

**PTI seeks more time**  
ISLAMABAD (INP): PTI on Tuesday sought more time from the ECP for the submission of a response in intra-party polls case. Barrister Gohar, representing PTI, appeared before a five-member commission headed by the CEC Sultan Raja, says in media reports. I have to appear before IHC today in an important case, please grant me more time to submit a response, Barrister Gohar pleaded with the ECP at the outset of the hearing.

@thefrontierpost

First national English daily published from Peshawar, Islamabad, Lahore, Quetta, Karachi and Washington D.C

**Fresh Covid cases reported**  
ISLAMABAD (INP): At least 37 new Coronavirus cases were reported in Pakistan during the last one week, with a case positivity ratio of 0.38 percent. Five patients were in critical condition, while no death was reported, according to NIH. A total of 9,693 Covid-19 tests were conducted during the week. The government has strengthened the role of Border and Health Services in Pakistan to deal with any sub-variant of Covid-19.

Vol. XXXIX No. 200 Regd. No. 241 MUHARRAM-UL-HARRAM 20 1445 -- WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 09 2023 PESHAWAR EDITION 12 PAGES PRICE. 30

# Dissolution of National Assembly PM to write to president today

— Says strenuous efforts steer Pakistan out of most difficult times; unveils Rs377b programme of 100,000 tube-wells solarisation

**E.P. Report**  
RAWALPINDI / ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday said that owing to the relentless efforts of the incumbent government, Pakistan had been out of the most difficult times. Addressing a ceremony at the Army Auditorium, General Headquarters (GHQ), to honour the supreme sacrifices of Shuhada and Ghazis, the prime minister stressed that they all had to strive to rebuild Pakistan collectively. He said 75 years had passed since the creation of Pakistan which came into being due to hard work by the Great Quaid, the Founder of the Nation, whose vision still remained unfulfilled. The ceremony was attended by Chief of Army Staff General Syed Asim Munir, officers, ministers and families of Shuhada and Ghazis. The prime minister said that the incumbent government would complete its term on Wednesday (tomorrow) and after which they would hand over the reign of the government to an interim set-up in accordance with the Constitution. A comprehensive plan was put in place for the progress and prosperity of the country by the incumbent government, he said, adding the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) had given that vision for the progress of Pakistan with the development of agriculture, minerals and IT sectors. He further said that under that plan, foreign investment worth billions of dollars would be made in the country. The prime minister termed the ceremony to honour Shuhada and Ghazis as a dignified occasion to pay tribute to their great sacrifices. They had made Pakistan more secure with their

sacrifices and saved it from the evil designs of the enemies, he added. He said that they had laid down their lives for the defence of the country by setting unmatched precedents of bravery, valour and sacrifice, adding that the nation had been rendering sacrifices since the creation of Pakistan. On 14th August, he said, Pakistan would celebrate its 76th anniversary. The nation had to traverse the path carved out by their Shuhada to make Pakistan a prosperous and developed country. The prime minister underlined that for the elimination of poverty and unemployment, they should rid Pakistan of foreign debts with sincerity, devotion and hard work. On the Independence Day, they should pledge to work day and night for the country as much water had already flown under the bridges, he added. "Shuhada and Ghazis are our pride and their respect and honour is binding on each Pakistani. We must never forget that the peace and freedom we enjoy today is due to the ultimate sacrifices rendered by these brave sons of the soil. I salute their families for sacrificing their loved ones for Pakistan," he added. The prime minister said that it was now their earnest duty that they realised the supreme sacrifices of Shuhada and Ghazis into the prosperity and well-being of each Pakistani. He further said that those who resorted to desecration of monuments of Shuhada, their faces would remain blackened in the history of the country and the proud people of Pakistan would never forget them. On the occasion, the prime minister appreciated the efforts of Chief of Army Staff General Syed Asim Munir and his team and the present federal

and provincial governments for the bright and prosperous future of Pakistan. The ISPR, in a press release, said that the prime minister paid a farewell visit to the GHQ. Upon arrival, he was received by the COAS. The prime minister met the Principal Staff Officers (PSOs) and was presented with the Guard of Honour and laid a wreath at the Yadgar-e-Shuhada. He appreciated the role of armed forces in protecting the territorial integrity of the country and robustly fighting the menace of terrorism across Pakistan. He also distributed cheques of Special Financial Assistance amongst 70 families of the martyrs and 30 War Wounded Persons. Laptops were also distributed among the wards of Shuhada who are undergoing their academic pursuits. Meanwhile, the Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif also launched a Rs 377 billion "revolutionary" project to solarise 100,000 agricultural tube-wells across the country, which, he said, was inevitable and the only way forward to make the country progress. "This is a revolutionary step as without it, no one can think of Pakistan making progress... I want to give a message that no other project can match the significance of solar energy," the prime minister said addressing the launching ceremony here which marked the distribution of solar tube-well certificates to Islamabad-based farmers. Calling agriculture the only sector to turn around the national economy, he said the provision of low-cost power supply was inevitable to not only for the farmers but also the households, shopkeepers and industry to make the exports competitive.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif interacting with families of martyrs during his visit to General Headquarters.

## Election to be held in Nov: Kh Asif

ISLAMABAD (Agencies): Federal Minister for Defence Khawaja Asif has said the general elections would be held in November but possibility of delay of one-or-two months remains there. In an interview to a US TV channel late on Monday night, he said that the National Assembly (NA) would be dissolved by August 9 evening after which it was mandatory under the constitutional arrangement to hold the elections within 90 days. Khawaja Asif said that Pakistan would have elections in November; however, the country's top electoral body Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) could postpone the polls for one or two months in exceptional circumstances. The delay could not be more than two months, he made it clear to the foreign media outlet. Separately, the defence minister told local media persons that the elections should be held in a one month or two as no new delimitation was to be carried out. Nawaz Sharif – the PML-N supremo – would return before the elections, Khawaja Asif said, echoing what Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif had told a massive public gathering at Khudian Khas – a town in Kasur district which has remained a party stronghold even during turbulent times – the other day. The defence minister said the PTI had pushed the country back to the political and economic crisis faced by the country 20 years ago. Change in the prime minister office was a basic ingredient of democracy, he added while citing the political changes in the United Kingdom as an example.

## ECP disqualifies Imran for five years

**E.P. Report**  
ISLAMABAD: The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) on Tuesday disqualified former prime minister and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chief for five years following his conviction in Toshakhana case. A notification of disqualification has been issued by the electoral watchdog. The ECP also de-notified the PTI chief from the NA-45 Kurram. An Islamabad court handed a three-year prison sentence and a fine of Rs100,000 to the PTI chief in Toshakhana case. This decision came during the hearing of the criminal complaint filed by the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) against the PTI chairman. The complaint accused the former prime minister of concealing information regarding gifts received at Toshakhana. Later, the PTI chairman was arrested by Punjab police from his Zaman Park residence in Lahore on Aug 5. In a notification issued today, the ECP said, "A person shall be disqualified from being elected or chosen as, and from being, a member of the Parliament if he has been, on conviction for any offence involving moral turpitude, sentenced to imprisonment for a term of not less than two years, unless a period of five years has elapsed since his release."



ated by lawmakers of the ruling party, originated from a criminal complaint brought forward by the ECP. The case asserted that the PTI chief had purposefully hidden details regarding gifts he retained from the Toshakhana – a repository where presents given to government officials by foreign dignitaries are stored – during his tenure as prime minister, along with proceeds from their reported sales. In accordance with Toshakhana regulations, individuals subject to these rules are required to report gifts, presents, and similar items received to the Cabinet Division. The former prime minister faced multiple legal challenges over his retention of these gifts, a matter that ultimately led to his disqualification by the ECP. PTI chief moves IHC against conviction in Toshakhana case: Former prime minister Imran Khan who is currently incarcerated in Attock Jail filed a plea in the Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Tuesday, challenging his conviction in the Toshakhana case by a trial court. The application was

filed by the former premier's lawyers Khawaja Haris and Barrister Gohar Ali Khan. "The decision of the trial court in the Toshakhana case is against the law," stated the plea seeking for the verdict to be annulled. The petitioner's counsels have requested the high court to issue an order for the release of the PTI chief by suspending the sentence pending the decision on the central appeal. Notably, deposed prime minister Imran Khan was arrested and sent to the famous Attock jail on Saturday hours after a trial court in Islamabad sentenced him to three years in prison while imposing on him a fine of Rs100,000 for making false declarations about his assets to the polls supervisory body, the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP). On August 5, a trial court in Islamabad had sentenced Imran to three years in prison in the case. The verdict also disqualified Imran from contesting general elections. "He [Imran] cheated while providing information about gifts he obtained from Toshakhana which later proved to be false and inaccurate.

## Bilawal asks party workers to get ready for general elections

**E.P. Report**  
SUKKUR: Chairman Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) and Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari inaugurated the 170-bed Sindh Institute of Urology and Transplantation (SIUT) Medical Complex and a 200-bed children's hospital under the Sindh Institute of Child Health in Sukkur and has vowed to expand the hospital network of SIUT across the province like NICVD. Chairman PPP, while directing the party workers to get ready, announced that he will kick off the party's election campaign for the general elections 2023 immediately after the end of the current government's term. According to the press release issued by Media Cell Bilawal House, Chairman PPP, while addressing the inauguration ceremony of SIUT Medical Complex and Child Health Institute, said that it was pleasure for him to inaugurate a new hospital together with SIUT founder, Dr. Adeeb Rizvi. He further said that Dr. Rizvi has served poor patients all his life. "It



is our dream to build institutes like SIUT in every district of Sindh. We will spread the mission of Dr. Adeeb Rizvi all over Pakistan," he vowed. Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari said that the administrative control of the NICVD, NICH and JPMC has been returned back to Sindh province, which was robbed together by former Chief Justice Saqib Nisar and Imran Khan

Niazi. He thanked Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, saying that being his government's ally, the only demand of the PPP was that said hospitals should be given back to province. "Today the federal health minister and the provincial health minister have signed the MoU. Insha'Allah there will be no obstacle (regarding the transfer of the said hospitals to the province)," he announced. Chairman PPP said that it has been his effort to establish such health institutions from Karachi to Kashmir, where not only the people of the province have access to world-class treatment, but it is also free of cost. He said that it was taught by the Qauid-e-Awam Shaheed Zulfikar Ali Bhutto and Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto, that we have to serve the common and poor people. "I think this should be the philosophy of Pakistan including every province and federal government that people cannot be allowed to die because they cannot afford to live," he urged.

## Celebrating Pakistan Independence Day

Experience the exceptional and embark on an unforgettable journey this Independence Day. Our incredible all-inclusive return fares start from: \*

	Economy	Business		Economy	Business
New York	from PKR 397,731	1,235,513	Washington, D.C.	from PKR 538,341	1,210,203
London	from PKR 336,884	1,065,921	Istanbul	from PKR 242,963	723,437

Special Independence Day fares are available until 14 August 2023, for travel until 31 December 2023.

Book today at [qatarairways.com](https://qatarairways.com)

\*Terms and conditions apply; please review at the time of booking.



GOING PLACES TOGETHER



# PTI responsible to away youth from politics: Kaira

ISLAMABAD (APP): Advisor to the Prime Minister on Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit Baltistan, Qamar Zaman Kaira Tuesday said the youth of the country becoming get away from politics the reason why Pakistan Tehreek Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan misguided youth by showing ad indulging them in their dreams.

Talking to a private news channel, he said that the habits of institutions and departments would slow steady become right it was not possible to settle things abruptly adding that Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) and all other political parties need to stand united on 'Charter of Democracy'.

Replying to a question, he said that delaying elections would not be favorable for the country's stability and PML-N was also not in favor to delay the process at any cost. "The caretaker setup has a huge responsibility to run a country in an appropriate manner," he added.

"In the caretaker setup, politicians need to come and participate in it and perform with a huge responsibility. As most of the politicians are performing their responsibilities beyond the limits, however, the country's stability lies in the Constitution and rule of law", he concluded.

# British High Commission security delegation visits PSCA

LAHORE (APP): A senior security delegation of British High Commission led by Regional Security Manager Mr. Michael Kitchens visited Punjab Safe Cities Authority headquarters, here on Tuesday.

Managing Director Safe Cities Authority Muhammad Kamran Khan gave a detailed briefing to the 8-member British delegation about the security arrangements in the provincial capital and the working of the organization.

The British delegation was also given a visit to various sections of Safe City project from where they reviewed the monitoring process in the city and live calls on 15 emergency center.

The delegation was informed about the advance traffic management system, electronic ticketing and public awareness campaign from the media center.

Managing Director Muhammad Kamran Khan told the delegation that Punjab Safe Cities Authority along with other law enforcement agencies has played a key role in the restoration of international cricket in Pakistan. More than 2 million private cameras have been mapped while extending the scope of Safe Cities project all over the province.

He further informed that Punjab Police Women Safety App has been installed by 3 lakh women in Punjab.

# Keamari Police arrests women drug traffickers

KARACHI (APP): The district Keamari Police on Tuesday foiled a smuggling bid of drugs from Balochistan to Karachi through women and children.

According to SSP Keamari Fida Hussain, the Mochko police station of district Keamari, on a tip off arrested two women who were smuggling drugs from Hub Chowki to Karachi.

The police recovered 9,700 kg drugs from the bags of the arrested women. The arrested were traveling with their children. The accused were arrested from Hub River Road. They were identified as Zubaidah and Nazira. A case had been registered and further investigations were underway.

# Notification issued for salary raise

LAHORE (PPI): The Punjab caretaker government on Tuesday notified a 35 per cent increase in the salary of government officials employed in grades 1-16.

According to the notification, the government also okayed a 30pc hike in salaries of grade 17-22 employees.

The provincial government also approved a 17.5pc hike in pensions. The increase in salaries, however, will be made on the current basic salary of the government servants, the notification said.

It may be noted that the government employees in Punjab had been protesting for a raise in their salaries. The protests ended with the assurance of the federal government. An All Government Employees Alliance had been formed to force the Punjab government to accept their demands.

# LDA demolishes illegal structures

LAHORE (APP): LDA teams partially demolished six properties in Gulberg during an action against illegal constructions and commercialization.

The operation was conducted by Director Town Planning III Sidra Tabasum under the supervision of Additional DG Housing Captain (R) Shahmir Iqbal. "Third Culture" cafe on Main Boulevard Gulberg was partially demolished and sealed. Several notices had been issued to the management but it ignored them. The cafe had been built in a parking area without an approved map.

During the operation, the LDA teams also partially demolished and sealed five more properties in Gulberg for illegal commercial use.

# Five injured in road accident

KARACHI (INP): At least five people including a woman were injured in a racing accident near Sakhi Hassan Chourangi of North Nazimabad on Tuesday.

According to details, while racing, two vehicles knocked down three motorcycles. As a result of accident five people including a woman were injured who were shifted to hospital. Police arrested driver of one vehicle while other manage to escape.

# Seven-year-old child abducted

KARACHI (INP): Anti Violent Crime Cell (AVCC) on Tuesday rescued a child abducted for ransom.

SSP AVCC said that seven-year-old Asim was kidnapped from Shah Latif area of Karachi some one month earlier and kidnapers had demanded five million rupees for his release. The AVCC during successful operation in Kashmore rescued the abducted child.

# Teacher training begins at UVAS

LAHORE (APP): The Institute of Pharmaceutical Sciences (IPS) and Center for Educational Policy and Administration (CEPA) of the University of Veterinary and Animal Sciences (UVAS), in collaboration with Lahore Leads University, arranged an inauguration ceremony of two-day training on "In-service Competency Enhancement Programme for Teachers" at the Veterinary Academy on Tuesday.

Vice-Chancellor Prof Dr Nasim Ahmed and Lahore Leads University Vice-Chancellor Prof Dr Nadeem Ahmed Bhatti co-chaired the inaugural session while Dean Faculty of Biosciences Prof Dr Habib-ur-Rehman, Director Institute of Pharmaceutical Sciences Dr Tahir Mehmood Khan and twenty five participants/faculty members from Lahore Leads University and UVAS were present.

Prof Dr Nasim Ahmed said, "Such trainings are necessary for both public and private sector institutions to enhancing quality of education, teaching techniques and skills. It is our responsibility to impart best knowledge and skills to our young students and prepare them to compete with international institutes' students.



KARACHI: Sindh chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah presides over a 41st PPP Policy Board Meeting at CM House. —APP Photo

# CM visits hospitals, torurist police stations in Bukhara

LAHORE (APP): Caretaker Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi embarked on a visit to the mausoleum of Imam Bukhari in the city of Samarkand, Uzbekistan. During the visit, he paid his respects at the mausoleum and offered a special prayer, said a handout issued here on Tuesday.

The CM also toured various hospitals and the tourist police station in Bukhara to inspect the facilities. Upon reaching the mausoleum of Imam Bukhari, the caretaker warmly welcomed Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi and his delegation. CM Mohsin Naqvi, along with his entourage, offered fatha and prayed for the country.

The delegation further explored the Imam Bukhari Memorial Complex, taking note of its architectural brilliance and intricate details.

Mohsin Naqvi highlighted the collaborative legacy of Imam Bukhari among other Sufis and scholars from Uzbekistan. The artistry exhibited in the Imam Bukhari Memorial Complex was met with admiration by the chief minister who praised the Uzbek architectural style and the intricate tile work.

During his visit to hospitals in Bukhara, the CM assessed the healthcare facilities available for patients and emphasized his dedication to providing exemplary medical services in Punjab.

The delegation also inspected the reception desk, referral system, and other departments in Uzbek hospitals, including child emergency, diagnostics, medical wards, and ICU.

The CM engaged in discussions with doctors and medical professionals, acknowledging their dedication to serving humanity. A briefing was provided about the hospital complex, and CM expressed his appreciation for the high-quality healthcare services offered to patients in Uzbek hospitals.

The chief minister also inspected the modern equipment in different departments, including the Cardiac & ICU, and observed the treatment procedures. He showed keen interest in advanced medical technology, training seminars for doctors, and the library system for medical practitioners.

The CM and his delegation were briefed about the tourist police station in Bukhara. The delegation inspected different sections and reviewed the system established to facilitate tourists. The chief minister also inspected the digital monitoring system and commended its effectiveness. Furthermore, Mohsin Naqvi and his team inspected the arrangements for tourist assistance and the reception desk. They were provided with information about tourist attractions and the services available to visitors through a map.

Senior officials of the Uzbek tourist police briefed Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi and the members of his delegation about the procedure of helping tourists and the Silk Route. Provincial Ministers SM Tanvir, Amir Mir, Chief Secretary Zahid Akhtar Zaman, secretary agriculture, APTMA's Gohar Ejaz, Fawad Mukhtar, Shahid Sattar, and other members of the delegation were also present.

# Construction work of Shadman drain at Rs 85m underway: Mayor Karachi

KARACHI (APP): Mayor Karachi barrister Murtaza Wahab on Tuesday said that the construction work of Shadman drain at the cost of Rs 85 million is going and after the completion problems during rains in Shadman area will be solved.

He said this while inspecting the construction works of Shadman Nala in Central District. On this occasion, Secretary General of People's Party Dil Muhammad, Project Director Mega Projects and other officers were also present.

He said that rain drains and adjacent roads are being made safe for the citizens under the Karachi Mega Project. The ongoing development works of roads and storm drains in various areas will be completed as soon as possible, he added.

Barrister Murtaza Wahab said Shadman drain is the same place in Central District, where the family fell into the drain in an accident last year and taking immediate notice of the tragic incident, he immediately instructed to start the construction of Shadman Nala, he recalled.

He said that in the past, due to the lack of proper management of drainage during the rains, the population of Shadman was flooded and the reason for this was the lack of management for the discharge of water from the Shadman Nala but now it is being connected to Qalandria Chowk drain and the surrounding communities will be safe during rains.

He said that the Shadman Nala is 1500 feet long and 10 feet wide while it's depth is 9 to 10 feet so that the flow of water in the drain continues in a better manner.

He said that this project is of utmost importance, so work is being done day and night and it will be completed soon. In the upcoming monsoon, residents of Shadman and adjacent areas will feel a clear change here.

The Mayor Karachi said priority has been given to the works which were urgently needed in the city by keeping the convenience of the citizens first, along with the construction of drains in the central district, road carpeting work is also being done.

He directed the officers to complete all the works at a high speed for the convenience of the citizens and to adopt such a strategy during the development works that the flow of traffic in the sides is not affected.

Government of Pakistan  
Ministry of Human Rights

SITUATION VACANT

The Ministry of Human Rights invites applications from Pakistani Nationals to fill the following posts

Establishment of Sub-office of Human Rights in Newly Merged Districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa					
S. No	Name of post	Age Limit	No. of Vacant Posts	Qualification & Experience	Quota
1	Project Manager / Deputy Director (PPS-08/ BPS-18)	28-35	01	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Minimum 2<sup>nd</sup> Division Master's Degree in Law, Sociology, Social Work, Anthropology, Gender Studies, Human Rights, Peace &amp; Conflict Studies or equivalent.</li><li>5 Years working experience in development sector, planning and development, Human Rights, preferably in merged districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa</li></ul>	KP

In the PSDP Projects on purely Contract basis for the period of one year/ completion of the project.

Terms & Conditions

- Interested candidates can apply online through National Job Portal at website [www.njp.gov.pk](http://www.njp.gov.pk) within 15 days from the date of publication of advertisement.
- Advertisement can be downloaded from website [www.mohr.gov.pk](http://www.mohr.gov.pk).
- ToRs/Job Descriptions for the post of Project Manager / Deputy Director (BPS-18) can also be downloaded from website [www.mohr.gov.pk](http://www.mohr.gov.pk).
- Only short-listed candidates will be called for written test/ interview.
- Candidates already in Government Service should apply through proper channel, along with NOC from their organizations clearly stating the length of service and other particulars.
- Candidates will have to produce original documents at the time of interview. Candidates already in Government Service, will also have to produce original NOC from their departments/organizations.
- The general age relaxation of 5 years and others in upper age limit would be granted as admissible under the rules.
- No TA/DA shall be admissible for appearing in test/interview.
- If a candidate is interested to apply for more than one post, he should apply separately.
- The competent authority reserves the right to cancel the process of recruitment at any stage without citing any reasons.

