims of more than Rs100 billion, which have been deferred by the system, would be reviewed by

FBR-KCCI joint committee so that the process for issuing RPOs for such refund claims could be expedited.

Special Assistant to Prime Minister Tariq Mehmood Pasha (via Zoom), Chairman Businessmen Group Zubair Motiwala, Vice Chairman BMG Haroon Farooki, General Secretary BMG AQ Khalil, President KCCI Mohammed Tariq Yusuf, Senior Vice President Touseef Ahmed, Vice President Haris Agar, KCCI Managing Committee Members and Former Presidents also attended the meeting.

Chairman FBR further stated that on an average, refund claims of Rs1 billion generate every day under the automated system which means FBR issues refunds of up to Rs30 billion every month but the process was delayed in the

recent past due to some system malfunctioning, however, the FBR was trying to make up to the same level by issuing maximum refund claims every month.

He said that there was no human involvement at all at any stage in processing refund claims but when the system defers any refund claim, it is forwarded to field formations who seek necessary documentation to finalize the precise amount of refund claims.

He informed that FBR has declared this year as the year of 'Sales Tax Fraud Detection' and actions have been initiated against those absconders who have taken money from manufacturers against supplies but haven't submitted their outstanding taxes.

In response to concerns expressed over customs rebates, Chairman FBR formed another committee

to address the issues relating to Customs especially the revision of fixed rebate rates. In this regard, Chief Collector of Customs Karachi was nominated as members of the committee by Chairman FBR.

Commenting on DLT issue, he said that although there was no provision for DLT in the current budget but the FBR will look into the possibility of arranging funds for DLT by making adjustments in other heads so that they taxpayers' liquidity problem could be reduced to some extent.

He said that all the administrative issues highlighted by KCCI will be promptly resolved but the policy related issues can only be taken into consideration in next year's budget.

While appreciating Chairman FBR's announcement to form a committee to deal with ST refunds and

other taxation policy related issues, Chairman BMG Zubair Motiwala nominated Vice Chairman BMG Haroon Farooki, Vice Chairman BMG Jawed Bilwani and Vice President KCCI Mohammed Haris Agar as members of the Committee. "I hope that with formation of this crucial committee, the refund process would pick up some pace", he added.

He pointed that Sales Tax Refund cases mostly comprise of deferred payments, blacklisting or discrepancies which were the biggest hurdle in way of smooth issuance of refund claims. "Although the FBR claims of having refund claims of around Rs39.4 billion but these were probably clean refund cases only as the overall refund claims must be somewhere around Rs150 billion if all refund cases including

those subjected to blacklisting, discrepancies or any other minor issue are also included", he added.

He suggested that all pending refund claims may be adjusted against government levies such as Custom Duties, Sales Tax, Income Tax and With-Holding Tax which are payable by the claimant entity. "This will help to offset the refund obligations of FBR and provide the much-needed liquidity and support for enhancement of exports."

He also stressed the need to refrain the field formations of FBR from demanding the same old documents which had already been submitted to FBR online and are available in FBR automated system. "The manufacturers should not be held responsible for failure of the suppliers to submit his outstanding taxes but this was, unfortunately,

happening. Instead of delaying refunds of such taxpayers and asking them about the whereabouts of suppliers, FBR should utilize its own machinery and resources to catch such individuals for verification of sales", he added.

Referring to Section 122 of Income Tax Ordinance, he stated that thousands of notices have been issued to registered entities by RTO Karachi raising queries and shortcomings in the Tax Returns filed by tax payers. "In the present economic conditions when the very survival of businesses is at stake, such notices are a source of harassment and leading to flight of capital", he added and requested Chairman FBR to review the actions by RTO and issue directives to withdraw all such notices, besides refraining from misuse of discretionary powers.

Chairman BMG also noted that there was no provision of DLT in current budget whereas previous DLT claims have also not been cleared, hence, the government should issue orders to release those DLT claims which had already been cleared by FBR and sent to State Bank for payment.

He further mentioned that with depreciation of Pak Rupee against US dollar and other currencies, the incidence of taxes paid by exporters on their inputs has drastically increased in terms of rupee. "However, the rates of Rebate applicable on exports has remained the same which in percentage terms has declined due to devaluation. It is, therefore, requested to review and increase the rates of Rebate so that inflation and devaluation of Rupee could be adjusted."

## Aggressive economic measures adversely affecting trade, industry

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Pakistan Industrial and Traders Associations Front (PIAF) has said that the aggressive economic measures, high borrowing rates, inflation, oppressive taxation and unstable currency have been adversely affecting the trade and industry as many of them have closed their operations.

Chairman PIAF Faheemur Rehman Saigol in a joint statement along with Senior Vice Chairman Nasrullah Mughal and Vice Chairman Tahir Manzoor Ch on Saturday said that the ever-increasing cost of production in the country is the real threat to both large-scale manufacturing and small-scale businesses, as frequent upward revisions in policy rate and continuous fluctuations in rupee against dollar are posing further challenges.

They said that the government does not have any pragmatic plan to address this liability, apart from asking for more loans to repay existing debt. Likewise, the target for current financial year's exports is too low to meet the coun-

try's revenue.

According to the data, the pace of growth in LSM industries is suffering because of restrictions imposed on imports that have caused a shortage of imported raw material. The steep currency devaluation has also made raw material expensive and business models unviable.

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) assessed that the pace of negative growth in big industries could have been slower had the government not imposed restrictions on imports. The central bank has issued the guidelines to commercial banks about the allocation of foreign currency for import purposes.

Faheem Saigol said that the LSM trend indicates that this year that the overall Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth rate may remain around 1% due to the shutdown of industries and adverse impact of the devastating floods on the agriculture sector.

The government had targeted economic growth of 5.1% in the current fiscal

year but the latest estimates – both by the IMF and the federal government – indicate that growth will be marginally in the positive territory.

Since large industries contribute heavily to revenue collection and job creation, any change in their growth impacts the government and business sentiment across the board.

The businesses are also facing demand for advance income taxes from the Federal Board of the Revenue (FBR), coupled with a slow release of genuine refunds (from non-exporting sectors).

The LSM sector contributes nearly one-tenth to total national output, however, a constant decline in the share and growth of LSM may cause a lot of problems for the government already struggling to create new jobs.

The main contributors towards overall negative growth of 4.4% include the food sector that shrank marginally, the tobacco industry that also contracted by less than 1%, textile output which reduced by

2.7%, petroleum products and cement production dipped by less than 1% and the pharmaceuticals and automobiles – the two sectors hit hardest by the ban on imports – also shrank during the first seven months of the current fiscal year.

Saigol said that the conventional approach of focusing solely on improving exports while pursuing a passive and imprudent foreign policy towards neighboring countries, poses a significant challenge in meeting export targets.

Despite strained relations, the United States remains the largest importer of Pakistani products. Still, there are no efforts to tap into the vast markets of neighboring countries or negotiate trade agreements with them. Even though Pakistan and China enjoy close relations yet the volume of exports to China is significantly lower compared to USA.

Furthermore, the existing Pakistan China Free Trade Agreement tends to



SARGODHA: State Minister for Industries and Production Tasneem Ahmed Qureshi addressing during inaugural ceremony of Sargodha Industrial Park.

## Gold rates up by Rs1,300 to Rs222,800 per tola US to provide \$175m for small businesses

ISLAMABAD (APP): The per tola price of 24 karat gold increased by Rs1,300 and was sold at Rs222,800 on Saturday compared to its sale at Rs222,500 on the previous day. The price of 10 grams of 24 karat gold also increased by Rs1,115 to Rs191,016 from Rs189,901 whereas the prices of 10 gram 22 Karat gold increased to Rs174,076. All Sindh Sarafa Jewellers Association reported. The price of per tola and ten gram silver remained constant at Rs2750 and Rs2357.68 respectively.

ISTANBUL (APP): US Vice President Kamala Harris and the Treasury Department announced \$175 million in funding to support small businesses.

In a statement, the Treasury Department said the aid would be delivered as part of the Capital Readiness Program (CRP) — a technical assistance program funded by the Treasury's State Small Business Credit Initiative (SSBCI). The Treasury said it increased previously announced support for the CRP to a total of \$125 mil-

lion in SSBCI funding.

It also announced the approval of the first awards under the SSBCI Technical Assistance Grant Program to 12 states, which total over \$57 million.

"The investments through the State Small Business Credit Initiative are a key part of the Biden-Harris Administration's efforts to fuel the small business boom by providing small businesses and entrepreneurs the resources they need to succeed," said Treasury Deputy Secretary Wally Adeyemo.

"Today's announcements are important steps in helping unlock the potential of entrepreneurs in underserved communities across the nation who may have otherwise never had the support needed to pursue their business ideas and ambitions," he added.

The Treasury said SSBCI funding is expected to catalyze up to \$10 of private investment for every \$1 of SSBCI capital funding to amplify its effects and provide small business owners with the resources they need to grow sustainably.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Application for issuance of Letter of Administration / Succession Certificate by Mr. Muhammad Uman Riaz with regards to moveable & immovable assets of deceased Mr. Muhammad Riaz citizen number 6110137952953 has been received. Following are declared as legal heirs. 1.Sanam Riaz (Daughter) 2. Nazmina Riaz (Daughter) 3. Tehmina Riaz (Daughter) 4. Maqbool Jan (Spouse) 5. Muhammad Uman Riaz (Son).

On the above application the objections of public at large are invited. Any aggrieved person may approach in person the undersigned for submission of objection (if any) within fourteen (14) days after publication of this notice.

PID(0) 749/23

INCHARGE SFU, NADRA ABBOTABAD-SFU

## Pakistanis' Mega Trends and Youth Aspirations unveiled

### F.P. Report

LAHORE: Featuring key insights from two mega research projects; one of which was Ipsos Global Trends Survey, with 48,000 interviews across 50 countries representing 87% of the human population. Coupled with the British Council

Next Generation Pakistan research; a nationally representative qualitative and quantitative research with youth aged 16-34. This session was attended by distinguished corporate leaders, policy makers, marketers, and academicians among others.

Abdul Sattar Babar, CEO of Ipsos in Pakistan,

addressed the distinguished audience, revealing intriguing findings from the Global Trends Survey. The survey highlighted Pakistan's distinctiveness. Notably, Pakistan exhibits the lowest engagement with arts among the surveyed nations, and its attitudes towards women significantly differ from the global average.

