

PTI's Aon to quit party
MULTAN (INP): PTI Senator Aon Abbas Buppi denouncing the May 09 incidents has announced to quit party and politics. In a video message released on Friday, May 9 would be remembered as black day in history of the country when enraged PTI activist attack public properties and military installations. The PTI South Punjab President said that Pakistan's military and people can't be separated through any conspiracy.

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PM to visit Kenya
F.P. Report
ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar will pay a three-day official visit to Nairobi, Kenya from Monday to participate in the Africa Climate Summit. Foreign Office Spokesperson Mumtaz Zahra Baloch said on Friday that the caretaker prime minister will be accompanied by Foreign Minister Jalil Abbas Jilani during the visit.

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ISLAMABAD: British High Commissioner Ms. Jane Marriott called on Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar.

COAS visits Bannu, reviews security situation

F.P. Report

RAWALPINDI: General Syed Asim Munir, COAS visited Bannu on Friday where nine brave soldiers embraced Shahadat yesterday when a suicide bomber blasted himself near military convoy in Jani Khel area.

COAS was briefed on the ongoing operations and overall security situation. COAS visited CMH Bannu to inquire about the health and well-being of the injured soldiers. COAS appreciated the high morale and unflinching resolve of the troops. "Pakistan Army will continue to act as a bulwark against terrorism to safeguard the nation from this scourge," COAS emphasized.

While interacting with officers and troops deployed in the area, COAS emphasized, "The Army, Law Enforcement Agencies and the Nation can never be coerced by the cowardly tactics of the Terrorists, who have a misbelief that they can challenge the iron resolve of the soldiers and writ of the State." He further said, "We have fought for long and will continue to fight the menace of Terrorism till the end. The Nation pays rich tribute to those who have laid their lives and their sacrifices will

forever be honoured." Earlier on arrival, COAS was received by Commander Peshawar Corps.

UN needs to make Peacekeeping Missions more effective to address complex threats: Chief of the Army Staff (COAS), General Asim Munir has urged the United Nations to enhance the effectiveness of the Peacekeeping Missions for addressing the complex threats while assuring the safety and security of the Peacekeepers.

This was stated by the army chief while addressing a preparatory meet as the chief guest, held as a precursor to the UN Peacekeeping Ministerial Meet here from August 30-31. Co-hosted by Pakistan and Japan on the theme of the Safety and Security of Peacekeepers, the meet was attended by delegates from different countries, senior officials from UN and members of the diplomatic community in Islamabad. COAS General Asim Munir commended the role of the United Nations in the maintenance of international peace and highlighted increasing challenges and unprecedented levels of threats being faced by Peacekeepers.

He further highlighted

that Pakistan aspired to create a region where peace prevailed and trade, transit and investment generated prosperity for all the states of South, West and Central Asia. The army chief also called on the Security Council and the UN Secretary-General for a peaceful resolution of the Jammu and Kashmir dispute in accordance with the Security Council Resolutions and the wishes of the Kashmiri people. Earlier, the Under Secretary General for the Department of Peace Operations thanked Pakistan for hosting the conference and making invaluable contributions for global peace.

Addressing the participants, Foreign Minister Jalil Abbas Jilani recalled Pakistan's longstanding commitment to UN peacekeeping, spanning over six decades, as a tangible manifestation of its contribution to the maintenance of international peace and security. He paid tribute to the brave men and women who sacrificed their lives in the noble cause of peacekeeping, including 171 Pakistanis. Jalil Abbas underscored the need to ensure a safe and secure environment for UN peacekeepers who tirelessly safeguard peace around the globe.

Delimitations to be completed by Nov 30: ECP

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: After holding a number of consultations with the political parties, the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) on Friday announced that the delimitation process will be finalised by November 30.

In a statement, the electoral body said the purpose of squeezing the duration of the delimitation process is to ensure elections are held as early as possible. The ECP also said that a date for the elections will also be announced keeping in view the schedule for the delimitation process, adding that the date was announced after deliberation with the parties.

A day earlier, the Election Commission said that polls would be held by mid-February at the most or by January end if the delimitation of constituencies is completed earlier. The Election Commission has held consultations with political parties including Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz (PML-N), Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP), Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), Jamaat-e-Islami (JI), Muttahida Qoumi Movement - Pakistan (MQM-P) Jamiat Ulema Islam-Faiz (JUI-F) and others regarding the road map to general elections.

In those meetings, the JUI-F, PML-N and MQM-P had backed the ECP to hold general elections after the delimitation while the PTI and PPP had urged the electoral watchdog to drop the process and conduct polls within 90 days. On August 17, the ECP announced the schedule of new delimitations to be carried out as per the new census approved by the Council of Common Interest (CCI) last month. According to the schedule, the new delimitation of the constituencies was expected to be completed in December. However, the date has now been shortened to November.

KP CM takes notice of chicken pox outbreak

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: Caretaker Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Muhammad Azam Khan has taken notice of the outbreak of chicken pox disease in the remote village of Harchin of Upper Chitral district and directed the Advisor on Health Dr Riaz Anwar to take measures for its prevention, said an official handout issued here on Friday.

The Chief Minister has directed the Advisor on Health to take effective measures on an emergency basis to treat the girl students of the government school of Harchin village affected by the disease through the concerned district administration and the district health department and to prevent further spread of the disease in the area. He has further directed the utilization of all available resources to prevent its further spread.

SIFC to attract foreign investment: PM

— directs authorities to curb smuggling of sugar, petroleum products

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar Friday said that an estimated foreign investment of US\$60 to \$70 billion was expected in the next three to five years under the government's new initiative of Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC).

Besides, he said the government had also received pledges and promises of another similar amount of investment. "Now, we have to design and submit our projects as there is a huge appetite to invest in the country", he said while talking to senior journalists and news anchors here.

Replying to a question, the prime minister said the government was considering various options to provide relief to the people. Citing the example of the \$700 billion worth of Reko Dik gold and copper reserves, the prime minister said the country had huge potential of natural resources that would change fate of the people of Pakistan.

"We took the initiative of SIFC to realize this potential and we are going towards the right direction so far as the scientific methods and financial mod-

els are concerned," he remarked. He said the SIFC was the whole of the government project and there was no hidden in it. "This is a transparent intervention that has already been initiated and has the overall potential of \$5 to \$6 trillion."

The prime minister highlighted that Pakistan had huge land that could be used for agriculture purpose and could serve half of the Asian population's food requirements. He added that the country had also enough water to irrigate the barren land across the country. Likewise, he said IT, tourism and defence production had also huge potential that would be tapped for socio-economic development of the country.

PM Kakar maintained that although the core responsibility of the caretaker government was to facilitate elections across the country, in the meantime it would also try to improve the taxation mechanism and address other economic challenges. Replying to another query, the prime minister said economic migration was not a new phenomenon and people were leaving the country for a better future and they would also contribute

to Pakistan's economy in future. Therefore, he said, it should not be considered a brain drain.

Advising the media to propagate hope among the masses, he said there was no chance of a sudden collapse of the country's social structure and all professionals, doctors, nurses, and the society overall were functioning at an absolutely normal pace. He said the government minutely looked into the problem of inflated electricity bills and would come up with a solution within next 48 hours.

To a question, he clarified that the Pakistan army, navy and air force were not using a single free unit of electricity and their bills were paid from the allocated financial budget. While employees of WAPDA were using free electricity units and their usage would be rationalized, especially of the higher grade officers some of them were getting huge quantity of free electricity, he added.

He said perception should not be that the government would take any strict measures causing difficulties for the people. He pointed out that the power sector had been a very challenging issue since the

(Continued on Back Page)



Army Major embraced Shahadat in N Waziristan

F.P. Report

RAWALPINDI: Security Forces conducted an intelligence based operation on reported presence of terrorists, in gen area Miran Shah, North Waziristan District. During conduct of the operation, a party of terrorists was spotted and intercepted by Major Amir, who was leading the operation from front.

Resultantly one terrorist was sent to hell while another was injured. However, as result of heavy exchange of fire, two brave sons of the nation, Major Amir Aziz (age 29 years, resident of Sargodha District) and Sepoy Muhammad Arif (age 27 years, resident of Sahiwal District) having fought gallantly, embraced Shahadat. Sanitization of the area is being carried out to eliminate the terrorists present in the area. Security Forces of Pakistan are determined to eliminate the menace of terrorism and such sacrifices of our soldiers further strengthen our resolve.

Meanwhile, a soldier of Army embraced martyrdom while thwarting terrorists attack in general area of Tirah, Khyber in the early hours of Friday. According to ISPR, a fire exchange took place between the Army troops and terrorists in general area Tirah, Khyber District.

Govt bound to respect law & judiciary: Solangi

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Minister for Information and Broadcasting Murtaza Solangi on Friday said the caretaker government was duty-bound to respect the law and the judiciary, which functioned freely in the country.

"As a responsible government, it is our duty to respect the judiciary and the law. The matter of Pervez Elahi's arrest falls within the jurisdiction of law enforcement agencies (LEAs) and the judiciary," the minister said while talking to a private channel. The LEAs obeyed the law, he said, adding the media and the judiciary worked independently in the country.

He said every citizen had freedom of speech and a right to criticize that could not be taken away, but at the same

time "we also have the right to present the facts without any fear". To a query, the minister said efforts were underway to provide relief to the masses in electricity bills and its details would be announced in the shape of decisions.

"Our limited tenure and the Constitution and law allow us to take decisions in the best interest of the country," he said, vowing that best decisions would be made keeping in view the national interests. The caretaker government would own and stood by its decisions, he added. Solangi said his interview with the BBC was presented out of context. "I am in contact with them and in my view, it will be appropriate for them to clarify."

The Election Commission of Pakistan had expedited the process of delimitation of constituencies, he said while

responding to another query. He said the government would provide all assistance to the ECP to ensure that the election would be held in accordance with the schedule.

Solangi greets followers of Shah Abdul Latif Bhittai on his 280th Urs: Caretaker Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Murtaza Solangi greeted the followers of great Sufi poet Shah Abdul Latif Bhittai on his 280th Urs which commenced at Bhit Shah situated on the banks of Karar Lake, established by the saint himself.

The minister, in a post on X, formerly Twitter, said Sartaj-ul-Shua'ra Shah Latif - a people's poet and pious person - was born on the soil of Sindh, whose message of "promoting love, humanity and struggle" was for all the world nations.



BANNU: Chief of Army Staff, General Syed Asim Munir inquiring about the health and well-being of the injured soldiers at CMH.