(Shaukat Zaman), Section Officer (Admn)  
Ministry of Human Rights  
9<sup>th</sup> Floor, Kohsar Block, Pak Secretariat  
Ph: 051-9207250

PID() 852/23

ٹینڈر نوٹس

(1) میٹروپولیٹن کونسل (سوات) کو متعلقہ ڈپٹی ڈائریکٹر ایڈمنسٹریشن/توسیع کا کام برائے سال 2023-24 کے ذیل اشیاء پانچ لکے سرٹیفیکٹ مطلوب ہیں۔

آسٹریٹ کرس

ب۔ م/توسیع کا ڈسٹریکٹ گھوٹ کوس

پ۔ سٹاپنگ پروڈیوسر

ت۔ ریپبلک نوری تھیر

ٹ۔ 200 میٹر فائرنگ رینج کی 300 میٹر میں تھیر

ج۔ فلیگ پوسٹ/آٹھ کی مرمت اور پریگراؤنڈ کی ہمواری

ح۔ ڈسٹریکٹ چارٹ

ح۔ ڈسٹریکٹ

05 عدد (دیوبند ڈسٹریکٹ سیکشن 10 میں اشیاء پانچ لکے)

04 عدد (دیوبند ڈسٹریکٹ سیکشن 10 میں اشیاء پانچ لکے)

05 عدد (دیوبند ڈسٹریکٹ سیکشن 10 میں اشیاء پانچ لکے)

03 عدد (دیوبند ڈسٹریکٹ سیکشن 10 میں اشیاء پانچ لکے)

04 عدد (دیوبند ڈسٹریکٹ سیکشن 10 میں اشیاء پانچ لکے)

05 عدد (دیوبند ڈسٹریکٹ سیکشن 10 میں اشیاء پانچ لکے)

03 عدد (دیوبند ڈسٹریکٹ سیکشن 10 میں اشیاء پانچ لکے)

05 عدد (دیوبند ڈسٹریکٹ سیکشن 10 میں اشیاء پانچ لکے)

500 عدد (دیوبند ڈسٹریکٹ سیکشن 10 میں اشیاء پانچ لکے)

(2) ٹینڈر نوٹس انٹرنیشنل فریڈرکس کونسل (سوات) کو متعلقہ ڈپٹی ڈائریکٹر ایڈمنسٹریشن/توسیع کا کام برائے سال 2023-24 کے ذیل اشیاء پانچ لکے سرٹیفیکٹ مطلوب ہیں۔

(3) خواہشمند خریداران مختلف ٹینڈر کے لئے 100,000 روپے بلوگرہل ڈیپازٹ مقررہ تاریخ ٹینڈر کے ساتھ جمع کرنا ہیں۔

(4) ٹانڈر کے پینڈر برائے ڈیپازٹ ایڈوانسڈ رکن کے لئے ٹانڈر رجسٹر کرنا ضروری ہے۔

(5) فرموں کو ادارہ کارڈنگس اور جنرل مینٹیننس کا سرٹیفیکٹ مہیا کرنا ہوگا۔

(6) رینٹ شمول تمام سیکٹر ہوگا۔

(7) ٹینڈر پاس نہ ہونے کی صورت میں کال ڈیپازٹ ٹینڈرنگ کے لئے تاریخ سے سات دن بعد وصول کیے جاسکتے ہیں۔

(8) آئی کی ایف سی پاس کر کے دیوبند ڈسٹریکٹ سیکشن 10 کے مٹائی کو مختلف دستاویزات کے بغیر ہوسٹرز کے لئے کاپی محفوظ رکھتی ہے اور اس فیل کے خلاف کبھی بلا کا کارڈنگس درخواست بازی آئندہ کے لئے کسی کو ٹینڈرنگ کا موبج قرار دی جاسکتی ہے۔

(9) ٹینڈر میں صرف بیڈ کارڈ (سوات) کے جنرل ڈیپازٹ کے لئے ہوتے ہیں۔

(10) پینڈر PPRPA ویب سائٹ [www.ppra.org.pk](http://www.ppra.org.pk) پر پچھی ملاحظہ کیے جاسکتے ہیں۔

(11) مزید تفصیلات کے لئے دفتر کی وقت کار میں رجسٹر کیا جاسکتا ہے یا ٹیلی فون نمبر 0966-9280530 پر دفتر کی وقت میں رابطہ کیا جاسکتا ہے۔

میجر برائے انٹرنیشنل فریڈرکس کور کے پی (سوات)

PID(P) 304/23





# CJ vows to play role in eradication of corruption

PESHAWAR (APP): The Chief Justice of Peshawar High Court (PHC) Justice Ibrahim Khan on Tuesday vowed to play his imperative role in eradication of the menace of corruption from society.

Addressing the inaugural ceremony of passport office at High Court building here, the CJ said he would not tolerate any injustice to be done with anyone on any basis, adding that he would ensure merit, transparency

and justice at any cost.

He assured his round the clock availability for justice to everyone and warned that no corruption of any kind will be tolerated in the Judiciary. Earlier, CJ inaugurated the passport office at High Court building. The Advocate General, Judges and lawyers participated in the inauguration ceremony.

The passport office has been opened for the convenience of lawyers, judges and their families.

The Chief Justice said obtaining a passport is a matter of convenience as well as national honor, adding that the purpose of providing facilities to the bar and bench is also to facilitate the delivery of justice.

He said that the coordination between the judiciary and passport office shows better relationship with government departments. He said that NADRA office would also be opened in building of PHC soon.



PESHAWAR: Laborers busy marking sacks of traditional sweet item Gur at Gur Mandi.

## Health dept for getting prior approval of press releases

PESHAWAR (APP): The Health Department KP has directed all the chairpersons and directors of public sector hospitals to take prior approval from the Advisor to Chief Minister for Health before any inter-

action and intervention on all platforms of media.

A letter issued here on Tuesday stated that the CM's aide had taken serious notice of the dissemination of misleading media reports due to sharing of unauthentic infor-

mation by the officials concerned. The Advisor has also ordered an inquiry into the matter and directed all the media focal persons of MITs to get prior approval of any statement of interaction with media.

## Role of youth in promotion accountability, transparency, governance stressed

### F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: The Transparency International Pakistan, a leading anti-corruption organization, hosted a transformative conference in Peshawar. The conference, titled "Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Youth Integrity, Leadership & Anti-Corruption Conference: Role of Young People in Promoting Transparent, Accountable, and Good Governance," aimed to engage and inspire the youth in the fight against corruption.

The conference witnessed enthusiastic participation from a number of university students of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, who are the future leaders of Pakistan. It provided a platform for young minds to learn from experts and

engage in insightful discussions on crucial topics related to integrity, leadership, and anti-corruption measures.

The event commenced with Kashif Ali, Acting Executive Director of Transparency International Pakistan, delivering welcoming remarks and presenting an overview of the organization's efforts in promoting transparency and accountability in the country. Deputy Director of KP Information Commission, Saayad Saadat Jehan then enlightened the attendees about the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Right to Information Act 2013, empowering them with knowledge about their right to access information.

Project Manager of UNDP SDG Unit Peshawar, Syed Sabir Ali Shah, took the stage to discuss "Youth-Driven Governance: Empowering Agents of Transparency and Accountability for Monitoring and Evaluation." His talk emphasized the pivotal role of the youth in ensuring transparent and accountable governance.

Next, Syed Raza Ali, CEO of Peace and Justice Network, shared his insights on "Youth Leadership and Integrity." His inspiring words motivated the young audience to lead with integrity and ethical values.

Senior Projects Manager at PILDAT Pakistan Amna Kausar shed light on "Democracy and Rule of Law through the Participation of Young People," encouraging the

## 2-day annual Livestock, Agriculture, Fisheries Expo in Oct

PESHAWAR (APP): Annual Livestock Dairy, Agriculture and Fisheries Expo will be held on October 4-5 in Peshawar. National and international companies will participate in it.

Expo 2023 is very important for livestock farmers and the Livestock Department as the Milk Fair and animal beauty exhibition will also be organized during the event.

Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Haji Ghulam Ali will inaugurate the expo while Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Azam Khan will be the chief guest at concluding session. Preparations for the expo have been started.

The Expo will be presided over by Provincial Minister for Agriculture Abdul Halim Kasuriam while Secretary Livestock Amber Ali Khan, Secretary Agriculture Javed Marwat, Director General Livestock Dr. Alamzeb.

Khansupervise matters relating to their respective departments. Director General Fisheries Dr. Khushro Kaleem and Director General Agriculture John Muhammad will also attend.

Vice chancellors of all universities and thousands of farmers will participate in the expo. Agriculture and fisheries have also been included in Expo 2023 with the aim to promote agriculture, livestock and fisheries sectors of the province.

Talking to media, Provincial President Livestock Farmers Welfare Association Muhammad Asif Awan has said that Livestock Dairy Expo 2023 is being organized in collaboration with the association and Inbox Pakistan, which will be the biggest exhibition in the history of the province.



PESHAWAR: Lady health worker administrating polio vaccination drop to children during anti polio campaign.

## WSSP intensifies connection registration campaign

PESHAWAR (APP): The Water and Sanitation Services Peshawar (WSSP) has intensified its campaign for the regularisation of illegal connections and collection of water dues to strengthen its financial self-sustainability and ultimately alleviating the burden on government funds.

Special teams have been formed on directives from Chief Executive Officer Dr. Hassan Nasir in all five zones for rigorous regulation and recovery efforts.

To facilitate consumers, facilitation centers have been established in zonal offices and relevant union councils.

The centers will register connections installment-based collection of outstanding dues along with current bills.

The decision to expedite the campaign was made

during a meeting chaired by Dr. Nasir. Among the participants were General Manager Operations Engineer Tarab Shah, Zonal Managers including Aamir Gul Khattak, Maria Shahbaz, Basit Khattak, Farman Ali, and Anwarul Haq, along with Water Supply and Water Rate Staff Managers.

The meeting reviewed the progress of the regularization and recovery of illegal connections and directed zonal offices to expedite the campaign.

Emphasis was placed on areas with remarkably low recovery rates, which include recovery as low as 35 percent.

An awareness campaign is also being underway alongside the regularization efforts, focusing on encouraging consumers to register their connections and make

timely payments for water bills.

Elected representatives are also participating in the campaign to convince people to register their connections.

The WSSP is providing water to consumers at highly subsidized rates. Households are charged a monthly fee of Rs180 per connection. Water bills are sent out every two months. Despite these minimal charges, WSSP is currently generating revenue of around Rs10 million, significantly lower than the expenditures.

Currently, WSSP has registered 87,000 connections. Previously, the monthly bill per connection was 440 Rupees. Following a review by the provincial government, water rates were adjusted, resulting in reduced monthly bills.

Despite the decrease in monthly bills and revenue, WSSP has implemented improved systems, including a metered system on several tube wells, to reduce electricity costs for pumping water.

In the first phase, the campaign is focused on areas including Sarbiland Pora, Pahari Pora, Kambu Adda, Mustafa Colony, Islamabad Town, Sardar Colony, Wazir Colony, Qazi Kalay, Khalid bin Waleed Colony, Jehangir Chowk, Laldin Colony, Patang Chowk, Latifabad, Charsadda Road, Ring Road, Anisabad, Yousaf Abad, Sardar Ahmad Jan Colony, Khan Colony, Hassan Town, Muzaffar Street, Afghan Colony, Shinwari Town, Iqbal Colony, Dir Town, Dinbahar, Ittehad Colony and Corporation Colony.

## KP govt to launch plantation drive

PESHAWAR (INP): Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Minister Sawal Nazir Advocate, on Tuesday said that this year, the Independence Day would be commemorated by launching tree plantation drive across the province.

He said that the tree planting campaign will be formally started on the day and plants and saplings would be planted within the premises of government buildings, intersections and roads.

He directed Secretary Local Government, Secretary Local Council board, DG Local Government, DG PDA and other line departments to complete all arrangements for the plantation drive.

He said that the participation of civil society, schools, children, youth and government employees would be ensured, adding that tree plantation was imperative to mitigate the effects and risk of climate change.

## Secretary takes action against dengue threat



### F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: With unwavering determination to combat the escalating dengue issue, Mahmood Aslam Wazir, Health Secretary of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, undertook a significant visit to Gulbahar Peshawar, engaging with local residents and disseminating crucial information regarding the impending dengue threat and the vital need for precautionary measures.

On Sunday evening, following the Maghrib prayers, Secretary Health delivered a pivotal address at the Makki Mosque in Gulbahar No-4, Peshawar. He stressed to the area's residents that the most effective shield against dengue mosquitoes lies in taking preventive actions.

Secretary Wazir underscored the severity of dengue contraction through mosquito bites. He elucidated that despite the availability of treatments, the excruciating pain and high fever synonymous with dengue can be immensely challenging. He urged everyone to maintain clean surroundings, crucial to deterring mosquito breeding in stagnant water.

Secretary Health appealed to all residents to eliminate standing water and uphold a hygienic living environment.

Secretary Health Mahmood Aslam Wazir spoke ardently about the significance of guarding against dengue-carrying mosquitoes. In a testament to his commitment, he personally visited car wash centers, shops, and homes, distributing informative pamphlets among the residents of Gulbahar.

Emphasizing that prevention is the most potent strategy against dengue, he called upon the public to stand behind the Health Department's endeavors and collaborate to shield the province from the impending epidemic.

In an additional effort to counter health challenges, Secretary Health launched a polio vaccination campaign, personally administering a polio drop to a child. The campaign is set to commence on August 7th and will encompass 17 districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, underscoring the department's unwavering dedication to public health.

Additional Deputy Commissioner Peshawar Imran Khan, Dengue Focal Person for Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Ikramullah Khan, District Health Officer Peshawar, representatives from the Dengue Control Program, and committed Defense Volunteers were presented.

## KP govt urged to take steps to improve healthcare system

PESHAWAR (INP): The Young Nurses Association Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (YNAKP) has urged the provincial government to take steps to improve the healthcare system in the province. In a statement issued on Tuesday, the YNAKP said that the nursing profession is heading towards destruction due to the lack of interest of policymakers and the non-inclusion of nurses' stakeholders in the policies.

The association said that the Pakistan Nursing Council has sent clear instructions to the government to include nurses in primary care, but this has not been implemented. The YNAKP also said that

the acute shortage of nurses is putting a strain on the existing nursing staff and patients in hospitals.

The association called on the government to immediately provide internship slots for students of government nursing colleges, increase internship salaries, and provide qualified teachers and paid internships for students.

The YNAKP also urged the government to regularize the services of hundreds of nurses currently working under the AIP project.

The YNAKP said that the nursing profession is in crisis and that the government's inaction is putting the health system at risk.

the acute shortage of nurses is putting a strain on the existing nursing staff and patients in hospitals.

The association called on the government to immediately provide internship slots for students of government nursing colleges, increase internship salaries, and provide qualified teachers and paid internships for students.

The YNAKP also urged the government to regularize the services of hundreds of nurses currently working under the AIP project.

The YNAKP said that the nursing profession is in crisis and that the government's inaction is putting the health system at risk.

## Heart treatment on Sehat Card suspended in PIC for last 2 days

PESHAWAR (APP): The Peshawar Institute of Cardiology (PIC) has suspended the heart surgeries on Sehat Card after non-payment of funds by the insurance company.

For the last two days, heart surgeries were not being performed on Sehat Card in PIC where patients and their relatives were faced with worries due to the situation.

Hospital sources said that elective cardiac operations were suspended while only

emergency surgeries were being performed. Sources informed that on a daily basis, 70 angiographies, angioplasties, and 8 open heart surgeries were being conducted at the hospital.

It further said that dues amounting to 1.2 billion were pending upon the insurance company and due to its nonpayment, the hospital was facing difficulties in purchasing the equipment for heart surgery.

Director Sehat Card Program, Dr Riaz said,

according to the Peshawar Institute of Cardiology, the rates of Sehat Card with regard to heart ailment treatment were not sufficient. He added that the meeting of the policy board regarding the policy of the rates and review of funds was necessary to address the issue.

The caretaker provincial health minister, however, has called in a meeting in this regard today that would take up the issue of PIC with the insurance compa-

Director of the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) KP, Mr. Nisar Ahmad Khan provided an Overview of FIA's Role in the Fight Against Corruption, encouraging collaborative efforts to combat corruption. Huda Bhurgri, Gender & Equality Advisor from GIZ Pakistan, discussed "The Protection of Women Rights and their Participation in the Political Process." Her talk highlighted the significance of women's inclusion and representation in governance.

## Alkhidmat Mega Tree Plantation drive in KP kicks off

### F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: The Alkhidmat Mega Tree Plantation initiative was launched on Tuesday, marking the commencement of a drive to plant up to two million saplings across various districts in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Alkhidmat Foundation has undertaken this grand endeavor as part of the Clean and Green Pakistan campaign, aiming to combat the challenges posed by climate change in Pakistan. With the goal of planting over 10 million saplings nationwide, this

initiative seeks to address the environmental concerns that the nation has been grappling with.

The Alkhidmat Mega Tree Plantation Campaign was inaugurated at Bacha Khan University in Charsadda, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. At this event, both male and female Alkhidmat volunteers, along with students, came together to plant more than 10 thousand saplings.

The ceremony was graced by the presence of Khalid Waqas, the Provincial President of Alkhidmat Foundation

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, who chaired the proceedings. Distinguished guests including Syed Nazar Hussain Shah, Secretary of Climate Change Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Dr. Mushtaq Ahmad Mangat, Vice President of Alkhidmat Foundation Pakistan, and Prof. Dr. Khalid Saeed, Dean of the Faculty of Sciences, also attended the event.

Addressing the gathering, Secretary Syed Nazar Hussain Shah emphasized the moral, social, and national duty of safeguarding the environment. He underscored the role that

tree planting plays in environmental enhancement, ultimately steering the country towards progress. He noted that while planting a tree is straightforward, nurturing and caring for it is a demanding yet indispensable task. Failing to care for a planted tree is akin to causing its demise.

Furthermore, Secretary Shah advocated for students and educators to embrace tree planting within schools, colleges, and universities across the province. He encouraged them to put their names on the saplings they plant,

allowing them to witness the transformation of these young plants into thriving trees. This, he stressed, would cultivate a sense of responsibility for improving and preserving the environment for generations to come.

Vice President Dr. Muhammad Mushtaq Mangat of Alkhidmat Foundation Pakistan highlighted the organization's strategic approach to tree planting. He emphasized planting saplings in areas where they can receive proper protection and care, fostering the essence of sustain-

ability within the campaign. Dr. Mangat lauded the active and progressive efforts of Alkhidmat Foundation Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, asserting that their commitment ensured the campaign's success. He also said that soon Smart Forest Technology will be introduced where donors will be able to monitor the growth and care of their donated saplings.

Khalid Waqas, President of Alkhidmat Foundation Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, spoke passionately about the potential of nationwide tree planting to mitigate cli-

mate change and natural disasters. He reaffirmed Alkhidmat's dedication to engaging the community in positive activities that foster a better society. This campaign has extended to other regions of the province, further emphasizing the collective effort required for its triumph. Waqas encouraged the public to join hands with Alkhidmat in their pursuit of a Clean and Green Pakistan.

The event saw the participation of various individuals and institutions, including Hafiz Hameedullah

Advocate, Provincial Vice President of Alkhidmat Foundation, and Shah Zaman Durrani, Director of Alkhidmat Volunteers. Faculty member from Shaheed Benazir Bhutto Women University Noreen Munib, social activist Dr. Kainat, and students from Peshawar University, City University, Bacha Khan University, Alkhidmat Schools, and Child Protection were actively involved in the ceremony.

Later, the efforts of the Alkhidmat volunteers were acknowledged with certificates of appreciation.





## In brief

### Community Health center operationalized F.P. Report

**TIRAH:** Community Health Centre Bagh, Tirah was non-functional due to the unavailability of Doctors thus locals of the entire Tirah valley were facing difficulty in health care and had to travel long distances. In order to resolve the critical issue, Frontier Corps North took the initiative and with the assistance of Secretary Health KP a Doctor on an emergent basis is posted through an official notification. In addition, the necessary uplift of the Community Health Centre was also carried out. The inauguration ceremony of the health facility was attended by the officials of District Administration & Frontier Corps North, and local elders. Operationalizing of Community Health Centre Bagh has provided locals with the facility of immediate treatment. The local community expressed their gratitude for the efforts made by Frontier Corps North and extended their appreciation.

### 3 assassinated in Tank

**TANK (PPI):** Three men were killed in an assassination incident in Tank District of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa in the wee hours of Tuesday. The incident was recorded at a motorcycle workshop situated on Railway Station road of Tank district. Some unknown assailants opened indiscriminate fire on the workshop which resulted in the death of the owner identified as Malik Qayum along with his two employees. Police reached the crime scene afterwards and started collecting evidence from the crime scene. Moreover, the bodies of the deceased were shifted to hospital for further legal procedure. Additionally, in initial investigation, police have assessed that the suspect deliberately targeted the workshop and the incident could have been incited by some sort of enmity. However, the suspect managed to escape the scene after killing the trio.

### Blood donation camp arranged F.P. Report

**HAFIZABAD:** Sundas Foundation Hafizabad held blood donation camp for Thalassemia children at Sub Divisional Police Office with the collaboration of Police Tahafaz Markaz and Youth Welfare Trust. Under the supervision of Focal Person DSP Rana Jamil Qaisar and Incharge Police Tahafaz Makaz Shahid Rafiq, male and female police constables and common people also donate blood for saving the lives of Thalassemic children eagerly. While appreciating passion of people for donating blood, Patron-In-Chief Sundas Foundation, Col. (R) Ali Ahmad Awan said that serving ailing humanity is great worship and of the excitement of people and police official particularly lady officials for donating blood is laudable. Meanwhile, former Federal Minister and central leader of PM-N Saira Afzal Tarar said that Imran Khan was laid foundation of his party on blaming against Mian Muhammad Nawaz Sharif. She said that Imran Khan was declaring Nawaz Sharif liar and thief but he himself proved a certified liar and thief. She said that Imran Khan pushed the country into disaster and anarchy and he would be faced the consequences of his wrong and anti-Pakistan agenda. She said that Prime Minister Mian Muhammad Shahbaz Sharif steered the country out of economic crises and completed record development projects for upgrading the living standard of the people during his shortest tenure which reflected the best performance of the PMLN government.

# Parents, students demand extension in MDCAT timeframe

## F.P. Report

**MARDAN:** Parents and students belonging to Mardan Demanding to extend the date of MDCAT test and change the center, he said that FSC students were busy in exams till July 27, while the date of August 27 has been fixed for the entrance test medical Dental Colleges, which is very close to FSC. After the exams, the children have barely 30 days to prepare for the test, which is a very short period. While admissions to medical colleges will be held in January 2024, why is it being done so quickly for the entrance test, children are under severe mental stress and tension, in a joint statement, the parents of the children say that the weather is also very hot. It is necessary so that the children can get proper preparation time and the intensity of heat will also decrease.

While the freshers are being given an opportunity of only one month due to which they should get adequate time, the parents and students have demanded from the authorized officers of the Pakistan Medical

Commission and the admitting universities that at least one month before the date of the entry test should be extended.

The citizens have also demanded a change of center for the MD CAT test in Mardan and said that for the past several years, the center for the test has been set in Fazal Haq College due to traffic problems and it is difficult for children to reach the test day from remote areas on time. The visitors face severe difficulties in entering the city and reaching the designated examination hall.

Due to long queues of vehicles, children have to walk many miles to reach the examination hall. There is no arrangement for parking and single. Due to the road, the vehicles have been parked on the side of the road for several miles. Where there is a big parking lot for cars, while being outside the city, there will be no risk of rush, which will save the precious time of children and parents from trouble.

**Police arrests 20 PTI's workers:** Police arrested about twenty workers of Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf (PTI) who were protesting

in front of Mardan press club against the arrest of PTI chairman Imran Khan.

The police officials told that they arrested the PTI activists because of their violation of section-144 which had been imposed by the Mardan district administration few days back.

However, no PTI prominent leader or figure took to street to protest against the arrest of their party chairman Imran Khan by the incumbent government after the session court convicted him in the Thoshakhana case. However, provincial vice-president and PTI ex-MPA Zahir Shah Khan Thoru while talking on the phone to this scribe condemned the police raid on his Hujra meant to arrest him.

The police failed to arrest Zahir Shah Toru as he was not present in his home and Hujra at the time of the police raid. He claimed that it was their legal and constitutional right to hold protest demonstrations or any other political activity. He said that he as well as other PTI leaders and workers could not be bowed by the use of such illegal force and raids.

# 170 refugees' residences damaged by downpour

## F.P. Report

**BUNER:** As many as 170 houses of Afghan refugees have been partially or fully damaged during monsoon heavy downpours in Buner alike rest of the country, however, the residents argued United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and other competent authorities for facilitation in rebuilding their residences.

It is worth mentioning that the Afghan Refugees Camp was established at Mandanr tehsil of Buner in 1979 following Union of Soviet Social Republic's

invasion of Afghanistan. The refugee camp was established on 1600 Kanal land in which 1700 houses were built for war-trodden refugees.

However, recent rainfall in Buner has badly impacted mud-made infrastructure while the Afghan Refugee Camp is fully temporary construction which is devastated by monsoon downpours. The refugees had initiated a survey of damages to houses to pave the way for their financial assistance and facilitation for reconstruction.

Afghan Refugee Shuhra argued UNHCR and local

administration to provide financial assistance to affected families because most of them are daily wagers in different sectors. They claimed that as many as 170 houses are damaged during the recent monsoon downpours.

The Afghan refugees camp comprising of 1700 houses in which as many as approximately 10 ten population are living but most of them facing economic constraints for their livelihood. The refugees requested UNHCR, local administration and civil society to provide assistance to affected families for rebuilding their residences.

# E-TMA launched to digitize municipal services



## F.P. Report

**SWABI:** Tehsil Municipal Administration (TMA) Swabi collaborates with SNG Pakistan for the Launch of Innovative E-TMA App. "We are thrilled to launch the E-TMA app, a testament to our dedication towards enhancing citizen services through digital innovation. This app embodies our mission to create a transparent and efficient governance system that caters to the needs of our citizens."