<div><div>PUBLIC NOTICE</div><div>Application for issuance of Letter of Administration / Succession Certificate by Mr. Fazal Karim with regards to moveable &amp; immovable assets of deceased Mr. Mukarram citizen number 1560204855637 has been received. Following are declared as legal heirs. 1.Mamuna (Daughter)2.Khan Khela (Spouse)3.Fazal Karim (Son)</div><div>On the above application the objections of public at large are invited. Any aggrieved person may approach in person the undersigned for submission of objection (if any) within fourteen (14) days after publication of this notice.</div><div>INCHARGE SFU, NADRA MARDAN-SFU</div></div>	<div><div>PUBLIC NOTICE</div><div>Application for issuance of Letter of Administration / Succession Certificate by Mr. Aliaz Ali with regards to moveable &amp; immovable assets of deceased Mr. Riaz Begum citizen number 1610182499848 has been received. Following are declared as legal heirs. 1.Niaz Ali (Spouse) 2.Muhammad Bilal (Son)</div><div>On the above application the objections of public at large are invited. Any aggrieved person may approach in person the undersigned for submission of objection (if any) within fourteen (14) days after publication of this notice.</div><div>INCHARGE SFU, NADRA MARDAN-SFU</div></div>	<div><div>PUBLIC NOTICE</div><div>Application for issuance of Letter of Administration / Succession Certificate by Mr. Sams Ullah with regards to moveable &amp; immovable assets of deceased Mr. Misbah Ullah citizen number 156024868397 has been received. Following are declared as legal heirs. 1.Romaisa (Daughter)2.Nayaf (Daughter)3.Rahela (Spouse) 4.Sams Ullah (Son)5.Sabih Ullah Khan (Son)</div><div>On the above application the objections of public at large are invited. Any aggrieved person may approach in person the undersigned for submission of objection (if any) within fourteen (14) days after publication of this notice.</div><div>INCHARGE SFU, NADRA MARDAN-SFU</div></div>	<div><div>PUBLIC NOTICE</div><div>Application for issuance of Letter of Administration / Succession Certificate by Mr. Usman Rahadar with regards to moveable &amp; immovable assets of deceased Mr. Ali Bahadar citizen number 1510111624969 has been received. Following are declared as legal heirs. 1.Roshan Ara (Daughter) 2.Shahida (Daughter)3.Chaman Ara (Daughter)4.Shahen Bibi (Spouse)5.Ali Rahman (Son) 6.Ibrahim (Son)7.Usman Bahadar (Son)</div><div>On the above application the objections of public at large are invited. Any aggrieved person may approach in person the undersigned for submission of objection (if any) within fourteen (14) days after publication of this notice.</div><div>INCHARGE SFU, NADRA MARDAN-SFU</div></div>	<div><div>PUBLIC NOTICE</div><div>Application for issuance of Letter of Administration / Succession Certificate by Mr. Muhammad Tahir with regards to moveable &amp; immovable assets of deceased Mr. Muhammad citizen number 9040601218009 has been received. Following are declared as legal heirs. 1.Maryum (Daughter)2.Wahid (Daughter)3.Muhammad Tahir (Son)4.Muhammad Saleh (Son)</div><div>On the above application the objections of public at large are invited. Any aggrieved person may approach in person the undersigned for submission of objection (if any) within fourteen (14) days after publication of this notice.</div><div>INCHARGE SFU, NADRA MARDAN-SFU</div></div>	<div><div>PUBLIC NOTICE</div><div>Application for issuance of Letter of Administration / Succession Certificate by Mr. Izzat Uddin with regards to moveable &amp; immovable assets of deceased Mr. Muhammad citizen number 1610146563285 has been received. Following are declared as legal heirs. 1.Gul Meena (Mother)2.Tilawat Begum (Spouse)3.Haseena Bibi (Spouse)4.Izzat Uddin (Father)</div><div>On the above application the objections of public at large are invited. Any aggrieved person may approach in person the undersigned for submission of objection (if any) within fourteen (14) days after publication of this notice.</div><div>INCHARGE SFU, NADRA MARDAN-SFU</div></div>
<div><div>PUBLIC NOTICE</div><div>Application for issuance of Letter of Administration / Succession Certificate by Mr. Syed Babar Yousaf with regards to moveable &amp; immovable assets of deceased Mr. Syed Hameed citizen number 1540263880145 has been received. Following are declared as legal heirs. 1.Faryal Saba (Daughter) 2.Fareez Naz (Daughter) 3.Madiha Naz (Daughter) 4.Farah Deeba (Daughter) 5.Rakshanda Naz (Daughter) 6.Nasreen Yousaf (Spouse) 7.Syed Babar Yousaf (Son)</div><div>On the above application the objections of public at large are invited. Any aggrieved person may approach in person the undersigned for submission of objection (if any) within fourteen (14) days after publication of this notice.</div><div>INCHARGE SFU, NADRA MALAKAND-SFU</div></div>	<div><div>PUBLIC NOTICE</div><div>Application for issuance of Letter of Administration / Succession Certificate by Mr. Syed Babar Yousaf with regards to moveable &amp; immovable assets of deceased Mr. Syed Hameed citizen number 1540263880145 has been received. Following are declared as legal heirs. 1.Faryal Saba (Daughter) 2.Fareez Naz (Daughter) 3.Madiha Naz (Daughter) 4.Farah Deeba (Daughter) 5.Rakshanda Naz (Daughter) 6.Nasreen Yousaf (Spouse) 7.Syed Babar Yousaf (Son)</div><div>On the above application the objections of public at large are invited. Any aggrieved person may approach in person the undersigned for submission of objection (if any) within fourteen (14) days after publication of this notice.</div><div>INCHARGE SFU, NADRA MALAKAND-SFU</div></div>	<div><div>PUBLIC NOTICE</div><div>Application for issuance of Letter of Administration / Succession Certificate by Mr. Jalal Khan with regards to moveable &amp; immovable assets of deceased Mr. Shakeel Ahmed citizen number 1540215994631 has been received. Following are declared as legal heirs. 1.Humaira Saif (Daughter) 2.Sana Anis (Daughter)3.Ram Mustafiz (Daughter)4.Safina (Daughter)5.Fahmeeda Naz (Spouse)6.Jalal Khan (Son) 7.Bilal Khan (Son)</div><div>On the above application the objections of public at large are invited. Any aggrieved person may approach in person the undersigned for submission of objection (if any) within fourteen (14) days after publication of this notice.</div><div>INCHARGE SFU, NADRA MALAKAND-SFU</div></div>	<div><div>PUBLIC NOTICE</div><div>Application for issuance of Letter of Administration / Succession Certificate by Mr. Usman Rahadar with regards to moveable &amp; immovable assets of deceased Mr. Ali Bahadar citizen number 1510111624969 has been received. Following are declared as legal heirs. 1.Roshan Ara (Daughter) 2.Shahida (Daughter)3.Chaman Ara (Daughter)4.Shahen Bibi (Spouse)5.Ali Rahman (Son) 6.Ibrahim (Son)7.Usman Bahadar (Son)</div><div>On the above application the objections of public at large are invited. Any aggrieved person may approach in person the undersigned for submission of objection (if any) within fourteen (14) days after publication of this notice.</div><div>INCHARGE SFU, NADRA MANSEHRA-SFU</div></div>	<div><div>PUBLIC NOTICE</div><div>Application for issuance of Letter of Administration / Succession Certificate by Mr. Muhammad Tahir with regards to moveable &amp; immovable assets of deceased Mr. Muhammad citizen number 9040601218009 has been received. Following are declared as legal heirs. 1.Maryum (Daughter)2.Wahid (Daughter)3.Muhammad Tahir (Son)4.Muhammad Saleh (Son)</div><div>On the above application the objections of public at large are invited. Any aggrieved person may approach in person the undersigned for submission of objection (if any) within fourteen (14) days after publication of this notice.</div><div>INCHARGE SFU, NADRA ABBOTABAD-SFU</div></div>	<div><div>PUBLIC NOTICE</div><div>Application for issuance of Letter of Administration / Succession Certificate by Mr. Izzat Uddin with regards to moveable &amp; immovable assets of deceased Mr. Muhammad citizen number 1610146563285 has been received. Following are declared as legal heirs. 1.Gul Meena (Mother)2.Tilawat Begum (Spouse)3.Haseena Bibi (Spouse)4.Izzat Uddin (Father)</div><div>On the above application the objections of public at large are invited. Any aggrieved person may approach in person the undersigned for submission of objection (if any) within fourteen (14) days after publication of this notice.</div><div>INCHARGE SFU, NADRA ABBOTABAD-SFU</div></div>
<div><div>PUBLIC NOTICE</div><div>Application for issuance of Letter of Administration / Succession Certificate by Mr. Hussain Khan with regards to moveable &amp; immovable assets of deceased Mr. Naimat Ullah Khan citizen number 1110114499137 has been received. Following are declared as legal heirs. 1.Huma Wazir (Daughter) 2.Sana Wazir (Daughter) 3.Shahen Begum (Spouse) 4.Hussain Khan (Son)</div><div>On the above application the objections of public at large are invited. Any aggrieved person may approach in person the undersigned for submission of objection (if any) within fourteen (14) days after publication of this notice.</div><div>INCHARGE SFU, NADRA BANNU-SFU</div></div>	<div><div>PUBLIC NOTICE</div><div>Application for issuance of Letter of Administration / Succession Certificate by Mr. Zain Ullah with regards to moveable &amp; immovable assets of deceased Mr. Atiq Khan citizen number 111011444555 has been received. Following are declared as legal heirs. 1.Afroz Bibi (Daughter)2.Sultana Kishwara (Spouse)3.Zain Ullah Khan (Son) 4.Ali Ullah Khan (Son)</div><div>On the above application the objections of public at large are invited. Any aggrieved person may approach in person the undersigned for submission of objection (if any) within fourteen (14) days after publication of this notice.</div><div>INCHARGE SFU, NADRA BANNU-SFU</div></div>	<div><div>PUBLIC NOTICE</div><div>Application for issuance of Letter of Administration / Succession Certificate by Mr. Balqaz Khan with regards to moveable &amp; immovable assets of deceased Mr. Balqaz Khan citizen number 1110114450885 has been received. Following are declared as legal heirs. 1.Anam Bibi (Daughter)2.Rugsa Bibi (Daughter)3.Sahad Zaid (Spouse)4.Humayun Khan (Son)5.Haroon Ur Rashid (Son) 6.Zubair Khan (Son)7.Mahab Khan (Son)8.Sayez Khan (Son)</div><div>On the above application the objections of public at large are invited. Any aggrieved person may approach in person the undersigned for submission of objection (if any) within fourteen (14) days after publication of this notice.</div><div>INCHARGE SFU, NADRA BANNU-SFU</div></div>	<div><div>PUBLIC NOTICE</div><div>Application for issuance of Letter of Administration / Succession Certificate by Mr. Usman Rahadar with regards to moveable &amp; immovable assets of deceased Mr. Ali Bahadar citizen number 1510111624969 has been received. Following are declared as legal heirs. 1.Roshan Ara (Daughter) 2.Shahida (Daughter)3.Chaman Ara (Daughter)4.Shahen Bibi (Spouse)5.Ali Rahman (Son) 6.Ibrahim (Son)7.Usman Bahadar (Son)</div><div>On the above application the objections of public at large are invited. Any aggrieved person may approach in person the undersigned for submission of objection (if any) within fourteen (14) days after publication of this notice.</div><div>INCHARGE SFU, NADRA ABBOTABAD-SFU</div></div>	<div><div>PUBLIC NOTICE</div><div>Application for issuance of Letter of Administration / Succession Certificate by Mr. Muhammad Tahir with regards to moveable &amp; immovable assets of deceased Mr. Muhammad citizen number 9040601218009 has been received. Following are declared as legal heirs. 1.Maryum (Daughter)2.Wahid (Daughter)3.Muhammad Tahir (Son)4.Muhammad Saleh (Son)</div><div>On the above application the objections of public at large are invited. Any aggrieved person may approach in person the undersigned for submission of objection (if any) within fourteen (14) days after publication of this notice.</div><div>INCHARGE SFU, NADRA BANNU-SFU</div></div>	<div><div>PUBLIC NOTICE</div><div>Application for issuance of Letter of Administration / Succession Certificate by Mr. Izzat Uddin with regards to moveable &amp; immovable assets of deceased Mr. Muhammad citizen number 1610146563285 has been received. Following are declared as legal heirs. 1.Gul Meena (Mother)2.Tilawat Begum (Spouse)3.Haseena Bibi (Spouse)4.Izzat Uddin (Father)</div><div>On the above application the objections of public at large are invited. Any aggrieved person may approach in person the undersigned for submission of objection (if any) within fourteen (14) days after publication of this notice.</div><div>INCHARGE SFU, NADRA BANNU-SFU</div></div>