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<p>PUBLIC NOTICE</p> <p>Application for issuance of Letter of Administration / Succession Certificate by Mr. Amir Subhan Khan with regards to the movable and immovable assets of deceased Mr. Fazle Subhan citizen number 3520058502055 has been received. Following are declared as legal heirs.</p> <p>1. Farikhanda Ullah (Daughter)</p> <p>2. Rakshandaha Subhan (Daughter)</p> <p>3. Akhtar Naseem (Spouse)</p> <p>4. Yasir Subhan (Son)</p> <p>5. Nasir Subhan (Son)</p> <p>6. Amir Subhan Khan (Son)</p> <p>On the above application the objections of public at large are invited. Any aggrieved person may approach in person the undersigned for submission of objection (if any) within fourteen (14) days after publication of this notice.</p> <p>INCHARGE SFU, NADRA MEGAL CENTER PESHAWAR-SFU</p>	<p>PUBLIC NOTICE</p> <p>Application for issuance of Letter of Administration / Succession Certificate by Mr. Muhammad Hashmi Awan with regards to moveable & immovable assets of deceased Mr. Muhammad Hashim Awan citizen number 1210126439373 has been received. Following are declared as legal heirs.</p> <p>1. Sonia Hashmi (Daughter)</p> <p>2. Tania Hashim (Daughter)</p> <p>3. Lubna (Daughter)</p> <p>4. Shamshad Begum (Spouse)</p> <p>5. Muhammad Tougeer Hashmi (Son)</p> <p>6. Saad Muhammad Tanveer Hashmi (Son)</p> <p>On the above application the objections of public at large are invited. Any aggrieved person may approach in person the undersigned for submission of objection (if any) within fourteen (14) days after publication of this notice.</p> <p>INCHARGE SFU, NADRA MEGAL CENTER PESHAWAR-SFU</p>	<p>PUBLIC NOTICE</p> <p>Application for issuance of Letter of Administration / Succession Certificate by Mr. Shah Zaib with regards to moveable & immovable assets of deceased Mr. Jahan Zeb citizen number 0331698705 has been received. Following are declared as legal heirs.</p> <p>1. Sumaira Bibi (Daughter)</p> <p>2. Zahida (Spouse)</p> <p>3. Danish (Son)</p> <p>4. Shah Zaib (Son)</p> <p>5. Nadeem (Son)</p> <p>6. Iftikhar Ahmed (Son)</p> <p>On the above application the objections of public at large are invited. Any aggrieved person may approach in person the undersigned for submission of objection (if any) within fourteen (14) days after publication of this notice.</p> <p>INCHARGE SFU, NADRA MEGAL CENTER PESHAWAR-SFU</p>	<p>PUBLIC NOTICE</p> <p>Application for issuance of Letter of Administration / Succession Certificate by Mr. Abdul Shakoor with regards to moveable & immovable assets of deceased Mr. Muhammad Ashraf citizen number 17301291689 has been received. Following are declared as legal heirs.</p> <p>1. Shamim Talat (Spouse)</p> <p>2. Abdul Shakoor (Son)</p> <p>3. Abdul Aziz (Son)</p> <p>On the above application the objections of public at large are invited. Any aggrieved person may approach in person the undersigned for submission of objection (if any) within fourteen (14) days after publication of this notice.</p> <p>INCHARGE SFU, NADRA MEGAL CENTER PESHAWAR-SFU</p>
<p>PUBLIC NOTICE</p> <p>Application for issuance of Letter of Administration / Succession Certificate by Mr. Abdur Bar Khaksar with regards to moveable & immovable assets of deceased Ms. Zahida Begum citizen number 1620208566114 has been received. Following are declared as legal heirs.</p> <p>1. Zuhra Sada (Daughter)</p> <p>2. Sara Khan (Daughter)</p> <p>3. Hafsa Nao (Daughter)</p> <p>4. Abdur Bar Khaksar (Spouse)</p> <p>On the above application the objections of public at large are invited. Any aggrieved person may approach in person the undersigned for submission of objection (if any) within fourteen (14) days after publication of this notice.</p> <p>INCHARGE SFU, NADRA MEGAL CENTER PESHAWAR-SFU</p>	<p>PUBLIC NOTICE</p> <p>Application for issuance of Letter of Administration / Succession Certificate by Ms. Taj Baro with regards to the movable and immovable assets of deceased Salma Begum citizen number 1610198888784 has been received. Following are declared as legal heirs.</p> <p>1. Tariq (Daughter)</p> <p>2. Sartaja (Daughter)</p> <p>3. Khayal Begum (Daughter)</p> <p>4. Abdul Mateen (Son)</p> <p>5. Gul Mateen (Son)</p> <p>6. Amin Khan (Son)</p> <p>7. Shah Zamin (Son)</p> <p>On the above application the objections of public at large are invited. Any aggrieved person may approach in person the undersigned for submission of objection (if any) within fourteen (14) days after publication of this notice.</p> <p>INCHARGE SFU, NADRA MEGAL CENTER PESHAWAR-SFU</p>	<p>PUBLIC NOTICE</p> <p>Application for issuance of Letter of Administration / Succession Certificate by Mr. Muhammad Saeed with regards to moveable & immovable assets of deceased Mr. Haider Zaman citizen number 1350305406005 has been received. Following are declared as legal heirs.</p> <p>1. Rabiya Zaman (Daughter)</p> <p>2. Muhammad Shouk (Son)</p> <p>3. Muhammad Saeed (Son)</p> <p>4. Muhammad Shaqat (Son)</p> <p>On the above application the objections of public at large are invited. Any aggrieved person may approach in person the undersigned for submission of objection (if any) within fourteen (14) days after publication of this notice.</p> <p>INCHARGE SFU, NADRA MEGAL CENTER PESHAWAR-SFU</p>	<p>PUBLIC NOTICE</p> <p>Application for issuance of Letter of Administration / Succession Certificate by Mr. Umar Ullah with regards to moveable & immovable assets of deceased Mr. Sahibzada Nasrullah citizen number 13503054364 has been received. Following are declared as legal heirs.</p> <p>1. Farnan (Daughter)</p> <p>2. Rahnuma Bibi (Daughter)</p> <p>3. Bibi Amina (Spouse)</p> <p>4. Amir Ullah (Son)</p> <p>5. Zakir Ullah (Son)</p> <p>6. Amir Ullah (Son)</p> <p>7. Shahid Ullah (Son)</p> <p>8. Rahat Ullah (Son)</p> <p>On the above application the objections of public at large are invited. Any aggrieved person may approach in person the undersigned for submission of objection (if any) within fourteen (14) days after publication of this notice.</p> <p>PID/140423</p> <p>INCHARGE SFU, NADRA MEGAL CENTER PESHAWAR-SFU</p>



PESHAWAR: Elders of Jarhobi Dara Essa Khel holding a protest for acceptance of their demands.

LRH stands with KP people in all testing times

PESHAWAR (APP): Standing with the people of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa in all testing times, Lady Reading Hospital (LRH) Peshawar is a unique healthcare facility providing best healthcare services to all patients despite limited financial resources, laboratories and manpower.

From Chitral to DI Khan and Kohistan to Waziristan districts, LRH has accommodated all kinds of patients of the 39 districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa including seven merged districts by providing the much needed healthcare services to them irrespective of their financial status, colour and caste.

Whether it was 2005 devastated earthquake, 2010 floods or cases of terrorism, the LRH's doctors, nurses and paramedics rose to the occasion by treating hundreds of thousands of patients since its establishment in 1927. Besides treating patients of many ailments including kidney, liver, chest, heart, acute medical and surgical diseases, the colonial era hospital had entertained an influx of coronavirus patients while several of its doctors, nurses and paramedics laid down lives in line of duty.

Named after wife of British Viceroy Lord Reading in 1927, the hospital has a golden history visited by former Presidents, Prime Minister and other VIPs to acknowledge outstanding services of its doctors and others staff for ailing humanity. Lady Reading, who was the wife of Viceroy Reading, was very fond of Peshawar City and liked Peshawar view from the historic Balahisar fort.

"Once during a visit to Peshawar, she fell from the horse and got injuries while taking a round of the walled city. She was taken to Agerton hospital for treatment but due to lack of medical facilities she was shifted to Royal Military Hospital (Now Combined Military Hospital). After few years in 1927, she visited Peshawar again and desired to upgrade Agerton Hospital. She donated Rs52000 for the hospital. The Agerton Hospital was later renamed as Lady Reading Hospital (LRH)," said Muhammad Asim, spokesman of LRH while talking to APP. He said LRH is a popular hospital of the province due to best health services being provided to patients by expert doctors in many specialties including the fatal coronavirus, cancers, chest and kidneys.

Asim said LRH came under enormous pressure of the suspected coronavirus patients in recent years seeking early diagnoses and treatment, but its computerized healthcare system, treatment and medical facilities besides dedicated doctors and para-

medics remained unmatched during the pandemic. As a result, many of the coronavirus affected patients had returned homes upon full recovery. Besides patients from all the thirty nine districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa including seven merged tribal districts, the patients of Afghanistan are also utilizing its services due to significant improvement in its healthcare system, strengthening of infrastructure and medical, diagnostic and surgical services.

Asim said that patients loads in LRH were further increased after launching of Sehat Card's free treatment program by the previous government. "I came to LRH from Nowshera district after my mother faced severe heart attack," said Khurshid Alam, an employee of Public Sector organization while talking to APP on Friday. Impressed by timely treatment of doctors and labs staff, he said that condition of his mother was now stable and to be discouraged tomorrow after successful angiography.

Asim said besides upgradation of medical facilities including construction of new wards and testing labs, installation of modern health machinery and computerised health care system have been introduced. A state-of-the-art five storey Medical and Surgical Building were constructed where many specialties including nephrology and pathology with 24 hours services to patients ensured.

COVID-19 test laboratory and a high dependency unit, telemedicine service besides two ICUs for critical patients of the coronavirus established during COVID-19 crisis. Highest priority was accorded to revamp the outdated healthcare system by introducing scores of reforms and projects in hospitals. Full autonomy with complete authority in promotions, recruitments, equipment and accountability for physicians was ensured.

He said recruitments and promotions in all cadres were decided on merit based on new regulations contrary to the past practice of an aged based promotion and length of service. Bylaws were introduced under which working hours in public sector hospitals including LRH were aligned with modern practice that improved overall health delivery system and efficiency of the staff manifested.

During past governments, medical professionals including paramedics and nurses were forced to perform long hours duties without financial incentives while doctors were allowed to serve only for five hours which created sense of deprivation among junior doctors, nurses, para-

medics and thus its overall health delivery system has been badly affected. To break the nexus of doctors and commission agents in pharmaceutical, medicines, laboratory and surgical companies, LRH management had launched institutionalized based private practice (IBPP) where private patients are being treated by senior consultants on affordable fee as compared to Dabgari Gardens, a hub of private medical practitioners and laboratories which was a source of minting money from poor patients in the name of quality treatment.

Set a unique example for medical teaching institutions (MTI) in KP, LRH has strengthened its medical faculty by recruiting hundreds of physicians, surgeons and nurses on merit to handle patients load effectively. Medical equipments worth billion of rupees were purchased for LRH during the last few years and hospital services were computerized. First modern accident and emergency department with recruitment of trained emergency physicians has now become part of accident and emergency department in KP. KP's first ever Interventional Radiology (IR) programme with services of consultants radiologists with equipment was setup besides establishment of new rheumatology programme and that free medicines to all indoor patients were ensured.

Keeping in view of enormous difficulties of persons with disabilities, first modern Physiotherapy and Rehabilitation Medicine Department were established in KP. All gates of the hospital, which were used as thoroughfare, with dogs and cats roaming freely in the past, have now been fully secured through deployment of security staff 24/7.

Digital skill training program initiated

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: Pakistan Army and KP government have jointly initiated a digital skill training program for the empowerment of women in South Waziristan.

Under this program, unemployed women having sixteen years of education are equipped with the digital skills aligned with the contemporary requirements so that they could earn money through freelancing by using the internet.

Pakistan Army has made all the arrangements to ensure that the women get the best training under the guidance of trained instructors.

Hot, humid weather with scattered rain likely in KP

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: The Provincial Meteorological Center Peshawar on Friday predicted that mainly hot and humid weather is expected over most districts of the province.

However, scattered rain-thunderstorm associated with gusty winds likely to occur over Chitral, Upper Dir, Swat, Shangla, Malakand, Bajaur, Buner, Battagram, Kohistan, Torghar, Mansehra, Abbottabad, Haripur, Swabi and Khyber districts. Isolated Rain-Thunderstorms associated with gusty winds are likely to occur over Peshawar, Nowshera, Mardan, Charsadda, Kohat, Hangu and Karak districts.

During the last 24 hours hot and humid weather prevailed in most districts of the province. However, rain-thunderstorms occurred in Khyber districts. Rain recorded (in mm): Tirah-Khyber 02. The maximum and minimum temperatures recorded in centigrade at different stations of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa were Peshawar City 37/27, Chitral 37/18, Timergara 35/24, Dir 33/17, Mirkhani 38/20, Kalam 27/08, Drosht 36/20, Saidu Sharif 35/21, Pattan 38/24, Malam Jabba 25/13, Takht Bhai 37/26, Kakul 31/19, Balakot 35/19, Parachinar 29/17, Bannu 39/25, Cherat 32/20, D.I. Khan 41/29. The highest temperature recorded in the province was 41°C in Dera Ismail Khan.

Complete shutter down to be observed today

F.P. Report

LOWER DIR: Several private schools on Friday announced their institutions will remain closed on Saturday (today) due to a call for complete shutter down and wheel jam strike by the Jamaat-i-Islami here in parts of the Lower Dir district. The JI has called for a complete strike against the inflated power bills and increase in prices of petroleum products.

The Lower Dir's chambers of commerce, traders' unions, bar councils, transporters and civil society organizations have also announced to support the JI in its agitation against the government on Saturday. The JI district chief and former MPA Izazul Mulk in his video message thanked the business community, lawyers, and transporters and shopkeepers for supporting the strike. He said that all markets in the district would remain closed in protest against rising inflation and devaluation of Pakistani currency in the country.

He said the nation had been protesting against the increase in power tariff while the government raised the prices of petroleum products last night. He said the rulers had no sincerity with the common citizen. The JI chief alleged the government had included a total of 11 illegal taxes in power bills on the dictation of the International Monetary Fund. The JI leader said the poor could not pay such heavy bills. He said the consumers found it difficult to even buy the basic necessities of life.

Ending financial problems of universities is my first priority: KP Governor

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: The meeting under the Chairmanship of the Governor regarding the financial resources of the universities of the province, research commercialization and getting the universities out of financial deficit was held here on Friday.