It was said by Deputy Commissioner Swabi Gohar Ali at the launch event of E-TMA app at DC Office Swabi. TMA Swabi, in partnership with SNG Pakistan, announced the official launch of the groundbreaking E-TMA app, revolutionizing the access to municipal services in the region. This innovative digital solution, developed in collaboration with the Local Government, Elections, and Rural Development (LGERD) KP, marks a significant step towards a more digitally empowered and citizen-centric society.

SNG Pakistan is a leading development consultancy firm working towards supporting governance, economic growth, and sustainable development initiatives in Pakistan. E-TMA app aims to simplify and streamline the process of availing municipal services by providing seamless access to a wide array of services from the comfort of one's home. This transformative initiative is set to enhance transparency, accountability, and ease of doing business, benefiting both residents and businesses in TMA Swabi.

The key features of the E-TMA app include effortless submission of applications for various municipal services, eliminating the need for physical visits to government offices and reducing bureaucratic hurdles.

It provides Real-time Progress Tracking where users can track the progress of their service requests, ensuring transparency and staying informed about the status of their applications. It has a user-friendly Interface designed to cater to diverse user groups,

making it accessible and easy to use for all citizens.

The E-TMA app was officially inaugurated by the Deputy Commissioner of Swabi in the presence of prominent public officials, representatives of the local government, business community, and civil society members. The event, hosted by TMA Swabi in collaboration with SNG Pakistan, showcased the unwavering commitment to advancing digitalization in the region.

Speaking on behalf of SNG Pakistan, Kashif Ali, the District Team Lead expressed enthusiasm, saying, "The launch of the E-TMA app reflects our strong belief in the power of digital transformation to foster inclusive and sustainable development. We are delighted to partner with TMA Swabi and contribute to this transformative endeavor." TMA Swabi and SNG Pakistan extend their gratitude to LGERD KP for their collaboration and support in piloting the E-TMA app, which is set to serve as a model for efficient public service delivery in the province.

# Seven students injured

**QUETTA (INP):** Two student groups of Balochistan University clashed on Tuesday resulting in injuries to seven students after which the varsity was closed for an indefinite period.

According to police, two opponent student groups of

Balochistan University exchanged blows and fists resulting in injuries to seven students who were shifted to hospital. Keeping in view the situation, the administration of Balochistan University announced to keep the university closed until further

orders.

The Balochistan University will remain closed for academic activities for an indefinite period, the administration said. The students have also been advised to vacate the hostel premises with immediate effect.



**MULTAN:** A view of dirty polluted waste water stands in the Vegetable Market creating environmental problems and needs the attention of concerned authorities.

## Turi opens Workers Folks School at Parachinar F.P. Report

**PARACHINAR:** Federal Minister for Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development, Sajid Hussain Turi inaugurated Working Folks Grammar School at Parachinar, district headquarters tribal district Kurram on Tuesday.

Secretary Workers Welfare Fund Zulfikar Ahmed was also present on the occasion. Addressing the inauguration ceremony, the federal minister said that the opening of the school will help remove educational backwardness and mitigate the hardships of the students.

He said that due to scarcity of educational institutions, the students of the district Kurram including its headquarters Parachinar were facing hardships. He said that like other parts of the district, the residents of Karman Road and its adjacent Ziran localities were used to sending their children, including girls to far-flung areas. He said that keeping in view the public problems he inaugurated the Working Folks Grammar School on Karman Road.

## WSSCK staff members awarded F.P. Report

**KOHAT:** Water and Sanitation Services Company Kohat (WSSCK) has organized a function to honor the staff members who performed best on Eidul Azha. Commissioner Kohat Syed Mohammad Ali Shah and Deputy Commissioner Kohat Dr. Azmat Wazir were the chief guests of the event.

Chief Executive Officer of WSSCK Arif Rauf was also present on this occasion. On this occasion, Commissioner Kohat Syed Muhammad Ali Shah, Deputy Commissioner Kohat Dr. Azmat Wazir and Chief Executive Officer Arif Rauf congratulated and distributed shields, certificates and cash prizes among sanitation and water supply staff including Manager Media and Communication Asma Ali, Chief Sanitary Inspector Muhammad Sohail, Water Supply Inspector Azmat Ali Khan and Abrar Ali.

Commissioner Kohat Syed Muhammad Ali Shah while speaking on the occasion said that WSSCK has performed well on Eidul Azha. The senior official expressed hope that the institution will continue to provide basic necessities of life like water and sanitation to the people in the future. The commissioner Kohat said WSSCK will utilize all resources to provide clean drinking water and keep the city clean in future as well. He paid tribute to all the staff of WSSCK.

## Gatherings, rallies banned F.P. Report

**ABBOTTABAD:** District administration Abbottabad on Tuesday imposed a ban on unlawful gatherings and rallies amidst political turmoil under section 144.

According to the details, in response to the ongoing political unrest, the administration of the Abbottabad district has decided to ensure peace and security within the region.

# Anti-dengue drive kicks off in Lower Dir

## F.P. Report

**TIMERGARA:** On the special instructions of the Provincial Government and Deputy Commissioner Lower Dir, TMA Timergara has started a campaign to prevent dengue in the Urban Council and its surroundings.

On the special instructions of chairman Tehsil Timergara Mufi Irfan uddin TMO Timergara Kashif Rasheed ant TOR Hanifur Rahman, a special team consisting of many officials has been formed for Timergara Bazar, General Bus Stand, Vegetable Market, Car Workshops and other places of the city, which are spraying disinfectants at the mentioned places as well as

dengue.

To prevent the virus, various disinfectants are also being washed from the dirty rivers and where the water is standing so that no case of dengue virus occurs. Banners have also planted and distributing pamphlets among the citizens so that the citizens can be protected from this deadly disease. Tehsil Chairman Mufi Irfanuddin TMO Timergara Kashif Rasheed and TOR Hanifur Rahman further said that dengue virus awareness is organized by TMA Timergara. Dengue prevention campaign will continue and wherever the citizens need disinfectant spray, they can approach TMA Timergara.

**Maulana Gul Naseeb to contest poll from NA-6:** Maulana Gul Naseeb Khan, the central general secretary of the Coordination Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam Pakistan, announced that he would contest the National Assembly elections from NA-6 Dir Lower.

In this regard a meeting was held. In which Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam Pakistan Central General Secretary Maulana Gul Naseeb Khan will be the candidate and all the preparations and arrangements for the election campaign will be finalized in this regard, organization and contacts with important personalities are going on in the district. Candidates for all the seats will be announced soon.

# Probe into malpractices at SBBMU initiated

## F.P. Report

**LARKANA:** The Anti-corruption team has started an investigation on the viral news of illegal upgrading of 401 people in Shaheed Benazir Bhutto Medical University in Larkana.

According to the details, the year 2016, the news of alleged fake recruitment of more than 401 people from grades 1 to 19 during 2017 has gone viral again. After FIA and NAB, anti-corruption also started investigating the matter.

Chancellor Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto Medical University Larkana Asghar Ali Chana and 6 accused including former registrar Bhutto have been ordered to appear in the Anti-Corruption Circle Office Larkana while the current registrar of the university has been charged with job advertisements published in various newspapers and employees.

Orders have also been issued to appear along with the service books and all the records, while earlier

the FIA has investigated this issue and sent the report to NAB, after which former Commissioner Larkana Abbas Baloch has already collected the information.

The report was sent to the Chief Minister of Sindh, while the employees posted in the university have been provided official accommodation facilities and many employees have also been given additional charge in grade-21.

**PTCL employees protested against pension-cut:** Last day in Larkana retired employees of PTCL held a protest in Larkana in front of the press club with banners and placards against the illegal deduction of pension and other privileges, which was addressed by retired employees Liaqat Ali Mugheri Baloch, Ayaz Hussain Jafari, Abdul Ghani Abaro and others said that during the privatization of PTCL.

An agreement was made between the employees and the management, which was called Reorganization

1996, in which the federal government guaranteed that PTCL employees were assured of increase in benefits and pension of government employees by declaring them as transfer employees while PTA Trust was established under this act for the basic rights and welfare of PTCL employees. PTCL management to commit financial massacre of the retired employees, due to which the retired senior employees of PTCL are facing problems with women, he allegedly alleged. That it is the hand of Syed Mazhar Ali Shah, the MD appointed in PTCL, who after retiring from PTCL some time ago, he has been illegally appointed to the post of MD.

Demanding, he said that the investigation of the corruption of the said officer should be started and to make it easier for the retired employees of PTCL to get pensions and other benefits so that the widespread restlessness among the employees can be removed.

# Political Alliance, Bara seeks durable peace in Khyber

## F.P. Report

**LANDI KOTAL:** The resurgence of militancy has concerned tribesmen of Khyber and it is obligatory on the state to provide them security. A public gathering to be set up under the banner of the Political Alliance in Bara on August 12, 2023 will be a joint call for restoration of peace in Khyber.

The views were expressed by the chief of the Sayasi Ittehad (Political Alliance) Bara, Shah Faisal Afridi while addressing a press conference held here in Landi Kotal press club last day.

Flanked by Sadiq Charagh, Zahid Afridi,

Advocate Farhad Afridi, Aftab Shinwari and others he said that the tribesmen had bear unmatched sufferings for the last two decades in war of terror for restoration of lasting peace in the area but ironically militancy reappeared that was equal wastage of their sacrifices.

Like previously dozens of civilians had lost their lives in target killings in Bara in addition to scores of residents had received ransom calls that put a question mark on the efficiency of the security agencies, Afridi remarked. He went on that the tribesmen were negated from the economic package and other incentives, promised them at the time of merging to

keep them deliberately undeveloped; that was an injustice to them.

He called upon the tribes to join hands with them for seeking a durable peace which was their basic right. To convey their grievance to the government, they were going to organize a public gathering in Bara that would be attended by a large number of people from across the Khyber and would be addressed by political elites of mainstream political parties from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

Later on, the visiting political leaders distributed Bara Political Alliance public gathering invitations among the traders and tribal elders.

## Pervaiz Khattak meets JUI-S Emir

### Syed Waliullah Shah

**NEWSHERA:** Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf Parliamentarian (PTIP) patron-in-chief Pervaiz Khattak meet with Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (Sami) (JUI-S) Maulana Hamid-ul-Haq and discussed national contemporary politics, on Tuesday.

JUI-S Emir welcomed PTIP leader and former Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Pervaiz Khattak while visiting his residence for a discussion of the current scenario. He committed to playing his role for national unity and security like previously.

During the meeting JUI-S general secretary

Maulana Syed Yousaf Shah, Maulana Irfan-ul-Haq, Maulana Luqman-ul-Haq, Maulana Usama Sami, Maulana Khuzaifa Sami and Amjad Azam was present. PTIP leader offered prayer on graves of Maulana Abdul Haq and Maulana Sami-ul-Haq while committed for holding meetings in future.





# China repeats call for Philippines to remove grounded warship

BEIJING/MANILA (Reuters): China's foreign ministry on Tuesday repeated its call for the Philippines to tow away a grounded warship - a rusted-out World War Two relic used as a base - from a disputed shoal, after Manila told Beijing it would not abandon the area.

The dispute over the Second Thomas Shoal in South China Sea came after Manila accused China's coast guard of "excessive and offensive actions" against Philippines vessels. "China once again urges the Philippine side to immediately remove the warship from Second Thomas Shoal and restore it to its unoccupied state," China's foreign ministry said in a statement.

China has communicated to the Philippines on the Second Thomas Shoal issue "many times" through diplomatic channels, but its goodwill and sincerity have been "ignored", it added. The Chinese coast guard released a video on Tuesday showing its ship spraying the Philippine vessel with a water cannon on Aug. 5 as what it described as a "warning", adding that it has exercised "rational restraint" at all times. The video showed the water cannon spraying near the smaller Philippine vessel without hitting it.

Jonathan Malaya, assistant director general of the Philippines' National Security Council, repeated comments he made, saying, "The Philippines will never abandon our post in Ayungin Shoal". "We urge China not to escalate matters by water cannons or military-grade lasers, which places Philippines lives at risk, but by sincere negotiations and other diplomatic means," he added. Tensions have soared between the two countries over the South China Sea under Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos Jr, with Manila pivoting back to the United States, which supports Manila in its maritime disputes with China. China's coast guard said the country had told Manila not to send ships to the shoal and not to send "construction materials used for large-scale repair

# Niger coup: US envoy holds talks with junta

NIAMEY (BBC): A senior US official has held face-to-face talks with Niger's military leaders following last month's coup. Acting Deputy Secretary of State Victoria Nuland said the conversations had been "extremely frank and at times quite difficult". Washington has said the coup can still be ended diplomatically and President Mohamed Bazoum reinstated, but has suspended aid payments in the meantime.

West African countries are set to meet to discuss the crisis. Ecowas - a trading bloc of 15 West African states - had issued a deadline to Niger's junta leaders to stand down and restore the elected president. The coup leaders responded to a threat of military action from the bloc by closing Niger's airspace. Speaking to reporters from capital Niamey, Ms Nuland said that, in talks lasting more than two hours, the US had offered its help "if there is a desire on the part of the people who are responsible for this to return to the constitutional order". "I would not say that we were in any way taken up on that offer," she said. Ms Nuland said she had met the new military chief of staff, Brigadier General Moussa Salauou Barmou, but not with Niger's self-proclaimed

# Thousands of US sailors, Marines reach Red Sea

WASHINGTON (AFP): More than 3,000 US military personnel have arrived in the Red Sea aboard two warships, as part of increased deployments after tanker seizures by Iran, the US Navy said. The US sailors and Marines entered the Red Sea after transiting through the Suez Canal in a pre-announced deployment, the US Navy's Fifth Fleet said in a statement.

They arrived on board the USS Bataan and USS Carter Hall warships, providing "greater flexibility and maritime capability" to the Fifth Fleet, the statement added. The US military says Iran has either seized or attempted to take control of nearly 20 internationally flagged ships in the region over the past two years. USS Bataan is an amphibious assault ship which can carry fixed-wing

# Mali's troops, foreign partners target women to 'spread terror': UN

UNITED NATIONS (Reuters): Mali's troops and its foreign security partners, believed to be Russia's Wagner mercenaries, are using violence against women and other "grave human rights abuses" to spread terror, UN sanctions monitors said in a report seen by Reuters. The monitors also warned in their report to the U.N Security Council that the sexual violence by Mali's troops and

# Nigeria's President Tinubu faces backlash

NAIMEY (BBC): Nigeria's President Bola Tinubu is facing a huge backlash at home over his threat to use military force to reverse the coup in next-door neighbour Niger. Local media report there was strong opposition to military intervention at a session of the upper chamber of parliament, the Senate, despite the fact that it is controlled by Mr Tinubu's party.

This was especially the case among lawmakers representing states along the more than 1,500km (930 mile)-long border with Niger, but there has also been countrywide condemnation of the possibility of war. West African regional bloc Ecowas had set a deadline for the junta to give up power - or face possible military action. The decision was very much seen as Mr Tinubu's as he is Ecowas' current chairman, and Nigeria is its most influential member. Although the junta has defied the ultimatum, Ecowas did not respond by immediately sending troops. This came as a relief to many Nigerians who prefer a diplomatic resolution to the crisis.

Some question whether a seven-day deadline was realistic given that Nigeria and other countries have to get parliamentary approval before deploying the military. Many people are also appalled that electricity to Niger was cut on President Tinubu's orders, causing blackouts in Niger's capital, Niamey, and other cities. Critics claim that this is in violation of a treaty that had enabled Nigeria to build a dam on the River Niger, though Mr Tinubu's supporters say the power cuts are aimed at pressuring the junta to hand back power to ousted President Mohamed Bazoum, without military confrontation. Nigeria and Niger share strong ethnic, economic and cultural ties and any military intervention against Niger would affect northern Nigeria, already facing serious security challenges of its own.

An influential group of Muslim clerics in northern Nigeria said Mr Tinubu must not "rush into an avoidable conflict with a neighbour at the behest of global politicking". Mr Bazoum was a key ally of the West, allowing former colonial power France and the US to keep military bases in the country to help in the fight against militant Islamists wreaking havoc across much of West Africa. The military juntas in Mali and Burkina Faso have vowed to come to the defence of Niger's coup leaders if Ecowas does use force, raising the prospect of a major regional conflict. All eyes are now on Mr Tinubu who has been the most vocal in condemning coups in West Africa, and said last month that Ecowas cannot be made up of "toothless bulldogs".

"We must stand firm on democracy. There is no governance, freedom and rule of law without democracy. We will not accept coup after coup in West Africa again," Mr Tinubu said, shortly after taking the leadership of the regional body. Nigeria's constitution states that the president cannot deploy troops without the approval of the National Assembly - made up of both the upper and lower chambers of parliament. It is unclear whether Mr Tinubu will get its support, given the opposition he is facing.

"Ecowas goofed, the Nigerian president also goofed," said Prof Khalifa Dikwa, an academic at the University of Maiduguri and a member of an influential group of elders in northern Nigeria. In a cautious statement closed-door session, Senate leader Godswill Akpabio threw the ball into the court of the Ecowas parliament, saying it should provide "solutions to resolve this logjam as soon as possible".

# Japan raises concerns over Iran's nuclear enrichment

TOKYO (AP): Japan expressed concern over Iran's advancing uranium enrichment program and the Middle East country's suspected supplying of combat drones to Moscow for Russia's war on Ukraine. Japan's Foreign Minister Yoshimasa Hayashi raised the two issues during talks with his visiting Iranian counterpart, Hossein Amirabdollahian, the foreign ministry in Tokyo said. A statement from the ministry said Hayashi appealed for Iran to act constructively in the matter but did not elaborate.

Iranian drones have been a key element of Russia's continued war on Ukraine. Tehran has offered conflicting accounts about the drones - first denying Iran has supplied them to Russia and later claiming the unmanned aircraft were only sold before the Russian invasion. However, the number of Iranian-made drones used in the conflict shows a steady supply of the bomb-carrying weapons. In June, the White House said Iran was providing Russia with materials to build a drone manufacturing plant east of Moscow as the Kremlin looks to lock in a consistent stream of weapons.

As US ally and a member of the Group of Seven advanced nations, Japan has joined sanctions against Moscow while providing Ukraine with humanitarian support and non-lethal defense equipment, largely because of fear that Russia's invasion could embolden an already assertive China in Asia. Iran's state television said Amirabdollahian denied providing drones to Russia and insisted Tehran is focused on efforts for dia-



logue and finding a political solution to end the war. The report also quoted the top Iranian diplomat as saying the United States and the West should stop what he described as baseless accusations against Iran. Hayashi also expressed serious concern about the expansion of Iran's nuclear activities and urged Tehran's full and unconditional cooperation with the International Atomic Energy Agency, the ministry added.

The ministry statement said Hayashi stressed Japan's support for the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, the 2015 nuclear deal between Iran and world powers that curbed Iran's enrichment in return for halting economic sanctions on Iran. In 2018, then-President Donald Trump pulled America out of the nuclear deal and

# Biden heads west for a policy victory lap

TUSAYAN, Ariz. (AP): President Joe Biden set out on a Western swing aimed at showcasing his work on conservation, clean energy and veterans' benefits as he seeks to draw an implicit contrast between his administration's accomplishments and former President Donald Trump's legal troubles.

Biden's first stop will be the Grand Canyon area, where on Tuesday he will announce a new national monument to preserve about 1,562 square miles (4,046 square kilometers) around Grand Canyon National Park and limit uranium mining, White House officials said. Climate adviser Ali Zaidi told reporters accompanying Biden aboard Air Force One that the president will designate his fifth national monument during the stop in northern Arizona. He said a dozen tribes had "stepped up" and asked for the monument.

After Arizona, Biden will travel to New Mexico and Utah. The Democratic president will be in Albuquerque and will talk

about how fighting climate change has created new jobs, and he'll visit Salt Lake City to mark the first anniversary of the PACT Act, which provides new benefits to veterans who were exposed to toxic substances. He'll also hold a reelection fundraiser in each city. Biden will use the three-night trip to "continue to highlight the progress he's making across his agenda," particularly when it comes to climate change, said Natalie Quillian, the White House deputy chief of staff.

"You can expect to us to highlight more ground-breakings of projects, more ribbon cuttings and opportunities to show the American people how these investments and jobs are reaching their communities and their neighborhoods," she said. The White House has been pushing to demonstrate the impact of Biden's policies, hoping to harness lower inflation numbers and strong employment figures to alleviate the president's sagging poll numbers. Biden is fresh from more than a week of vacation at

his homes in Rehoboth Beach and Wilmington, Delaware. On the day that Trump faced a new indictment for attempting to overturn his 2020 election loss, Biden went to a fish restaurant with first lady Jill Biden, saw the movie "Oppenheimer" and took a moonlit walk across the beach. He hasn't commented about the charges against his Republican predecessor, maintaining the same strategic silence he did regarding the previous two indictments. The criminal charges appear to have done little to dampen Republican voters' enthusiasm for Trump, who remains the leading candidate for his party's 2024 nomination for president. The situation has also provided a challenge and an opportunity for Biden.

The legal dramas have drawn attention away from the White House, making it harder for Biden to generate public attention for his accomplishments. But it's also created a suitable backdrop for Biden's promise to break with years of Trump-fueled chaos and focus on governing. Democratic

# Even frozen Antarctica is being walloped by climate extremes

NEW YORK (AP): Even in Antarctica - one of the most remote and desolate places on Earth - scientists say they are finding shattered temperature records and an increase in the size and number of wacky weather events. The southernmost continent is not isolated from the extreme weather associated with human-caused climate change, according to a new paper in Frontiers in Environmental Science that tries to make a coherent picture of a place that has been a climate change oddball.

Its western end and especially its peninsula have seen dramatic ice sheet melt that threatens massive sea level rises over the next few centuries, while the eastern side has at times gained ice. One western glacier is melting so fast that scientists have nicknamed it the Doomsday Glacier and there's an international effort trying to figure out what's happening to it. And Antarctic sea ice veered from record high to shocking amounts far lower than ever seen.

What follows if the trend continues, a likely result if humans fail to curb emissions, will be a cascade of

consequences from disappearing coastlines to increased global warming hastened by dramatic losses of a major source of sunlight-reflecting ice. That's something scientists have long been watching and are even more concerned about now. "A changing Antarctica is bad news for our planet," said Martin Siegert, a glaciologist, professor of geosciences at University of Exeter and lead author on the paper. Siegert said he and his team wanted to understand more about the causes of extreme events, and whether more of those events would happen as a result of burning fossil fuels, so the team synthesized research on a wide range of topics including atmosphere and weather patterns, sea ice, land ice and ice shelves and marine and land biology. The study found climate change extremes are getting worse in a place that once seemed slightly shielded from global warming's wildness. The continent "is not a static giant frozen in time," they said, but instead feels climate change's wrath and extremes "sporadically and

unpredictably."

Anna Hogg, a co-author on the paper and professor at the University of Leeds, said that their work illustrates complex and connected changes between the ice, ocean and air. "Once you've made a big change, it can then be really hard to sort of turn that around," she said. And it's a change with links to human activity. "This is indeed a strong signature of climate change," Helen Fricker, a professor of geophysics with the Scripps Institution of Oceanography at the University of California, San Diego who was not involved with the study, said in an email. "It's not good." Siegert and Hogg's team looked at several factors including heat waves, loss of sea ice, collapse of ice shelves and impacts on biodiversity. Siegert described last year's heat wave in Antarctica, which brought research station thermometers to a whopping 38 degrees Celsius (70 degrees Fahrenheit) above normal temperatures. Hogg said that sea ice is at an all time low, a major cause for concern: In the Antarctic, the July aver-

age for sea ice extent fell below previous low set in 2022. And ice shelves, which can be the size of several large buildings, are also under threat as they melt and eventually collapse.

Sea ice and ice shelves work like a cork in a bottle, holding back glaciers that would otherwise rush into the ocean. When they disappear, glaciers flow many times faster. What's more, the disappearance of large swaths of ice accelerates warming like swapping a white T-shirt for a black one on a hot summer day - replace ice with land or water, and suddenly the earth is absorbing the sun's rays rather than reflecting them. The topic of extremes "is with us more frequently and will be with us even more frequently in the future," said Peter Schlosser, vice president and vice provost of the Global Futures Laboratory at Arizona State University not involved with the research. Systems like Antarctica are extreme by nature, but that doesn't mean they're not vulnerable, he added - they're highly susceptible to small changes.