## APBF flays frequent jump in

F.P. Reort

ISLAMABAD: The All Pakistan Business Forum (APBF) has rejected the frequent increase in prices of electricity, gas and petroleum products, saying the massive jump in electricity base rates and petroleum products prices would make local products uncompetitive in the international market.

APBF President Syed Maaz Mahmood remarked that at a time of unsatisfactory export volumes and low industrial growth, the hike in electricity base tariffs for the industry, especially for the SMEs, was really surprising. If the decision is not withdrawn, it will prove dangerous for the country's SME sector, he stressed.

He said that the ever-increasing cost of production in the country is the real threat to both large-scale manufacturing (LSM) and small-scale businesses (SMEs), as frequent upward revisions in policy rate and continuous fluctuations in rupee against dollar are posing further challenges for the economy.

APBF Chairman Ibrahim Qureshi while describing the government's decision to increase electricity tariffs by Rs7.50 per unit as an incorrect move, urged the government to reverse the proposed increase. The government's decision to

increase the electricity tariff is anti-industry, and the All Pakistan Business Forum (APBF) strongly condemns the government's decision and calls on it to withdraw this move.

He said that the aggressive economic measures, high borrowing rates, inflation, oppressive taxation and unstable currency have been negatively affecting running businesses, many of which have closed their operations.

He said that with a view to deal with fiscal challenges the government will have to work on the three-way strategy by implementing short-term goals that will help to keep generating resources for smooth fiscal operations, medium-term goals where the government should focus on financial inclusion, documenting the economy by designing a system where all businesses can be registered and properly document their income including collection of sales tax, initiating the process of privatization as well as improving governance by introducing reforms in each sector.

Syed Maaz Mahmood said that the increase in base rate of electricity is also part of pact signed between government and IMF, which says that the government has to notify NEPRA's determinations without any delay and amendment.





## In brief

## Joshua fight cancelled

LONDON (Agencies): Dillian Whyte has returned 'adverse analytical findings' in a random dope test and next week's heavy-weight fight with former world champion Anthony Joshua is off, promoters Matchroom Boxing said on Saturday. The two Britons had been due to meet at London's O2 Arena on Aug. 12 in a rematch of their 2015 bout, won by Joshua, at the same venue. Matchroom said in a statement that the Voluntary Anti-Doping Association (VADA) had informed them and the sanctioning bodies that Whyte "returned adverse analytical findings as part of a random anti-doping protocol." "In light of this news, the fight will be cancelled, and a full investigation will be conducted." Whyte lost a title challenge to WBC world champion Tyson Fury in April 2022. Joshua lost his WBA, WBO, IBF and IBO belts to Ukraine's Oleksandr Usyk in September 2021.

## Thiem in first final since 2020

VIENNA (Agencies): Former US Open champion Dominic Thiem reached his first final since 2020 on Friday when he saved five match points to defeat Laslo Djere in the semi-finals of the Kitzbuhel clay-court tournament. The Austrian came through 7-6 (7/3), 5-7, 7-6 (10/8) after three hours and 30 minutes, saving all 12 break points he faced against his Serbian opponent. He will face Sebastian Baez of Argentina for the title. Thiem, a former world number three, is now down at 116 in the rankings after a lengthy battle to overcome a wrist injury which sidelined him for nine months from June 2021 until March 2022. His last championship match on tour was at the season-ending ATP Finals in 2020. That was in the same season he captured his only Grand Slam title at the US Open. His victory in New York was his 17th career trophy and most recent. "I don't know if I can still produce some good words," said Thiem who saved three match points on serve at 5-6 in the third set and another two in Friday's decisive tie-break. "It was probably the longest best of three match I've ever played in my life, including when I was a kid." He added: "It was a very tough and intense match. So close every set, every single game." Thiem, who was the Kitzbuehel champion in 2019, can return to the world's top 80 if he triumphs in the final. "It's very special today, my first final on the tour since my wrist injury."

## Schooling pulls out of Asian Games

SINGAPORE (Agencies): Singapore's first and only-ever Olympic champion Joseph Schooling will not be competing at the Asian Games in Hangzhou next month, the swimmer said on Saturday. "While I will not be participating, I wish the contingent the best at Asian Games and to do Singapore proud," the 28-year-old said in a statement. "The status of my training and competition remains the same. More details of my future will be shared in due course." Singapore Aquatics told The Straits Times newspaper that two swimmers had clocked faster times than Schooling during the qualification window for the games. AFP has reached out to the association for comment.

## Pak tennis star Ushna honoured with ITF Billie Jean King Cup award



LAHORE (APP): Ushna Suhail, former Pakistan first and only female player with World Ranking, has been honored by the International Tennis Federation (ITF), as she has been presented with prestigious Billie Jean King Cup (Commitment) award at a special ceremony in Kuala Lumpur on Saturday.

Pakistan's tennis sensation Ushna Suhail is also first recipient amongst the only two players in South Asia to have this distinction, the other one being

Ankita Raina, with World Ranking 200 from India. Sania Mirza of India was honored with BJKC (Heart) award.

The BJKC (also known as World Cup of Tennis) is presented to the players having represented their respective countries in minimum 40 Fed Cup level international competitions, showing extraordinary performance at same time. Ushna has represented Pakistan in 43 competitions since 2011 with record of maximum

individual wins to deserve this honour.

Sharing her views after winning such an international honour for her country, Ushna thanked the Pakistan Tennis Federation and especially the President, Salim Saifullah Khan, for consistently supporting women tennis. "It is indeed a great honor for Pakistan and my family. I cannot thank the Almighty enough for this international award," she added.

Ushna said she was so happy that her parents travelled to Kuala Lumpur to attend the ceremony. She said this is a lifetime achievement award for me, which included sincere efforts and hard work of me, my family, my coaches and mentors, the PTf and the prayers of Pakistani nation. I will continue to work harder and try to win more such glories at a global level.

## Man Utd sign Danish striker Hojlund from Atalanta

LONDON (Agencies): Manchester United sealed their swoop for Denmark striker Rasmus Hojlund from Atalanta for a reported fee of £64 million (\$82 million) on Saturday.

Hojlund agreed a five-year contract with the option of a further season as United manager Erik ten Hag finally got his wish to bring in a striker ahead of the new Premier League campaign. The 20-year-old could cost United a further £8 million if add-on clauses in his contract are met.

"It is no secret that I have been a fan of this great club since I was a small boy and I dreamed of walking out at Old Trafford as a Manchester United player," Hojlund said. "I am incredibly excited by this opportunity to turn that dream into a reality and I am determined to repay the faith that the club has shown in me."

"It is still early in my career, but I know that I am ready to make this step up and play with this group of world-class players."

Ten Hag made Hojlund his top target after United reportedly refused to pay Tottenham's asking price for England striker Harry Kane, who appears bound for German champions Bayern Munich.

French champions Paris Saint Germain were said to be in the hunt for Hojlund's signature before United won the race. Ten Hag was keen

to boost his striking options after a season in which his side often lacked a cutting edge.

United finished third in the Premier League but scored just 58 goals — 36 fewer than champions Manchester City. Although Hojlund has a low profile compared to many of his new team-mates, Ten Hag is confident he can thrive under the Old Trafford spotlight.

United football director John Murtough said: "Rasmus is a truly exceptional talent. He possesses technical and physical attributes which rank him among the best players in the world for his age group."

"Working under Erik and his coaches will provide Rasmus with the perfect development platform." Hojlund has enjoyed a sudden rise since starting his career in relative obscurity with Danish club FC Copenhagen in 2020.

He moved on to Austrian side Sturm Graz, where his 12 goals in 21 games convinced Atalanta to sign him in August 2022. He scored 10 goals in 34 appearances in all competitions for the Italian team last season, catching Ten Hag's eye in the process.

Standing 6ft 2ins tall, Hojlund, who has scored six times in his six games for Denmark, should have the physical presence to cope with the aggressive approach of Premier League defend-

ers.

As well as his imposing physique, he is also blessed with blistering pace and predatory instincts in the penalty area. Hojlund's Atalanta boss Gian Piero Gasperini likened him to Manchester City's record-breaking striker Erling Haaland, whose goals helped United's rivals win the treble last term.

Hojlund's presence in the United attack will also allow Ten Hag to deploy England forward Marcus Rashford in his preferred role on the left flank.

"Once I had spoken to the manager, I knew that this environment would be perfect for my development," Hojlund said. "Under his guidance and support I know that I'm capable of achieving great things together with my new team-mates at this special club." In his maiden season in charge, Ten Hag led United to their first trophy in six years when they beat Newcastle in the League Cup final in February.

But the Dutch coach wants a sustained title challenge this term and Hojlund will be expected to make an instant impact after his signing took Ten Hag's close-season spending over £160 million. Hojlund is the third major arrival at Old Trafford since last season after the signings of Chelsea midfielder Mason Mount and Inter Milan goalkeeper Andre Onana.



PALLEKELE: Naseem Shah finished with figures of 2 for 21, Dambulla Aura vs Colombo Strikers, Lanka Premier League.

## Haris Rauf lauded by Dinesh Karthik for his terrific bowling

LAHORE (INP): Pakistan speedster Haris Rauf has been highly praised by Indian wicketkeeper batter Dinesh Karthik for his terrific bowling and termed him one of the best white-ball bowlers in the world currently.