In the meeting, various aspects including commercialization of universities, making links with industries and imparting education to students equipped with modern technology were discussed in detail. Universities will have to pay special attention to modern and market-based research to face future challenges, the Governor said.

The Vice-Chancellor should try to include the universities of the province in the global ranking, Governor Haji Ghulam Ali said. Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Haji Ghulam Ali said that universities must pay special attention to modern and market-based research to face future challenges. Ending the financial problems of the universities is their first priority, the Governor said. It is very sad to see the current financial situation of the universities, despite the government assistance, all the government universities of the province are suffering from financial deficit, Haji Ghulam Ali said.

"We all have to jointly play a role to get the universities out of these difficulties and move towards improvement and most of the responsibility falls on the vice chancellors and management of the university to minimize the costs, increase the resources," he added. Find alternative ways to create links with industries and commercialize research so that universities can stand on their own feet, the Governor said, while

addressing a meeting held regarding financial resources of universities, research commercialization and bringing universities out of financial deficit.

In the meeting, Caretaker Provincial Education Minister Dr. Muhammad Qasim Jan, Vice Chancellor of the University of Engineering and Technology Peshawar, Khyber Medical University Peshawar, University of Peshawar, Agricultural University of Peshawar, Institute of Management Sciences and Pak-Austria Haripur University, Director ORIC and Director QEC, Higher Education were present in the meeting. The representatives of the Commission and Department of Higher Education and the concerned authorities including Principal Secretary Mazhar Arshad participated. In the meeting, various aspects were discussed in detail, including commercialization of universities, making links with industries and providing education to students equipped with modern technology. Issues related to increasing the revenue of universities were also discussed in the meeting.

Addressing the meeting, the Governor said that the financial situation of the universities is so bad that all the universities will be in total loss for the next two years, the universities will have to take concrete steps to stand on their own feet. Universities should be taken towards commercialization and links should be made with industries so that universities conduct research and industries implement this research, which will bring financial benefit to both universities and industries, the Governor said.

"I am presenting your case as a lawyer and have even spoken to the

provincial government to fund a 35% increase in salaries. He urged the Vice-Chancellors to come forward for the improvement of education in the universities and try to include the universities of the province in the global ranking. The Governor strictly instructed that the faculty members should be brought on merit and in this context there should be no compromise on merit. It should be done because it is not only a matter of our children but also the future of the country and nations. He said that the role of vice-chancellors is very important for solving the problems of universities, improving the best education system, improving the research department, providing all the facilities to the faculty members and providing the best educational environment to the students.

It is a prestigious position because you are building the future of the country in your educational institutions, the governor said that without a doubt, the only goal of all of us is to create the best future for our children and there is no doubt that the best teachers in our province. There is no dearth of professors, lecturers and young talent and we all have to set up such a higher education system through mutual consultation in which we can provide quality education to the youth of the province so that they can not only make a name for themselves in their field but also become a source of pride for the country and the nation. The Governor said that the government, HEC, HED fully patronize the public sector universities and we expect all the vice-chancellors, professors, lecturers and faculty members to take these universities to a higher level in the ranking of the country.

Faiq flays govt for hike in petrol prices

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: Amun Taraqqi Party (ATP) chairman Muhammad Faiq Shah severely criticized the caretaker government for yet again dropping a petrol bomb on poor masses and feared the move will bring a new wave of inflation that could directly affect low-income people.

Shah while chairing a meeting at the party's central executive committee on Friday said the government had broken all previous records by making an overnight whopping increase in prices of petroleum products. Fuming power consumers now face another inflation bomb pounded by the caretakers in a very short time of their rules, he added.

Faiq said the petrol price is now unprecedented in the history of the country, taking the inflation to an

upward trajectory. The party leader said the government met another condition of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) by further increasing the levy on petroleum products last night. He criticized the interim government for endorsing policies of the previous coalition regime. On the other hand, he said the Pakistani rupee dropped to a record low level as the US dollar rate soared up to Rs306 in the open market, has resulted in a negative growth on trade and heightening miseries of the business community.

Similarly, he said the KSE-100 index was witnessing consistently under pressure and crashed as share prices took a fresh plunge at PSX. Shah made it clear that the economy couldn't come on the right track until the enhancement of income generation

resources, enhancement of exports, bilateral trade and investment opportunities.

The ATP chief emphasized a clear roadmap should be crafted for bringing economic stability. He asked the interim government to revisit its policies and not follow footprints of previous regimes. Shah stressed pragmatic steps should be taken to remove growing mistrust among investors and address the grievances and problems of the business community on priority grounds.

He also slammed the caretaker government over delay in making decisions regarding inflated power bills and indecisiveness on this crucial matter will further deteriorate the situation as anger among inflation stricken-people is increasing with each passing day who took to streets against exorbitant electricity bills.

JUI popularity graph witnesses upward trend, says Mayor

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: Mayor Peshawar, Haji Zubair Ali has said that popularity graph of the Jamiat Ulema e Islam (JUI) was witnessing an upward trend with each passing day and the trust people imposed in our services will never be shattered.

Talking to a gathering at Tablighi Markaz, Sando Garhi, Bashirabad here wherein 57 families from various political parties announced to join JUI, he said the problems of masses would be addressed at their doorstep. He said open courts were being conducted on a daily basis to address people's grievances.

On the occasion, JUI leaders, Maulana Abdul Jalil Jan, Siddique Rehman Paracha, Saadat Afridi, Mufti Ameen, Chairman Zahid Ullah and representatives of various union councils were also present. Haji Zubair Ali said the popularity of JUI was evident from the fact that people in large numbers were joining this party, showing confidence in the leadership of JUI.

He hoped that the sense of deprivation among people would be removed and pledges made with them will be honored at all cost. He said on a daily basis people's problems were being gradually addressed. He also welcomed the new entrants to JUI. During the gathering, 57 families from Sando Garhi, Bashirabad announced to join Jamiat Ulema e Islam. Mayor Zubair Ali presented party caps to the new JUI supporters.

Two arrested

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: In a late-night operation, Fagirabad police here Thursday unearthed a unit where poisonous and extremely unhealthy liquor products were being produced, and arrested two members of the network.

ASP Fagirabad, Sayyed Talal Ahmad Shah told media persons that members of the network used to bring raw material from different areas to the basement of a residential house in Fagirabad where poisonous liquor was being produced and supplied to various localities including educational institutions with fake brands and labels.

He said the action was taken on secret information and two gang members identified as Mumrez, resident of Bashirabad and Wasim, resident of Fagir Killay were taken into custody from the house.



PESHAWAR: Participants of Pashto course in a group photo after course.



In brief

Revenue official arrested

MIANWALI (INP): The Anti-Corruption Establishment (ACE) in Mianwali district on Friday arrested a patwari (revenue official) for demanding and accepting a bribe in a land transfer case. According to media reports, the accused patwari, Muhammad Tahir, was arrested from his office in Piplan tehsil. He was caught red-handed while accepting Rs. 10,000 in bribe from a land owner, Muhammad Abrar. Abrar had filed a complaint with the ACE, alleging that Tahir had demanded Rs. 10,000 for measuring his land and another Rs. 10,000 for registering the land. The ACE conducted a raid on Tahir's office and arrested him while he was accepting the bribe. He has been taken into custody and will be produced in court tomorrow. The ACE has registered a case against Tahir under the Prevention of Corruption Act. He is the second patwari to be arrested in Mianwali district in the last two months. In June, another patwari was arrested for demanding and accepting a bribe of Rs. 50,000 from a land owner.

Meter reader arrested

SHEIKHUPURA (INP): The FIA anti-corruption arrested LESCO meter reader red-handed while taking bribe and recovered Rs60,000 here on Friday. According to details, SDO LESCO sub-division Sacha Souda Farooqabad Mazhar through two subordinates Muhammad Naveed and Muhammad Nawaz demanded Rs60,000 from Syed Ali Raza of Mehmoodabad from replacing faulty electric meter of his agricultural lands. On directives of District and Session Judge Sheikhupura Mrs Farzana Shehzad Khan, a team headed by Sub-Inspector Muhammad Zeeshan Qasim called the subordinates of SDO near Farooqabad railway crossing to collect the money. Meter reader Muhammad Nawaz reached the scene and collected Rs50,000 from Syed Ali Raza. The FIA anti-corruption team present near the scene arrested the meter reader red-handed along with Rs50,000 bribe money. The investigation into the incident was kicked off.

Four sisters hospitalised

SANGLA HILL (INP): Four sisters, aged between four and 12 years, were hospitalised after consuming unhygienic yogurt in Sangla Hill on Thursday night. According to details, condition of the girls deteriorated after eating unhygienic yogurt in Sangla Hill. Rescue teams with the help of local residents shifted the affected girls to hospital. The affected girls were identified as 4-year-old Maria, 7-year-old Khadija, 10-year-old Mafia and 12-year-old Nazish. Rescue sources informed that all the patients were in stable condition.

Urs of Latif Bhittai begins

BHIT SHAH (INP): The 280th urs celebrations of Sufi poet Shah Abdul Latif Bhittai got underway in Bhit Shah on Friday. The formal inauguration Urs celebration was held by laying wreath at the grave of the Sufi saint. The Sindh government had already announced a public holiday on September 1 to mark the 280th Urs of Shah Abdul Latif Bhittai. Strict security arrangements have been made to provide a peaceful environment to thousands of devotees while all required arrangements to provide basic facilities have also been completed.



SAKHAKOT: Provincial president of All Goods Transport Association Engineer Muhammad Jameel addressing a press conference.

ANP argues for free, fair, transparent elections

F.P. Report

MARDAN: Awami National Party central vice-president Ameer Haider Khan Hoti has said that they wanted fair and transparent elections on time. ANP central vice-president expresses these views while addressing the party workers and other participants of a party joining ceremony held here the other day.

Former Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Haider Khan Hoti urged the relevant stakeholders to provide level playing field to all political parties including Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf Party while holding timely fair and transparent elections in the country.

"All political parties of the country have to admit their past mistakes if they want to steer out Pakistan from crisis," he said, adding that there was urgent need to hold dialogues on financial condition of country, supremacy of constitution, and continuation of democracy. He claimed that ANP was the only political party which had been fighting for rights of Pashtuns. He also claimed that ANP was getting popularity by each passing day that was why people as well as other party leaders and workers were joining ANP.

Former CM Hoti rejected the notion of differences and infighting within the ANP party, adding that it was the propaganda of opponents about their party. "The process of party membership is going on. I have already finalised scheduled of my visits to parts of KPK province as a political campaigning. We have divided areas and constituencies in this connection. Similarly, the ANP provincial president is also going to start his visits of different areas of the province," he maintained.

To a query about elections, he pointed out as per constitution of Pakistan, the delimitation of constituencies was become necessary once the results of census was notified. On the other hand, the election commission of Pakistan was bound to hold elections within 90-days as per the constitution after the dissolution of assemblies before its scheduled time. Keeping in view the said situation, there should be minimum delay in holding of next general polls. On the occasion, Ishfaq Lodhy and Shahid Lodhy along with their family members and friends quitted Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf Party and announced to join ANP. They expressed their belief in the leadership of ANP.

MMC achieves ISO certificate for profound services: Mardan Medical

Complex (MMC) Hospital has once again made its mark in the realm of healthcare excellence, securing a distinguished certification from the International Organization for Standardization (ISO). This notable achievement is a testament to MMC's unwavering commitment to delivering top-notch medical services.

This latest feat involves the hospital being awarded the coveted ISO certification, signifying that MMC's facilities and services meet stringent international standards. The official announcement of this accomplishment came from a team of seasoned professionals representing ISO's quality management system. Guided by the leadership of General Manager North Muhammad Akbar Khan, this five-member delegation included individuals of high repute such as Chief Operating Officer Total Quality System (TQS) Shoaib Akbar Khan, Manager TQS Muhammad Imran, Auditor National Quality Control Dr. Nadia Nisar, and Nadir Siddique.

The journey towards ISO certification entailed a thorough inspection of MMC's facilities, a comprehensive process that examined every nook and cranny of the hospital's operations. The delegation meticulously assessed the quality of services and resources offered by MMC, comparing them against the rigorous benchmarks established by ISO.

Engaging in a detailed exploration, the delegation visited various departments within the hospital premises. Their meticulous evaluation ensured that MMC's offerings met or exceeded the prevailing ISO standards. This diligent process underscored the hospital's dedication to maintaining excellence across its wide spectrum of medical services.