The Frontier Post

JALIL AFRIDI  
Managing Editor

Printed and published by Mahmood Afridi at  
Moraka's Printers, 27 Abdara Road, University Town,  
Peshawar.

Peshawar Office: 091-5700095, 0300- 9009001

Peshawar Fax: 091-5703687, Post Box No. 573

E-mail: fppeshawar@thefrontierpost.com

Lahore Office: 0335-4026284

Email: fplahore@thefrontierpost.com

Islamabad Office: 0321-5066253

Email: mahmoodafridi@thefrontierpost.com

Karachi Office: 021-32213411, 0300-8340907

Email: fpkarachi@thefrontierpost.com

\*USA and Canada Toll Free Number 1-800-5905747

# Purblind legislation and rule of the law

THE National Assembly has recently passed Official Secrets (Amendment) Bill 2023 with a majority vote, a day after the coalition government removed contentious provisions of the act and the upper house of parliament signalled a green light about the legislation that has attracted much importance and criticism in the current scenario. Meanwhile, the latest modified version of the Official Secrets (Amendment) Bill 2023 successfully sailed through the Upper House after the government made changes to the bill, removing a clause that sought to empower intelligence agencies to carry out raids or make arrests without warrants. The Federal Minister for law Azam Nazir Tarar told the lawmakers that objection has been removed and the arrest without warrant clause has been withdrawn. According to him, the revised legislation empowered the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) to investigate individuals suspected of violating the Official Secrets Act. Tarar urged the parliamentarians to view those clauses without prejudice that were aimed at protecting the military personnel and intelligence agencies rendering unmatched sacrifices in the war zones.

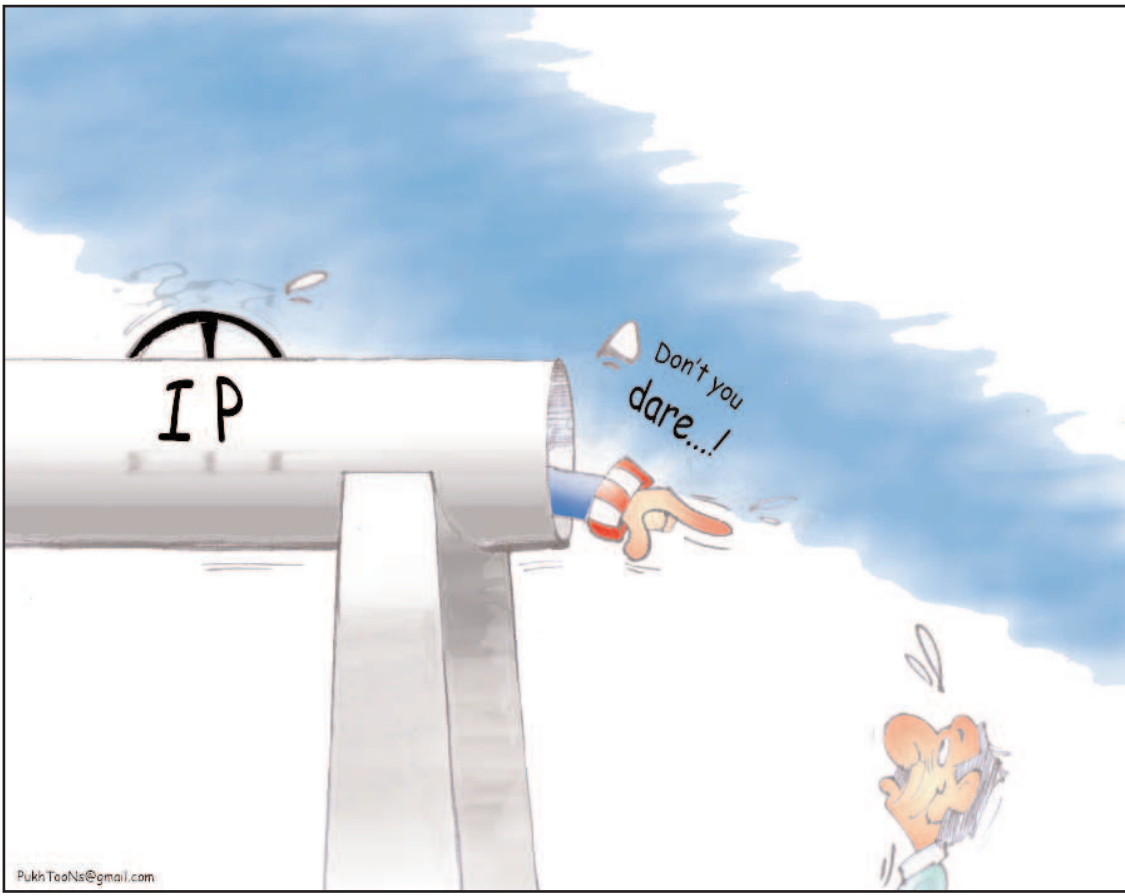
Historically, legislation and law making process had always been highly contentious throughout the Country's history, because our Parliamentarians hardly moved in the public interest and often approved irrational and politically motivated regulations which not only bulldozed the constitution but cast heavy price to the country and society. Multiple flimsy laws were framed to target the opponents that have no constitutional rationale, while a majority of such regulations had been proved to be the leg cuffs for their creators and used for the ouster of the governments, indictment and prosecution of the public leaders in the past. In fact, the politicians and civic groups had made mockery of the constitution by adopting the policy of compromise, give and take and mutual benefit to secure their political and monetary interests instead of seeking public well being, promoting transparency, ensuring the rule of the law and preservation of civic rights and civil liberties in the society. On the onset of dysfunctional democracy and malignancy of the Politicians, all political parties have intersecting prioritises about the role of state institutions and national issues including the NAB, Higher Education, National Healthcare, the ECP and Electoral Bill, freedom of judiciary, Counter Terrorism and National Security, Police and Patwari as well as foreign relations with important neighbors etc. Thus, a mystery of makes and breaks, undoing and redoing repeats each time after the arrival of a new government but nothing ever improved the public life and brought any positive change in the Country.

After the May 9 violence, the attacks on military installations and desecration of the Martyrs' memorials had sadden the entire nation, while stern punishments to the rioters and strict accountability of their gang leaders was the sole demand of the public, so no culprits can ever rethink about the repetition of those heinous crimes in the future. The military leadership asked the government to prosecute the rioters under the Pakistan Army Act and the Official Secret-1923 that deal in the cases relating to Pakistan Army, its installations, equipment and personnel, while those laws equally applicable to common public, enemy agents and terrorists who wilfully trespass, sabotage, subvert or commit espionage against the Defence Forces of Pakistan. Currently, the case of admissibility of civilians' trial in the military courts is under consideration by the apex courts that the incumbent rulers came up with another controversial legislation of empowering Intelligence Agencies to arrest their suspects/ common citizens without an arrest warrant from the Magistrate. In fact, it was the highest level of betrayal with the Constitution as Pakistani society faces a human tragedy and could not resolve the issue of the missing persons over the past two decades. Thousands of innocent Pakistanis have disappeared and their loved ones are unaware of their whereabouts, life and well being, while the state, security institutions as well as the judiciary were unable to justify this situation or resolve the issue in the past years. Thus, opening another vent for lawlessness is purely a politically motivated blunder with the nation and its people amid rising terrorism and intensifying Counter Terrorism operation of the LEAs that will surely crush the barley with the wheat.

Currently, Pakistani society is highly divided and extremely polarised, while our state institutions always play an extra-constitutional role aimed at protecting institutional self respect instead of fulfilling their basic duties and upholding rule of the law in true letter and spirit. The people of Pakistan are currently suffering unprecedented miseries on the hands of the governments and state institutions including police, the judiciary, WAPDA, OGDCL and others who had been turned into masters instead of servants to the nation by complicity with criminals, crooks and mafias. Honestly, Pakistan has no scarcity of laws and sacred code books but the Country faces a serious lack of will, a fair and transparent conduct of the institution and sincere implementation of the constitution that brings a visible change in the society. Otherwise, politically motivated legislation can only serve the hidden motives of the ruling elite.

## Important Notice

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



# How Iran is courting Africa to confront the West

Dr. Mohammed Al-Sulami

IN July 2023, Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi visited three African countries, Kenya, Uganda and Zimbabwe, to pursue three main objectives. First, to bypass US sanctions at a time of a stalemate in nuclear talks with Washington. Second, Raisi wished to expand Iranian ideological influence on the African continent and to gather political support for Iranian positions in international organizations. Lastly, these visits aimed to demonstrate that the conservative faction inside the Iranian establishment is focusing on fostering ties with non-aligned countries. This was, indeed, the first visit of an Iranian president to the African continent since Mahmoud Ahmadinejad's visit 11 years ago. The African continent was less of a priority for Iranian foreign policy decision-makers during the 2013-2021 tenure of the moderate President Hassan Rouhani.

Iran's presence in Africa is an ideological, economic and security issue. Indeed, in the vision of the Iranian revolutionary political elite since 1979, relations with countries from the Global South are to be understood not only within the framework of the Khomeinist ideological tenet of anti-imperialism but also in the context of exporting the Iranian politico-religious model.

This ambition requires interfering in the internal affairs of African states to carry out missionary activities, but also to build networks of non-state actors, such as religious actors, cultural associations, front-companies and drug networks.

The aim behind this Iranian desire to assert power in Africa is to target the "enemies" of Iran, including regional rivals and global foes, especially the US. A new aspect apparent during Raisi's recent visit to Africa was the search for new markets for Iranian military exports, such as drones and unsophisticated weapons systems. The official Iranian diplomatic stance sets very ambitious objectives for mutual Iranian-African cooperation. Nevertheless, difficulties are apparent in

carrying out economic cooperation projects, and tensions often emerge in relation to Iran's ideological and security activities on the African continent. For instance, Iran-Zimbabwe bilateral trade amounted to less than \$5 million in 2021 and during the recent visit 12 memorandums of understanding were signed without any details regarding the future Iranian investments in the country. Zimbabwe's President Emmerson Mnangagwa greeted Raisi after the Iranian president's plane landed at Robert Mugabe International Airport in Harare and

continent are in line with its aim of becoming a global investment powerhouse, as outlined in its Vision 2030 policy framework. The Kingdom's growing financial footprint in the continent, especially in West Africa, was expressed on Nov. 15, 2022, when Guinean President Mamady Doumbouya met the CEO of the Saudi Fund for Development Sultan Abdulrahman Al-Marshad. The healthy discussions led to a memorandum of understanding, with the Saudi fund agreeing to provide \$8 million for a water project in the country and build 140 wells.

**What GCC investments and others indicate is that despite reconciliation with Iran, there is room for competition in other theaters, especially in resource-rich Africa, which has been a strategic sphere of contest among global powers for centuries. A present example is the scenario unfolding in Niger that has exposed France's entrenched economic interests and dependence on the country, particularly for importing uranium. The difference today is that global powers are facing competition in Africa from rising powers with vast financial outlays such as the GCC, especially Saudi Arabia.**

referred to him as "my brother." Despite this apparent warmth, the economic rationality of the visit became a topic of debate inside Iran given the lack of economic complementarity between the two countries.

Overall, Iran's Ministry of Foreign Affairs said that it expects trade with African countries to increase to more than \$2 billion in 2023, up from an estimated figure of between \$500 million and \$1 billion in 2021 and 2022. The official Iranian objective of increasing trade with the continent to \$5 billion is extremely insignificant and inferior to the UAE's \$50 billion and Türkiye's \$35 billion trade with Africa, which has a \$600 billion global trade. Saudi Arabia's financial investments in the

On Oct. 17, 2022, the Kingdom signed several major deals with South Africa to develop the country's emerging hydrogen industry, as well as other renewable sources. In total, the deals totalled around \$15 billion in Saudi investments. Only a week before the October deals, the fund also agreed to provide \$5 million for solar-powered street lights in the Central African Republic. What GCC investments and others indicate is that despite reconciliation with Iran, there is room for competition in other theaters, especially in resource-rich Africa, which has been a strategic sphere of contest among global powers for centuries. A present example is the scenario unfolding in Niger that has exposed France's

entrenched economic interests and dependence on the country, particularly for importing uranium. The difference today is that global powers are facing competition in Africa from rising powers with vast financial outlays such as the GCC, especially Saudi Arabia.

The unlikelihood of a rapid settlement of the nuclear issue in 2023 because of the war in Ukraine and the complications facing the Biden administration in reviving the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action will prevent a real deepening of Iranian economic cooperation with African countries. On the other hand, a security escalation between Tehran and Washington could lead the former to use its African networks of influence to challenge the US presence by targeting US diplomatic facilities on the continent. Moreover, with Iranian military support for Russia's armed forces - delivery of drones and artillery ammunition, in particular - and its refusal to diplomatically condemn the Russian war in Ukraine, Tehran is also exposing itself to accelerated marginalization on the international scene.

Finally, the weakening of Russia's international economic influence, a consequence of its desire to enter confrontation with Washington, could certainly contribute to the emergence of a post-Western international order by pushing Moscow to seek alternatives to its dependence on the US financial system. This hope of the leaders of the Islamic Republic and some African leaders nevertheless risks coming up against economic limits that will hinder their ideological objective. The aim of maintaining a degree of balance between Russia and the West in the war in Ukraine through the emergence of a new form of neutrality or non-alignment risks not being a sufficient condition for Iranian-African rapprochement which will take place under the aegis of Moscow over the next few years. On the contrary, the proximity with Iran weakened by decades of economic sanctions is likely to burden the economic development of the African states that choose to bet on Iranian influence instead of the West.

# Haiti is on the brink of a humanitarian catastrophe

Catherine Russell

THE abduction last week of an American nurse and her child near Haiti's capital, Port-au-Prince, late last month is yet another tragic sign of intensifying insecurity in the country.

Across Haiti, 2 million people, including 1.6 million children and women, live in areas controlled by armed groups where the perpetration of horrific violence has become a daily reality, according to internal United Nations estimates. Children are killed walking outside or recruited to participate in the fighting, kidnappings for ransom are on the rise and rates of sexual and gender-based violence are surging.

On my most recent visit to Haiti in June, I met another health care worker who had been kidnapped. Thankfully, she was later released. She told me that it was a daily fear for Haitian nurses, as well as teachers and other professionals who, like the American nurse, remain committed to staying and caring for the most vulnerable. Included among those most vulnerable is the 11-year-old girl I met at

Port-au-Prince's GHESKIO Center, which provides care for survivors of sexual violence. Late last year, she told me, five men from an armed group abducted her while she was walking outside. Three of them took turns raping her. When I met her, she was about eight months pregnant. Several other women at the center spoke of armed men breaking in, raping them - in one case, in front of her children - and then setting their homes on fire.

Violence is not new to Haiti. But after the assassination of President Jovenel Moïse in July 2021, armed groups took over the streets and have been terrorizing communities in several parts of the capital ever since. And with much of Port-au-Prince and nearby areas beset by such brutality, Haiti's ongoing humanitarian crisis could soon become a catastrophe. Close to half of the country's population urgently needs humanitarian assistance, including almost 3 million children, according to on-the-ground information collected by our staff. Nearly 5 million people are experiencing acute food insecurity. And in the last year, we have seen an unprecedented 30% increase in the number of severely malnourished children, which we expect to reach around 115,000 over the course of 2023.

The spike in food insecurity and child malnutrition coincides with an ongoing cholera outbreak in which nearly half of the over 52,000 suspected cases are in children under 14. Severely malnourished children are much more likely to die from cholera without urgent treatment. Yet the national health system does not have the capacity to provide adequate care to vulnerable children and families. To put the situation in perspective, humanitarian needs in Haiti are greater now than they were in the aftermath of the devastat-

ing January 2010 earthquake that left more than 220,000 people dead and over 2 million displaced.

Despite the challenging security threats, our organization remains fully committed to staying and delivering for Haiti's people. Alongside our partners, we are engaging with community and government leaders to facilitate the safe movement of humanitarian workers and supplies. And we are expanding our response in health, nutrition, child and social protection, education, water, sanitation and hygiene. But this is not enough to stave off the looming catastrophe. Far more must be done to bring Haiti back from the brink, and we implore governments in the region and beyond to come off the sidelines before it's too late.

This starts with providing the funds needed to strengthen and sustain the humanitarian response for the next 18 to 24 months. The UN's \$720 million Humanitarian Response Plan for 2023 is barely a quarter funded. We need full funding to get the job done. But as we tackle the immediate crisis, we must also bear in mind that people need safe and sustainable access to essential services in their communities over the long term. This will only happen if we deepen our engagement with the Haitian government, civil society and community leaders to restore and strengthen the systems that people rely on - such as health care, nutrition services, education, protection, water and sanitation.

For decades, Haiti has seemed to bounce from one crisis to the next - from hurricanes and earthquakes to public health emergencies and political turmoil. We must focus on building the resilience of communities, service delivery systems, and institutions so that they can withstand the range of shocks that Haiti continues to face. UN Secretary-General António Guterres has urged the UN Security Council to quickly authorize the deployment of a non-UN multinational force to assist the Haitian National Police in quelling the violence - a proposal supported by Haiti's transitional government.

Based on the desperate situation I saw in Haiti, I strongly agree that the security situation must be urgently addressed. Any force, however, should be accompanied by measures to safeguard humanitarian space and protect people at risk. The UN and the international community should also work with the government to strengthen the justice system so that the perpetrators of the violence, as well as those giving material support to armed groups, are held accountable. The time for a new approach in Haiti is long overdue. The lives and wellbeing of millions of Haitians are at stake. We must respond not with fatigue or resignation, but with renewed commitment to work alongside them in forging a brighter and more hopeful future.

CNN

# Nature holds the keys of resilience and hope

Mads Flarup Christensen

A simple cottage stands in the Norwegian mountains, about four hours north of Oslo. Electricity is supplied by a solar panel and a battery, and water comes from a nearby well. The area is normally quite green in the summer and attracts farmers who bring their animals to graze. In the winter, heavy snowfall would often block the roads so one would have to ski to get to this humble dwelling.

My family and I have been going there for more than 20 years, travelling overland from Sweden. It is where we would spend time reconnecting with each other, taking a break from our busy cosmopolitan lives. Norway is my wife's home country and one of the least impacted places on the planet when it comes to heat and drought, and yet even

here, close to the Arctic, my loved ones and I are witnessing a dramatic transformation.

The constant quiet rain during the summer has been replaced by increasingly longer periods of drought, resulting in empty wells and dried-up grass and forcing farmers to rely on feed for their cattle.

Extreme weather events show us that in the midst of our dual climate and biodiversity crisis, the complex cycles of nature, of which we are a part, are drastically out of balance. Protecting and restoring nature is vital for our physical and mental health, food security, water supply and so much more.

But it becomes even more important as nature restoration is one of our most effective tools in mitigating and adapting to the climate crisis and a heating planet. When we

are in harmony with nature, it protects us. But we have allowed giant fossil fuel, industrial food and financing conglomerates to dictate our priorities - to view our natural treasures as mere resources to be commodified for obscene profits and economic growth at the expense of life in all its forms.

Restoring nature is fundamental, as it is our shield against heatwaves, forest fires, droughts, and floods - climate cataclysms we are seeing more and more often all around the world. What we need more than ever is a radical shift in our consciousness, where we reject the illusion that we are separate from the natural world, because we are nature.

We are deeply and undeniably interconnected to the web of life. And

when given a chance, our forests, savannahs, lakes and wetlands can spring back to life.

We need a mass social movement for nature restoration and we need bold leadership to implement laws that enable an age of renewal. Recently, we have seen crucial steps being taken to push nature and biodiversity loss to the top of the political and economic agenda. Last December, nations agreed at the United Nations Biodiversity Conference COP15 in Montreal to ambitious conservation and restoration efforts regarding land and coastal areas and the restoration of degraded ecosystems.

They also recognised the rights and roles of Indigenous peoples as the guardians of nature and the need to phase out billions in tax-funded subsidies for extractive indus-

tries. In July, the European Parliament adopted a new Nature Restoration Law, a major piece of the EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030. Although it is a good first step forward in achieving the European Union's biodiversity commitments, the legislation that was passed was very diluted compared to its original draft.

To truly protect what is left and restore nature, the world's governments need to implement binding national legislation in line with their pledges in the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF). In late 2024, nations will convene again at the UN Biodiversity COP16 to present their action plans. Now is the time for nations to start a race to the top to demonstrate they are serious about addressing the dual climate and nature crisis. We

need leaders who dare to make decisions that benefit the whole of humanity. These goals and targets are crucial for making our planet more resilient, for guarding against future extreme weather events and nurturing all life in the decades to come.

In addition to a consciousness shift and courageous leadership, the world needs one thing more than any other: hope for the future. We need a mass movement for nature on the scale of movements for civil rights, climate action, and global justice.

When people unite to protect and restore their only home, new possibilities open up and flourish. The journey ahead is monumental, but together, we can create a world where nature thrives and we will thrive with it, be it in Norway, Namibia or Nauru.

Aljazeera



# Israeli-Lebanese border tensions raise fears of the unthinkable

Chris Doyle

FOR doomsayers fixated on divining the next regional, or even global, disaster, checking out the recent tensions on the Israeli-Lebanese frontier might be worthwhile. Yes, it has been 17 years since a major war across this hot border. It is tough to imagine who would benefit from another showdown between Israel and Hezbollah, but this is an era when the impossible, the inconceivable, so often knocks on the door of the possible.

How real a prospect is it? Border incidents have undeniably escalated. The UN peacekeeping force in Lebanon, UNIFIL, accuses both Israel and the Lebanese militant group Hezbollah of violating international commitments across the border, the so-called blue line. UNIFIL is one of those interim bodies that in the Middle East lasts forever, but it does at least serve as a crucial warning system. Israeli military analysts believe that the chances of a conflict are higher than at any time since 2006.

Israel has violated Lebanese airspace at will and all too regularly, as any Lebanese knows. UNIFIL reported 131 violations in just four months earlier this year, all, as it states, in breach of UN Security Council Resolution 1701. Back in March, Israel claimed a militant crossed the border and planted a roadside bomb near Megiddo. Then, in early April, the Israeli army accused Hamas of firing a salvo of 34 missiles into Israel. Israeli planes then struck three locations near the Palestine refugee camp of Rashidiya, south of Tyre. In May and then June, Hezbollah set up two tents 100 feet the other side of the blue line.

The militant group's leader, Hassan Nasrallah, claimed that the tents were erected in protest at Israel cordoning off parts of Ghajar, a village located on the juncture between the Israeli, Lebanese and Syrian borders, and which the blue line splits in two.

Israeli forces have never withdrawn from the northern part of the village they took in 2006 despite UNIFIL requesting that they leave. Israel has boosted its border infrastructure, but Hezbollah has also increased its presence.

Israel and Hezbollah are in more direct confrontation within Syria. The former frequently bombs sites in Syria that it claims are involved with transferring high-tech weaponry to the Lebanese Shiite group from Iran. Hezbollah cannot be happy. But all parties have so much to lose. Can either Lebanon or Israel afford a war? Can Hezbollah, the Syrian regime or Iran?

Both Israel and Lebanon face widespread domestic political turmoil. Israel has endured mass protests for the past 31 weeks against the judicial reforms being pushed through by what is undeniably the most extreme, violent and anti-democratic coalition in its history. Israeli reservists, including pilots, are refusing to serve. Hezbollah and other groups would be unwise to consider Israel a soft target, but one fears some might feel tempted to exploit the chaos that Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has visited once again on his country.

Even Netanyahu might balk at a possible assault on Lebanon as a distraction given the risks. Gaza has always been a far less risky prospect for Israel on this front. As for Hezbollah, it is certainly paying close attention to events in Israel. Nasrallah was not shy in sharing his views, claiming Israel was "on the path to collapse, fragmentation and disappearance." Was Hezbollah testing Israeli resolve when it set up the tents?

Lebanon has endured four years of a political, economic and social crisis. This was painfully highlighted last week by the third anniversary of the Beirut port

explosion, a crime for which nobody has been held accountable. Since the end of October, Lebanon has had a presidential vacancy. Twelve times the parliament has failed to choose a successor. The country needs not only a proper government, but also bold, drastic, even painful reforms. The international community has been unable to find a path to assist Lebanon. The economic situation is beyond dire, with the government incapable of addressing the fundamental issues while eating into depleted currency reserves. Lebanese face soaring unemployment, acute shortages of food and medicine, and the usual power cuts. According to the World Food Programme, the country has the world's highest food price inflation rate of 350 percent.