In an interview with Sky Sports, the cricketer-turned-commentator praised Rauf and called his journey from playing tennis ball cricket to doing well in the international beautiful.

"Haris Rauf is one of the best white-ball bowlers in the world, especially in end overs — his story is beautiful with playing tennis ball cricket a few years back and getting picked by [Lahore] Qalandars, then doing so well in International crick-

et," said Dinesh Karthik.

Earlier, recently retired England pace bowler Stuart Broad showered praise on Pakistan's premier fast bowler Shaheen Afridi's bowling action and termed him one of his favourite bowlers.

Talking to Sky Sports, Broad said, "Shaheen Shah Afridi is one of my favourite bowlers to watch in the world. He's got such a presence about him when he runs in, and I love to see bowlers run in with energy and vibrancy to their run up."

He further praised Shaheen for his impressive bowling skills, "He's got such a natural skill — the way that ball swings back into the right-han-

ders is such a pleasure to watch."

Shaheen Shah Afridi, who represented Stuart Broad's home county side, Notts Outlaws in this year's T20 Blast, made his presence felt with his all-round abilities.

The left-arm pacer picked up 21 wickets in 13 matches during his T20 Blast stint. He also made notable contributions with the bat for the Outlaws, whose journey ended after a five-wicket defeat against eventual champions Somerset in the quarter-final.

"And he represented the Notts Outlaws this summer, which is close to my heart. He's one of the bowlers I admire hugely, and I want to see him do well," Broad added.

## Kusal Mendis guides Dambulla Aura to edge Colombo Strikers

PALLEKELE (Agencies): Nuwanidu Fernando's unbeaten half-century failed to trump Kusal Mendis's 46-ball 87 as Dambulla Aura edged Colombo Strikers by 10 runs in the eighth match of the ongoing Lanka Premier League (LPL) 2023.

In a high-scoring game, Colombo Strikers fell 10 runs short of the 193-run target. They needed 31 runs off the final over but managed to score only 20.

Nuwanidu Fernando remained not out at 56 off 39 deliveries, while his partner Chamika Karunaratne scored 20 off seven balls. Noor Ahmed picked two wickets, while Hayden Kerr and Dhananjaya de Silva picked one wicket each.

After winning the toss, Colombo Strikers opted to

bowl first, they inflicted early damage on Dambulla Aura in the form of Avishka Fernando's wicket.

However, what followed that wicket was a clinical partnership between captain Kusal Mendis and Sadeera Samarawickrama. They added 120 runs for the second wicket.

Kusal Mendis scored 87 off 46 before falling to Naseem Shah, while Samarawickrama scored 59 runs from 35 balls as both fell in successive overs.

The Aura appeared to be in complete control to breach the 200-run landmark but a tight death bowling from Colombo Strikers restricted them to 192/6.

Matheesha Pathirana picked three wickets, while Naseem Shah bagged two

wickets. Chamika Karunaratne gave 55 for his single wicket, whereas, Mohammad Nawaz conceded 37 runs off his three overs without any wicket.

Colombo Strikers got off to a poor start to the run chase as they lost their captain Niroshan Dickwella early with just 17 runs on the board. Babar Azam was then joined by Pathum Nissanka and the pair knitted an anchoring 62-run partnership for the second wicket which lasted when the former was trapped leg-before wicket by Noor Ahmed.

He smashed seven boundaries amid his 24-ball 41. Nissanka, who could contribute a mere 19 amid his second-wicket stand with Babar, failed to switch gears and finally perished in the

## Spain routs Switzerland 5-1 to advance to the quarterfinals of the Women's World Cup



AUCKLAND (Agencies): Aitana Bonmati netted two well-crafted goals as Spain thrashed Switzerland 5-1 at the Women's World Cup on Saturday to clinch a quarterfinal berth for the first time in their history.

Switzerland kept three clean sheets to top Group A, but it took a mere five minutes for midfielder Bonmati to breach their defence for the first goal for La Roja.

Additional goals from her, Alba Redondo, Laia Codina and Jenni Hermoso completed the rout to the delight of the crowd of 43,217 -- a record for a foot-

ball match in New Zealand.

Codina's 45th-minute effort was a moment of redemption for the defender, who had earlier scored a calamitous own goal with a pass back from 40 yards that sailed past shocked goalkeeper Cata Coll. Spain finished second in Group C, beating Costa Rica and Zambia by a combined 8-0 before being run ragged in a surprise 4-0 loss to Japan on Monday.

Spain will play the winner of Sunday's round-of-16 game between the Netherlands and South Africa. The 20th-ranked

Swiss matched their best World Cup finish. They also bowed out in the round of 16 in 2015, their only other World Cup appearance. Coach Jorge Vilda made five changes to his team from that loss to Japan for Saturday, including dropping goalkeeper Misa Rodriguez in favour of Coll.

Bonmati got Spain on the scoreboard when she took a terrific turn with the ball to finish from close range, but the Swiss equalised five minutes later when Codina put the ball through her own net. It took La Roja -- the Red One -- six min-

utes to regain the lead when Ona Batlle swung in a cross that Redondo met with a header from the back post into the far corner.

Bonmati netted her second in the 36th minute with some exquisite footwork that sent two defenders and goalkeeper Gaelle Thalmann the wrong way. She knocked the ball to her left foot and calmly curled a shot into the empty net. Codina stabbed the ball home during a goalmouth scramble before breaking away with outstretched arms and a wide smile of relief to celebrate a goal that sent Spain into half-time with a 4-1 lead.

Hermoso scored the only goal of the second half in the 70th minute, pouncing on a poor clearance by the Swiss that left her one-on-one with Thalmann. Bonmati, Redondo and Hermoso have three goals apiece in the tournament.

### Japan beat Norway to reach quarterfinals

WELLINGTON (Agencies): Hinata Miyazawa scored her fifth goal of the tournament as Japan beat Norway 3-1 in a clash of former champions on Saturday to reach the quarterfinals of the Women's World Cup for the fourth time.

Japan have been on a mission to bury the memory of their disappointing exit at the last-16 stage in 2019 and move on to play the winner of Sunday's

clash between holders the United States and Sweden.

Although they conceded their first goal of the tournament to Guro Reiten's header, an own goal from Norway's Ingrid Engen as well as second-half strikes from Risa Shimizu and Miyazawa got them across the line in front of a crowd of 33,042.

Miyazawa's 81st-minute goal moved her out of a tie with Germany captain Alexandra Popp as the tournament's leading goalscorer as well as matching Homare Sawa's Japanese record for a World Cup set in 2011 when the Nadeshiko clinched the title.

"I'm very happy, I didn't think we would be able to come so far," Miyazawa told reporters. "All of the team is working so hard. Now that we are here, I want to score more goals. Whoever we play next, we need to prepare well and make sure we beat them." Norway, world champions in 1995, depart the World Cup before the quarterfinals for only the third time in nine campaigns.

Both teams came into the match on the back of big wins, Japan from the 4-0 dismantling of Spain and Norway after the 6-0 thrashing of the Philippines that resurrected their troubled campaign. Japan, dominating possession where they were happy to live without the ball against the Spanish, were quickly on the attack but the opening goal in the 15th minute came from an unexpected source.

Miyazawa cut inside from the left flank to cross and Engen tried to block the ball, only to bury it into her own net for the eighth own goal of the World Cup.

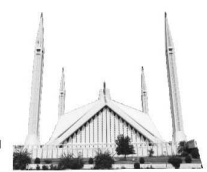
Norway were back on level terms from their first attack five minutes later, however, Vilde Boe Risa cutting the ball back from the byline and sending a cross into Japan's box which Reiten met with a stunning header into the bottom left corner.

The Nadeshiko restored their advantage 10 minutes after half-time when Risa attempted an ill-advised pass to a teammate inside the box which wing back Shimizu intercepted and hampered home via a deflection off Ingrid Engen. Norway showed a little more urgency in the final 15 minutes but Karina Saevik could not find the target when free in front of goal in the 76th minute.

Space started opening up for Japan as Norway pressed forward and Hinata Miyazawa benefited in the 81st minute, taking a touch off Aoba Fujino's through ball and rolling it coolly into the net. Japan goalkeeper Ayaka Yamashita had to be at her best to keep out Saevik's header in stoppage time but Norway's time in New Zealand was up a few minutes later.

"We met a very good Japan team," said Norway coach Hege Riise. "We win together, we lose together. We tried up until the end, we did not give up. But it was not good enough."





## In brief

### PTS reunites missing child with family

RAWALPINDI (INP): Punjab Tourism Squad (PTS) reunited a missing child with tourist family on Saturday. Child of a tourist family hailing from Faisalabad which was on visit to Murree went missing at Mall road of Murree after which it contact Punjab Tourism Squad. Team leader Abdul Basit along with his team Sub-Inspector Tayyeb, Constable Sufiyan, Constable Maliha and Constable Sofia started search for the missing child. Later, the kid was found from 1\$ Shop and handed over to family with instructions to avoid negligence in future. The PTS Murree also informed the family about 1421 helpline and duty points of squad. The tourist family thanked the PTS team and expressed well wishes for it.

### Police on high alert in Rawalpindi

RAWALPINDI (APP): Rawalpindi police on a high alert and heavy contingent of police force have been deployed to maintain law and order in the city. In this regard, Police have conducted a flag march. According to police spokesman, the flag march was led by Regional Police Officer (RPO) Rawalpindi, Syed Khurram Ali and City Police Officer (CPO) Rawalpindi Syed Khalid Hamdani. Senior officers are closely monitoring the situation in the field, and the Anti-Riot Force were present at all important locations. The effective police patrolling and snap-checking are being carried out on both internal and external roads of the city. The situation is also being monitored from the Command and Control Room. All roads in the city are open, and traffic is flowing smoothly. Rawalpindi Police are always ready to deal with any situation. No violation of the law or compromise on public safety will be tolerated. The authority of the law will be ensured, and the protection of citizens' lives and property will be remained the top priority, the spokesman added.

### RDA seals illegal buildings

RAWALPINDI (APP): Rawalpindi Development Authority (RDA) here on Saturday conducted operations and sealed site office of University Town Housing Scheme, KRL Hospital, illegal under construction building at plot number 220-A in Saidpur Housing Scheme and demolished different structures. According to a RDA office spokesman, the authority on the directives of the Director General, Muhammad Saif Anwar Jappa, carried out operations and took action in accordance with the law against the rules violators. He said that the Enforcement Squad of RDA including Deputy Director Building Control, incharge/Assistant Director Building Control, Building Superintendent, and Building Inspectors took part in the operations and sealed the buildings. The spokesman said that earlier, notices were also issued to the owners of these properties namely Ch Abdul Aziz, Roohullah and administration of KRL Hospital. The owners of the properties had violated approved building plans/maps and constructed illegal commercial buildings without prior approval and NOC, he said adding, the DG had directed the Land Use and Building Control (LU&BC) Wing to take strict action against encroachments, illegal and unauthorized constructions and commercial activities without any discrimination. Muhammad Saif Anwar Jappa had also directed the Building Control Wing to conduct a survey and identify illegal residential and commercial buildings.