In addition to their evaluation, the ISO representatives engaged in an insightful exchange with MMC's management team. This crucial meeting brought together key figures, including Medical Director Professor Dr. Imad Hameed, Hospital Director Dr. Tariq Mehmood, and Manager Quality Assurance Hameed Zeib. Their discussions revolved around the shared mission of elevating healthcare quality and aligning it with ISO principles.

The delegation commended the hospital administration for its proactive approach and the concerted efforts undertaken to ensure compliance with ISO guidelines. Recognizing the personal investment of the hospital's leadership, the delegation acknowledged the administration's role in fostering a culture of quality healthcare delivery.

Tribesmen demand cut load shedding

F.P. Report

WANA: Tribal elders have issued a joint statement and said that the 21-hour load shedding period announced by TESCO on various feeders of South Waziristan Lower district could not be reduced for the past several months. Tribal elders said that instead of 21 hours electricity supply should be ensured for 12 hours, as business activities are badly affected due to non-availability of electricity.

The tribal elders said that due to load shedding for a long time, the residents of different areas of Wana are in serious trouble. Local dignitaries, notables and citizens expressed deep

concern and grief over the announced 21-hour load shedding in Wana Waziristan.

On this occasion they criticized the performance of the caretaker federal minister for water and electricity and TESCO, that there is no decrease or change in the announced 21 hours load shedding schedule by TESCO, so the announced load shedding should be reduced immediately. However, due to load shedding, women are facing serious problems, due to lack of water in their homes, women are forced to carry water on their heads or donkeys.

On the other hand, the shopkeepers in the area are

also worried about the load shedding, despite repeated complaints, the concerned SDO and other staff could not reduce the announced load shedding in Wana. While it has not been possible to resolve the complaints made for several months, in this regard, the residents of Wana area of Spin have demanded from the caretaker federal minister of water and electricity and other authorities including the TESCO chief and to end the 21-hour announced load-shedding in Wana and to take measures on an emergency basis to relieve the residents of the area from the problems they are facing with regard to electricity.

Punjab govt to provide agricultural machinery on subsidy to farmers

SARGODHA (INP): The Punjab government has invited applications from farmers for the provision of agricultural machinery on subsidy. The last date for submitting applications is September 30.

The government has introduced a number of agricultural machinery that will be provided at a subsidy of up to 60% (Rs.500,000). The machinery includes border disc, wheat seed grader and cleaner, wheat seed-bed planter, rota-vator, disc harrow, reversible hydraulic moldboard plow, disc plow, chisel plow, molder board plow, heap seeder, Pak seeder, double-coulter drill,

tractor driven reaper-cum-binder, rice straw shredder, wet straw chopper and cotton bed planter machine.

The application form can be downloaded from the website field.agripunjab.gov.pk. The scheme is part of the Punjab government's plan to increase crop production by promoting modern mechanized agriculture. The government believes that providing agricultural machinery on subsidy will help farmers to improve their productivity and reduce their costs. The scheme is expected to benefit thousands of farmers across Punjab. It is a welcome move by the govern-

ment and is likely to boost the agricultural sector of the province.

Eight power pilferers arrested: A task force team of the Faisalabad Electric Supply Company (FESCO) caught eight power pilferers in the city on Friday. According to the FESCO spokesperson, the team raided various areas of the district and caught the accused involved in electricity theft from main lines and meter tampering.

The accused were identified as Babar, Tanveer, Amanullah, G-hulam Nabi, Muhammad Bilal, Ahmad Khan, Muhammad Ashraf, and Muhammad Nasir.

Resident demand action against official Sahibzada Afridi

KOHAT: A resident of Kohat named Piyo-u-Din demanded action against Tehsildar Hafeez along Steno Azam for didn't implementing Deputy Commissioner orders from five months to grab my land, on Thursday.

This he said while addressing a press conference at Kohat Press Club and added that Assistant Commissioner has submitted report to DC that High Court has granted status quo on the land but it is mala-fade.

The resident argued to initiate inquiry against Tehsildar Hafeez and Steno Azam while added that if he is made baseless argument then punish him otherwise demanded for provision of justice.

Rescue 1122 performance report

F.P. Report

TIMERGARA: Rescue 1122 Lower Dir has released the monthly performance report of August 2023. According to the details, Abrar Ali Khan, in charge of Rescue 1122 Lower Dir, while talking to the media, said that Rescue 1122 provided services in more than 724 emergencies during the last month.

Rescue 1122 Dir Lower provided facilities to the injured in 36 traffic accidents during the month of August. Last month 402 medical, 14 fire accidents and 04 crime incidents occurred, 03 drowning, 01 building collapse and 28 other incidents.

Under the Ambulance Referral Service, 236 patients referred by doctors were transferred to various hospitals in which 136 within the district and more than 100 outside the district under the supervision of the trained staff of Rescue 1122.

4 women died after drinking poisonous Lassi

F.P. Report

LARKANA: As many as four people of one house died in Ghos Bakhsh Brohi village of Mirokhan Tehsil near Larkana. One-year-old girl Momina, 17-year-old Bilqis Brohi, 13-year-old Seema Brohi, and 50-year-old Hajran wife Aziz Brohi died while 8 people fainted and were shifted to the hospital for treatment.

After this news went viral, Director General Health Irshad Ahmed Memon immediately took notice of the incident and said that the incident is sad. Every possible effort is being made.

On the other hand, the District Health Officer has sent the samples of the patients to the laboratory to find out the real truth, while the relatives of the deceased expressed their disbelief on the duty doctors of Chandka Hospital and said that None of the patients are being taken care of well, while we have a doubt that God willing, nothing will happen to the patients.

Two killed

LAYYAH (INP): Two motorcyclists lost their lives after being run over and killed by a tractor-trolley near Kot Sultan in Layyah on Friday, police said.

Rescue 1122 ambulances shifted the bodies of Umar Farooq and Shahid to a nearby hospital.

Jahangir Tareen assures assistance to flood victims

Saqib Mushtaq

LODHAN: Patron in Chief, Istekhkam Pakistan Party (IPP) Jahangir Khan Tareen reached the flood victims of Lodhran and Bahawalpur.

Jahangir Tareen met the flood victims and reviewed the relief activities on behalf of the JKT Flood Relief Fund. Addressing the flood victims on this occasion, Jahangir Tareen said that I immediately visited the flood victims of Lodhran and Bahawalpur. Established flood relief fund for. We worked day and night to help every flood affected brothers and sisters. Allah gave me the opportunity to serve the people, I thank Allah.

Jahangir Tareen said that I always worked to serve the people and not for votes. I consider it my duty to serve the people. There will be no dearth of resources to aid the flood-affected siblings. Jahangir Tareen also appreciated the efforts of Deputy Commissioner Lodhran,



district administration, police and rescue, IPP Bahawalpur leader Tehsin Gurdizi and Lodhran leader Sardar Irshad Abbas Ghalu thanked Jahangir Tareen for helping the flood victims on behalf of the people of Lodhran and Bahawalpur.

On this occasion, Deputy Commissioner Lodhran Abdul Rauf Mehr said in his speech that the damages in the flood are being assessed. God willing, the damage caused by the flood will be repaired. On the occasion of Jahangir

Khan Tareen's arrival, IPP local leaders Malik Akram Kunhan, Syed Raza Shah Geelani, Nadeem Khan Ghalo, Jamsheed Azhar Ghalo, Chand Khan Ghalo, Malik Shahnawaz Kalari, Arsalan Nawaz Bhatta, Rao Muhammad Imran, Sheikh Muhammad Aslam. Yusuf Raza Hashmi and others were also present. Administrative officers Additional Deputy Commissioner Syeda Amna Maududi, Assistant Commissioner Ashraf Saleh and DSP Mehr Ishaq Syal were also present.

800 liters of artificially made cream discarded

F.P. Report

MARDAN: The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Food Safety & Halal Food Authority (FS & HFA) while responding to a tip-off discarded over 800 liters of artificially made cream to be used for preparing milk in Toor Bhatay. Par Hoti area of Mardan. The operation was carried out early Friday morning by the relevant officials.

In this regard, the information provided by the KPK Food Safety and Halal Food Authority officials revealed that cream was being prepared in a house

by mixing dry milk powder with raw cooking oil and after addition of water, thousands of liters of milk could be prepared which was to be supplied to different shops of Mardan.

The officials added that during the operation about 08 chemical drums, 04 mixing machines, one filling pump, two gas cylinder, 225 kilogram of dry milk and 120 kilogram of edible oil were seized by FS & HFA. They said consuming raw oil was harmful for human health as it may cause cardiovascular and other diseases.

The premises was sealed

by the officials of FS & HFA and one Zahoor Ahmad son of Aziz Ahmad was send behind the bars for playing with the lives of innocent citizens. The officials told that the field teams became vigilant after information regarding artificially prepared milk was received. They said after continuous raid on different locations, finally the culprits were caught red handed. They vowed that the FS&HFA teams were committed to provide safe and hygienic food to the general public and no one would be allowed to play with the health of the people.

Meeting of Tehsil Council Babuzai held

Shafi Ullah

MINGORA: A meeting of Tehsil Council Babuzai was held under the chairmanship of Tahir Khan on the main highway in which Mayor of City Mingora Local Government Shahid Ali Khan and council members attended in large on Friday at Mingora.

The street meeting was the first of its kind. Local government representatives and Mayor Shahid Ali Khan, who attended the meeting held on the road, demanded that since the behavior of DC Swat Irfan Ullah Wazir and AC Babuzai was inappropriate with the elected people's representatives and they were completely absent from the meeting of the AC Babuzai Tehsil Council, he added.

He said that we have serious concerns of the elected local representa-

tives and the people of the area, so both of them should be immediately replaced with Swat and appointed dutiful officers in their place?

Earlier, a meeting of Tehsil Council Babuzai was held in Tehsil Hall, which was attended by some government officials, TMO Afzal Khan and other officials of TMA, the members who participated in the meeting wore black bands on the protesters, which was a symbolic strike for not attending the meeting of the AC of Tehsil Babuzai. Registering their protest against the Assistant Commissioner of Babuzai, they staged a sit-in protest at the gate of the hall, on this occasion, the representatives of the local bodies present in the meeting of the hall criticized the government departments and especially WASA, while raising various problems

and demanding a lot of solutions to these problems.

City Mayor Shahid Ali Khan said in his address that it is with great regret that the district administration DC Swat is treating the elected local representatives inappropriately, they will not tolerate their arrogant behavior anymore, we will go to the last extent to get the rights of the area and the people, this is a corrupt and dishonest officer, who has divided the people of Swat.

While staying in the circle, a full-fledged protest movement will be launched against them, it will continue till the transfer of the jawan, he strongly criticized AC Tehsil Babuzai and said that despite repeated requests and sending letters, he is not attending the meeting of the tehsil. Therefore, these two officers should be replaced immediately.

BAP leader condemns suicide attack on soldiers

F.P. Report

QUETTA: The cowardly enemy cannot shake the determination of the brave nation. These views were expressed by Central Vice President Balochistan Awami Party Senator Samina Mumtaz Zehri while expressing deep grief and anger over the martyrdom of 9 soldiers in the attack of a motorcycle-borne suicide bomber on a military convoy in Jani Khel area of Bannu district of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

In her condemnation statement, she expressed her reaction to the loss of precious lives in the incident and said that the martyrs crushed the ambitions of the cowardly enemy by sacrificing their lives, for which the entire nation pays homage to the martyrs.

She said that the armed forces of Pakistan are determined to end the scourge of terrorism and our determination will be strengthened by the sacrifices of our brave men. The elements

will be sent to hell very soon. She prayed for the martyred youths and the injured in the incident that Allah may grant the martyrs a high place in His mercy and speedy recovery to the injured. She further said that the sympathies of the entire nation are with the families of the martyrs and the injured. She further said that Pakistan is determined against terrorism and in this war the enemies will be defeated and the Pakistani nation will be the leader in this war against terrorism.

Senator Samina Mumtaz Zehri said that the nation can never forget the soldiers who sacrificed their lives for the country. The evil intentions of terrorists will never succeed. Our brave Pak forces and other security forces are making history against terrorism. The blood of the martyrs will not go in vain and the sacrifices of the soldiers of the Pakistan Army for the protection of the motherland will never be forgotten which is commendable and in the future

our brave security forces will continue to destroy the evil intentions of the enemy with bravery and determination. Our brave armed forces are protecting the country which is a very proud thing for any nation.