Other sources of instability include the future of the 1.5 million Syrian refugees in Lebanon. The Lebanese have demonstrated incredible generosity in hosting them for over a decade, but goodwill is drying up, with supporters of the Syrian regime in Lebanon only too keen to stoke anti-refugee bigotry. The fighting in the largest UN refugee camp for Palestinians in Ain Al-Hilweh - the current death toll stands at 13 - likewise shows that the Palestinian issue remains potent in Lebanon. As ever, thousands have been displaced in the fighting, with no idea when they will go back. Palestinian groups can also engage in border hostilities, as the Hamas rocket attacks have shown.

Another change that increases the stakes in the event of conflict is the vital maritime border deal Israel and Lebanon signed last year. Many on both sides were highly suspicious, but an agreement did get over the line. However, the upside is huge, as the major gas field could eventually help Lebanon exit the deep hole

into which it has blindly plummeted. The climate in Lebanon is tense. Most Lebanese feel they have no control over events surrounding the border. "We are powerless. Our fate is in others' hands as ever," one Lebanese academic tells me. It is a common refrain.

What would be the impact of an Israel-Hezbollah confrontation? Everything indicates the destruction and loss of life would be far, far worse than the 34-day July war in 2006 when more than 1,000 Lebanese and 159 Israelis lost their lives. Israeli leaders have consistently made it clear they will not hold back in any future war with Hezbollah. Israel may hit Lebanon much harder, as successive political and military leaders have threatened, but even Israeli officials acknowledge that Hezbollah's capabilities have made major strides.

Israel calculates that the group possesses about 130,000 rockets, up from just 15,000 in 2006, and is capable of striking targets all across Israel. That said, Hezbollah's engagement in Syria on behalf of the Syrian and Iranian regimes has damaged its regional standing. In 2006, Hezbollah, to the consternation of its opponents, exited the conflict portrayed by too many as heroes. Today, the group is far more polarizing.

Logic suggests there is an element of mutually assured loss involved and, therefore, a war should not be desired by any party. Even Iran will not want to risk losing its response capabilities via Hezbollah should Israel ever dare strike it. Quite how a military triumph could ever lead to a strategic political victory is simply not clear. Yet, whenever this border heats up, one fears for a war by accident. If wiser heads keep calm and maintain control then these tensions may peter out, but too many hot-heads are more than capable of doing the unthinkable.

Arab News

# BRI brings profound impact to Cambodia

THE Belt and Digby James Wren & Seun Sam R o a d Initiative, the most ambitious and expansive infrastructure connectivity and development project ever conceived, was proposed a decade ago. The initiative connects about 150 countries in Asia, Europe, Africa and Latin America through a network of infrastructure investments, trade agreements and cultural exchanges. Cambodia is among the countries that have seen the greatest impact of the Belt and Road Initiative on its infrastructure, economy and cultural landscape.

Cambodia's strategic location on the Mekong River south of Laos and between Thailand and Vietnam on the Gulf of Thailand has made it an important hub for trade and connectivity in the Southeast Asian region. And China's investments in Cambodia have catalyzed a remarkable transformation of its infrastructure.

New highways, railways, seaports and airports have been built or old ones upgraded, facilitating efficient transportation of goods and movement of people within and beyond Cambodia's borders. These infrastructure are connected to free trade zones (FTZs) and special economic zones (SEZs) that have further improved regional connectivity, facilitating trade and attracting foreign investment while boosting Cambodia's economic growth and creating employment opportunities for its people. The Belt and Road Initiative has also played a significant role in strengthening trade relations between China and Cambodia. With improved infrastructure and logistical capabilities and a new free trade agreement between the two countries, Cambodia has become an attractive destination for international investors and businesses looking to expand their presence in the region. The increased trade volume has resulted in a more diversified economy and helped Cambodia develop its energy, telecommunications, financial, logistics, tourism and agricultural sectors.

Besides, Chinese investments in Cambodia's agricultural sector have helped modernize farming and improve productivity, and have had a positive impact on Cambodia's agricultural exports, benefiting local farmers and boosting the country's processing and packaging sectors. In fact, Cambodia has become a key source of

rice, fruits and vegetables for the Asian market. Cambodia is rich in minerals, and the Belt and Road Initiative's infrastructure projects have helped increase mining and mineral processing activities. Large-scale projects such as mining and forestry require strict environmental controls and monitoring. And since its focus on sustainability and green development is guided by the United Nations 2030 Sustainable Development Goals, the initiative prioritizes stringent environmental regulations and monitoring mechanisms to ensure compliance to the SDGs when it comes to investments in mining, agriculture and forestry. The Belt and Road Initiative accords priority to renewable energy sources, too, and promotes biodiversity conservation efforts.

Keeping all these factors in mind, China's investment in energy infrastructure has helped alleviate Cambodia's power shortages and fostered sustainable development. The construction of hydropower plants, solar panel farms and power transmission networks has increased the country's energy production capacity, reducing dependence on costly imported energy sources, which in turn has improved power supply, spurring industrial growth and attracting foreign direct investment in energy-intensive sectors. Also, Chinese companies' investments in the electrification of the transport sector have widened the electricity charging network. As a result, Chinese-made electric vehicles have become a common sight on Cambodia's Belt and Road Initiative-funded highway networks.

One of the most significant outcomes of Belt and Road projects in Cambodia is the construction of the Sihanoukville Special Economic Zone, which has attracted foreign investments and boosted Cambodia's manufacturing sector, leading to job creation and increased exports. In partnership with investors in the Sihanoukville and Phnom Penh SEZs, Cambodia is now processing its rubber into car tires, and has become a leading exporter of other value-added products such as car parts and bicycles. Investments in Cambodia under the Belt and Road framework have also stimulated the construction and real estate sectors, leading to the development of modern residential and commercial properties across the

country. Despite slowing down during the COVID-19 pandemic, the construction sector remains a key employment generator, boosting incomes, improving living standards, reducing poverty and underpinning socioeconomic development. The socio-cultural impact of the Belt and Road Initiative projects on Cambodia has also been profound, with significant changes evident in local communities. One notable change is the rapid urbanization and modernization of previously rural areas as the construction of roads has connected remote regions to major cities, facilitating the movement of goods and people. This has resulted in the emergence of new urban centers and the expansion of existing ones.

In the post-pandemic period, international and Chinese tourists in Cambodia are benefiting from improved transportation, hospitality infrastructure and globally integrated electronic payment systems. Thanks to the improvement in infrastructure connectivity, the country's rich cultural heritage and historical sites have become more accessible to both domestic and international tourists, with the influx of tourists generating significant revenue and providing new economic opportunities for local communities, which are working for, operating or have built hotels, restaurants and retail shops. Moreover, cultural exchanges between China and Cambodia have increased as a result of the Belt and Road Initiative. With Chinese tourists, workers and investors bringing their traditions, language and customs to Cambodia, the integration of Chinese elements into Cambodian society has intensified. And many Cambodian students enjoy scholarships and increased access to universities and vocational training institutions in China through Belt and Road cultural and education networks. Such inter-cultural exchanges enrich cultural diversity.

In conclusion, the Belt and Road projects in Cambodia highlight the benefits of comprehensive planning, good and transparent governance, environmental protection, partnership building and robust monitoring mechanisms. To realize the full potential of the initiative, Cambodia and China should deepen win-win cooperation to jointly build a high-quality, high-level Cambodia-China community with a shared future.

The China Daily

# Why do Britain's MPs hang on to their second jobs?

Owen Jones

BRITAIN is a democracy with caveats. We have a "free press", but most newspapers are the tools of wealthy oligarchs to fervently advance their political agenda. Almost all adults have the right to vote, but the affluent and big business wield far more power than the average citizen through political donations, lobbying and sheer economic might. And - as new Guardian analysis underlines - our democracy remains corrupted by a "revolving door" between the world of politics and big business, despite promises by the government to cap MPs' income from second jobs in the wake of the Owen Paterson lobbying scandal.

That MPs have amassed £10m from second jobs and freelance work in the last year should still shock, even factoring in that around half of this sum ended up in Boris Johnson's bank account. From the rightwing TV channels offering well paid media gigs, to lucrative consultancies with property developers and investment firms, being a parliamentarian can be a springboard for considerable financial advancement.

The self-serving justification offered by our rulers goes like this: juggling one or more jobs on top of being an elected servant of the people injects much-needed experience into the Westminster bubble. But this wilfully misunderstands what being an MP is actually about. It's not a job, it's a service. Until 1911, it was completely

unpaid, helping to ensure the House of Commons was a rich man's club, where - except for trade union sponsorship - only the well-to-do could afford to stand for election. That was rightly rectified, and by the 1970s MPs were properly remunerated.

A backbencher's salary of £86,584 now places them comfortably in the top 5% of earners, but we are told that their level of pay deters talent from parliamentary representation. If an individual considers that to be a deterrence to entering political service, they shouldn't be thinking about becoming an MP in the first place. Indeed, there's a strong argument that being paid more than twice as much as the average full-time British worker distances MPs from the everyday struggles of their constituents. Not least during a cost of living crisis.

What is understood by "talent" is often misleading, too. A large proportion of MPs are, by background, businesspeople or lawyers. Very few come from manual working-class occupations. Politics thus attracts many parliamentarians who believe the profit motive is king, and many fewer who know what it's like to skip hot meals to feed your children, or suffer the insecurity of a zero-hours contract. While being privileged doesn't mean you're incapable of empathising with those who struggle, would the burning injustices that define modern British society

not be more likely to be prioritised if we had more MPs with lived experiences in tune with the average citizen?

There are MPs of all political stripes who are left exhausted because of their commitment to representing their constituents, and who rightly resent colleagues who find the time to juggle profitable extracurricular activities. But it is the corruption of democracy, rather than the neglect of democratic duties, that should concern us most.

Take the revolving door between media and politics. It should not be controversial to desire a clear demarcation between the fourth estate and politicians. In a healthy democracy, the former should exist to scrutinise the latter. It's pernicious enough that so many former high-ranking figures from the BBC ended up as spin doctors for David Cameron, Theresa May, Boris Johnson and Rishi Sunak. But GB News and TalkTV offering Tory politicians such as Nadine Dorries, Lee Anderson and Jacob Rees-Mogg gigs as presenters - the latter being paid around £350,000 a year - should be regarded as a grotesque corruption of democratic norms. What sort of tinpot country allows politicians belonging to the ruling party to present shows that, in large part, should be scrutinising the government of the day?

And as recent research by Transparency International underlines, a large proportion of jobs

taken up by former ministers overlap with their previous roles. For example, in the defence sector, this was the case with 81% of new roles taken up by ministers or officials. Take Philip Jones, former chief of naval staff and first sea lord, who took up a job with BAE Systems, a company with a close commercial relationship with the government. While approving his appointment, the Advisory Committee on Business Appointments noted Jones was involved in "regular strategic reviews" with the company while in office. The revolving door means that ministers and senior civil servants are perceived to have one eye on their future career prospects. What implications does this have for their dealings with private companies when in office? It can lead to vested interests exploiting their insider knowledge of government machinery to gain a powerful advantage. It can help bind politicians to the interests of the private sector, too: they may claim the interests of profit-driven enterprises coincide with what's good for society, but above all they know what's good for their own bank balances.

An MP should, above all else, champion the interests of their constituents, whose personal struggles are only multiplying, and whose personal connections with the powerful are near nonexistent. But thanks to the revolving door, it is the already mighty vested interests who have the political big beasts fighting their corner.

The Guardian

# Extreme heat is threatening virtually every aspect of human health

Leana S. Wen

EXTREME heat has blanketed much of the world this summer. The World Meteorological Organisation reports that July has been the hottest month ever recorded on Earth. The frequency of heatwaves has been steadily increasing in the United States, from an average of two per year in the 1960s to six today. This pattern is more than just an existential environmental crisis; it is also one that threatens virtually every aspect of human health.

Extreme heat already kills more Americans than hurricanes, floods or any other weather-related emergency. Some of these deaths are the result of heatstroke, which occurs when the ambient temperature is so high that the body loses control over internal regulation. Organ failure can occur within minutes. For example, in the Phoenix area, where temperatures this summer soared above 110 degrees for more than 30 days in a row, at least 25 people have died from the heat. Another 249 deaths are under investigation. But high ambient temperatures can also exacerbate underlying medical conditions by straining the heart, lungs and kidneys.

A review published in Lancet Planetary Health found that heatwaves were associated with an almost 12 per cent increase in mortality from cardiovascular disease.

Other researchers have noted correlations between duration of heat events and increased emergency care for kidney disease and chronic lung conditions. It's not only physical health that is affected. Spikes in temperature can impair sleep and disrupt brain neurotransmitter function, which impacts mental well-being. Recent studies in the Lancet and Nature Climate Change found that even an increase in temperature of 1 degree Celsius can worsen depression, anxiety and suicide rates. (Climate change itself is a source of mental distress, especially among young people.)

Another result of rising temperatures is that infectious diseases once confined to warmer regions are expanding their reach. An analysis by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention concluded that the number of illnesses from mosquito, tick and flea bites doubled between 2004 and 2018. This includes Lyme disease, a tick-borne illness that can inflict permanent neurological harm if untreated, and West Nile disease, an infection spread by mosquitoes that led to at least 127 deaths during an outbreak in the southwestern United States in 2021.

The latest is the alarming re-emergence of malaria in the United States. The parasitic disease, which causes more than a half-million

deaths globally each year, is almost entirely confined to regions of Africa. Though there are routinely cases of malaria diagnosed in the United States, they have all been among travellers who acquired it abroad.

This has changed. Over the past few months, there have been seven cases of malaria in Florida and one case in Texas that were all locally acquired. That means individuals were bitten by mosquitoes carrying malaria in their areas.

The risk of contracting malaria within the United States remains very low, but the occurrence of local transmission should be a sobering reminder that diseases associated with other parts of the world can affect us here as weather patterns change. Indeed, at least 200 infectious diseases globally are exacerbated by climate hazards. There are measures people can take to reduce the negative health impacts of rising temperatures. First, know whether you are among the groups most susceptible to extreme heat.

These include older adults and young children, who have more trouble with thermoregulation, and people with severe underlying medical conditions. Some medications, including certain psychiatric therapeutics, can increase the like-

lihood of overheating. Second, have a plan for getting through extreme heat events. How much heat you can tolerate depends on your individual circumstances. When in doubt, exercise caution and stay in air-conditioned spaces.

Check on elderly neighbours. Find out where you can access community resources such as cooling centres and pack a "go-bag" just in case. And know where you would go to seek medical care, and make sure those around you are aware of your preference. Third, change elements that are within your control. Be aware of the impact of changing weather on your sleep and the implications for your mental health. Monitor your use of substances, including alcohol, that can blunt your body's thermoregulation.

Reduce your risk of vector-borne diseases by wearing long sleeves and pants in areas known to have ticks and by removing standing water and other mosquito breeding grounds. On a systemic level, every sector - including the health-care industry - must examine how to reduce their contributions to global warming. There is no denying that climate change is now a public health crisis. The health impacts we are already experiencing will multiply for our children, grandchildren and generations to come.

The Washington Post

# If Trump's indictment is to stand

William Jacobson

THE indictment of Donald Trump in the District of Columbia federal court regarding Trump's post-2020 Election conduct is long on alleging Trump's deceit but very short on showing criminality. The 45-page document, like any indictment, is just allegations that must be proven beyond a reasonable doubt in court, and Trump is entitled to the presumption of innocence. Given the shoddy conduct of the Department of Justice and FBI in recent years, the accuracy of the allegations cannot be presumed.

But the allegations in the indictment do reference purported evidence, such as text messages, emails, contemporaneous notes, and testimony. If the evidence cited exists and is not mischaracterized, Trump's perjury in alleging election fraud sufficient to have changed the outcome of the election must be taken seriously. The gravamen of the indictment alleging false claims of election fraud is not new, it has been the subject of countless pundits for years, but many of the details are new. Trump, it's alleged, engaged in a wide-ranging scheme to falsely claim the 2020 election was stolen, when in fact those closest to Trump at the time were telling him the most significant supposed examples of election fraud were not true.

Trump's inner circle allegedly were telling him

that what he was saying was false, and in some instances, Trump allegedly acknowledged that falsity. Yet he persisted in portraying the election as stolen, and then allegedly conspired with others to advance contrived legal theories to justify the creation of alternate elector delegates in key states. Even so, the indictment doesn't provide a compelling case to throw Trump in jail.

An indictment should be more than a political document. Particularly when used against a political opponent of the President in the election period, an indictment should lay out a compelling case for criminality. The DC indictment falls short on demonstrating criminality. Most of the indictment focuses on speech by Trump that is constitutionally protected. The indictment itself acknowledges that people have a right to assert election fraud, that an election was illegitimate, and that there was election interference, even if the factual and legal grounds were shaky.

Certainly Democrats have been denying the legitimacy of Trump's 2016 election based on false claims of Russian interference, and no one has been indicted for that. So why indict Trump, other than for political reasons? The core of the indictment is interference with the functioning of Congress with regard to

counting the electoral votes. Yet the interference with the count of electoral votes took place by virtue of the riot at the Capitol on January 6, not from any statements by or actions of Trump prior to the riot. By all accounts, Congress was ready to count until the riot.

So if interference with the electoral count was the core criminality, the indictment should charge Trump with inciting the J6 violence. But it doesn't. It's a glaring omission, presumably because the DOJ doesn't have sufficient evidence to prove incitement. Lacking evidence of incitement of the act - the riot - that actually caused the interruption of the electoral count, DOJ has asserted tenuous legal theories that other acts of Trump were a "conspiracy" to disrupt the count and to deprive voters of their votes. Such flimsy legal theories are destructive to the rule of law when brought against the leading candidate of the opposition political party during election season.

If the feds think Trump incited the January 6 riot that interfered with the electoral count, then charge him with that. But don't play games with dubious conspiracy and fraud claims disconnected factually from the riot. At EqualProtect.org, the non-profit I lead championing equality, we insist that every American receive the equal protection of the laws. That includes Donald J. Trump.





Promotion of marble, mining sector on modern lines:

# SCCI and APMIA sign MoU

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: A memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between Sarhad Chamber of Commerce and Industry and All Pakistan Marble Industries Association, aiming to promote the marble and mining sector on modern lines, carryout joint research and resolve people's issues associated with the sector.

Ijaz Khan Afridi, the acting president of SCCI and Muhammad Asghar Khan, Chairman of All Pakistan Marble Industries Association (APMIA) signed the agreement during a ceremony held here at chamber's house on Tuesday.

Other members of the APMIA delegation include Shafiullah, Ahmad Shah and Zafar Ali Khan Kundi, Member of the chamber

Executive Committee Pervaiz Khattak, the SCCI's Secretary General Sajjad Aziz. Officials from the Research and Development Cell of the chamber were present during the agreement signing ceremony.

Muhammad Asghar apprised the chamber's acting President Ijaz Khan Afridi that the marble sector is playing a pivotal role in economic development and earning hefty foreign exchange through exports.

He, however, said people attached to the marble sector were faced with financial hardships in carrying out mining through using modern techniques, machines and methods.

On the occasion, the association chairman suggested various proposals for promotion of the marble sector.

Ijaz Afridi assured the APMIA delegation that issues associated with the marble sector will be taken up with relevant government departments and authorities and to be resolved instantly.

The SCCI's chief said immense potential and marble reserves exist in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

He, however, said owing to lack of proper awareness, technical assistance, guidance and financial constraints, the marble sector was not boosted up on modern lines in the province.

Ijaz Afridi said the marble sector is a major source earning foreign exchange worth billions of dollars through export, essentially it has also created massive employment in KP and other parts of the country.

The chamber's presi-

dent urged the government to take pragmatic steps to resolve the problems associated with the marble sector.

He stressed the need for promoting the marble and mining sector on modern lines.

He also emphasized the production of marbles of high quality by proper cutting and polishing so that a huge foreign exchange will be earned through marble export in Central Asian countries and the rest of the world so that it will stabilize the national economy and create further employment opportunities as well.

The SCCI's chief assured the APMIA delegation to take up their issues with relevant government authorities at central and provincial level in an efficient manner.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Muhammad Ishaq Dar chairing meeting of Steering Committee to oversee and guide progress of work related to outsourcing of airports operations at Finance Division.

## Shipping activity at Port Qasim

KARACHI (APP): Shipping activity was recorded at the port where four ships namely, Lisa, MSC Silvia, Eastern Laelia and Enugu carrying Containers, Steel coil and LNG, berthed at Qasim International Container Terminal, Multi-Purpose Terminal and Pakistan Gasport Terminal respectively on Monday.

Meanwhile an oil tanker 'Gulf Jellet' carrying Palm oil is also arrived at outer anchorage of the Port Qasim on same day.

A total of 07 ships were engaged at PQA berths during the last 24 hours, out of them two ships, Lisa and Al-Jassasiya sailed out to sea on Tuesday (today) morning, while three more ships, MSC Silvia, Bull Shark and Eastern Laelia are expected to sail on same day.

A cargo volume of 187,297 tonnes, comprising 156,078 tonnes imports Cargo and 22,219 tonnes export cargo, including containerized cargo carried in 2,893 Containers (1,586 TEUs Imports and 1,307 TEUs export) was handled at the port during last 24 hours.

There are four ships at Outer Anchorage of Port Qasim, out of them an edible oil carrier 'Golden Lotus' & another containers ship 'Maria Elena' are expected to take berths at Liquid Terminal and Container Terminal respectively.

## CDNS set target of Rs75 billion

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Central Directorate of National Saving (CDNS) has set a target of Rs75 billion in Islamic fiscal year 2023-24 to promote the Islamic financial sector in the country.

The aim was to introduce new dimensions in the Islamic finance sector, a senior official of Central Directorate of National Saving told APP here on Tuesday.

The official informed that CDNS had reviewed and set a target of Rs 60 billion in the fiscal year (2022-23) for Islamic investment to introduce the new products in the market.

## SBP remain closed on 14th August

F.P. Report

KARACHI: The State Bank of Pakistan will remain closed on Monday, August 14, 2023 on the occasion of 'Independence Day' as declared by the Government of Pakistan.

## Meeting held to review progress relating to outsourcing of airports

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar on Tuesday chaired a meeting of the Steering Committee to oversee and guide the progress of work related to outsourcing of airports' operations.

Minister for Aviation and Railways Khawaja Saad Rafique, SAPM on Finance Tariq Bajwa, Secretary Aviation, Chief Executive Officer Public Partnership Authority, Dir-

ector General Pakistan Civil Association Authority, International Finance Corporation team and other government officials attended the meeting, said a press release.

The committee was briefed about the latest status of outsourcing of Islamabad Airport transaction for advertisement has been published in all leading local and international newspapers.

Finance Minister Senator Muhammad Ishaq Dar

appreciated the efforts and contribution of all the members of the Committee which have made the plan of outsourcing possible in order to bring the best international aviation practices and services at Pakistani airports.

Federal Minister for Aviation Khawaja Saad Rafique also thanked the Finance Minister, on behalf of all the authorities involved, for his continuous support during the entire process.

## ICCI, CDA to join hands for tree plantation drive

ISLAMABAD (APP): Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) in collaboration with the Capital Development Authority (CDA) would jointly launch a tree plantation drive in the capital under the Go Green Campaign to promote a healthy environment by making Islamabad greener.

Member Environment CDA Captain (R) Anwar ul Haq Tuesday visited ICCI along with Director General Environment Xenia Hamayun Sanik and Director Environment Akhtar Rasool and asked the chamber to join hands with CDA to promote the tree plantation drive in the Capital as support of the business community is very important in making this drive successful.

He said that the CDA is ready to give a piece of land to ICCI for tree plantation so that the business community can plant maximum saplings there and also take responsibility for their maintenance and upkeep. He said that CDA will identify the species of plants while the business community can also select the species in consultation with CDA.

He said that filtration plants and washrooms are ready in many sectors and CDA is ready to hand over

these facilities to the concerned market associations if they take responsibility for their maintenance and operation with their own resources.