ISLAMABAD: Advisor to the Prime Minister on Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit Baltistan Qamar Zaman Kaira talking to media after holding rally to mark the Youm-e-Istehsal (Exploitation Day), Jammu Kashmir falling on 5th August.

## No general elections before Feb 15': Kanwar Dilshad

ISLAMABAD (NNI): Kanwar Muhammad Dilshad, former chief secretary of Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP), said he did not see the next general elections to be held before February 15, 2024, as Council of Common Interest (CCI) unanimously approved Digital Census 2023.

The former ECP secretary pointed out that a fresh delimitation exercise, which takes around four to six months, would make it impossible to conduct the general polls due before

October 12 this year.

Kanwar Dilshad further said that the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) is legally bound to hold a fresh delimitation exercise, noting that the next elections are likely to be delayed till February 2024.

In response to a question, Dilshad said that increasing the national and provincial assemblies' seats was not possible without a two-thirds majority.

Responding to another question, he noted that Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf

(PTI) Chief Imran Khan will have to relinquish the party's chairmanship after Islamabad High Court awarded three years jail term to him in Toshakhana criminal case.

Earlier in the day, the Council of Common Interests (CCI) approved the results of the digital Population and Housing Census 2023.

The approval of digital census results was the key agenda of the CCI session today with Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif in chair.

The Ministry of

Planning and Development briefed the CCI session on the digital census results for approval from the constitutional forum.

Recently, PM Shehbaz Sharif hinted at the possibility of dissolving the National Assembly (NA) on August 9.

Addressing a farewell dinner arranged for parliamentarians, PM Shehbaz said that consultation will be held with the coalition parties and together with the opposition leader the name of the caretaker prime minister will be finalised.

## Mishal appeals int'l community to wake up to Kashmir issue

ISLAMABAD (APP): Mishal Hussein Malik, a human rights activist and wife of senior Kashmiri leader Yasin Malik Saturday appealed the international community to wake up and must urge India to lift the inhuman military siege in the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) and reverse its illegal and unilateral actions of 5 August 2019.

"Kashmiri nation will be free one day because regional peace will remain a distant dream unless the Kashmir issue is resolved as per the UN resolutions", she said while talking to a private news channel.

Kashmiris all over the world have register their protest against India today that they will never accept India's illegal occupation of their homeland, she mentioned.

She called international community to come forward and extend support to the legitimate cause of Kashmir and help in resolving the matter in an honorable and dignified manner.

The issue of Kashmir had become an ideology which could never be wiped out from the face of the world by any force, no matter how powerful, she added.

Today, the posters in Kashmir valley are demanding reversing of

actions of 5th August 2019, settlement of the Kashmir dispute as per the United Nations resolutions, release of all political detainees and end to human rights violations by Indian troops in IIOJK, she added.

Mishal Malik said Modi government is trying to deflect world attention away from the real issue and hide these shocking ground realities by peddling lies and projecting its concocted normalcy narrative on Kashmir but the fact remains that during the past four years the region has witnessed new heights of assimilation and the erasure of its socio-political, religious and cultural identity.

## ANF recovers 13 kg drugs

RAWALPINDI (APP): Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF), in its ongoing operations against drug traffickers, conducted five raids and recovered 13 kg drugs besides netting five accused including three women, said an ANF Headquarters spokesman here on Saturday.

He informed that in an operation, 2 kg hashish was recovered from the possession of a biker, a resident of Mardan intercepted in Ghori Town Islamabad.

In another operation, 258 grams heroin was recovered from a parcel booked at a courier office in Rawalpindi. The parcel was booked for Canada.

In the third operation, 3.9 kg hashish and 30 grams heroin was recovered from a parcel booked at a courier office at Jinnah International Airport Karachi.

Drugs concealed in a machine were being smuggled to Abbottabad (Havelian). In another operation at Jinnah International Airport, intoxicated tablets were recovered from a passenger's bag.

The accused, a resident of Toba Tek Singh, was trying to smuggle more than 3,000 tablets to Saudi Arabia. Three women were netted near Northern Bypass in Peshawar and six kg heroin was recovered from their possession.

The accused were trying to smuggle heroin from Peshawar to Charsada.

Separate cases have been registered against the arrested accused while further investigations are under process.

## Kaira urges Int'l community to fulfill promises made with Kashmiris

ISLAMABAD (NNI): In connection with the Youm-e-Istehsal, a rally was held on the Constitution Avenue in Islamabad today to express solidarity with the oppressed Kashmir people and condemn the Indian illegal steps of 5th August in the illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir.

The rally led by Adviser on Kashmir Affairs Qamar Zaman Kaira was taken out from Radio Pakistan Chowk and culminated at D-Chowk.

The Secretary Foreign Affairs, the leadership of APHC AJK chapter and people belonging to differ-

ent walks of life participated in the rally.

They raised full throated slogans in support of Pakistan and the Kashmiri people. They were also carrying banners inscribed with slogans in support of Kashmiri people and against the Indian oppression.

Speaking to the participants of the rally at D-Chowk, Adviser on Kashmir Affairs Qamar Zaman Kaira paid glowing tributes to the sacrifices of Kashmiri people.

He said the Indian occupation forces have been committing oppression and atrocities in the

occupied territory over the last seventy five years but they have failed to weaken the resolve of Kashmiri people for their right to self-determination.

The Adviser reaffirmed Pakistan's abiding commitment to Kashmir cause and urged the international community to fulfill the promises made with the Kashmiri people for right to self-determination.

Qamar Zaman Kaira said the present government has forcefully raised Kashmir dispute at all the international forums and during bilateral meetings with the leadership of other countries.

## Law of jungle prevails in country: Sheikh Rashid

RAWALPINDI (NNI): Former interior minister and Awami Muslim League (AML) chief Sheikh Rashid says the law of jungle prevails in the country.

Taking to social media platform X, the veteran politician said all the allies of government would disperse on Aug 10.

"This government would always be remembered in black words," Rashid said.

He added that the government had left behind a sordid history of terrorism and barbarism. The senior politician said police con-

ducted raids on his and close aides' residences and took away precious watches, vehicles, mobile phones and cash with them.

"Our children and women are disappeared by police but courts are just silent spectators," the AML chief said. Our workers are re-arrested in another case moments after getting bail in the previous one, he added.

According to Rashid, police raided the residence of his close friend last night and took away his servant.

"I'll make a request to

the chief of army staff to assign the task to any agency to investigate that how much damage Ishfaq Warraich, Shafqat Faiz and CCPO Rawalpindi have caused to the reputation of state's institutions," the former interior minister said.

He was of the view that the election commission could not extend the polls date on its own as per the directions given by the Supreme Court of Pakistan.

"The caretaker prime minister would be brought by the powers that be," Rashid said.



ISLAMABAD: Foreign Office Spokesperson Ms. Muntaz Zahra Baloch Seminar on "Erasure of Muslim Identity of IIOJK & Genocide of Kashmiris to bring about Demographic Change" (Youm e Istehsal) organized by Friends of Kashmir at Kashmir House. —APP Photo

## Pakistan Post launches summer internship programme

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan Post has launched its summer internship program at a vibrant opening ceremony held here at ECO Postal Staff College on Saturday.

The 6-week internship program, received an overwhelming response, from over 500 young graduates from top universities of Islamabad/Rawalpindi. Initially only 50 students with exceptional competencies and potential have been selected for the program.

These future leaders would enjoy valuable hands-on work experience on various key areas. This program will facilitate youngsters to set the stage for successful

commencement of their professional careers ahead.

Sharing his thoughts at the opening orientation ceremony, the Director General Pakistan Post said, "We are thrilled to launch the Summer Internship Program 2023, which is designed to ignite the careers of Pakistan's highly talented graduates.

The internship program aligns with sustainable practices by investing in the long-term growth and success of individuals in the postal sector. We provide a diverse and enabling environment for the youth to develop and showcase their talent and focus on promot-

ing experiential learning and equip interns with practical skills and knowledge"

The selected interns would be divided into five teams which will be led by senior and experienced officers of Pakistan Post including, Farhan Ali Mirza (Director International Postal Service), Mr. Ammar Nazir Qureshi (Director Express Post), Mr. Farrukh Bashir (Director IT), Abid Mehmood (Director Inland Mail) and Ms. Ayesha Nayyar (Deputy Director Training).

Pakistan Post was committed to preparing the next generation of leaders in the public sector to drive its growth and sustainability.

## Commissioner visits Metro Bus Service to inspect travel facilities

RAWALPINDI (APP): Commissioner Rawalpindi Division Liaquat Ali Chatta here on Saturday visited Metro Bus Service and inspected travel facilities and other arrangements.

Deputy Commissioner, Rawalpindi Hasan Waqar Cheema and former Member National Assembly, Hanif Abbasi were also present on this occasion.

The Commissioner traveled by metro bus from Faizabad to Saddar Metro Bus Station and inquired

about the problems if any by the passengers traveling in Metro Bus.

The Commissioner directed the authorities concerned to make Sixth Road Metro Bus Station operational as soon as possible.

"It is our responsibility to improve the travel facilities of the people," the Commissioner said.

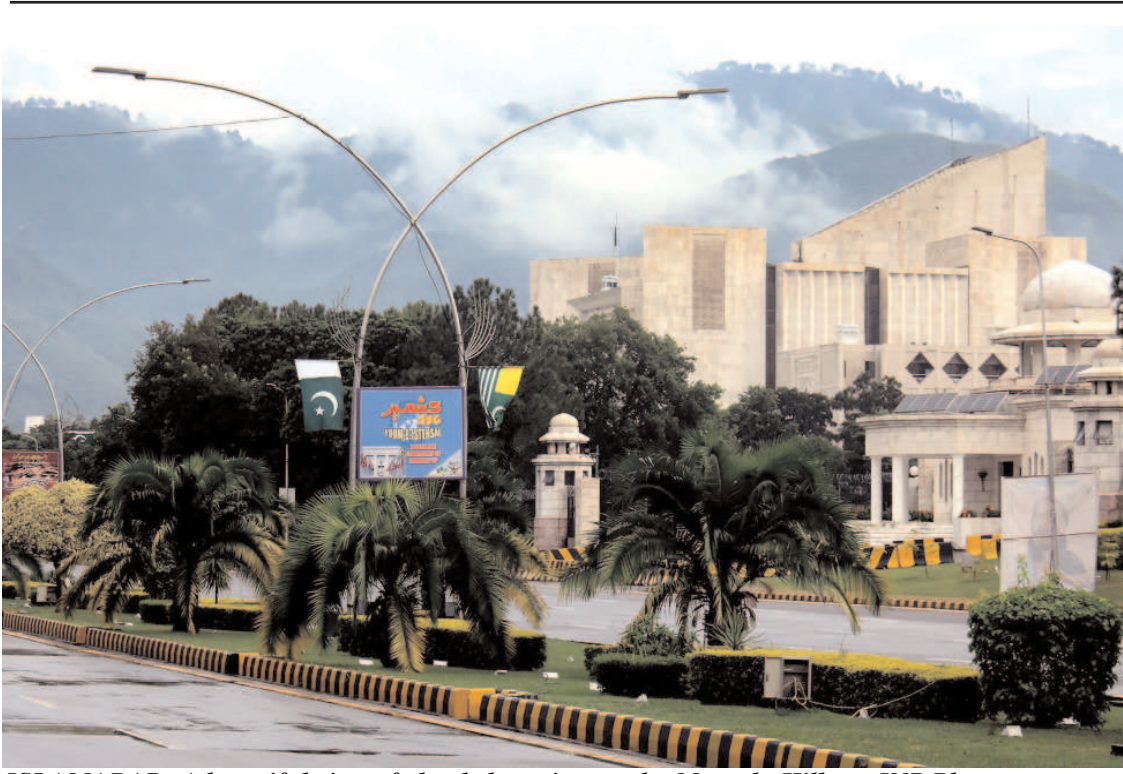
Metro bus service is the best travel facility for the common man, he said and directed the metro administration to make all the esca-

lators of the metro bus functional.