Senator Samina Mumtaz said that anti-Pakistan forces are enemies of peace, peace in Pakistan cannot tolerate our opponents. In these circumstances, the people of Pakistan need to unite and respond to the internal and external enemies untidily and play your role and convince the enemies that the nation of Pakistan is on a platform against terrorism and such cowardly incidents of terrorism cannot demoralize us, she said that we all should support all our security agencies and report any unusual activity or suspicious persons immediately to the security agencies so that any kind of terrorism can be prevented in time and the terrorists can be brought to justice.



US, Indonesia and 5 other nations hold war drills

JAKARTA (AP): Soldiers from the US, Indonesia and five other nations began annual training exercises in Indonesia's main island of Java while China's increasing aggression is raising concern. American and Indonesian soldiers have held the live-fire Super Garuda Shield drills since 2009, and Australia, Japan and Singapore joined last year. The United Kingdom and French forces are participating in this year's exercises, with a total of about 5,000 personnel.

China sees the expanded drills as a threat, accusing the US of building an Indo-Pacific alliance similar to NATO to limit China's growing military and diplomatic influence in the region. Brunei, Brazil, Canada, Germany, India, Malaysia, Netherlands, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, South Korea, and East Timor also sent observers to the two-week exercises in Baluran, a coastal town in East Java province. The commanding general of US Army Pacific, Gen. Charles Flynn, said the 19 nations involved in the training are a powerful demonstration of multilateral solidarity to safeguard a free and open Indo-Pacific region.

"Super Garuda Shield 2023 builds on last year's tremendous success," Flynn said in a statement released by the US Embassy in Jakarta, "This joint, multinational training exercise displays our collective commitment and like-minded unity, allowing for a stable, secure, and more peaceful, free and open Indo-Pacific." The statement said at least 2,100 US and 1,900 Indonesian forces will enhance their interoperability capabilities through training and cultural exchanges that include a command and control simulation, an amphibious exercise, airborne operations, an airfield seizure exercise, and a combined joint field training that culmi-



nates with a live-fire event. Garuda Shield is being held in several places, including in waters around Natuna at the southern portion of the South China Sea, a fault line in the rivalry between the US and China. Indonesia and China enjoy generally positive ties, but Jakarta has expressed concern about what it sees as Chinese encroachment in its exclusive economic zone in the South China Sea.

The edge of the exclusive economic zone overlaps with Beijing's unilaterally declared "nine-dash line" demarking its claims in the South China Sea. Increased activities by Chinese coast guard vessels and fishing boats in the area have unnerved Jakarta, prompting Indonesia's navy to conduct a large drill in July 2020 in waters around Natuna. Indonesian Foreign Minister Retno Marsudi commented on China's newly published "Standard Map," which shows its territorial claims in the South China Sea crossing over the maritime exclusive economic zones of Malaysia near Sabah and Sarawak, and several other countries such as Brunei, the Philippines, Indonesia,

and Vietnam. She urged China to respect international law, saying the "drawing of any (territorial) lines or any claims must be in accordance" with the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea. Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Wang Wenbin called on other countries to refrain from "over-interpreting" the map. Malaysia's Foreign Ministry rejected China's "unilateral claims" and said the map is "not binding" for Malaysia.

India lodged a formal objection over the map, which shows Arunachal Pradesh and the Doklam Plateau, over which the two sides have feuded, as being within China's borders. The Philippines said the map was China's latest attempt to claim sovereignty over Philippine features and maritime zones and said it has no basis under international law. Vietnam also protested that the map and the "nine-dash line" claims violate Vietnam's sovereignty over the Paracel and Spratly islands and jurisdiction over its waters and must be void because they violate international law, particularly UNCLOS.

US envoy feasts on Fukushima fish, slams China water ‘dumps’

TOKYO (AFP): The US envoy to Japan feasted on fish from Fukushima, saying that water discharged from the crippled nuclear plant was safer than that "dumped" by Chinese atomic facilities. China banned all seafood imports from its neighbour last week after Japan began releasing wastewater from Fukushima into the Pacific Ocean, accusing Tokyo of treating the ocean like a "sewer".

"Japan over the decade has done exactly the right things in the right way. International scientific rigour, fully transparent, and inviting the international community to monitor their progress cleaning the water," ambassador Rahm Emanuel said as he visited the area devastated by the 2011 tsunami and nuclear catastrophe. "Water from this area is safer than (the water which) the four plants in China dumps untreated into the ocean," he said. The water being released from Fukushima has been filtered of all radioactive elements except tritium, according to plant operator TEPCO.

Tritium levels are within safe limits and below that

released by nuclear power stations in their normal operation, including in China, TEPCO says. Emanuel, 63, ate a plateful of raw slices of flounder, tuna and bass at a local restaurant before buying more fish and locally grown peaches from a supermarket. The public show of support for Japan came a day after Prime Minister Fumio Kishida's office released a video of him consuming fish and other produce from Fukushima. Emanuel accused China of acts of "economic coercion", "harassment" and "disinformation" against Japan.

"This is all politics, and this has nothing to do with information," Emanuel said. "Nothing China has done is any way to inform, to educate or to improve people's judgment," he said. Australia's embassy also offered its support, publishing a video on social media showing its diplomats buying produce from the Fukushima region at a shop in Tokyo. "Australia has a strong connection with Fukushima," one said in Japanese. "We will continue to support Fukushima," another added. The release of more than 500 Olympic swimming pools' worth of treated water began on August 24.

Public hostility in China has risen since, with bricks and eggs thrown at Japanese schools and consulates. Businesses in Japan have also been inundated with nuisance calls from Chinese numbers. Beijing dismissed the "so-called concerns of the Japanese side", blaming instead Japan's "unilateral and forcible" start of the wastewater discharge.

Meanwhile, the Japan's Prime Minister Fumio Kishida ordered his fisheries minister to apologise for referring to treated radioactive water being released from the Fukushima Nuclear Power Plant as "contaminated" and told him to retract his remark. Fisheries minister Tetsuro Nomura was heard calling the treated radioactive water "contaminated" when speaking to reporters earlier in the day following a meeting with Kishida. He said his discussions with the premier involved "the evaluation of the contaminated water" after its

release into the Pacific. Nomura later apologised and retracted the comment but said he would not resign over it, the Jiji news service reported. Japan is calling the water it is releasing into the ocean "ALPS treated water" to differentiate it from the contaminated water held in tanks around the wrecked plant site.

ALPS stands for "Advanced Liquid Processing System", a system aimed at removing most radioactive elements from the water except for tritium before it is released into the ocean as "treated" water. "It's deeply disappointing that he made such a remark. I've instructed Minister Nomura to issue an apology as well as retract what he said," Kishida said when asked for comment.

Because tritium, a radioactive isotope of hydrogen, is difficult to separate from water, the Fukushima wastewater is diluted until tritium levels fall below regulatory limits. Japan's fisheries agency said tests of fish from near the plant found no detectable levels of tritium.

Thaksin submits royal pardon request

BANGKOK (Reuters): Thailand's former premier Thaksin Shinawatra has submitted a request for a royal pardon, outgoing Justice Minister Wisanu Krea-ngam said, his latest move in a long-running power struggle with the country's establishment. Thaksin, Thailand's most famous politician, made a dramatic homecoming last week after 15 years abroad where he lived in self-exile to avoid prison.

Thaksin arrived on a private jet and greeted supporters before being moved to a prison to serve an eight-year sentence for abuse of power and conflicts of interest from his time in power. Hours later, Srettha Thavasin of the Shinawatra-backed Pheu Thai party won a parliamentary vote to become prime minister with the support of pro-military lawmakers. Thaksin, a former telecoms tycoon still wields influence in Thai politics with parties loyal to him winning every election in the past two decades until this year. This month's events have fuelled speculation that Thaksin has struck a deal with his bitter rivals in the conservative establishment and royalist military, which ousted his parties in coups in 2006 and 2014, at the time accusing him and his parties of corruption and disloyalty to the powerful monarchy.

Thaksin denied those allegations and has rejected talk of a deal with the generals. On his first night in jail, Thaksin was transferred to a police hospital, on account of chest pains and high blood pressure. A representative of the 74-year-old Thaksin declined to comment when asked by Reuters about his pardon request. A request for royal pardon must be submitted through the corrections department to the justice minister. "The request will then be presented to (incumbent) Prime Minister Prayuth Cha-ocha who needs to sign it before presenting it to the king," Wisanu told Reuters. If a royal pardon is not granted, Thaksin will have to wait two years to submit another request.

Number of people killed in Haiti rose to 14%: UN

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP): The UN said that 1,860 people were reported killed, injured or kidnapped in Haiti from April to June, a 14% increase compared with the first three months of the year. The surge in gang violence remains centered in the capital of Port-au-Prince and surrounding areas, with nearly 300 people alone killed or injured by snipers in the slum of Cite Soleil, according to a human rights report released by the UN Integrated Office in Haiti, known as BINUH.

The report was released a day after the US Embassy in Haiti urged US citizens to leave the Caribbean country "as soon as possible" given the ongoing insecurity and infrastructure challenges. Among those killed from April to June were 13 police officers and more than 460 gang members, the majority of those by lynching, followed by police shootings, the UN said. At least 230 suspected gang members have died as a result of a violent civilian uprising dubbed "bwa kale" that began in April and targets suspected criminals. Another 298 people were kidnapped during that period, a 24% drop compared with the previous quarter. Almost half of the kidnappings occurred in the Artibonite region north of Port-au-Prince, which has seen a rise in gang violence and killings. Gangs also continue to use rape and mutilation to instill fear and punish those living in areas controlled by rivals, the UN said. At least 49 women in Cite Soleil were raped in April as they tried to escape gang violence, with seven of them killed afterward. Gangs also were blamed for looting or setting on fire nearly 100 homes from April to June, as well as hijacking at least 13 commercial trucks and transporting fuel, food and other items.

Philippines, Taiwan, Malaysia reject China's latest S China Sea map

MANILA (Reuters): The Philippines, Malaysia, Taiwan and Vietnam have rejected as baseless a map released by China that denotes its claims to sovereignty including in the South China Sea and which Beijing said should be viewed rationally and objectively. China released the map of its famous U-shaped line covering about 90% of the South China Sea, a source of many of the disputes in one of the world's most contested waterways, where more than \$3 trillion of trade passes each year.

The Philippines called on China "to act responsibly and abide by its obligations" under international law and a 2016 arbitral ruling that had declared the line had no legal grounds. Malaysia said it had filed a diplomatic protest over the map. China says the line is based on its historic maps. It was not immediately clear whether the latest map denotes any new claim to territory. China's U-shaped line loops as far as 1,500 km (932 miles) south of its Hainan island and cuts into the exclusive economic zones (EEZs) of Vietnam, the Philippines, Malaysia, Brunei and Indonesia. "This latest attempt to legitimise China's purported sovereignty and jurisdiction over Philippine features and maritime zones has no

basis under international law," the Philippine Foreign Ministry said.

Its Malaysian counterpart in a statement said the new map holds no binding authority over Malaysia, which "also views the South China Sea as a complex and sensitive matter". The map was different to a narrower version submitted by China to the United Nations in 2009 of the South China Sea that included its so-called "nine-dash line". The latest map was of a broader geographical area and had a line with 10 dashes that included democratically governed Taiwan, similar to a 1948 map of China. China also published a map with a 10th dash in 2013. Asked about the latest map, Taiwan Foreign Ministry spokesperson Jeff Liu said Taiwan was "absolutely not a part of the People's Republic of China". "No matter how the Chinese government twists its position on Taiwan's sovereignty, it cannot change the objective fact of our country's existence," he told a press briefing. China is currently having a "national map awareness publicity week", state broadcaster China Central Television reported.

Asked why China had released the latest map with 10 dashes compared to one with nine dashes, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Wang

Wenbin said Beijing had been unambiguous about its territory. "China's position on the South China Sea issue has always been clear. The competent authorities of China regularly update and release various types of standard maps every year," he told a regular briefing. "We hope that relevant parties can view this in an objective and rational manner." Vietnam's foreign ministry said China's claims based on the map have no value and violate Vietnamese and international laws.

Vietnam "resolutely rejects any claims in the East Sea by China that are based on the dashed line," Ministry of Foreign Affairs spokesperson Pham Thu Hang said in a statement, referring to the South China Sea. Separately, Hang said Vietnamese authorities are seeking to clarify an allegation by Vietnamese fishermen that a Chinese vessel attacked their fishing boat with water canon earlier this week in the South China Sea, injuring two of them.

"Vietnam opposes the use of force against Vietnamese fishing boats operating normally at sea," she said in a statement sent to Reuters. India said said it had lodged a strong protest with China over a new map that lays claim to India's territory, the latest irritant in testy ties between the Asian giants.