He said that the CDA is also ready to allow ICCI to display its digital logo on the Zero Point Bridge and maintain it with its own resources. He said that allergy-causing trees like paper mulberry are being eliminated in Islamabad to save people from allergies.

Speaking on the occasion, President ICCI Ahsan Zafar Bakhtavari said that the chamber had earlier planted thousands of saplings in Islamabad under

the Go Green campaign in collaboration with CDA and with the support of the business community, the plantation campaign in the markets will be carried out in an effective manner to promote a healthy environment by making Islamabad greener and greener.

He said that along with planting new trees, a strategy should be made for proper maintenance of old trees so that they can be kept safe. He said that the CDA should organize entrance and exit gates in the markets with the help of the Chamber, which will increase the beauty of the city.

## Tokyo stocks rise for 3rd straight day

TOKYO (APP): Tokyo stocks closed slightly higher Tuesday, extending their winning streak to three days, while trading was generally lackluster amid a dearth of fresh market-moving news.

Japan's benchmark Nikkei stock index, the 225-issue Nikkei Stock Average, gained 122.73 points, or 0.38 percent, to finish at 32,377.29. The broader Topix index, meanwhile, finished 7.80 points, or 0.34 percent, higher at 2,291.73.

Despite the recent upward trend, the Tokyo market is likely to see a limited upside as markets have entered a summer slump unless market players find fresh incentives, dealers said. On the top-tier Prime Market, gainers were led by electric power and gas, marine transportation and food issues. Among exporters, Honda Motor added 53 yen, or 1.2 percent, to 4,453 yen, while Mazda Motor gained 11.5 yen, or 0.8 percent, to 1,425 yen.

## FFC holds 2nd corporate briefing for year 2023



F.P. Report

KARACHI: Fauji Fertilizer Company (FFC) held its Second Corporate Briefing for the year 2023 as part of its best corporate governance practices.

FFC has been recognized by Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) as first amongst Top 25 Companies consecutively for 12 years attributed to its Compliance of Code of Corporate Governance, Company Performance and Efficient

Management.

In the same backdrop the subject briefing for the half-year ended 30th June 2023 was held at FFC's corporate Head Office, Rawalpindi.

Virtual access was also provided to all desirous stakeholders. Prominent capital market analysts and dignitary from Pakistan Stock Exchange attended the event.

Company Secretary FFC, Brig Irfan Khan T.Bt (Retd) opened the briefing

and apprised the house about significance of the event. Chief Financial Officer, Syed Atif Ali briefed the house about FFC's performance for the half year 2023 and assured Company's commitment to achieve higher standards of performance and sustained earnings.

Company Secretary concluded the briefing and further ascertained Company's perseverance in ensuring continual improvement for its stakeholders.

## IBA Karachi and University of Sialkot join hands

— to foster family businesses in region

F.P. Report

SIALKOT: In a stride towards enhancing executive education and fostering innovation, the Institute of Business Administration (IBA) Karachi's Center for Executive Education (CEE) has inked an MoU with the Professional Development Center (PDC) at the University of Sialkot (USKT). This strategic partnership seeks to establish an empowering platform in the region that will drive the growth and success of family-owned businesses through collaborative efforts in capacity building, consultancies, and research.

Distinguished personalities from both IBA and USKT graced the MoU signing ceremony, underscoring the importance of this alliance. Dr. S Akbar Zaidi, Executive Director IBA; Mr. Kamran Bilgrami, Director CEE-IBA; and Ms. Ayesha Anas Iftikhar, Program Director Family Business Programs, CEE-IBA, led the IBA delegation, while the USKT contingent was represented by Mr. Faisal Manzoor, Chairman of the Board of Governors (BOG), Mr. Muhammad Rehan Younas, Executive Director and



Vice Chancellor, and other esteemed members of the university's leadership.

Among the luminaries present were eminent figures from various chambers of commerce including Mr. Sikandar Ishfaq, President of Gujrat Chamber of Commerce & Industry; Mr. Abdul Ghafoor Malik, President of Sialkot Chamber of Commerce & Industry; Dr. Mariam Nouman, President of Women Chamber of Commerce & Industry, Sialkot; and Mr. Zia Ul Haq, President of Gujranwala Chamber of Commerce.

Commencing the ceremony, Mr. Bilgrami and Mr. Muhammad Yaqoob conveyed their shared enthusiasm about the trans-

formative impact of this partnership. Mr. Bilgrami highlighted the event's significance in propelling the region's family businesses forward, while Mr. Yaqoob underscored USKT's dedication to collaborative education and its role in fostering mutual success.

Dr. S Akbar Zaidi echoed IBA's commitment to cultivating a globally competitive knowledge ecosystem for family-run enterprises. He praised Sialkot's rich history of creativity and enterprise, noting its impressive contribution to Pakistan's exports.

Dr. Zaidi expressed pride in the collaboration and IBA's commitment to mutual growth.

Dr. Navid Jamil Malik,

Director PDC, USKT emphasized the partnership's potential to drive innovation and growth in executive education, while a panel discussion moderated by Ms. Ayesha Anas Iftikhar explored the sustainability of family-managed businesses and the associated challenges. Panelists highlighted the collaborative benefits for family businesses and celebrated the role of women in the business landscape.

The event culminated with the official signing of the MoU between IBA-CEE and PDC-USKT, marking a pivotal milestone in advancing executive education, governance and business innovation in the region.

## SECP and FIA to collaborate for a secure digital financial system

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Chairman, Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP), Akif Saeed, and the Additional Director General, Federal Investigation Agency (FIA), Ahmed Ishaque Jehangir, held a meeting at SECP's head office to foster effective collaboration and identify areas of shared interest between the two entities.

Senior officials from both organizations were present, said a press release

issued here on Tuesday.

The SECP and the FIA have agreed to formalize their collaboration to protect Pakistan's digital financial system from cyber-crime and fraud threats through the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU).

The meeting witnessed constructive discussions and deliberations on several key areas of mutual interest. For illegal deposit-taking and illegal lending Apps, it was agreed to

appoint focal persons and establish a quick communication channel, as well as regular sharing of information on matters under investigation at respective institutions.

The Chairman SECP informed the FIA team on the SECP's regulatory framework for digital lending apps, as well as efforts to prohibit exploitative practices and assure borrowers' financial sustainability.

The framework also

requires digital lending NBFCs to disclose fees, loan terms, instalments, and charges to borrowers in a transparent manner, Akif added.

He said companies are also barred from obtaining customer data and are expected to follow ethical and legal standards. The SECP collaborated with Google to implement the Personal Loan App Policy in Pakistan, restricting the listing of unauthorized and illicit apps. As a result,

Google removed 115 illegal lending apps from its Play Store.

Additional Director General Federal Investigation Agency (FIA), Ahmed Ishaque Jehangir, appreciated SECP's regulatory framework for lending apps and called for training and awareness sessions for officers on digital lending policy. He also agreed to assist SECP in capacity building and establishing digital forensics lab facilities.





## In brief

## PSA announces record prize money

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Professional Squash Association (PSA) has announced a record total of \$8,947,290 worth of player compensation was on offer throughout the 2022-23 PSA Tour season, representing a 9.4% increase on the season before. The announcement of record player compensation comes two months after a major investment in the sport by Squash SM&E Holdings - the Sports, Media and Entertainment Group led by businessman Mark Walter - who acquired a stake in Squash Media & Marketing (SMM), a commercial entity created and managed by the PSA, said a press release. The 2022-23 campaign saw 823 events take place across the PSA World Tour, PSA Challenger Tour and the WSF & PSA Satellite Tour - also a record figure - and that number is forecast to increase once again next season, with the investment enabling SMM to deliver more events and increase player compensation correspondingly. Prize money on the women's tour during 2022-23 totalled \$4,075,779, while a total of \$4,871,511 was awarded on the men's tour. Nouran Gohar was the top-earning female player on the tour, winning \$275,600 in total compensation, with her male counterpart, Ali Farag, winning \$247,650 marking the second season in a row where Gohar has been the most successful player on the tour in terms of earnings. Average earnings for the men's and women's top 10 totalled \$151,663 an increase of 6.6% compared to the previous season. There were 497 men's events and 326 women's events during the season, with 66 countries staging a PSA Tour event. Isle of Man hosted a PSA event for the first time.

## Shaheens beat PNG

LAHORE (APP): A five-wicket haul from Faisal Akram and half-centuries by Arafat Minhas and Azan Awaiz led Shaheens to an impressive 224-run win over Papua New Guinea at the DXC Arena in Darwin, Australia on Tuesday afternoon. Opting to bat first in the 50-over match, openers Azan and Shamyul Hussain provided a solid 86-run stand for the first wicket, said the information made here by the Pakistan Cricket Board. Shamyul was the first batter to return to the pavilion, scoring a run-a-ball 45, which included seven fours. Captain Rohail Nazir (2, 5b) soon was sent back to the hut before left-handed Azan was joined by Wahaj Riaz. The pair knitted 57 runs for the third wicket as Wahaj (36, 35b, 2x4s, 1x6) fell to Charles Amini in the 28th over. Azan (72, 94b, 6x4s), the highest run-getter for Shaheens, was next to go with Shaheens 170 for four in 30.4 overs. Shawaiz Irfan, who scored two half-centuries in the Top End T20 Series, went early and could score only 13 off 12 balls. Muhammad Irfan Khan, coming to bat at number five scored 41 off 40 balls, smashing four fours. That the Shaheens were able to post 323 was largely due to Arafat Minhas' quick-fire 56 off 34 balls, which included seven fours and one six. Arafat and Ahmed Khan (31, 28b, 2x4s) stitched a 74-run partnership for the seventh wicket. For PNG, Amini was the most successful bowler, taking three wickets for 61.

## Fawad says goodbye to Pakistan cricket, eyes US career

LAHORE (NNI): Pakistan's out-of-favour batsman Fawad Alam has opted to conclude his international career with Pakistan and shift his focus towards a new chapter in the United States. At 37 years of age, he is poised to embrace a fresh role as a 'local' player for the Chicago Kingsmen in the Minor League Cricket T20. This move aligns him with a growing trend of Pakistani players, including names like Sami Aslam, Hammad Azam, Saif Badar, and

Mohammad Mohsin, who have transitioned to the United States to pursue their cricket careers. In the past year, Alam faced Australia in three Test matches, contributing 33 runs across four innings. He also participated in a solitary Test against Sri Lanka, scoring 25 runs. Following this, he was left out of the Test squad. Notably, even though he had started his Test journey in 2009 with a century against Sri Lanka, Alam was subsequently

dropped from the Pakistani squad after just two more matches. After more than a decade of being on the sidelines, the left-handed batsman finally made a highly anticipated comeback to the national team during Pakistan's tour of England in 2020. Over the course of his Pakistan career, Alam featured in 19 Test matches, amassing a total of 1011 runs at an average of 38.88. Among his achievements are five centuries and two fifties.

## Suryakumar blasts India to win over West Indies in 3rd T20

GUYANA (Agencies): Suryakumar Yadav smashed 83 off 44 balls as India beat the West Indies by seven wickets in the third T20 international in Guyana on Tuesday to keep the series alive. After India lost T20 debutant Yashasvi Jaiswal and Shubman Gill cheaply in pursuit of 160, Suryakumar took charge in a dazzling innings comprising 10 fours and four sixes. He eventually fell clipping an Alzarri Joseph full toss to deep backward square leg, but Tilak Varma

finished unbeaten on 49 and captain Hardik Pandya hit the winning six with 13 balls to spare. West Indies skipper Rovman Powell had earlier dragged his side to 159-5 with a quick-fire 40 not out after winning the toss in Providence and choosing to bat. Brandon King made a run-a-ball 42 while fellow opener Kyle Mayers (25) and Nicholas Pooran (20) also made decent contributions for the hosts. Left-arm wrist spinner Kuldeep Yadav, recalled in

place of Ravi Bishnoi, claimed 3-28 to lead the Indian bowling attack. Axar Patel and Mukesh Kumar picked up a wicket apiece. India cut West Indies' lead to 2-1 in the five-match series after they lost the opener by four runs followed by Sunday's dramatic two-wicket defeat. West Indies are aiming to win their first series of two or more matches against India in any format since 2016. India won the preceding two-Test series 1-0 before beating the West Indies 2-1 in the ODIs.

## PCB restores Sarfraz Nawaz's pension

LAHORE (APP): Zaka Ashraf, the head of the Management Committee, met former Pakistan fast bowler Sarfraz Nawaz here to resolve the outstanding matters over his unpaid ex gratia payments since January 2017. The meeting was held in a cordial atmosphere at National Cricket Academy in the presence of former captains Misbah-ul-Haq and Mohammad Hafeez. Zaka Ashraf handed over a cheque to settle the payments under the Players' Welfare Policy and assured Sarfraz Nawaz of unconditional support. The ex gratia payments had been discontinued as a result of disciplinary proceedings initiated against Sarfraz Nawaz by the previous managements over the violation of Code of Conduct under the Players' Welfare Policy. Sarfraz Nawaz has assured the PCB of his compliance to the Code of Conduct and the ex gratia payments to him under the Players' Welfare Policy will be now be resumed. Zaka Ashraf on Tuesday: "I was upset to



see a former Test cricketer in such a condition and it was disturbing to see Sarfraz Nawaz being deprived of his rightful pension. It is disappointing that the previous administrations have used the PCB's coffers to settle personal scores. "No cricketer should have to go through what Sarfraz Nawaz had to face, and I want to reassure every former and current cricketer, international or domestic, that the PCB considers them as its asset and will look after them at every stage of their life and in every possible way. They deserve to be loved and respected by their cricket board."

Sarfraz Nawaz said: "I have visited the National Cricket Academy after almost six years and received a warm welcome from the PCB officials. I am pleased that Zaka Ashraf has reinstated my pension. Given my health, I am particularly grateful for this step. "In a voluntary capacity, I offer honorary services to the board to enhance fast bowlers' skills for cricket's advancement." Sarfraz Nawaz played 55 Tests and 45 One-Day International for Pakistan from 1969 till 1984. He famously delivered a 33-ball spell in Melbourne on 15 March 1979, in which he took seven wickets for just one run. He went on to bowl his best bowling figures of nine for 86 in that innings which helped Pakistan to their second Test win in Australia. The right-arm fast bowler took 177 Test wickets at 32.75 and dismissed 63 batters in ODIs at 23.22 runs apiece. He took 1,005 wickets at an average of 24.62 in first-class cricket.

## Qatar Classic to feature women's event for first time since 2015

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Qatar Classic would feature a women's draw for the first time since 2015 when the PSA World Tour Platinum event takes place at the Khalifa International Tennis & Squash Complex in Doha from September 9 to 16. With the now-retired Laura Massaro winning the event eight years ago, it is guaranteed that a new name would be etched onto the women's trophy, and it's World No.1 Nouran Gohar who will headline the 48-women draw for the second PSA World Tour Platinum event of the 2023-24 campaign, said a press release. Gohar would receive a bye into round two where she will come up against either Emily Whitlock of Wales or Ineta Mackevica of Latvia. From there, she was seeded to come up against World No.9 Olivia Fiechter and World No.7 Amanda Sobhy before a mouthwatering semi-final with arch-rival Hania El Hammamy. On the opposite side of the draw was World Champion and No.2 seed Nour El Sherbini, who reached the final of the Qatar

Classic in 2015. The likes of World No.10 Rowan Elaraby, World No.6 Nele Gilis and World No.4 Joelle King will stand between El Sherbini and the final. Malaysia's former World No.5 Low Wee Wern and Egypt's World No.62 Malak Khafagy have taken the wildcard spots in the women's draw. They will face World No.28 Nada Abbas and World No.31 Lucy Turmel, respectively, in round one. The men's draw would be headed up by two-time champion Ali Farag. The World No.1 - a Qatar Classic champion in 2018 and 2020 - will look to improve on a disappointing third round exit last year and is seeded to play compatriots Mohamed Abouelghar, Fares Dessouky and Tarek Momen - who won his World Championship trophy in Qatar in 2019 - in his first three matches. In the semi-finals he was seeded to meet No.4 seed Paul Coll, who was a losing finalist in both 2020 and 2021. Peruvian Diego Elias was seeded at No.2 and he

returns to the scene of his first Platinum title win, when he defeated Coll to take the trophy in 2021, becoming the first South American to win the prestigious title. He was seeded to play defending champion Mohamed ElShorbagy in a mouthwatering semi-final contest. ElShorbagy has four Qatar Classic trophies under his belt and is one win away from a 50th PSA title - he would become only the fourth man to achieve that milestone. Qatari No.1 Abdullah Mohd Al Tamimi will take on Frenchman Lucas Serme in round one, while his compatriots Syed Azlan Amjad and Salem Al Malki take the wildcard spots. Total player compensation of \$375,000 - split equally between the men's and women's events - would be on offer. The tournament kicks off with the first round of the women's event on Saturday September 9 and the final would take place on September 15. The men's event would be held from September 10 to 16.

## France end Morocco dream to cruise into quarters

ADELAIDE (Agencies): Eugenie Le Sommer scored twice as France cruised into the Women's World Cup quarter-finals, thrashing Morocco to end the African side's dream run. Goals from Kadidiatou Diani, Kenza Dali and Le Sommer put France 3-0 ahead at half-time in Adelaide, with Le Sommer adding her second after 70 minutes. France will now face Australia in the last eight in Brisbane on Saturday.

Morocco had been hoping to become the first African side to win a knockout match at the Women's World Cup. Clinical France max-imise attack in ruthless win Herve Renard's France stand 67 places above Morocco in Fifa's world rankings and their superior quality was evident in the first half, with Dianni nodding them in front after a



neat cross from Sakina Karchaoui as she scored her fourth goal in the competition. In the 20th minute Dianni turned provider, cutting the ball back to Aston Villa's Dali who struck a low shot into the corner. And with less than a quarter of the match gone the tie was wrapped up when Morocco's Nesryne El Chad slammed a clear-

ance against Dianni and the ball fell nicely to Le Sommer who added a third. In the closing stages, with Morocco's defence tiring, Le Sommer added a fourth, heading in Vicki Becho's deep cross. France's best result at a World Cup finals is fourth in 2011, and they have now reached the last eight in each of the last four editions.

With top-10 ranked teams the United States, Germany, Brazil and Canada all eliminated, the French will now fancy their chances of going all the way in the tournament. Morocco's dream run ends Morocco - the first Arab nation to compete at the finals - claimed a shock second place in Group H ahead of two-time winners Germany, who had beaten them 6-0 in their opening game. A second upset against unbeaten France though was a step too far. The team fell apart defensively as the more experienced side scored their first three goals across eight first-half minutes. Morocco's best chance fell just after the restart when Ibtissam Jraidi motored through on goal, but she was quickly smothered by France stopper Pauline Peyraud-Magnin.

## Potential of Pakistani footballers scarier compared to rest of world: Maria

KARACHI (Monitoring Desk): Pakistan women's team captain Maria Khan believes that the potential of footballers in the country is scarier compared to the rest of the world. The midfielder, who can also play as a centre-back, believes that the potential of footballers in Pakistan is scary. "I have played in three different countries but I have never seen anything like the potential that sits in Pakistan. These athletes are competing at the international level without any consistent domestic football which makes their potential so scary," Maria told The Asian Game on Monday. "When these athletes get access to full time football and a professional setup, coupled with their experience of being deprived of football and high-level competition for so long and a healthy competitive environment, you are going to create a very deadly athlete," she added. Earlier, the Pakistan Football Federation (PFF) accepted the invitation to play in a women's football tournament in Saudi Arabia in September, sources revealed on Monday. The kingdom is going to organise a multi-national women's tournament in September where a minimum of four and a maximum of six teams will participate. The PFF was contacted by the Saudi Arabian Football Federation a few days ago. Further details about the tournament will be revealed by the organisers once the teams are finalised. Once the PFF gets the complete information about the tournament, they will set up a women's team camp by the end of this month. The PFF is hopeful that this tournament in the Middle East will be crucial for the development of players as they will get more international experience.

## Haroon wants to make nation proud by winning more laurels

ISLAMABAD (APP): Young talented table tennis player Haroon Ijaz wanted to make the nation proud by winning laurels for the country at national and international levels. Haroon, who won a gold medal in table tennis at National Special Olympics Games last year, said he would make the nation proud if he gets a chance to represent the country in the future. "I excelled in the table tennis competition of the National Sports Olympics Games and bagged a gold medal. The Games were played in Rawalpindi from September 18 to 20 last year. Around 50 special children from schools across the country participated in the event," he said. "Three other school-level competitions were also organized in Lahore, Faisalabad, and Karachi during the past four to six months

in which, I also performed brilliantly and won gold medals in all three events". "I'm grateful to the government for giving opportunities to special children to participate in the games. I will soon participate in the table tennis event in Karachi," he said in an interview with APP. Haroon, who was a resident of District Bagh, Azad Kashmir is currently studying here at the National Training Center for Special Persons School. "I am a student of class 8 and along with studies, I also participate in sports competitions, and at the moment I am also learning music in school," he said. He said his father was retired from Punjab Bank, and they were two brothers. My elder brother has done matriculation while I am still studying in 8th standard, he said.

Haroon said he had a stutter in his tongue, due to which he faced difficulty while speaking. "I will soon participate in the table tennis event to be held in Karachi, for which I'm preparing". The National Training Center for Special Persons is fully supporting me in school-level competitions. If I got a chance I would make my country proud. He said he also wanted to participate in national-level table tennis competitions but encouragement was needed by the government and federation. It is pertinent to mention, Haroon performed brilliantly in the National Special Olympics Games last year, which was an example for other special children. If special children were given opportunities in games, they could play their part in making the nation proud.

## Asia cup match: dist admin starts preparations

MULTAN (APP): The district administration has started preparations regarding Asia cricket cup match scheduled between Pakistan and Nepal teams at Multan cricket stadium on August 30. Deputy Commissioner Umer Jehangir presided over a meeting with district departments and PCB officials here on Tuesday and directed officials to ensure lighting, security and decoration at the stadium and routes. The district administration would provide full hospitality to the international cricketers and will ensure foolproof security of the cricket teams and spectators. Special shuttle service would be plied while ticket counters also be set up for the convenience of the cricket fans. DC said that the cleanliness and repairing work of the stadium was being initiated and added that an integrated strategy has been devised to ensure transparency of the tickets.

## World University Games end with breathtaking closing ceremony

CHENGDU (APP): The breathtaking closing ceremony of the 31st FISU Summer World University Games was held at the Chengdu Open Air Music Park in Sichuan Province on late Tuesday. Featuring a large main stage and cutting-edge sports facilities, the Music Park provided a nice ending to the games. Celebrating the achievements of the participating athletes, the ceremony was a showcase of music, dance, and cultural performances that reflected China's rich traditions and heritage. The highlight of the closing ceremony was the official handover of the FISU flag to the next host city Rhine-Ruhr of Germany. This symbolic gesture signified the transfer of responsibility for organizing the next edition of the

World University Games. The closing ceremony offered a chance to athletes to come together one last time, celebrate their achievements, and bid farewell to their fellow competitors. It was a joyous and emotional occasion as athletes reflected on their experiences and the friendships they had made during the games. Overall, the FISU World University Games closing ceremony was a grand finale that encapsulated the spirit of unity, sportsmanship, and cultural exchange that defined the games. The ceremony served as a fitting tribute to the athletes and a celebration of the international sporting community. Around 6,500 athletes from 113 countries and regions took part in 269 events across 18 disciplines

from July 28 to August 8. Pakistan had fielded five women athletes in the Games that included: Amtul Rehman, Uzma Azam, Manisha Ali, Maliha Ali and Fizza. They all are gold medal winners in the recently-held National Games in Quetta. Amtul Rehman, who is a student of Lahore College for Women University (LCWU) participated in long jump and triple jump events of the Games. Uzma Azam of Government College Women University Faisalabad took part in the hammer throw event. Lahore Garrison University's twin sisters Manisha and Maliha competed in taekwondo event, while Fizza chipped in the wushu event. However none of them made it to the next round of the event in their respective disciplines.