In the metro bus project, where the renovation is required, it should be completed, he said and instructed the officers to also solve the track problems if any and submit a report.

Delay in public facility works would not be tolerated, the Commissioner said.

"Metro Bus Service is a world class bus rapid transit system and its protection is responsibility of all of us," he added.



ISLAMABAD: A beautiful view of clouds hovering on the Margala Hills. —INP Photo



Afghan man's found in Tehran

TEHRAN (Agencies): Iranian media reported that the half-burnt body of a 22-year-old Afghan man was found in southwest of Tehran province. The body of the young man was found in Ashkanieh town in Robat Karim county. Hamid Razzaqi, head of the Robat Karim fire department, said that the half-burnt body was transferred for forensic investigation and the police investigation continues to uncover the hidden aspects of this incident.

Work on canals nearly complete

KABUL (Agencies): Officials at National Development Corporation (NDC) said work on Tarko and Afzal Qala canals in Kamal Khan dam has been completed by 94 percent and the canals will be put into operation in the near future. NDC officials said that these two canals with a length of 264 kilometers will irrigate 50,000 hectares of agricultural land. According to them, positive changes will occur in the lives of the people of Nimroz province.

Trans-Afghan railway project  
Afghanistan seeks participation of Russia

KABUL (Khaama Press): Afghanistan invited Russia and Kazakhstan to participate in constructing the Trans-Afghan railway project. The acting minister of Commerce and Industry, Nooruddin Azizi, asked both countries to take part in a project to build a trans-Afghan railway, according to the ministry. "We invite Russia and Kazakhstan to join this project. In my view, it's not just about investing in Afghanistan because this railway will benefit every-

one, and we are ready to receive working groups from these countries to consider this project together with them," Azizi said on the sidelines of a Kazkhsantan-Afghanistan forum in Astana. Azizi also suggested the establishment of a coordination office in Kabul between Pakistan, Russia, Kazakhstan, and Uzbekistan. The Trans-Afghan project railway route was the subject of a memorandum of understanding signed in Islamabad in January by the

Taliban, Uzbekistan, and Pakistan. The project intends to link Termez, Mazar-e-Sharif, Kabul and Peshawar. A five-year timeline and a \$5 billion price tag were projected for the 600 km-long railroad's completion. The new transit route links Southeast Asian countries, Russia, the European Union, Afghanistan, Pakistan, and Uzbekistan. However, Following the Taliban's takeover of power in August 2021, the project was stalled due to a shortage of funding.

Distribution of passports in Qatar to be expanded



KABUL (Agencies): Acting Minister of Foreign Affairs Amir Khan Muttaqi said in a meeting with a number of Afghan tribal elders living in Qatar that the process of distributing passports will be expanded and expedited in the near future. Hafiz Zia Ahmad, deputy spokesperson of foreign ministry, said on Twitter that during the meeting, the tribal elders requested the launch of flights between Kabul and Doha and also called for the expansion of the process of printing and distributing

passports at the Afghan Embassy in Qatar. Muttaqi was also asked to cooperate in the fields of Qatar visa and providing job opportunities for Afghans. Earlier, Muttaqi discussed political, economic and commercial issues with the representative of Qatar's Ministry of Foreign Affairs for Afghanistan and asked for increased cooperation between Doha and Afghanistan in various sectors. Muttaqi has travelled to Qatar while the rule of the Islamic Emirate in Afghanistan will become

German tourist rides in Panjshir

PANJSHIR (Agencies): A German tourist arrived in Panjshir province after biking thousands of kilometers all the way from Germany and crossing 16 countries on his bicycle, local officials said. Bakhtar News Agency spoke with Marco, a German

tourist who traveled a long distance, first to Herat province and then to Kabul, where he planned his route to Panjshir province. In a meeting with the director of information and culture of Panjshir, Marco stated that the goal of his trip is to explore the natural

beauties of the region and that his next trip is to the country's Badakhshan province. He also stated that he observed a sense of relief among Afghans, in contrast to news from international media outlets that project a negative image of the country to the rest of the world.

Minister visits  
201 Khalid  
Bin Waleed  
Army Corps

KABUL (Agencies): Acting Minister of Defense, Mawlawi Mohammad Yaqoub Mujahid, while visiting 201 Khalid bin Walid Army Corps, asked the Mujahideen to prioritize protecting the public treasury and serving the Islamic system. A statement from the Defense Ministry stated that the Acting Minister of National Defense, Mawlawi Mohammad Yaqoub Mujahid, traveled to the eastern zone of the country and visited the 201 Khaled bin Waleed Army Corps as part of his provincial trips for meeting with people and military units. Mujahid during a meeting at the training center of the army corps with Mawlawi Abdul Sabour Abudojana, the commander of the corps, and other officials, assessed the situation in the eastern zone and shared necessary directions for improving security and order in that region. The Acting Minister of National Defense also praised the round-the-clock efforts of the Mojahedin for the security and safety of citizens in the country. The Defense Minister urged them to take their responsibilities seriously and to prioritize the protection of the public treasury and serving the Islamic system.

Deputy PM to assess local security in Balkh



KABUL (Agencies): Deputy Prime Minister for Administrative Affairs Mawlawi Abdul Salam Hanafi, in a meeting with the deputy commander of the 209th Al-Fath Army Corps emphasized that local officials are responsible to serve the public by ensuring their security and safety. According to a statement released by his office, Deputy Prime Minister for Administrative Affairs Mawlawi Abdul Salam Hanafi who is on a visit to Balkh province, met with Mawlawi Mohammad Wakil Munir, the deputy commander of the 209th Al-Fatah Army Corps, and Mawlawi Mohammad Jawed, the commander of border brigade in Balkh province. In the meeting, Mawlawi Mohammad Wakil Munir and Mawlawi Mohammad Jawed spoke about the security situation and local governance in Balkh province and presented their activities report to Deputy Prime Minister. They said that the Al-Fath Army Corps and the Border Battalion of Balkh province, do not spare any effort to serve the people and ensure security in the region. The two officials also shared information about the reforms made in Al-Fath Army Corps and Border Brigade and appalled the leadership of the Islamic Emirate for further attention to the capacity building of Mujahideen and addressing some existing problems. Deputy Prime Minister said that local officials are responsible for providing security and services to the people, stressing that negligence in their duties is not acceptable to the leadership of the Islamic Emirate. The Islamic Emirate takes all necessary measures to tackle the problems of all citizens, particularly the security forces while taking into account the available resources, the Deputy Prime Minister concluded.

Anghuzeh cultivation increased

provinces, two districts in each province, and five displayed places in each district that will provide people with more information about how to grow the plant," said Musbahuddin Mustaeen, a spokesman for the ministry. Meanwhile, the Chamber of Commerce and Investment talked about the increase of private sector investment in the field of cultivation and production of the Anghuzeh plant and its export through the air corridor outside the country. "Efforts should be made to find out how to make anghuzeh cultivation more common in Afghanistan. Because it is one of the precious medicinal plants. Export is going on and hundreds of tons of Anghuzeh were exported last year and it is still going on this year," said Mohammad Yonis Momand, deputy of the Chamber of Commerce and Investment. The amount of anghuzeh plant exports in 2021 was 1,248 tons, and the money obtained from it is worth 99 million dollars, and in 2022, the amount of our exports is about 835 tons, and the money obtained from it reaches 129 million dollars," said Akhound Zada Abdul Salam Jawad, spokesman

for the Ministry of Industry and Commerce. "One kilo of anghuzeh juice costs 220 US dollars in the world market. For example, there are Tajik, Uzbek, Kazakh, and Turkmen kinds of Anghuzeh, the cheapest of which is the Kazakh one, which costs 35 US dollars per kilo, and the best one is the Tajik one. The plant is very useful and profitable," said Atiq, a trader. Based on the information of the Ministry of Industry and Commerce, the anghuzeh is mostly exported to India, China, Pakistan, and the United States of America.



109 people commit suicide in Afghanistan last year

KABUL (Pajhwok): At least 109 people committed suicide during the last 12 months in the country, with half of the deaths blamed on domestic violence and mental illnesses, Pajhwok has learnt. Pajhwok Afghan News findings show the suicide incidents occurred in 24 provinces of the country, 25 percent happened in Faryab and 72 percent of the people committing suicides were under 35 years of age. However, committing suicide is a major sin in Islam. Religious scholars and psychologists say the government, media, scholars and psychologists have the responsibility to provide necessary awareness to people in order to prevent such unfortunate incidents. Full report Pajhwok compiled reports of suicides published from July 23 last year until the same date this year, but it was possible some incidents went unreported. The findings show 109 people committed suicide during this period — 56 boys and elders and 53 girls and women. About 47 of the people who committed suicide were aged 12 to 19 years old, 15 were aged between 20 and 28 years, the exact age of 12 people was not clear and nine people were aged 50 to 58 years, five people 30 to 35 years old. Based on information, four people aged 40 to 45 and one person aged 74 were among the 109 people who committed suicide. According to reports, most of these people committed suicide due to domestic violence. Thirty-three people claimed their own lives due domestic violence, 20 people due to mental problems, two people due to economic problems, a girl committed suicide to escape forced marriage and one person took the extreme step for being opposed to the Islamic Emirate. A drug addict committed suicide

and another person killed himself after a sexual assault, but no reason was cited for 50 suicides in the reports. The most (27) people committed suicide in Faryab, eight each in Badghis and Kandahar, seven each in Daikundi and Jawzjan, five each in Badakhshan, Parwan and Ghazni, four in Balkh, three each in Bamiyan, Farah, Ghor, Kunduz, Maidan Wardak, Nangarhar and Sar-i-Pul, two each in Helmand, Kapisa, Panjsher and Takhar and one each in Baghlan, Nimroz, Paktia and Uruzgan provinces. Pajhwok received no reports about suicides from 10 provinces of the country (Herat, Kabul, Khost, Kunar, Laghman, Logar Nuristan, Paktika, Samangan and Zabul) in the last 12 months. Most of the suicide incidents happened in May of this year Last year, two people committed suicide in July, six in August, eight in September, six in October, seven in the month of November, five in the month of December, 14 in January, six in February and this year, four people committed suicide in April, 15 in May, 21 in June and 15 in July. Pajhwok's findings show 64 people killed themselves by hanging, 20 by shooting themselves and 14 people by consuming poison, two by self-immolation, one person by throwing himself into a river and another by jumping from a roof. The reason for suicide of seven people has not been revealed. Pajhwok did not collect data about suicides in 1401 solar year, but Tolo News published a report in August last year that 42 people committed suicide in Afghanistan. Before this, there were suicides in Afghanistan, but exact numbers have not been published. For example, a report published in January 2019 said that in 10 months about 50 people committed suicide in Herat alone.