‘Don’t belong there’: Ukrainians dodging front

KYIV (AFP): Ivan Ishchenko volunteered to fight against invading Russian troops, but after a month of combat he was willing to pay thousands of dollars and risk prison to flee the front. "Before I went to war, I thought I was a superhero. But all heroism ends when people see (war) with their own eyes and realise that they don't belong there," Ishchenko, 30, said.

"I saw someone being shot near his spleen; the pain was crazy. Then I saw a severed head. It all built up... I didn't want to see anything else." So, one day he deserted without warning anyone but his mother and fled Ukraine. Ishchenko is far from being the only one. The war triggered a patriotic impulse, but some Ukrainians are refusing to fight despite societal pressures, and warnings from authorities cracking down on draft evaders amid a difficult counteroffensive. Ishchenko managed to leave the country despite a

ban on the departure of all men aged between 18 and 60.

He paid \$5,000 for a government-plated car to escort him to a forest on the border with Hungary. He then escaped through a hole in the fence and ran. "The scariest moment was back then, when I left Ukraine and fled on foot," he said. Since the beginning of the war, authorities have detained 13,600 people trying to cross the border outside of checkpoints, State Border Guard spokesman Andriy Demchenko told AFP.

Another 6,100 -- most of them fighting-age men -- have been caught when attempting to leave with forged documents, Demchenko said. But officials contacted by AFP did not provide a precise number for suspected draft evaders and deserters. They now face up to five and 12 years in prison respectively, according to a law passed in January toughening the punishments. Amid a struggling counteroffensive,

Kyiv is cracking down on corruption schemes that allow men to avoid the army. All top officials in charge of conscription have been fired in recent weeks, and investigators said they had "uncovered large-scale corruption schemes in almost all regions of the country."

Ivan, a 24-year-old who declined to give his last name due to legal concerns, said that "everyone knows there are opportunities" for avoiding service. "Everybody has friends or acquaintances who can offer options," he said. In May, Ivan spent \$5,000 on a medical certificate that exempted him from service -- and allowed him out of Ukraine. He is not proud of his actions, saying "it all felt wrong and disturbing". To avoid breaking the law, some men have left before turning 18 or never came back after the war began. Bogdan Marynenko's family pushed him to leave for Poland in August 2022, two days before his 18th birthday.

Nigeria president suggests nine-month transition for Niger junta

ABUJA (AFP): Nigerian President Bola Tinubu floated the idea of a transition back to democracy in neighbouring Niger similar to the nine-month period his country underwent in the late 1990s. The Economic Community of West African States has imposed sanctions on Niger after troops ousted President Mohamed Bazoum in a coup on July 26 and the bloc threatened military intervention as a last resort if talks fail to restore civilian rule.

In a statement, the bloc insisted it wanted Bazoum back in power right away. "The military authorities in Niger must restore constitutional order immediately by liberating and reinstating... President Mohamed Bazoum," it said. Niger's new military leaders have dug in, saying they want a maximum three-year transition period to restore constitutional order and have ordered police to expel France's envoy as tensions build with a key partner in Niger's anti-jihadist fight. Niger's interior ministry announced it was stopping UN agencies, NGOs and international organisations from working in military "operation zones".

It did not specify which regions were affected, but said the measures were "due to the current security situation". "All activities and or movements in the zones of operations are temporarily

suspended," it said. Tinubu said Nigeria returned to civilian rule in 1999 after a nine-month transition period instituted by former military head of state General Abdulsalami Abubakar, who has also headed delegations to meet the Niger junta. "The president sees no reason why such cannot be replicated in Niger, if Niger's military authorities are sincere," the Nigerian presidency said in a statement. Algeria, Niger's influential northern neighbour, has met with West Africa leaders in a bid to avoid any military intervention in Niger and has proposed a six-month transition. But Tinubu's statement said there would be no relief from sanctions imposed by ECOWAS, of which he serves as chair, until the regime made "positive adjustments".

The soldiers' action is unacceptable. The earlier they make positive adjustments, the quicker we will dial back the sanctions to alleviate the sufferings we are seeing in Niger," it said. The overthrow of Niger's government has triggered concern around West Africa where Mali, Guinea and Burkina Faso have all been taken over by the military since 2020. Fears of contagion have deepened with this week's military rebellion in Gabon to overthrow President Ali Bongo, toppled moments after being declared winner of a highly

disputed weekend election. Niger's new military rulers have also been engaged in a political battle with Paris, and stripped France's ambassador of diplomatic immunity and ordered police to expel him, according to a letter seen by AFP. The envoy "no longer enjoys the privileges and immunities attached to his status as member of the diplomatic personnel in the French embassy," according to their letter, to the foreign ministry in Paris.

Relations with France spiralled downwards after the July coup when Paris stood by Bazoum and refused to recognise Niger's new rulers. The authorities gave French envoy Sylvain Ite 48 hours to leave the country. France refused the demand, saying the military rulers had no legal right to make such an order. French military spokesman Colonel Pierre Gaudilliere warned that "the French military forces are ready to respond to any upturn in tension that could harm French diplomatic and military premises in Niger".

France has around 1,500 troops in Niger, many of them stationed at an airbase near the capital, to help fight a jihadist insurgency in Niger. On August 3, Niger's new rulers denounced military agreements with France, a move that the government in Paris has also ignored on the grounds of legitimacy.

‘It hurts my heart’: Japan’s Kanto massacre, 100 years on

TOKYO (AFP): This week Japan marks 100 years since the Great Kanto Earthquake that killed 105,000 people. Less well known is the subsequent massacre of thousands of ethnic Koreans that haunts the community to this day. Over several days of horror after the quake of September 1, 1923, mobs armed with swords, iron bars and bamboo sticks went on a killing spree of Koreans living in the Tokyo region, after malicious rumours spread about the community.

Historians say that soldiers with machine guns from the imperial military actively participated -- something Japan is yet to fully face up to. Kim Do-im, 86, believes her uncle was among those murdered in the flaming ruins of Tokyo after the quake. His body was never found. "His tomb is in Korea but it doesn't contain his ashes," Kim, who was born and grew up in Japan, told AFP. "My uncle was 33 when he died. He had three children," she said. "I first heard the story when I was around five years old... It hurts my heart."

The death toll from the 7.9-magnitude quake, one of the deadliest of the 20th century, was made much worse by huge blazes that

ripped through the mostly wooden houses that made up Tokyo back then. With a news blackout, rumours then started that Korean students and workers wanted to take advantage of the chaos to loot, kill Japanese citizens, and even stage a coup.

Nobody knows precisely how many Korean, and also Chinese, immigrants the bloodthirsty mobs butchered. But the consensus among historians is that "several thousand" perished, said Tessa Morris-Suzuki, professor emerita of Japanese history at the Australian National University. And it wasn't just ordinary people who were the perpetrators. "There is a considerable amount of testimony collected immediately after the event showing that members of the police and army participated in the killings," she told AFP. Historian Kenji Hasegawa from Yokohama National University, who has conducted extensive research into what happened, agrees. "It was not just vigilantes with their bamboo poles out there. The military used machine guns and that's where the largest massacres took place," Hasegawa told AFP.

Xenophobia towards Korean immigrants was rife in 1920s Japan, which at the

time occupied the Korean peninsula and was about to become the military dictatorship that would drag the country into World War II. The government, under pressure to deal with the aftermath of the quake, used Koreans as a convenient, imagined enemy within to avoid angry Japanese people rioting. "We don't have enough evidence to pinpoint the blame for the first rumours on the state," Hasegawa said, but since the 1960s there has "pretty much been a consensus" among scholars that it had a "central role" in spreading them. For the authorities, the Korean massacre "was a means of crowd control, of controlling the Japanese crowd, which was much larger," he suspects. Masao Nishizaki heads Housenka, a small association based in eastern Tokyo devoted to keeping memories of the atrocity alive.

Walking along the grassy banks of the Arakawa River in his working-class neighbourhood, he stopped abruptly to say: "It's here." Citing eyewitness accounts from the time, he told AFP that armed men stood near a bridge, screening terrified people desperate to escape the fires. Those identified as Koreans were "killed on the spot" and their bodies "piled up like wood", said

Nishizaki. Later the Japanese army also "lined up Koreans on the river bank and executed them with machine guns," he added. Japan has long been accused of trying to erase the memory of its crimes in Asia during its imperialistic period, often poisoning its regional relations. Historians say that successive governments have failed to investigate the events of 1923 properly or admit to the authorities' active role.

A few months after the massacre, the government conducted an investigation but put the toll in the hundreds. It also put some vigilante group members on trial but went no further. More recently, the Japanese government has repeatedly said it has no archives to verify fully the circumstances around the tragedy. In 2009 a government-organised conference issued a report on the earthquake which touched on the killings but avoided -- except for in one table -- the word "massacre", Morris-Suzuki said. "This report, of course, is a different matter from an official admission of the massacre by the Japanese prime minister or cabinet, but it does indicate that the Japanese authorities are unable to ignore or deny that these events took place," she said.

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Pakistan's case and evil of terrorism

THE menace of terrorism simmers in Pakistan's North western province KP and formerly Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA) bordering Afghanistan, where Pakistani banned terror outfits sits in across the Durand line and targeting Pakistani LEAs and sensitive installations adjacent to the Pak-Afghan border. In a fresh barbarity, a motorcycle borne suicide bomber exploded himself on a military convoy in general area Jani Khel, Bannu District. During which nine soldiers including a junior commissioned officer embraced shahadat, and five others were injured. Which was a great loss to Pakistan Army as well as the nation.

The mayhem of terrorism witnessed sharp uptick over the past several months after the TTP called off ceasefire and ramped up its anti-state activities against the Pakistani state and institutions, while no thing including the Law Enforcement Agencies, Mosques and temples, Public rallies and recreational places are secure from terrorists' attacks of brutal arsonists. Recently, a bomb blast killed at least 44 people and injured more than 150 when a suicide bomber set off explosives at the political rally of the Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam-Fazl (JUI-F) in the Bajaur, KP. The attack at JUI-F workers' convention in Bujur was one of the most lethal terrorist attacks after the Peshawar Police Line massacre that cost over hundred lives of Policemen and innocent civilians in early 2023. According to a report of Pakistan Institute for Peace Studies (PIPS), there had been 73% phenomenal increase in the ratio of terror incidents in Pakistan after the Taliban regime took control of Kabul in August 2021, while the number of terrorist attacks in KP and Balochistan surged up to 92 percent and 81% respectively during this time. The frequency and the intensity in the terror attacks has gradually increased after the Security Forces intensified their Intelligence based Counter Terrorism Operations against the TTP in Erstwhile FATA and settled areas in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Meanwhile, the Pakistani authorities have claimed that a sizable number of Afghan Taliban fighters have joined the TTP ranks in its fights against the Pakistani State, which has caused great outrage across Pakistan. The government of Pakistan had raised this issue at the appropriate level with the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan that led to issuance of a decree by the Taliban Chief declaring armed struggle against Pakistan as unlawful and distancing the Islamic Emirate from the elements involved in violence in neighbouring Pakistan. However, that sermon is more diplomatic than binding on the members of the IEA and followers of top Afghan cleric.

In fact, the issue of terrorism, social radicalisation, and ethnic violence has fundamentally increased in our society over the past decades due to Afghan jihad and presence of a nursery of self grown religious seminaries across Pakistan. Although, Pakistani security forces had successfully eliminated the evil of terrorism from Erstwhile FATA and KP through a series of Counter Terrorism operations including the globally acknowledged Operation Zarb-e-Azb but strategic mistakes of Pakistani policy makers and internal extremism rebirth that challenge once again. Historically, the Pakistani youth and conservative faction of the society had always been easy prey for religious clerics and recruiters of ban terror outfits because of their radical ideology and quest for Khilafat System in the country, moreover, prevailing social inequality, economic injustice and political instability further provided a breeding ground to religious intolerance and extremism.

In the current scenario, the issue has become more complex as several terror outfits including the Taliban, Al-Qaeda and the Tahreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) has forged a nexus and joined hands to achieve their collective manifesto in the broader AfPak region, while the IS-K is also expanding its network and bringing lethality in its activities inside Pakistan. The current situation merits a multi prong strategy along with a nationwide rooted Intelligence based Counter Terrorism operation, de-radicalisation campaign and full implementation of National Action Plan (NAP) that was previously fell prey to politics of ruling elite in 2015-2016. So, this evil could be eradicated from Pakistan soil on permanent basis once and for all.