## In brief

### 37 Corona cases reported

ISLAMABAD (NNI): Health officials on Tuesday said that 37 new Coronavirus cases were reported during the last one week across the country. As per the data shared by the National Institute of Health (NIH), the case positivity ratio was 0.38 percent while five patients were in critical condition. No death was reported from the Coronavirus last week while 9,693 Covid-19 tests were conducted. Meanwhile, Minister for National Health Services, Regulations, and Coordination, Abdul Qadir Patel said the government has strengthened the role of Border and Health Services in Pakistan to deal with any sub-variant of Covid-19. The minister said there was a surveillance system at all entry points of the country including airports. There will be rapid tests and screening of passengers at all airports, he added. He added 90 percent of the country's population already got the Covid-19 vaccine. "An efficient system with a proper management team is fully functional in the country to remain vigilant and is ready to make an emergency plan to deal with any sub-variant of Covid-19," the minister added. He said the Border and Health Services Pakistan was ensuring the implementation of international health regulations. He said that in case of any untoward situation, the health system was fully prepared to deal with any sub-variant of the Omicron variant of Covid-19 including BF.7 in the country.

### Two held for torturing women

RAWALPINDI (APP): Police have arrested two accused who were involved in torturing women brutally here on Tuesday. According to police spokesman, the victim woman filed application to Waris Khan police station that the accused Faisal and Sahib along with their accomplices tortured her daughter-in-law and daughters viciously. Waris Khan police have registered cases against both of them and started investigation. SP Rawal Faisal Saleem said that the accused will be challenged to court with concrete evidence and will be punished. SP further said that violence against women and children is intolerable. Meanwhile, Rawalpindi police have arrested three illegal arm holders and recovered arms from their possession during crackdown. Police have registered separate cases against the accused and started further investigation.

### IRSA releases 364,800 cusecs water

ISLAMABAD (APP): Indus River System Authority (IRSA) on Tuesday released 364,800 cusecs of water from various rim stations with inflow of 427,400 cusecs. According to the data released by IRSA, the water level in River Indus at Tarbela Dam was 1547.00 feet and was 149.00 feet higher than its dead level of 1,398 feet. Water inflow and outflow in the dam was recorded as 251,000 cusecs and 221,600 cusecs respectively. The water level in River Jhelum at Mangla Dam was 1236.25 feet, which was 186.25 feet higher than its dead level of 1,050 feet. The inflow and outflow of water was recorded at 43,200 cusecs and 10,000 cusecs respectively. The release of water at Kalabagh, Taunsa, Guddu and Sukkur was recorded as 269,500, 229,000, 233,400 and 130,200 cusecs respectively. Similarly, from River Kabul, a total of 50,300 cusecs of water were released at Nowshera and 54,700 cusecs were released from River Chenab at Marala.



ISLAMABAD: Speaker National Assembly Raja Pervez Ashraf in a meeting with Federal Minister for Narcotics Control Nawabzada Shazain Bugti at Parliament House. —APP Photo

## First Lady urges inclusive education for differently-abled

ISLAMABAD (APP): First Lady Begum Samina Alvi on Tuesday urged the need to provide inclusive education to the Children with Disabilities (CWDs) in the mainstream educational institutions.

She said that it was the collective responsibility of society to create an inclusive learning environment for all students, irrespective of their abilities.

She was addressing an online teacher training session on inclusive education for Children with Disabilities (CWDs), President Secretariat Press Wing said in a press release.

The virtual Teacher Training Session was organized by Soliton Technologies in collaboration with Simmons University, USA. More than 200 teachers from across Pakistan attended the online training session on inclusive education for

Differently-Abled Children (DACs). Professor Christine Evans, Program Director at Simmons University, conducted the online training session.

Addressing the session, the First Lady said that their education system should cater to the diverse needs of each child, adding that every child, regardless of their disability, should be provided equal opportunities to learn, grow, and thrive.

She said that such training programs helped teachers understand different disabilities and appropriate teaching methodologies for CWDs.

"Properly trained teachers can create a nurturing environment that fosters inclusivity, empathy, and understanding among all students", she observed.

Begum Samina Alvi emphasized the need for sensitizing educators to recognize and polish the

unique abilities and strengths of Differently-Abled Children (DACs).

She said that teachers should focus on the potential of DACs to encourage their participation in various activities of life.

She also urged the relevant stakeholders to join hands and take proactive steps towards implementing inclusive education practices in Pakistan.

"By investing in teachers' training, fostering collaboration, embracing technology, and creating an inclusive society, we can ensure that no child is left behind", the First Lady maintained.

Begum Samina Alvi also called for promoting inclusivity in all spheres of life, and to ensure that differently-abled children had equal access to recreational facilities, social gatherings, and employment opportunities to make them feel valued and empowered.

## Ethiopia, Pakistan discuss cooperation in health sector

ISLAMABAD, Aug 08 (APP): The Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia (FDRE) and Islamic Republic of Pakistan have worked out multiple avenues to strengthen cooperation in the healthcare sector, especially through academic and research collaboration.

The cooperation came under discussion during a meeting of a 6-member delegation from the FDRE with Director General of the Health Ministry Dr Baseer Achakzai.

The delegation was accompanied by Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of FDRE

to Islamic Republic of Pakistan, Ambassador Abdul Beker and led by Vice President of Jigjiga University of FDRE Dr Abdulahi Hussein.

On the occasion, Ambassador Abdul Beker stressed on establishing institutional linkages in healthcare sector between the two countries.

The ambassador along with the delegation, briefed the Director General about healthcare and medical training systems in the FDRE.

Both sides agreed to work out memorandums of understanding to strengthen the cooperation between the two countries

in the health sector.

The delegation also visited the Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences and had comprehensive discussion on cooperation in the medical sector.

The delegation was also called on the Executive Director of PIMS where they received a detailed briefing on the functioning of the institute.

The health experts from the FDRE also paid visit to College of Physicians and Surgeons of Pakistan, Pakistan Medical and Dental Council, Sindh Institute of Urology and Transplantation, and Al-Marroof Hospital Islamabad.

## 14 Outlaws arrested; drugs and weapons recovered

ISLAMABAD (NNI): Islamabad Capital Police apprehended 14 outlaws from different areas of the city and recovered a huge cache of drugs and weapons with ammunition from their possession, a police public relations officer said.

He said that, following the special directions of Islamabad Capital City Police Officer (ICCP), the Islamabad Capital Police have intensified crackdown against the criminal elements in order to eliminate crime from the city.

Following these directives, the Aabpara police team arrested two accused namely Imran Masih and Asif Yousaf and recovered 540 gram heroin and 30 liters liquor from their possession. The Kohsar police team arrested an accused namely Sahil Markas and recovered one 30 bore pistol with ammunition from his possession.

Likewise, the Karachi

Company police team arrested an accused namely Abdul Rehman and recovered 535 gram heroin from his possession. The Golra police arrested an accused namely Shahbaz and recovered one 30 bore pistol with ammunition from his possession.

Similarly, the Sangjani police team arrested two drug peddlers namely Usman and Bilal Khan and recovered 720 gram heroin from their possession. The Noon police team arrested an accused namely Farman Ali and recovered 170 gram hashish from his possession.

Moreover, the Koral police team arrested an accused namely Mushtaq Ur Rehman and recovered 1010 gram opium from his possession. The Lohi Bher police team arrested an accused namely Asfand Yar Iqbal and recovered one 30 bore pistol with ammunition from his possession.

Furthermore, the Nilore police team arrested an accused namely Waqas and recovered one 30 bore pistol with ammunition from his possession.

During the crackdown against proclaimed offenders and court absconders, the police teams arrested 03 absconders from various areas of the city. Cases have been registered against the nabbed accused and further investigation is underway.

CPO/DIG Operations Islamabad Syed Shehzad Nadeem Bukhari directed all senior officials for an effective crackdown against the accused involved in drug peddling and possessing illegal weapons and said that the safety of the lives and property of the citizens is our prime responsibility.

He maintained that the performance of police officials in this regard would be reviewed on a continuous basis.

## Polio immunization campaign continues

ISLAMABAD (APP): The polio immunization campaign continued on Tuesday across the country to protect children from the crippling disease.

According to official sources, trained and dedicated "Sehat Muhafiz" have been engaged in the vaccination drive to inoculate the targeted children at their doorstep.

"I urge all parents and caregivers to ensure the vaccination of eligible children during the campaign to save them from the debilitating disease. Polio is incurable, and vaccines can protect our children," Federal Health Minister Abdul Qadir Patel said.

"The frontline health workers have been playing a vital role in keeping our children safe from the debilitating effects of polio. Despite facing many challenges, they have been working tirelessly."

"We recognize the important contributions of the health workers to achieve the goal of polio eradication," said the Minister.

Coordinator of the National Emergency Operations Centre, Dr Shahzad Baig said, "Let's work together and play our part to protect our children from vaccine-preventable disease."

He said, "I particularly urge all parents and caregivers to get their children vaccinated instead of hiding them or refusing to take the necessary drops during all vaccination drives."

It is important to realize that the polio virus still exists in our surroundings, and no child is safe until all children are truly vaccinated."

He said that the Sehat Tahhafuz Helpline 1166 and 24/7 WhatsApp Helpline 0346-777-65-46 will be available to assist parents and caregivers in reporting missed children.

He added that repeated polio vaccination campaigns are imperative for building immunity among children and preventing lifelong paralysis.

## Pak-Afghan cooperation against terrorism, extremism demand of time: Ashrafi

ISLAMABAD (INP): Pakistan Ulema Council Chairman and International Interfaith Harmony Council President Hafiz Muhammad Tahir Mahmood Ashrafi on Tuesday said Pakistan-Afghan cooperation against terrorism and extremism was the demand of time and circumstances.

Addressing the media, he said Chief of Army Staff General Syed Asim Munir and Head of Afghan Interim Government Mullah Haibatullah had guided in the right direction.

Ashrafi who is also the Prime Minister's Special Representative on Interfaith Harmony and middle East, highlighting Pakistan's status as an ideological Islamic state, with its Constitution adhering to the principles of the Quran and Sunnah, the nations'

Islamic scholars had unequivocally condemned violence and the killing of innocent individuals in the name of Jihad and combat. Speaking about the long-standing conflict and turmoil that both Pakistan and Afghanistan have endured for over four decades, he emphasized the need for mutual cooperation not only between Pakistan and Afghanistan but among all regional countries.

He pointed out that resolving the Kashmir issue could lead to economic prosperity for the entire region, bringing much-needed happiness to the people.

To a question, he replied that the policies advocated by General Syed Asim Munir and Mullah Haibatullah had laid out a clear trajectory for addressing these issues adding that they had provided renewed

clarity on the rights and responsibilities pertaining to Jihad and violence.

Ashrafi also termed Mullah Haibatullah's message that there was no room for unauthorized Jihad and combat in Pakistan a good omen.

He reinforced Pakistan's commitment to achieving a progressive and just society within the framework of its Constitution expressing optimism that Pakistan's transition towards a fair judicial system would complement the eventual end of exploitative economic systems.

As the nation prepares to celebrate Pakistan's Independence Day on August 14, he announced plans for nationwide celebrations, with special emphasis on promoting the rights of minorities particularly on August 11 in the Friday sermons.

## NA Speaker bids farewell to parliamentary leaders

ISLAMABAD (APP): Speaker National Assembly Raja Pervaiz Ashraf bid farewell to the parliamentary leaders of various parties present in the House, establishing a new parliamentary tradition.

He held individual meetings with parliamentary leaders, including Mr. Shahz Zain Bugti from Jamhoori Watan Party, Mr. Mohsin Dawar from National Democratic Movement,

Mr. Muhammad Afzal Dhandla from Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf, Mr. Muhammad Islam Bhoonani, Mr. Tariq Bashir Cheema from Pakistan Muslim League (Q), Mr. Ghous Bakhsh Khan Mahar from Green

Democratic Alliance, and Mr. Ali Nawaz Shah.

Speaker National Assembly Raja Pervaiz Ashraf presented memorable shields to all political leaders, acknowledging their commendable and positive roles in the activities of the 15th National Assembly.

Addressing the meetings, Speaker Raja Pervaiz Ashraf expressed gratitude to the parliamentary leaders and their parties for effectively fulfilling their roles during the tenure of the 15th National Assembly.

Speaker National Assembly stated, "I am the spokesperson of the hopes of 240 million people of Pakistan. While abiding by

the Constitution, we have fulfilled our democratic responsibilities."

"During the past one and a half years, all parties have played a crucial role in the effective functioning of the House, Speaker National Assembly emphasized.

The rapid legislation by the parliamentary political parties concerning public welfare, prosperity, and safeguarding public interests in such a short period is unforgettable," Speaker National Assembly noted.

The visiting parliamentary leaders also congratulated Speaker National Assembly for steering the House with utmost positivity and expressed their gratitude for his leadership.

## BISP to start Mobile Registration Vehicle Centers in Sindh, Balochistan

ISLAMABAD (APP): Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) has planned to launch the facility of Mobile Registration Vehicle Centers in various districts of Sindh and Balochistan to facilitate the registration process for intending beneficiaries in remote areas of the country.

The first ever such facility has been inaugurated in Karachi recently by the Federal Minister for Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety, Shazia Marri.

According to an official source, the mobile registration vehicle centres are being started in 25 districts of Sindh and Balochistan including Gothiki, Umakot, Tharparkar, Sanghar and Jamshoro districts of Sindh province while Chagai, Khuzdar, Kech, Awaran, Lasbela, Sibi,

Loralai and Qila Saifullah initially which can be extended to the other areas.

The initiative of the Mobile Registration Vehicle Center has been started with the support of the German Government, GIZ and the Sindh Government.

These centres will enable the beneficiaries in far-flung areas to access the registration facilities through mobile vehicles which have been purchased with the support of the German government and GIZ.

Highlighting the one-year performance of BISP, the source revealed that the quarterly stipend of Benazir Kafalaat has been increased up to Rs 8750 per family which is given every quarter while the number of beneficiaries of the Benazir Income Support Programme has

increased from 7.6 million families to 9 million during the last year.

The BISP staff ensured the distribution of relief money to the deserving ones in the worst conditions during the floods and 70 billion rupees were distributed to the 2.8 million flood victims at the rate of 25000 rupees per family.

BISP identified millions of beneficiaries through Dynamic Registry and enrolled them in the programme. For the first time in the country's history, people with special abilities and Transgenders were included in the programme.

Around 820,000 deserving people who were removed from the BISP by the previous government were given the right to launch a formal appeal, out of which more than 200,000 beneficiaries have been identified so far.

## Baloch highlights science ministry's performance

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Science and Technology, Agha Hassan Baloch Tuesday said that the coalition government has achieved remarkable milestones in the science and technology sector during the last 15 months.

Addressing a presser along with the senior officials of departments working under the Ministry of Science and Technology, the federal minister highlighted that the institutions of the country were on the verge of destruction and the country was heading towards default due to the ineffective policies of the previous government.

However, the way Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has lifted this country out of the economic crisis despite the financial hardships and put it on the path of progress and prosperity reflects his dynamic vision.

Unlike the previous government, the present coalition government has focused on development in Balochistan province at par with other provinces which is worth appreciating, the minister said.

"Establishment of National University of Science and

Technology Khuzdar Campus, COM-SATS Quetta and Gwadar campuses, Expansion of Pakistan Halal Authority offices to Quetta and Gwadar, Establishment of Pakistan Standards and Quality Control Authority offices in Taftan, Chaman and Gwadar for boosting trade activities to generate revenues and appointment of Science Counsellor in Beijing to represent Pakistan and engage in scientific cooperation were few of the landmarks achieved during the period", the minister stated.

Highlighting other achievements, Agha Hassan Baloch said that his ministry has appointed a Science Counsellor in Beijing to represent Pakistan in Beijing and explore avenues of scientific cooperation.

Through the Pakistan Engineering Council, a program of 2000 scholarships had been launched for engineers while the ministry is also taking steps for the merger of the Pakistan Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (PCSIIR) and Pakistan Council of Renewable Emerging Technologies (PCRET).

The federal minister stated that the

coalition government, with the support of all major political parties, has strived for the larger interest of the country, ending the anarchy.

He appreciated the way Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif took a keen interest in resolving the issues of the people of Balochistan and hoped that the new government will also focus on the uplift of this province which was neglected in the past.

The minister also highlighted that the service rules of various departments have been formulated while the children of the employees have also been accommodated in jobs on merit.

Managing Director, of NEECA, Dr Sardar Moazzam highlighted that the first ever National Energy Efficiency and Conservation Policy (NEEC), NEEC Action Plan and Energy Conservation Codes have been introduced under the leadership of the federal minister and Prime Minister.

The ministry has also finalized the minimum energy performance standards for electric appliances used for domestic purposes which would be forwarded to the manufacturers for achieving the purpose of energy efficiency.



### Hand grenade attack kills 2

JALALABAD (Khaama Press): Two children were killed, and three others were wounded when unidentified individuals tossed grenades into a house in the eastern province of Nangarhar, Afghanistan, officials said on Tuesday. The incident occurred late on Monday night in the Shiekh Mursi community of Surkhrod district when two unidentified men threw two grenades into a house, killing two children and injuring three others, including a woman.

## The Frontier Post

Muharram 21, 1445 — Wednesday, August 09, 2023

### ARCS to be supported

KABUL (Agencies): The Acting President of Afghan Red Crescent Society (ARCS) Mawlawi Mati-ul-Haq Khalis said that the international community is interested to cooperate with the charity regarding humanitarian efforts in the country. According to a statement from ARCS, Mawlawi Muti-ul-Haq Khalis, shared the details of his recent trip to Qatar, Turkey and Saudi Arabia in a meeting with other officials of the organization.

# Export facilities have been provided for fresh fruit, vegetables

KABUL (TOLOnews): Ahmad Wali Haqmal, a spokesman for the Finance Ministry, said that all facilities have been provided for the export of fresh fruits and vegetables in the country.

Haqmal said that necessary facilities have been provided at the crossings, and Torkham and Spin Boldak crossings are currently operating 24 hours and 16 hours respectively.

"In the customs of the country, facilities have been provided for the export of fresh fruits and vegetables, in all customs of the country the export of fresh fruit and vegetables has priority," said Ahmad Wali Haqmal.

Meanwhile, the Ministry of Industry and Commerce said that in the last four months, \$23 million dollars worth of fresh fruit has been exported to Pakistan, India, the United Arab Emirates, Austria, Canada, and the United States of America.

"Most exported fresh fruits of the country are apricots, apples, plums, fresh figs, watermelon, melon, strawberries, and kiwi, and \$23 million worth has been exported to Pakistan, India, the United Arab Emirates, Austria, Canada, the United States of America, Tajikistan and Turkey countries," said Akhundzada Abdul Salam Jawad, spokesman for the

Ministry of Industry and Commerce.

Meanwhile, the Chamber of Commerce and Investment said that to increase the export of fresh fruit, it is necessary to activate more air corridors.

"The only way for exporting fresh fruit is an air corridor for transit as soon as possible and with special security and environmental conditions, which unfortunately we do not have at the moment," said Khanjan Alakozi, an ACCI member.

According to the Chamber of Commerce and Investment, nearly 800,000 tons of fresh fruits and vegetables have been exported abroad this year.

## Deputy PM meets tribal elders

KABUL (Agencies): Mawlawi Abdul Kabir, the Deputy Prime Minister for Political Affairs of the Islamic Emirate, has met with a number of tribal elders and influential people from Nangarhar province.

During the meeting, Kabir stated that the public's support for the Islamic system demonstrates their satisfaction with the current administration.

According to a statement released by his office, the tribal elders discussed the complete sovereignty of the Islamic Emirate and the independence of the country. They noted that due to the establishment of a strong Islamic system in Afghanistan, people are cooperating with the government.

The elders expressed their satisfaction with the arrival of justice and called for positive changes in the justice and judicial departments.

The tribal elders also shared some of their suggestions regarding government affairs with the Deputy Prime Minister.

Mawlawi Abdul Kabir expressed his satisfaction with meeting with influential people from Kot district and pointed out that interest in the Islamic system shows support from the nation.

Kabir also stated that after strengthening security, the Islamic Emirate is working to improve the well-being and prosperity of its people.

In addition to establishing good relations with regional countries, he noted that good relations have also been established with foreign countries beyond the region, which will have a positive impact on Afghanistan's economy.

## Young people hold exhibition

KABUL (TOLOnews): A group of young people in Kabul held a book exhibition called "Smart Way" to strengthen the reading culture. Young people said that they intend to encourage citizens, especially young people, to read books by launching such programs.

"We held it to create a culture for the youth of our society to read books, books are entertainment for them," said Sharifa Hesar, an organizer. "The purpose of holding this exhibition is to strengthen the culture of reading among young people," said Farhad Malik Zada, an organizer.

Meanwhile, some visitors at the exhibition told TOLOnews that economic challenges, lack of jobs, and high usage of social media are the reasons that people don't study enough.

However, visitors said holding such exhibitions were effective in strengthening the culture of reading. "We asked the young people to buy and read books in this hard situation where schools and universities are closed, and there are no work opportunities for them," said Nayema, a visitor.

"Here our youth gathered in one place to buy and sell books and study, and this gives us a better motivation to build our homeland," said Faisal, a visitor. The Ministry of Information and Culture also expressed concern about the diminishing of book culture, saying that the importance of the culture is recognized in the world, but not in Afghanistan.

# Iranian delegation visits Afghanistan to discuss water rights issue

KABUL (Khaama Press): An Iranian delegation is on a visit to Kabul to hold talks with the Taliban officials on different issues, including water rights issues, an official said.

According to Iranian media outlets, Naser Kenani, the spokesperson of Iran's Ministry of foreign affairs, said in a press conference on Monday that different issues, including water rights, were discussed. The report showed that 11 member delegation from Tehran had visited Afghanistan to follow up on the matter.

"As two neighbouring countries, there are exchanges between us at different levels, and the media do not necessarily cover the exchange of delegations. We have various issues with Afghanistan, and the issue of water is one of the issues that we pay serious attention to," Kenani said, ILNA news agency reported.

Despite previous Kanaani's announcement that initial deals had been made with the Taliban addressing the water rights issues, a delega-



tion from Iran is currently visiting Afghanistan.

Following Tehran's accusations of the Taliban for not upholding the country's water rights based on the 1973 water treaty between Kabul and Tehran, tensions between Afghanistan and Iran over water rights from the Helmand River have

risen.

Taliban members have received many warnings from Islamic Republic officials, including the president, to respect Iran's water rights. The Taliban dispatched military forces to the two countries' borders due to escalated tensions between the two sides.

## 200 licenses awarded to mine emeralds in Panjshir: Officials

PANJSHIR (TOLOnews): Local officials in Panjshir said that they have issued licenses to 200 people to work on the extraction of emerald mines and that the licenses for 300 other people will be issued soon.

Panjshir's department of Mines and Petroleum said there are a total of 750 emerald mines, and 20 new mines have been newly discovered.

"In Panjshir 750 emerald mines have been surveyed and registered. Around 200 people received their license," said Mohammad Qassim Amiri, head of the Panjshir department of Mines and Petroleum.

Speaking at the inauguration ceremony of the issuance of the licensed for

extraction of the emerald mines, the provincial governor, Mohammad Agha Hakim, said that several mines have been discovered by the Ministry of Mines and Petroleum.

"Several mines have been discovered by the Ministry of Mines and Petroleum and we hope to inaugurate those mines as well in the near future," he said.

Some of the participants urged the government officials to not interfere in the extraction of mines.

"The individuals who are involved in the guidelines of the mines, let them (mine extractors) work and don't interfere in their work," said Qiamuddin Hanif, head of the Panjshir Ulema. Some residents of Panjshir said



working in the mines is their only means of income in the current situation.

"Because we do not have any other business and we were working only on the mines, many mine workers have become jobless," said Sayedullah, a mine extrac-

tor. "The mines have their problems including landslides and avalanches," said Mohammad Aman, a mine extractor. According to the Panjshir department of Mines and Petroleum, work on iron mines will begin soon in the province.

## Some Gulistan district residents deprived of basic health service

FARAH CITY (Pajhwok): Around 10,000 families in the Gulistan district of western Farah province have no access to health services, an official said.

Mullah Abdul Haq Din Mohammad, deputy Public Health Department director, told Pajhwok Afghan News around 10,000 families lived in the Joga, Laman and Syed Hawa areas of Gulistan district but they are without basic health facilities.

He said currently four permanent and two mobile health centres are functional for Gulistan district and two more health services would be added in the future.

Some residents in Gulistan district also complained that they have no access to basic health services.