Religious scholars: Suicide is a great sin Religious scholar Sheikh al-Hadith Abdul Sabour Hamasi told Pajhwok that suicide was a major sin after polytheism and disbelief. He added: Allah (swt) says in the twenty-ninth verse of Surah Al-Nisa: Do not kill yourselves, Allah is merciful to you. It is also mentioned in Surah Al-Baqarah verse 195 that spend in the way of Allah. Do not throw yourself into destruction with your own hands, do good deeds, Allah loves those who do good deeds; Likewise, the Prophet (PBUH) said, "Whoever kills himself with something, he will be punished for it on the Day of Resurrection." Hamasi called economic problems, family disputes, failure to achieve a goal, severe disappointment, extreme fear, mental illness, failure in love, not knowing the main purpose of life, sexual abuse, ignorance from religion and weak connection with religion, depression, lack of motivation, failure and frustration as main reasons for suicide. According to him, sharing one's problems with family members, relatives, friends and other people can reduce human suffering. He said the prevention of suicide was firstly possible through good religious understanding, secondly, reviving the sense of sympathy in the nation and thirdly, establishing a righteous community, and fourthly, strengthening the family system to support each other and extend a helping hand in times of pain and suffering. Hamasi added: "Ulema, teachers, radio, television and all other media outlets should collectively work to achieve this target, Media play huge role in the reformation of society and youth, we should use all our capacities, talent and energy in the interest of our nation and building positive thinking, but unfortunately we use media just for our political targets, we

use media to promote ourselves and our interests, we don't use media for promoting positive image, religious teaching, national interest, and raising our youth and children. Media and management are the miracles of the 20th century but is there anyone who could use them in the interest of nation and religious." Another religious scholar Qari Abdul Matin said there are several factors behind committing suicide. There are two main factors one is materialistic factor and another is spiritual. Materialistic factors are poverty, debt and economic problems while spiritual factors included failed love, stress and other similar factors. He said committing suicide is a major sin in Islam and there is no chance to be pardoned while in other major sins there are chances for pardon. After committing major sins like adultery, robber and others individual has the chance to pardon because of being a live while after committing suicide the person is no more alive and has no chance of pardon. "The source and the reference of the matter vary, sometimes the family cannot be affective in this regard, it could even deteriorate the situation so the better is that the affected person first should talk to psychologist, influential person, ulema and wise person and then the friends or psychologist could talk to the family of affected person in order to resolve the problem and find a solution." Referring to the ways of prevention from suicide, he said: "An individual should be kept away from disappointment, in schools, universities and madreassas curriculum that could help prevent the suicide should be introduced, another method is that every school should have a psychology teacher who will talk with students in group of individually who suffer from depression, disappointment and other similar problems."

Everyone has responsibility, the media officials through their media platform, the scholars through their podiums, the government through schools, universities, colleges, mosques, seminars, and conferences should convey messages that discourage committing suicide among people. Ulema on the bases of religious principles should discourage committing suicide. Elders and youth go to mosques where they could be informed by religious scholars about the consequences of committing suicide. Naheed Nadim, a private university teacher, said committing suicide had become a huge challenge worldwide and nearly 90 percent people who suffer from psychological problems committed suicide. She added people who committed suicide suffer from deep depression before committing suicide. She linked increased in psychological pressure in young people, the lack of regular work plan in the life, deep depression, unemployment, lack of purpose, failure in relationships, guilty feeling, and economic problems in adults as some factors behind growing suicide in youth. Regarding suicide prevention measures she said: "An individual's intend to commit suicide doesn't do it suddenly, some signs appear before committing suicide in that individual, he or she make a plan, cut some relationship, sell his precious items or gift it to someone, sometimes adopt calmness or logical environment, now a family or friends should understand this type of condition and jump into the help of family member if these type of sings appeared, they should talk to this persons suffering from this type of condition and explore solution for the problem," said the university teacher. She also said sometimes you don't know who wants to commit suicide, but the family feels that the person is very uncomfortable, his condition is not good, or they notice some other strange activities. This person should be referred to a doctor or a psychologist to help him and prevent him from committing suicide. She said that committing suicide was not an ordinary problem, it has many causes that must be addressed, every responsible individual in a society was responsible for it, family members, teachers, university professors and religious scholars, religious scholars should preach in their mosques, in their sermons, why is suicide is forbidden, why is it considered a great sin, and what is the major handicaps of this sin? She said government has the responsibility to generate jobs and education opportunities for youth, when an individual is busy in work or study than he or she never think about committing suicide. She termed the role of psychologist vital, there is need for organizing seminars and workshops in schools and universities to discourage committing suicide among youth and show them the right direction. Zabiullah Mujahid, spokesperson of the IEA, with deep grief and sorrow said that some people committed suicide due to family violence and issues in some parts of the country. Mujahid also agreed that media and other relevant institutions should work together to spread awareness among people regarding the consequences of committing suicide. "IEA has the responsibility and it strive to convey its message to the people, media also has a role to play in this regard, IEA is also working over the factors that forced people to commit suicide and efforts would be made to eradicate factors to forced people to commit suicide," he said. According to the WHO report every year over 700,000 people worldwide commit suicide.





**PESHAWAR:** Police officials arresting the PTI activists during a protest against arrest of party chief Imran Khan.

# Rallies held across Pakistan, IIOJK to mark Youm-e-Istehsaal

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: Kashmiris on both sides of the Line of Control and world over observed Youm-e-Istehsaal on Saturday. The major purpose of observing the day is to send a clear message to New Delhi government that Kashmiris out rightly reject actions taken by Modi-led Indian government on August 5, 2019 and illegal occupation of their homeland.

The Modi-led Hindutva regime on August 5, 2019, revoked Article 370 that granted special status to the internationally recognized disputed territory and imposed a brutal military siege.

Meanwhile, APHC leaders Khadim Hussain, Syed Sibte Shabbir Qummi and Umar Mughal in their statements said August 05 is a black day in the history of Jammu and Kashmir when India attacked Jammu and Kashmir on this day in 2019 and took away the unique identity of Kashmiris. They said that after October 27, 1947, this was the second time when India fully demonstrated its colonial and anti-Muslim mentality.

The APHC leaders said that the only purpose of the Indian move of August 5, 2019 was to change Jammu and Kashmir from a Muslim majority to a Muslim minority territory. They deplored that the Modi government is using brutal tactics to advance its Hindutva agenda in occupied Kashmir. On the other hand, Indian police arrested several leaders and activists of People Democratic Party and National Conference to stop protests and seminars and conferences in the territory.

Those arrested included PDP youth President Waheed Parra while PDP chief Mehbooba Mufti was put under house arrest at her residence in Srinagar. The AJK Legislative Assembly in its special session on Youm e Istehsal also adopted a unanimous resolution rejecting Indian steps taken on 5 Aug 2019 and strongly condemned human rights abuses in IIOJK. In the resolution, the house reiterated to stand by Kashmiris till the realization of their

## Pakistan military slams India's hostile actions in Occupied Kashmir

F.P. Report

RAWALPINDI: Pakistan Armed Forces slammed India for its hostile actions and declared that Delhi's conspiracies pose a perpetual threat to regional security.

In a statement issued on Saturday as Kashmiris observed Youm-e-Istehsal, denouncing India's atrocities on people of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu Kashmir, Pakistan military said "Such actions coupled with the Modi-led administration's belligerent rhetoric and hostile actions continue to perpetuate humanitarian and security crises in IIOJ&K and pose a perpetual threat to regional security."

The statement, released by the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), blasted India for revocation of Article 370 on August 5, 2019, in IIOJK. According to the ISPR, the chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee (CJCS), services chiefs, and Pakistan Armed Forces extended solidarity with the brave and resilient people of IIOJK in their just struggle for the right to self-determination according to UN resolutions. "Continuation of inhumane military lockdown, illegal measures to change the demographic structure of the occupied territory and the gross and systematic transgressions of human rights are all manifest violations of international law," the statement added. The military insisted that the resolution of the Kashmir dispute, according to UN Resolutions, and the aspirations of the Kashmiri people, is imperative for enduring peace and stability in the region. The ISPR statement said "Pakistan Armed Forces pay rich tribute to the martyrs of IIOJK for their supreme sacrifices, and affirm full support of Pakistan for provision of political, moral and humanitarian support to Kashmiris in their just struggle against tyranny and illegal subjugation." India's human rights violations against innocent Kashmiris have only been exacerbated in the wake of the revocation of the law, leaving the valley's residents threatened and forced to live under tyranny with curfews imposed time and again, and outsiders taking over their properties illegally.

right to self-determination and termed 5 Aug as a black day in the history of Kashmir.

Meanwhile, The Gilgit-Baltistan Assembly has unanimously approved the resolution condemning India's withdrawal of Kashmir's special status on August 5, 2019. In the session presided over by Speaker Nazir Ahmed, Member of Assembly Amjad Hussain presented the joint resolution condemning India's termination of the special status of Kashmir.

In connection with Youm-e-Istehsaal, a rally was held on the Constitution Avenue in Islamabad today to express solidarity with the oppressed Kashmir people and condemn the Indian illegal steps of 5th August in the illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir. The rally led by Adviser on Kashmir Affairs Qamar

Zaman Kaira was taken out from Radio Pakistan Chowk and culminated at D-Chowk. The Secretary Foreign Affairs, the leadership of APHC AJK chapter and people belonging to different walks of life participated in the rally.