Writ of the law equally and for all

RECENTLY, New York's attorney general has asked a State judge to convict former President Donald Trump even before the start of a trial, because the accused has committed fraud with the American nation by submitting false statements to bankers and insurers and overstating his net worth by up to \$2.23 billion. According to the US Attorney General, evidence in her civil case showed repeated and persistent fraudulent use by Trump and his family business of false and misleading financial statements from 2011 to 2021. On the other hand a federal judge on Thursday awarded former far-right Proud Boys leader Joseph Beggs 17 years imprisonment and his colleague 15 years punishment, after a jury convicted them of seditious conspiracy for storming the US Capitol in a failed attempt to overturn Donald Trump election defeat.

The domestic politics of the United States had witnessed utmost intolerance and polarization on the hands of far-right politics and violent nationalism during and after the presidency of the former President Donald J Trump. The former President has not only set a new trend in the domestic politics of the United States but he also introduced a purely US centric rigid foreign policy at the global level that equally hurt US allies and also proved to be counterproductive for the United States in the long run. US policy on global Climate Change, US relations with NATO nations, US-China trade war and sabotaging the Iran nuclear deal were only a few of those measures that had put irreversible effects at the global level. Similarly, the popular America First slogan finally ended in the Trump First campaign when a sitting President asked its supporters to disrupt a Congressional session that was being convened to stomp his defeat.

Realistically, the world nations had progressed because the law was superior and institutions were strong there and no court ever subjugated before dictators, feudals, and self claimed nation saviors in their nations. Lawmakers never act as rubber stamps for person specific legislation nor do they support extra-constitutional actions to appease their party heads. All are equal before the law and ultimately meet their fate and harvest their deeds whatsoever they did. The Pakistani nation and institutions have a lot to learn from the story of Donald Trump, American politics and events that occur on a daily basis across the globe if they intend to rise in the world. Copycatting Africa will lead to military rules, coups and anarchy, while modeling developed countries, supporting democracy and upholding rule of the law can make us a developed and strong nation in the world.

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We need to reclaim football

Matthaios Tsimitakis

AS Spanish fans celebrated their team's victory over England in the Women's World Cup final at Stadium Australia in Sydney, TV cameras caught a remarkable moment. Spanish player Ona Batlle stopped celebrations to comfort her English opponent and FC Barcelona Femeni teammate Lucy Bronze. This act of kindness and empathy was not exceptional. It was rather the culmination of a series of similar events that reflected the positive spirit of the tournament.

In another emotional moment during the group stages, after Jamaica drew with heavyweight Brazil, Jamaican player Khadija Shaw went to Brazilian veteran Marta and hugged her. Shaw told her that she is an inspiration for her and for a lot of young girls in the Caribbean and around the world. Respect, camaraderie and fair play defined the tournament, which also turned into a venue for the continuing struggle for equal opportunity and diversity in sports. Two billion people tuned in to watch the Women's World Cup 2023, almost double its audience of four years ago - giving female footballers yet another argument in their fight for equal pay. Even the scandal that marred the end of the tournament - triggered by Spanish football president Luis Rubiales forcing a kiss on player Jenni Hermoso - reflected growing solidarity in the struggle against sexism and abuse of power in Spanish football. The Spanish national team has refused to play until Rubiales resigns; they have been backed by scores of football officials, fans, the Spanish government, and even FIFA, which suspended him for 90 days.

For me and many other fans, the Women's World Cup elevated football at a time when the ugly, violent side of this sport is increasingly rearing its head, especially in Europe. On August 7, just two weeks before the World Cup final, the killing of a Greek football fan ahead of a Champions League qualifier shocked us here in Greece. Fans of Croatia's FC Dinamo Zagreb attacked AEK fans in front of their stadium in Athens. As a result, 29-year-old Michalis Katsouris was fatally stabbed and close to a dozen others injured. The tragic death reflects a violent subculture

in European football, fuelled by far-right ideologies, domestic politics and fan group rivalries. This toxic mix spreads violence and leads to deadly clashes, as local authorities often take action only after tragedies happen. Of course, violent incidents related to football are not new. Hooliganism has been a steady feature of the sport throughout its history. But in recent years, the far right has increasingly infiltrated fan bases, creating networks of extremist fan organisations and driving violence and hatred in the

The Bad Blue Boys have also not shied away from displaying Nazi symbols and embracing narratives promoted by Croatian far-right groups that seek to rehabilitate the Ustasa fascist movement which ruled Croatia during World War II. In 2019, they were seen marching through the streets of Milan, making Nazi salutes, ahead of a match between Dinamo Zagreb and AC Milan. In 2020, during a gathering of the fan group in Zagreb, some members displayed a banner reading "We will f* Serbian women and children", which led to their arrests by the Croatian authorities.**

stands. The popularity of far-right ideologies has enabled the recruitment of fans by political parties and movements for political mobilisation and the promotion of ultranationalist ideas and historical revisionism. Dinamo Zagreb's ultras, known as the Bad Blue Boys, are a case in point. They have embraced far-right ideas, frequently demonstrating them at matches. They have brought repeated punishments upon their team from UEFA over racist and homophobic behaviour in the stands.

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2020, during a gathering of the fan group in Zagreb, some members displayed a banner reading "We will f*** Serbian women and children", which led to their arrests by the Croatian authorities. This type of behaviour reflects narratives of the Yugoslav wars that are employed by the far right to stir hatred and regional tensions for political gain. Although within this ultranationalist imagery, Greeks may appear an unlikely foe for Croatian fans, the attack in Athens earlier this month was no coincidence. The

ing immigrants. This instrumentalisation of football as a tool in far-right politics and historical revisionism not only fuels deadly violence but also brings hatred, division, and toxicity into the sport. There must be an international effort to eradicate such harmful ideologies from the stands. In the aftermath of a Greek fan's death, Greek Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis met with UEFA President Aleksander 'eferin and the owners of the four biggest clubs in Greece to discuss measures to deal with organised violence. UEFA decided to ban all Dinamo Zagreb fans from matches played outside Croatia for the 2023-2024 season, while Greek clubs declared that they would put fan organisations on a tighter leash. Panathinaikos even cancelled their participation in a tournament organised by Dinamo Zagreb in September. But this is by far not enough. Similar promises about tighter control over extremist fan groups have been made in the past with no results. There needs to be a grassroots effort to eradicate violent ideologies from the stands. Progressive political groups and civil society organisations should join hands and seek to promote tolerance, inclusion and acceptance of differences among fans and fan groups.

The football clubs themselves need to educate and inform the younger generations about the progressive roots of the game and run regular anti-hate campaigns. They should show no tolerance for criminal behaviour, including hate speech, rehabilitation of fascist ideologies or violence. For decades, football has given hope and joy to the poor, and underprivileged - from refugees, to disabled people, minorities and other marginalised groups. It has provided inclusivity and tolerance, social mobility and egalitarianism. These are the values that we should strive for in football. They should become synonymous with the beautiful game and should be embraced by fan clubs. The Women's World Cup demonstrated that this is possible, that football can be about celebrating the sporting spirit, pushing boundaries while respecting opponents, uplifting marginalised people, and promoting unity and diversity over destructive ideologies. *Aljazeera*

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Can anyone break Trump's hold on Republican Party?

Maria Maalouf

EIGHT candidates took part in the first Republican presidential debate in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, on Aug. 23, but Donald Trump was not among them. Nevertheless, the former president was able to shape the contest from offstage. The discussion also showed that the Republican candidates are still unable to convince voters why Trump should lose. Trump is fit to contest the White House again against Joe Biden for many reasons. He is constantly campaigning, and has set the standards for the Republicans on how to challenge the Democrats on issues ranging from the economy to America's relationship with China.

The debate was moderated by the Fox News hosts Bret Baier and Martha MacCallum. Baier said: "If he's not there, he'll still be there. In other words, he'll be a part of questioning. There may be soundbites, there may be elements where 'this is what the leader of the primary says about this issue.' He'll be there, even if he's not there." So far, no one in the Republican Party has overshadowed Trump since he ran for president in 2016. Jeb Bush, the son and the brother of two US presidents, lost badly to him in the primaries. Trump has had a strong hold on the party for seven years now, and will continue to exert this control, even after his indictments on 91 charges in four legal cases.

Trump has been able to capitalize on the weakness of the candidates, all eight of whom have performed poorly in national polls. They were under pressure to do well in this debate. This was a great opportunity for them to overcome their low national standing. Inevitably, people compared what Trump has said and what the other candidates were saying. This helped Trump emerge as the "winner" of the debate. Many Republicans believe that his attacks on the Democratic Party are the strongest. Trump took advantage of the divisions among the eight candidates and was able to maintain his big lead over them in the polls after the debate ended. Moreover, the audience was filled with many Trump loyalists. These are the potential primary voters in Wisconsin. Several people outside and inside the auditorium expressed their support for the former president by displaying his name on campaign posters.

Furthermore, few of the questions dealt with his legal indictments. Except for Chris Christie and Isa Hutchinson, the Republican hopefuls agreed with Trump's assertions that his indictments were political in nature. There is a sentiment inside the Republican Party that Trump is an overwhelming figure in every type of political engagement the party organizes. Also, Trump's absence raised expectations about his future appearance in upcoming debates. The question is: When will Trump participate in future Republican debates? Trump also had a counter-strategy to the debate - a pre-taped interview with former Fox News host Tucker Carlson that was

published on X (formerly Twitter). Interestingly, people were hearing Trump's answers as they were following up the first Republican debate. The interview drew 150 million "views."

Despite Trump being a former president, he has succeeded in projecting the image of an outsider. However, most importantly, no Republican candidate is able to challenge Trump. For one, the eight candidates have barely met the fund-raising and polling requirements to participate in the debate. No one knows whether these candidates will qualify to be invited to another debate or not. According to Politico magazine, "the mood in the GOP is also not primed for conventional politics, which many Republicans consider overly timid and not attuned to the urgency of the moment." Trump changed the GOP's identity and future path, and made its members more eager to take on China, illegal immigrants, the Democrats, and not least the Republican establishment itself. Trump does not want to reckon with the past because this will make him more accountable for what he did to stop the transfer of power to Biden in January 2021. He always depicts himself as the party and the national leader for the future. This makes his appeal fascinating to many, and is why he looms large in every Republican event, including the Milwaukee debate. Many Republicans see him as a politician whose only motive is to save America.

The former president is making his 2024 presidential campaign part of his defense strategy. He has said that the Democrats will be engaged in "mass fraud" to change the elections the same way they did three years ago. If he finds evidence of any election mischief in the next election cycle, his legal team can try to prove his claims that the 2020 elections had much wrongdoing and his was a right claim. Since Trump always says he is innocent, many people believe him. This is the message the Republicans want to hear and not how other Republican politicians can clutch the GOP nomination. Trump has made the Republicans impatient. He is sending a message to the party's rank and file to act now to oust Biden from the White House. Trump is telling the Republicans that he is taking their party back to the glory of the Reagan years. He has given rival Republican presidential hopefuls little scope to change the agenda for the 2024 campaign. In spite of the accusations of corruption directed against him, Trump is saying it is American liberalism that is corrupting America. No one appears able to break Trump's hold over the Republican Party, millions of whom consider him a victim of the liberals and their hate for him. Given this dynamic, there is no evidence that a second or third debate will significantly modify or reshape the Republican nomination process for the presidential race. Trump still has the lead and is driving the debate. He may well win in November 2024.

What does the 'Aleppo model' mean for Assad?

Dr. Dania Koleilat Khatib

IN a recent article, the Turkish pro-government media outlet Daily Sabah introduced the concept of the "Aleppo model" - a scheme to make areas in northern Syria safe, secure and livable in order to encourage the repatriation of Syrian refugees. This follows a survey by the UN refugee agency UNHCR that showed 70 percent of those displaced are unwilling to return for at least five years despite the difficult conditions and discrimination they face in host countries. Refugees cited security concerns, as well as lack of basic services and work opportunities. What does the Aleppo model mean for Syrian President Bashar Assad?

The refugee question was a main point of contention in the recent Turkish elections. The opposition focused on the

issue, accused Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan of maintaining an open-door policy, and proposed normalizing relations with Assad as a solution to the problem. However, Erdogan's efforts in this regard have yielded little, mainly due to the rigidity of the Syrian regime, which has based talks with Turkiye on the withdrawal of Turkish forces from the northwest of the country, a totally unrealistic demand since it would leave opponents to the regime at the mercy of Assad.