Esmatullah, the resident of Zarai Kala area, said they have no access to health services in their area.

He said they lived in a mountainous area, adding

that it took up to four hours on motorcycle to reach to a clinic in district centre, sometimes sick people are lost on their way to the clinic.

Naqibullah, the resident of Syed Hawa area, said their locality was 30 kilometres far from the district centre and they have no access to health services.

He asked the government to create a health centre in their area and provide health services to the people.

Abdul Khaliq, the resident of Joga area said over 3,000 families lived in their area but they don't have access to health services.

He said they were 30 kilometres away from the district centre and transferring sick people to the district centre was difficult.

It is pertinent to mention that due to the past 40 years of conflict, the country's health sector had been affected like other institutions.

## Afghanistan's facing widespread shortage of skilled professionals

KABUL (Agencies): The acting head of Afghanistan Technical and Vocational Education and Training Authority (TVET) said on Tuesday during the department's annual accountability report to the nation that Afghanistan is facing a shortage of skilled people in various fields, including mines and industry.

According to Ghulam Haidar Shuhamat, the age limit for students at the facility was removed by the Islamic Emirate and now citizens of any age can be

trained by the Technical and Vocational Education Department.

Officials at the department said they started the process of registering people and their inventions and so far, 150 people are in the department's database. Every year, 15,000 people from different departments graduate from this institution and enter the job market, he added.

Experts say that educational institutions, especially the Technical and Vocational Education



Department, should prepare their curriculum according to the needs of the day so that those who

graduate from these institutions are familiar with the way of working in the market.

## Appendicitis cases increase in Kabul, says doctors

KABUL (Pajhwok): Doctors say appendicitis cases have increased in summer and urge people to visit a doctor as soon as possible if they see symptoms such as severe abdomen pain, vomiting and high fever.

The doctors say the weather has warmed and the number of people suffering from appendicitis has also surged. The emergency medical condition sometimes causes a person's death, so arbitrary treatments should be avoided.

**What is appendicitis?**  
Dr. Mohammad Rafiq Muram, a general surgery specialist at Mohammad

Wazir Akbar Khan Hospital in Kabul, told Pajhwok Afghan that appendicitis was an inflammation of the appendix, a finger-shaped pouch that projects from colon on the lower right side of abdomen.

Appendicitis causes pain in lower right abdomen. However, in most people, pain begins around the navel and then moves. As inflammation worsens, appendicitis pain typically increases and eventually becomes severe.

A blockage in the lining of the appendix that results in infection is the likely cause of appendicitis. The

bacteria multiply rapidly, causing the appendix to become inflamed, swollen and filled with pus. If not treated promptly, the appendix can rupture.

According to Dr. Muram, severe pain around the navel, lack of appetite, vomiting, diarrhea or constipation, high fever, abdominal swelling, inability to remove stomach gas and inability to defecate are some of the symptoms of the condition.

Dr. Naqibullah Araam, trainer specialist in surgery at Jamhoriyat Hospital in Kabul, said: "Appendicitis is the most common cause of acute abdominal pain requir-

ing surgery, but the exact cause is not always clear."

Araam said sometimes strong proteins such as meat, peas and beans caused the appendicitis to appear, and sometimes a small piece of food, if it enters the appendix duct, blocks it and causes this condition.

**Can inflamed appendix be prevented and treated?**

Doctors say appendicitis treatment is possible in all hospitals in Afghanistan and the patient should be transferred to a health center as soon as possible.

Dr. Muram said: "Appendicitis cannot be prevented, but it is better to

take some points into consideration, such as maintaining good hygiene, drinking more fluids, and eating foods rich in fiber such as fruits and vegetables."

He asked the people to see a doctor as soon as possible if they see the above-mentioned symptoms, especially the annoying pain around the navel. He said appendicitis treatment required a simple surgery, but the patient should be transferred to a health center as soon as possible.

He added: "Very important points we should consider include not taking medicine arbitrarily. When

painkiller is used, either by ourselves or by non-professional doctors, the pain disappears, but pathology is integral."

**What is the number of people with appendicitis in Afghanistan?**

Dr Muram says: "Appendicitis is a common medical condition all over the world, but it differs according to age and season, for example, the incidence of this condition increases in summer because the weather gets hot and body fluids decrease. And eating nutritious protein foods at this time make the ground more favorable for the condi-

tion." He said they received up to seven patients in 24 hours and recently the number of appendicitis patients in the hospital has increased.

**Patients commend services offered in hospital**

Abdul Salam, an appendicitis patient in Mohammad Wazir Akbar Khan Hospital, said that he underwent surgery on Saturday and currently his condition had improved.

He added: "Suddenly, I had a very severe stomachache and the right side of my abdomen was hurting to such that it was unbearable. When I came to the

hospital, they said it was appendicitis, the doctor operated on me and thankfully I am better."

He asked people to visit health centers as soon as possible when they felt severe stomachache and avoid self-medication.

At the same time, Milad, a shopkeeper in Aria township in Kabul, who was waiting for his operation, said: "Since yesterday, I have a lot of pain around my navel. At first, I didn't take it seriously. I thought it was a stomachache, but when I reached hospital, I was told that it is appendicitis."



# Youth need to take full benefit from technology: Alvi

**F.P. Report**

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi has urged the youth to take full benefit from the technology advancement and offer their services globally to increase technology exports of the country.

In his video message to a virtual inauguration of the Institute of Cost and Management Accountants (ICMA) Digital Academy on Tuesday, he said: "We have a youth bulge in our country and that youth bulge must be linked intellectually with the rest of the world. If it is not done, we will miss a great opportunity available to our country." According to details, ICMA launched the Digital Academy here in partnership with the London-based The FinTech Group (FTG).

ICMA Digital Academy is incorporated in the UK with a mission to develop job-ready workforce of the future in Pakistan with globally in-demand digital skills. While highlighting the importance of the ICMA Digital Academy's plans to help the youth bulge in the country offer their services globally, Dr. Arif Alvi reminded the audience that young adults are very keen on learning new technologies and on interacting with global customers in a professional manner.

The President described the strategic shift taking place around us in terms of the new jobs of the future and the way many of these services will be rendered in future. Pointing to the increased acceptability of remote work in many of the jobs of the future, the President indicated that this provides a tremendous opportunity to the talented young adults of Pakistan to interact virtually with the users of their services without any geographical limitations. This takes away the need for any visas or immigration to new countries as a pre-condition for offering services globally.

The President reminded the country about the speed of change taking place around the world and the need for Pakistan to get on the train faster. In this context, he congratulated ICMA for its timely launch of the ICMA Digital Academy. He said

that ICMA has been active in developing professionals in management accounting to serve the needs of the country for a very long time. But in tomorrow's world it will be possible for accountants to expand their reach well beyond Pakistan and start serving the needs of users globally, thereby increasing the country's digital exports and enhancing economic prosperity.

President Alvi expressed his good wishes to the learners who would take courses from ICMA Digital Academy to get them ready for the jobs of the future and to prepare them to offer their services globally without geographical limitations. This will result in an environment where our people will find employment and our country will find increased digital exports to reduce the untenable reliance on industrial & agricultural exports.

The panelists in this live webinar included representatives from some of the country's leading institutions with interest in developing and deploying digital & emerging technologies skills. Among others, these institutions included P@SHA, Pakistan IT Industry Association, Pakistan Stock Exchange, National Institute of Banking & Finance, Pakistan Freelancers Association, Pakistan Software Export Board, and Big 4 accounting firms.

There was also representation from the higher education sector and from the leadership teams of ICMA and FTG. International firms focused on EdTech, end-to-end digital enrolment platforms and micro-internships for learners also attended the inauguration ceremony.

The ICMA President Shahzad Malik, highlighted the vision of ICMA Digital Academy to empower ICMA members and university students with internationally comparable digital skills, thereby amplifying the country's potential for digital exports. To contribute to the national digital transformation, he highlighted ICMA Digital Academy's plans to bolster digital competencies in both the corporate and public sector entities. It is planned that learners will be able to enroll on the digital skills development programmes from early October 2023.

## Mily awards conferred upon Pakistan Navy personnel

**F.P. Report**

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Navy Investiture Ceremony 2023 was held at Islamabad. Chief of Staff (COS) Vice Admiral Naveed Ashraf graced the ceremony as Chief Guest and conferred various military awards to the naval personnel. The recipients of Sitara-i-Imtiaz (Military) were: Cdre Syed Naved Ahsan SI(M) and Cdre Amir Hanif SI(M).

The recipients of Tamgha-i-Imtiaz (Military) were: Capt Dr Amjad Nawaz TI(M), Cdr Rizwan Ahmad TI(M), Lt Cdr Muhammad Imran TI(M), Lt Cdr Faisal Ayub TI(M) and Lt Cdr Syed Muhammad Hasan Rizvi TI(M). 02 Awards of TK(M)-II and 09 awards of TK(M)-III were also conferred upon CPOs and Sailors of Pakistan Navy whereas Letters of Commendation from Chief of the Naval Staff were awarded to 17 Officers, CPOs/ Sailors and Navy Civilians. The ceremony was attended by officers of the Pakistan Navy.

## Train accident: Six employees suspended

LAHORE/KARACHI (PPI): Six employees of the Pakistan Railways were suspended Tuesday over negligence after the Hazara Express train accident.

According to the Pakistan Railways report, two officers of Grade 18 and one of Grade 17 were among the suspended employees. Sukkur Divisional Executive Engineer (Xen) Hafiz Badrul Arifin, a Grade 18 officer, was suspended.

Karachi Workshop Manager Atif Ashfaq, a Grade 18 officer, was also suspended. Nawab Shah Assistant Executive Engineer (Xen) Musharraf Majeed was also suspended. Power Controller Bashir Ahmed, a Grade 14 employee, was also suspended. Way Inspector Muhammad Arif, a Grade 12 employee, was also suspended. Keyman Mr Kangal, a Grade 3 employee, was also suspended.

A notification for their suspension was issued after the approval of the secretary/ chairman for railways. It is to be noted here that the death toll in the Hazara Express train accident has reached 36. Earlier, the negligence and incompetence of the Pakistan Railways officials were held responsible for the Hazara Express train accident.

According to the Joint Certificate Report, the Civil Department and the Mechanical Department of the Pakistan Railways were held responsible for the accident. There was no fish plate to connect the railway track, and it was connected with a piece of wood. However, both these departments of the Pakistan Railways have refused to take responsibility. Defects in the train engine, wheels and railway track were also declared a cause of the accident. Meanwhile, the railway track in Nawab Shah was restored. The Karachi-bound trains were delayed as the track remained suspended after the Hazara Express train accident.

## Arson cases: Court reserves ruling

LAHORE (PPI): An anti-terrorism court in Lahore on Tuesday reserved its decision on the PTI chairman's request seeking exemption from attending court hearing in interim bail case.

PTI chairman's lawyer had filed a one-day waiver request in the Jinnah House burning and other arson cases on May 9. The court reserved its decision. The petition stated that the PTI chairman had been arrested and he was filing his appeal today (Tuesday).

Lawyer Barrister Salman Safdar said they hoped the PTI chairman's sentence would be suspended within a week and he would enjoy freedom soon. The judge remarked during the hearing why he was so optimistic about the hearing of the appeal and suspension of the sentence? Advocate Burhan Moazzam said the PTI chief wanted to appear in court but circumstances prevented him from doing so.



HARYANA: A bulldozer demolishing the property of a Muslim family in Nuh, India.

# PM announces to auction all Toshakhana gifts

**F.P. Report**

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday announced to auction all of the gifts worth millions of rupees at Toshakhana and the revenue would be spent for the welfare of orphan children.

"I announce to auction all of the gifts worth millions or rupees at Toshakhana. But whole of the receipts will go nowhere else but the institutions of the orphan children whether they are welfare organizations, educational institutions or medical facilities. We will hand them over under a mechanism to support the orphans who are unable to face the challenges of life," the prime minister said talking to a delegation of the Council of Pakistan Newspaper Editors (CPNE), All Pakistan Newspapers Society (APNS), and Pakistan Broadcasters Association (PBA).

The prime minister said that he felt honoured to announce the auction of Toshakhana gifts before the representatives of APNS, CPNE and PBA. He told the media industry representatives that the incumbent government inherited very tough economic conditions but the coalition parties did not imagine the severity of the situation. The prime minister said the previous government wasted last four years in mere victimisation of political opponents and also strained ties with friendly countries.

He said his government had tried its utmost to rectify the relations with friendly countries and had been able to control the damage to a great extent which also led to the signing of the agreement with the International Monetary Fund (IMF). The prime minister repeatedly called for the nation, particularly the youth, to forge unity and work hard to rid the country of loans and make it a great nation.

He said the incumbent government victimised no political opponent and that they were extremely busy to tackle the challenges of flood, inflation, economy, IMF, wheat import and foreign policy issues. He said the media had a crucial role to play for the national unity and reduce the temperature as during the last four years, the previous government "poisoned" the society and the rectification was not that easy.

He said with the IMF agreement, the country was saved from default and otherwise the situation could have been

## Shehbaz invites Saudi govt, firms to avail investment opportunities in Pakistan

**F.P. Report**

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday invited the Saudi government and companies to avail the investment opportunities in agriculture, mining, IT, energy and other sectors of Pakistan.

The prime minister, in a meeting with Saudi Vice Minister for Foreign Affairs Engineer Waleed Abdulkarim El Khoreji who called on him, said the establishment of Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) would facilitate and fast-track potential investments from the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) member states, especially the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. In this regard, he appreciated the Kingdom's serious interest in exploring investment opportunities in Pakistan. The Saudi vice minister is leading a high-level delegation with members from the ministries of foreign affairs, energy, health, environment and agriculture, industry and mineral resources, investment etc.

Prime Minister Shehbaz welcomed the delegation and expressed satisfaction on the positive trajectory of bilateral relations with the Kingdom. He also conveyed his greetings for the Saudi leadership and thanked Saudi Arabia for its timely financial support to Pakistan, especially during the floods and appreciated its role in helping Pakistan in its efforts to achieve macroeconomic stability. The visit of the Saudi delegation manifests the deep interest and willingness on both sides to transform the longstanding fraternal ties into concrete and mutually rewarding economic partnership. The visit will contribute to further enhancement of multi-faceted collaboration between the two countries. Pakistan and Saudi Arabia have a longstanding history of brotherly bilateral ties marked by mutual trust and understanding, close cooperation, and an abiding tradition of mutual support.

extremely difficult with long queues at filling stations and people taken to streets. He said even the friendly countries had linked their support with the IMF deal. He said the interim as well as the next elected government would have to join heads to strengthen the state and its people through self-sufficiency as the IMF had closed the doors to subsidies. Prime Minister Shehbaz told the delegations that the friendly countries, including Saudi Arabia, were willing to invest in Pakistan and the Special Investment Facilitation Council would prove to be a game changer in that regard.

"The SIFC is a programme for economic recovery. If it goes on, this will be a game changer," he remarked. He said he would send the summary for dissolution of the National Assembly to the president on Wednesday and expressed the hope that the next government would pursue the SIFC vision to rid the country of loans within 5-10 years. He said after the dissolution of the Assembly, the Chief Election Commissioner was mandated to decide the future course of action regarding the elections. However, he added, all the

parties were unanimous for holding of the elections as early as possible.

The prime minister said the previous government wasted last four years in mere victimisation of political opponents and also strained ties with friendly countries. He said his government had tried its utmost to rectify the relations with friendly countries and had been able to control the damage to a great extent which also led to the signing of the agreement with the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

The prime minister repeatedly called for the nation, particularly the youth, to forge unity and work hard to rid the country of loans and make it a great nation. He said the incumbent government victimised no political opponent and that they were extremely busy to tackle the challenges of flood, inflation, economy, IMF, wheat import and foreign policy issues. He said the media had a crucial role to play for the national unity and reduce the temperature as during the last four years, the previous government "poisoned" the society and the rectification was not that easy.

# Torture case: Court rejects prosecution's demand

ISLAMABAD (PPI): A court in Islamabad Tuesday rejected the prosecution's demand for physical remand of Soma Asim, the wife of a civil judge, arrested in the young housemaid torture case, and sent her to jail on judicial remand till August 22.

Judicial Magistrate Shaista Kundi pronounced the reserved verdict and asked the authorities to produce Soma Asim again in the court on August 22 next. Earlier, Islamabad police produced Soma Asim before the court. She had been arrested the other day outside the court after being denied bail. "Why does the investigation officer need the remand?" Judge Shaista Kundi questioned the investigation officer.

"The investigation has to be done, for the arrest was made yesterday. Videos are also to be collected from Skyway," the investigation officer told the judge. "According to the law, under which section can

physical remand of a woman be given?" the judge questioned the investigation officer. "Physical remand can be obtained on heinous crime," he told the lady judge. "The law says that one can obtain physical remand in a murder or robbery case. Give your arguments on what basis you are asking for physical remand," the judge said to the investigation officer.

"What is the condition of the housemaid now? Is she still in the Intensive Care Unit (ICU)?" she questioned. The lawyer told the court that the housemaid was no longer in the ICU. The investigation officer told the court that the CCTV footage was needed for the investigation. "If you want the footage only, you can get it from the Safe City authority," the judge said to the officer.

The court then summoned Soma Asim to the rostrum. "I am ready for every possible cooperation with the police. Don't keep

me in such a state of mental torture. They had also taken me to the house at night and recovered things from there," Soma Asim told the court. "If judicial remand is given, will it make any difference to your case?" the court questioned the officer. "Of course, it will. We have to complete our investigation," he replied.

"Apart from the media hype, God knows I have no hand in it. A worst media trial of mine is being carried out. I think I should commit suicide. My role in the case is not as it is being told in the media," Soma Asim said in the court. "The media should be stopped from filming videos of the accused," the lawyer for Soma Asim pleaded with the court. The court gave Soma Asim 10 minutes to meet her family. The prosecutor asked for a decision on remand according to the law. "We will agree to the verdict in accordance with the law," the prosecutor said.

# Historic day as PM's health card scheme for journalists

**F.P. Report**

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb said on Tuesday that today was a historic day as for the first time, a health card facility was being launched for journalists, media workers and artists on the instructions of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif.

Addressing the launching ceremony of "Prime Minister's National Health Program 2023 for journalists, media workers, artists and technical resources" here she said that it was the vision of Shehbaz Sharif as the opposition leader to set up a health insurance scheme for journalists and media workers. Last week she said, the PM had witnessed the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting and Pakistan State Life Insurance Corporation and today the scheme was formally launched.

She also congratulated Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif for the implementation of his vision. She said that the other historic step being taken today launching of an app by the Ministry of Law and Justice which had digitalised all federal laws. The minister thanked Secretary of Information and Broadcasting Sohail Ali Khan and Principal

Information Officer Mubashar Hassan for their contribution to the launch of the health card scheme.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif distributed health cards among the journalists and artists on the occasion. The first health card was given to President Pakistan Federal Union of Journalists Afzal Butt, President PFUJ, Haji Nawaz Raza.

Besides, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, Minister for Law and Justice Azam Nazir Tarar, Secretary of Information and Broadcasting Sohail Ali Khan, Principal Information Officer Mubashar Hassan and senior officials from the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Ministry of Law and Justice and a large number of journalists, media workers and artists were also present on the ceremony.

Earlier, the Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif launched the Prime Minister's Health Program for Journalists, Media workers, Artists & Technical resources; and Pakistan Code, a digital repository of federal laws mobile app and website.

Under the health insurance card program, journalists, media workers, artists and technical resources will be able to get world-class health facilities free of charge in 1200 hospitals across the country with

annual corporate health insurance worth Rs 1.5 million. Likewise, with the Pakistan Code website and mobile app, judges, lawyers, legal experts, law students, government officials, and the general public will be easily able to access all types of federal laws.

The prime minister on the occasion distributed health cards among prominent journalists including Afzal Butt, Nawaz Raza and others. Addressing the ceremony, PM Shehbaz said for the first time in the history of the country, the government had launched such a facility for the journalists and media workers who work in difficult situations.

He congratulated Minister for Information Marriyam Aurangzeb and her team for their work to finalize this program. He also felicitated Minister for Law and Justice Azam Nazir Tarar for his efforts in launching the mobile app and website. Shehbaz Sharif also announced to establish a special fund for journalists and media workers under which a Rs 4 million compensation amount would be paid to the families of the journalists and media workers who died in line with their duties. He said this amount would be increased gradually. The prime minister said ever since he took over the charge in April 2022, he faced immense criticism from journalists.

# Erstwhile FATA medical seats: PHC grants status quo

**Humayun Khan**

PESHAWAR: Peshawar High Court (PHC) has granted status quo against the allocation of 167 seats as combined quota for students of erstwhile Federally Administrated Tribal Areas (FATA) collectively despite provision on the district level while ordering Higher Education Commission and Khyber Medical University to submit reply, on Tuesday.

PHC's divisional bench comprising Justice Kamran Hayat and Justice Shahid Khan granted the status quo against combining medical seats of erstwhile Fata while ordering HEC and KMu to submit a reply after the conclusion of initial arguments.

PHC issues notice against discharge of Ali Muhammad Khan: PHC's divisional bench comprising Justice Naem Anwar and Justice Khurshed Iqbal ordered the submission of an Anti-terrorism court (ATC) record regarding discharging former Federal Minister Ali Muhammad Khan on the government's appeal and issued notice to the respondent.

Additional Advocate Jalal-u-Din Akbar argued that First Information Reports were registered against Ali Muhammad Khan under Anti-terrorism Act while ATC didn't grant remand on the Counter Terrorism Department plea but discharged the former Federal State's Minister in

education, especially in medicine, the counsel argued.

The counsel further added that the policy has impacted seats of Mohmand district they are below in the collective/combined merit list and added that in several districts the schools lack science teachers.

The PHC divisional bench constituting of Justice Kamran Hayat and Justice Shahid Khan granted the status quo against combining medical seats of erstwhile Fata while ordering HEC and KMu to submit a reply after the conclusion of initial arguments.

PHC issues notice against discharge of Ali Muhammad Khan: PHC's divisional bench comprising Justice Naem Anwar and Justice Khurshed Iqbal ordered the submission of an Anti-terrorism court (ATC) record regarding discharging former Federal Minister Ali Muhammad Khan on the government's appeal and issued notice to the respondent.

Additional Advocate Jalal-u-Din Akbar argued that First Information Reports were registered against Ali Muhammad Khan under Anti-terrorism Act while ATC didn't grant remand on the Counter Terrorism Department plea but discharged the former Federal State's Minister in

the case.

This is illegal because ATC didn't explain in the judgement discharging of the former Minister neither was the decision made on legal grounds but granted a short order in this regard, the Additional Advocate General argued.

He requested to brush off ATC judgement and issuance of an arrest warrant for Ali Muhammad Khan, however, PHC has issued notice to the former Federal minister while adjourned further hearing.

## 'Caretaker PM's name will be finalized soon'

**F.P. Report**

LAHORE: Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah said on Tuesday consultation about the caretaker prime minister was under way and expressed hope that the name would be finalized by this evening or tomorrow.

In a statement, the PML-N leader said the caretaker set-up would perform its constitutional duty of carrying out delimitations. He said the delimitation process would take 120 days. After completion of the delimitation process, he said, elections would be conducted. As for the names of the caretaker PM, the minister said names were under discussion and no name had been finalised yet.

## Release of funds: SC disposes of plea

ISLAMABAD (PPI): The Supreme Court (SC) on Tuesday disposed of the petition filed against the release of development funds to members of the provincial assembly (MPAs) in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) by the PTI government, saying it was ineffective, reported 24NewsHD TV channel.

A three-member bench of the apex court, headed by Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Justice Umar Ata Bandial, heard the case. During the hearing, Justice Jamal Mandokhel asked how the issue of release of funds was challenged.

Counsel for the ex-MPA Khushdil Khan, petitioner in the case, told the court that the release of funds to some selected MPAs had been challenged. "Actually, the PTI government had doled out funds to its own MPAs," he said. The CJP remarked that now the assembly had been dissolved, and one such case was already pending in the SC.

Justice Muhammad Ali Mazhar said if an MPA demanded funds, he did not do so for his own family, but for the people of his constituency. Advocate Ahsan Bhoon said that the crux of the matter was that development schemes in other constituencies should not get affected because of release of funds to selected MPAs.