The participants chanted slogans in support of Pakistan and the Kashmiri people. They were also carrying banners inscribed with slogans in support of Kashmiri people and against the Indian oppression. Speaking to the participants of the rally at D-Chowk, Adviser on Kashmir Affairs Qamar Zaman Kaira reaffirmed Pakistan's abiding commitment to Kashmir cause and urged the international community to fulfill the promises made with the Kashmiri people for right to self-determination.

## No one is above the law, says Sharjeel

F.P. Report

KARACHI: Minister for Information, Transport, and Mass Transit of Sindh, Sharjeel Inam Memon emphasized that in the eyes of the law, no one is above the law, and no one can be allowed to violate it. The leadership of the People's Party has consistently prioritized the supremacy of law and has consistently appeared before the courts.

While addressing a press conference at the Archives Complex in Clifton, Karachi, he stated that every Pakistani citizen is subject to the law; no one is exempt from its provisions. While the arrest of anyone is regrettable, equality before the law remains a fundamental principle. He noted that the decision against Imran Khan today reflects the same individual who once labeled all his political opponents as thieves and robbers.

Sharjeel Inam Memon said that our esteemed founding leader and beloved figure among the people, Shaheed Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto, was unjustly executed in a fabricated case. Numerous false charges were leveled against Ms. Benazir Bhutto, leading to her persecution. Despite these challenges, the People's Party has consistently advanced with a commitment to upholding the supremacy of law.

The Minister for Information stated that political parties unequivocally condemn the use of petrol bombs in attacks on the police, and they do not engage in fear-mongering, the individual who once baselessly labeled others as thieves and criminals has now abandoned the facade of falsehood.

He pointed out that during the tenure of the former Prime Minister, former President Asif Ali Zardari was arrested, and Ms. Faryal Talpur was transferred from the hospital to jail on the night of Eid. While we would never wish for women from any household to be involved in political opposition, this individual disregarded even basic societal norms. This



person attempted to tarnish the country's reputation by exploiting the no-confidence motion.

He remarked that the individual who sold a watch bearing the symbol of the Kaaba persistently propagated lies, yet faced no consequences, this person singled out political opponents with an authoritarian mindset. He said that Imran Khan's cases are open and shut cases; the foreign funding case, in particular, is unequivocal. Those who receive funding from countries like India and Israel should be held accountable under the law.

Sharjeel Inam Memon emphasized that Asif Ali Zardari endured unjust imprisonment, yet he consistently upheld respect for institutions and the judiciary. He reiterated that no entity surpasses the significance of the state, constitution, and the law. Anyone dissatisfied with a court decision has the full right to approach higher courts.

The Sindh Information Minister criticized that the special treatment given to Ladla raises concerns, the PTI has gradually transformed into primarily a social media-oriented party. Currently, social media is abuzz with unfounded rumors, urging people to stay indoors and creating a sense of intimidation. He earnestly appealed to the public not to heed such rumors and misinformation.

Sharjeel Inam Memon stated that the Sindh government will ensure com-

plete legal protection for citizens' freedom of movement. However, it is emphasized that stringent measures will be taken against anyone attempting to take the law into their own hands.

In response to questions, he clarified that peaceful protests will be facilitated in accordance with the law, but those who promote disorder will face legal consequences. He highlighted the competitive nature of elections, urging all parties to participate transparently.

Sharjeel Inam Memon emphasized that success in politics comes to those who uphold principles. The outcomes, whether victory or defeat, are determined by the people. The People's Party will actively engage in the elections, and the final decision rests with the people. Regarding a query, he said that Shah Mehmood Qureshi's longstanding desire to lead a party has come to fruition, and he will be celebrating by distributing sweets in Multan today.

When asked, he pointed out that electoral coalitions have consistently been organized in opposition to the People's Party. In reply to a question, he highlighted the People's Party's commitment to easing the burden on citizens despite inflation. The People's Bus Service offers affordable transportation, government hospitals provide free medical care, and various relief programs are actively operational.

## Pak rejects illegal Indian actions in IIOJK: PM

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Saturday reiterated that Pakistan rejected all the unilateral and illegal actions taken by India in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) and vowed to continue extending its unwavering diplomatic, moral and political support to Kashmiris in their just struggle.

On his Twitter handle, the prime minister said that they called upon India to reverse its post-August 5 actions. Today marked the completion of four years since India deprived Kashmiris of their statehood by unilaterally annexing the IIOJK, he added.

"The last four years have represented the culmination of the worst human rights abuses including but not limited to the demographic changes, issuance of fake domiciles, internet shutdown, complete information blackout and imprisonment of Kashmiri leadership of all hues and colours," the prime minister posted in a tweet.

At the heart of these, illegal and immoral measures had been the nefarious attempt by India to alter the internationally recognized status of IIOJK and undermine the Kashmiris' fundamental right to self-determination, he added. The prime minister further said that history bore witness to the fact that brute force had never succeeded in extinguishing the fire of freedom and rights.

## Focus on to provide relief to masses

F.P. Report

MINGORA: Adviser to Prime Minister Engineer Amir Muqam has said that despite the short-termed government, we did not tolerate any kind of negligence in the process of providing relief to the public. He said that due to the incompetence of the previous government, the country sustained serious damages, for which Imran and his incompetent team must be held accountable. The adviser added that despite not getting any mandate from the people, we have left no stone unturned to resolve the issues of people belonging to all regions. He further added that if Imran Khan has been sentenced in the court of law today, it is the result of his own actions only.

Engineer Amir Muqam said that despite the difficult economic conditions, efforts were put in to overturn the damages caused by floods last year and to complete the works on the damaged roads as soon as possible. He further said that in the upcoming elections, Imran Khan and his party will not be able to survive because the people have now seen their true face. The adviser said that the PML-N will again come into power after the next elections and lead Pakistan on the path of further development.

Engineer Amir Muqam inaugurated several road construction projects in Swat and also laid the foundation stones for power supply projects in several areas. Adviser to Prime Minister Engineer Amir Muqam addressed several public gatherings during the day.

## Qureshi asks PTI workers to remain peaceful

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Vice Chairman Shah Mahmood Qureshi on Saturday said that a meeting of the core committee of the party has been summoned in which the future action plan will be decided.

In a special audio message released shortly after the PTI chief was handed a three-year prison term in the Toshakhana case, Qureshi urged supporters to remain peaceful and not take the law into their hands. He rejected the verbatim issued by a district and sessions court in Islamabad, wherein Judge Humayun Dilwar declared the former premier as established dishonest.

He quoted the Constitution's Article 10(1) which stipulates: Every citizen will be given justice.

"70-year-old Imran Khan was not offered a fair trial," Qureshi also asked party supporters to continue efforts for the PTI chief's release peacefully while assuring them that the action plan moving forward is being prepared. Shah Mahmood Qureshi said that senior leaders of the party have been consulted.

"We will proceed in the light of the decisions of the core committee and consultation with the lawyers," he clarified. Shah Mahmood Qureshi said that anxiety, anger, and reaction in people against the arrest of their beloved leader is quite natural.

He said that the people view the court decision of Imran Khan against the demands of justice. "PTI political activists, workers, and people want to record their protest as the Constitution of Pakistan

gives them the full right to do so," Shah Mehmood remarked. "Peaceful protest is our right but no state asset is to be damaged. Don't take the law in your hands," he cautioned.

Shah vowed that the struggle for real freedom has to be carried forward. Former foreign minister Qureshi said that he is aware of the anxiety prevailing in the nation after the arrest of Imran Khan. He urged the workers to remain peaceful, steadfast, and strong. "We all have to continue the freedom struggle initiated by PTI Chairman," he remarked, adding that We have to fight the legal battle and continue the political struggle at all costs. Shah Mehmood Qureshi added that they have to move forward in the light of clear instructions and guidelines of Imran.

## Death toll rises to 30 in China floods

BEIJING (Agencies): At least 10 people were killed in floods in a city near Beijing, officials said on Saturday, bringing the death toll from recent torrential rains in northern China to at least 30. Officials reported the deaths in Baoding, about 150 kilometres (90 miles) from Beijing, adding that 18 people were missing.

Storm Dokuri, a former super typhoon that hit mainland China last Friday, has brought the most severe rains to the region since records began 140 years ago. By noon Saturday (0400 GMT), more than 600,000 of Baoding's 11.5 million residents had been evacuated from areas deemed to be at risk, officials said. The torrential rain that hit northeast China on Saturday battered the provinces bordering Russia and North Korea.

A red alert remains in force in Beijing due to "geological risks" such as landslides linked to the bad weather. Clean-up operations are ongoing after the overwhelming rainfall, which destroyed infrastructure and flooded entire districts. China has been hit hard by extreme weather in recent months, from record-breaking heatwaves to deadly flooding.

Natural disasters caused 147 deaths or disappearances last month, China said Friday, after the heaviest rains since records began to hit the country's capital. China's Ministry of Emergency Management said 142 of the deaths or disappearances recorded in July were caused by flooding or geological disasters. Dramatic aerial photographs taken by AFP of Zhuozhou on Wednesday showed shopping streets turned into rivers of brown water, while others showed farmland in the surrounding areas completely submerged and floodwater stretching for miles.

AFP saw rescuers using boats to ferry instant noodles, bread and drinking water to residents who could not or did not want to leave properties engulfed by water. Millions of people have been hit by extreme weather events and prolonged heatwaves around the globe in recent weeks, events that scientists say are being exacerbated by climate change. Ma Jun, director of the Beijing-based NGO the Institute of Public and Environmental Affairs, said that while the typhoon had brought rain, rising ocean temperatures due to climate change were also causing extreme weather.



**KARACHI:** Chief of Naval Staff Admiral Muhammad Amjad Khan Niazi presenting painting of PNS Tariq to Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari.

## ECP to rule on PTI chairmanship on Monday

ISLAMABAD (Agencies): The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) is likely to rule on removal of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chief Imran Khan from party's chairmanship on Monday. According to details, the electoral watchdog was waiting for a detailed decision from sessions court regarding the removal of Imran Khan from the PTI chairmanship.

Sources said that the ECP would summon a meeting after a detailed decision is issued to deliberate on PTI chairmanship. Earlier in the day, Pakistan

Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chief Imran Khan was arrested from his Zaman Park residence in Lahore soon after he was found guilty of "corrupt practices" in the Toshakhana case and sentenced to three years in prison. PTI Vice-Chairman Shah Mehmood Qureshi confirmed the arrest of the PTI chairman in the Toshakhana case.

PTI's Punjab Chapter confirmed the reports with a tweet: "Imran Khan is being moved to Kot Lakhpat Jail." District and Sessions Court today awarded three years jail

term to the PTI chairman in Toshakhana criminal case. The court in its verdict said that the accused has been found guilty of corrupt practices and handed the PTI chairman three years jail sentence.

"Imran Khan deliberately submitted fake details [of Toshakhana gifts] to the ECP and is found guilty of corrupt practices," he stated. The court also imposed Rs 100,000 fine on the convicted chief of the PTI. The court also declared the former prime minister ineligible to hold public office for five years.