Turkiye also cannot leave its borders unprotected and vulnerable to terrorist attacks and drug trafficking. Here, Erdogan faces a dilemma. He wants to ensure the return of refugees, one of his main campaign promises. However, returning them is almost impossible while Assad is in power. Ahmet Uysal, head of ORSAM, a

Turkish research center focusing on Arab countries, recently published an article in which he said that Assad is unwilling and incapable of securing the refugees' return, adding that those who have returned have been subject to arbitrary arrest, torture and rape. Assad does not want to see the people who opposed him come back home.

Assad is also incapable of providing them with their basic needs. Even areas loyal to Assad are witnessing protests demanding his departure due to the dire state of the country's economy. Hence, the most logical step to take is to bypass Assad and negotiate with his patrons. Daily Sabah mentioned that Turkiye is in discussions with Syria and Russia. With talks between Turkiye and Syria at a standstill, Erdogan is

probably banking on Russia to make the "Aleppo model" a reality. It is inconceivable that Assad will willingly cede territory to Turkiye, having asked the latter to withdraw before starting any discussion.

Any joint administration or the presence of Assad forces will also deter refugees from going back. As Uysal detailed, experience has shown that despite an amnesty and promises of safety, opponents of the regime who returned were subject to arrest and punishment. Also, Assad has not acted in line with Russian interests, which are to end the war and begin reconstruction. On the contrary, he has refused to make any concessions to the opposition. In this respect, he has skillfully played the Russians against the Iranians, positioning him-

self as the reference between the two. However, due to the Ukraine war, Turkiye is proving to be of more importance to Russia. Meanwhile, all Turkish incursions have been approved either by Russia or the US. If Turkiye acts to put Aleppo under its control, it will be a fatal blow to Assad.

Aleppo is the commercial heart of Syria. Losing the city will strengthen the protest movement across the country and, ultimately, force Iran and Assad to compromise. Hence, in addition to creating a suitable environment for a safe, voluntary and dignified return for refugees in accordance with UN resolution 2254, the Aleppo model can help break the status quo and force a solution on Syria.

If the Aleppo model succeeds - with Russia and Turkiye bringing stability, Qatar financing recon-

struction, and refugees returning in large numbers - it will be a game changer. It could set an example for other arrangements. Why not have a Daraa model, whereby Russia enters into a similar agreement with Jordan? Despite normalization with Assad, Jordan has not seen any real improvement in the regime's behavior, and is still vulnerable to illegal drug and weapons smuggling.

The Aleppo model is likely to garner Arab acquiescence, if not endorsement, since normalization with Assad led to nowhere. At the Arab League Summit in May, the Syrian leader was supposed to show some goodwill, but instead displayed only defiance. In a nutshell, the success of the Aleppo model will show that Assad is a burden for Arab countries as well as for his allies, and is very much dispensable.

Washington’s hesitant Ukraine strategy hands victory to Putin

AS Kyiv’s counteroffensive stalls and a decisive Ukrainian victory looks increasingly unlikely, suggestions by some American experts that the United States should initiate peace talks between Russia and Ukraine may seem tempting. However these arguments are nothing but counterproductive in terms of ensuring a lasting peace in Europe and the world beyond.

The very statement that the US should launch negotiations indicates that the author seeks to present the war as a purely regional conflict rooted in a land dispute between neighboring states. Such a reading is undoubtedly intended to reduce anxiety about the prospect of further escalations. Unfortunately, that understanding is far from the truth. No matter how much Washington assures itself with the incantation that the US is not a party in this conflict, Moscow assumes the opposite. For President Vladimir Putin, this war is the culmination of an epic and eternal confrontation between an independent Russia and its eternal enemy, the West led by the United States. In this context, Ukraine is not a sovereign actor, and Kyiv’s unilateral surrender is the only outcome Moscow will accept.

In the case of any negotiations, Putin will demand concessions and commitments primarily from Washington (and Brussels), not from Kyiv. The Kremlin has already demonstrated it will do this. Russian authorities explained their withdrawal from the grain deal by the failure of the Western countries to fulfill their conditions. However, Western countries were not parties to this deal; Russia, Ukraine and Turkey were. However, this fact did not prevent Putin from demanding concessions from the United States and Europe. The problem behind all those “let’s start negotiations” initiatives which pop up is mainly that the US administration has so far not explicitly stated its goals regarding the war in Ukraine. The US has not yet said what it considers the optimal outcome to be. Statements that the US is willing to support Ukraine for as long as it takes lack clarity, although such a mindset deserves respect and support. However, it doesn’t go far enough. No definitive statements have been made by the United States on what such guarantees could look like or how Ukraine and NATO are going to build relations with post-war Russia. This sadly suggests that Washington does not yet understand what it wants to achieve from this war, despite having promised Ukraine all the necessary support.

In itself, the promise of support was certainly noble. However, it was also obviously made without consideration of the possible outcomes. The main consequence of such a decision is that Moscow perceives the United States as a direct participant in the war against “Russia’s legitimate interests.” This fact does not seem to be taken seriously in Washington. It is the US that has provided the lion’s share of all military aid to Ukraine, enabling Ukrainian forces in 2022-23 to fight effectively against Putin’s army. On the other hand, this support is still half-hearted, as shown in the ongoing discussion about sending fighter jets to the Ukrainian Air Force. The delivery of just two dozen HIMARS launchers in 2022 which significantly strengthened Ukraine’s capabilities demonstrates how powerful US support can be. However, this successful experience has not prompted the US to increase deliveries of other necessary weapons, such as tanks and airplanes. Is this a reflection of the indecisiveness of decision makers in Washington or partisan infighting? More likely, it is the result of a lack of clear goals and objectives in their strategy. We see that without supplies of modern weapons such as long-range missiles and aircraft, the touted Ukrainian counteroffensive is advancing with great difficulty. The failure of NATO members to throw their full weight behind Ukraine has given Russian troops plenty of time to heavily fortify occupied eastern Ukraine. Moreover, the Pentagon

Boris Bondarev

knew that Ukrainian troops were not sufficiently prepared, but thought that they could compensate for their lack of modern weapons through enthusiasm and high morale. This is absolutely unprofessional and irresponsible behavior, which puts the very success of the Ukrainian counteroffensive at risk. This caution can largely be explained by the administration’s constant fear of a possible escalation with Russia. A notorious example is the ultra-fast reaction of the US and NATO countries to the falling debris of a missile of unknown origin in Poland in November 2022. If NATO officials anticipated having to retaliate decisively against Russia, they would have taken far longer to analyse the debris to determine its origins. In Moscow saw this as a sign it could continue to destroy the Ukrainian population and infrastructure with impunity. The lack of material response from the US to constant “unprofessional behavior” from the Russian Air Force toward US aircraft over the Black Sea or in Syria does not help ease tensions as

outcome of the war in which he retains even a small part of Ukrainian territory as a victory. Any Ukrainian land that remains under Putin’s control will be presented to domestic and foreign audiences as a great victory for Russia and a humiliation for the US and NATO. It should not be underestimated that humiliating the US is something many in the Global South are looking forward to. US foreign and economic policy would have to contend with its consequences for years to come. If Putin as an aggressor is free in what he can call his victory in the end, Ukraine as the defending party has no such freedom. For them, the criterion of victory is at least the return of the pre-war status quo. Obviously, Ukraine and its Western partners will not be able to call a ceasefire or peace achieved through concessions to the aggressor a victory. Explaining that they had to give up Kharkiv and Kherson to Russia to avoid losing Kyiv and Odesa would mean they had to choose the lesser of two defeats. It is all the

The United States’ unwillingness to openly confront a nuclear power will undoubtedly foment discontent within NATO. Who will guarantee NATO members in eastern Europe that the US will come to their aid in a conflict with Russia, rather than merely condemning Moscow "in the strongest terms"? Why should Washington's stated commitment to Article 5 be considered more credible than its commitment to help Ukraine? In both cases the US would have to confront an aggressive nuclear power. Naturally, Putin's victory in any form will embolden the many opponents of the US and the collective West.

much as they might think. On the contrary: it further emboldens Russia, adding fuel to Moscow’s sense of impunity that in turn may lead to more serious incidents potentially fraught with uncontrolled escalation.

To repeat a cardinal truth: hostilities escalate precisely when one side sees that the fear of escalation is the main deterrent for their adversary. It is the fear of hypothetical Russian strikes on targets in eastern Europe that keeps both the US and the Europeans from stepping up vital support for Ukraine. By doing so, they are playing in favor of Putin. Moreover, they are undermining the possibility of a Ukrainian victory. Ukraine’s defeat, and thus Putin’s victory, would have unfortunate consequences for the United States.

On a strategic level, it will undermine US credibility as a dependable partner. It will also undermine its credibility as a manufacturer and supplier of modern military equipment, which has not helped against Russian troops armed with far less advanced weapons. The United States’ unwillingness to openly confront a nuclear power will undoubtedly foment discontent within NATO. Who will guarantee NATO members in eastern Europe that the US will come to their aid in a conflict with Russia, rather than merely condemning Moscow “in the strongest terms”? Why should Washington’s stated commitment to Article 5 be considered more credible than its commitment to help Ukraine? In both cases the US would have to confront an aggressive nuclear power.

Naturally, Putin’s victory in any form will embolden the many opponents of the US and the collective West. The only way to avoid this situation is to defeat Putin in a serious, uncontested way. There is a view that the US wants Putin to be defeated anyway. But what does that mean? If defeat means a situation in which Putin accepts a disadvantageous ceasefire that gives him only a part of Ukraine rather than the whole of it, then it can hardly be called a defeat. It is a great misconception to think that Putin cannot see any

more important to fix the criteria clearly and unambiguously for success.

Putin’s regime, after its victory, will continue its aggressive anti-Western course. To do so is natural for the fascist regime established in Russia. The Kremlin has exhausted all possibilities for economic growth. Russia now runs on fear and terror. Like any other fascist regime, it will look for ways to direct growing internal discontent and aggression outward. Therefore, Putin’s regime is a threat to peace which must be confronted. The West’s primary goal, if it is interested in lasting peace in Europe, must be the end of the regime, not the mere defeat of Russian troops in Ukraine.

The only way to avoid escalation without any capitulation is to eliminate its source. The alternative is unconditional surrender to Putin, ceding to him all the Ukrainian territories he wants, and agreeing to all the demands that Moscow’s strategists can come up with. Only then can the US say they have avoided an escalation. And even then, they can only avoid escalation for a few years. It is no secret that the Russian president regards all world politics as a battle between the strong and the weak. He views everything from the point of view of strength, which he perceives in its simplest form - as the ability to engage in direct violence. Initiating negotiations is, in this paradigm, a sign of weakness. The only negotiations that a strong party can initiate on its own are negotiations of unconditional surrender of its adversary, because anything else would be weak.

In any case, when the outcome of the war has not yet been fully determined and the scales may tip in different directions, expressions for a willingness to negotiate would be interpreted by Moscow as evidence that the country proposing negotiations considers its position to be weak. In such a situation, Moscow may not reciprocate, but will keep pressing to make the conditions for these negotiations at least even more favorable and, ideally, to break their enemy’s resistance completely. If we take the idea that the US should somehow scare Putin and

thereby force him into negotiations favorable to Ukraine and the West, we’re faced with the question of what such threats that Putin could take seriously would look like. New sanctions and an economic blockade? This does not look realistic today, given that the current sanctions regime has many loopholes and lacks unanimous support. Threats from Washington to Moscow must be serious and tangible. But if it comes to military measures against Russia, why should Putin believe US intentions are serious if it has been avoiding any possibility of an armed conflict so far? All the initiatives calling for peace talks send Moscow a hugely different message than their authors hope for. They signal that all Russia needs to do is wait, and the West will finally retreat, exchanging a bleeding Ukraine for the preservation of its own usual comfort. Finally, we should not forget that Putin appears to believe that time is on his side, and that the Russian economy has learned to cope well with sanctions. There is no unity among Western countries, and the next US administration may well not be as resolute.

Russia is actively preparing its army, continuing to mobilize with upgraded weaponry. Russian commanders expect to resume active operations, receiving hundreds of thousands or even millions of new soldiers. Given the insufficient level of military aid from the West, there is a risk that Ukraine will have nothing to oppose this and its forces will become overwhelmed. Thus, Putin only needs to wait for Ukraine to eventually fall into his hands. It is time for the US to make a clear decision about whether it supports Ukraine and, by extension, Western democracy and rules-based order from violent revision. Or, on the other hand, whether it has made a mistake by agreeing to help Ukraine, in which case it should urgently make peace with Putin (neglecting the fact that the billions of dollars of the US taxpayers spent on helping Kyiv have been actually wasted).

The goal of the war for Ukraine, and the West as a whole, should not just be a military victory in Ukraine. Rather, they need a global defeat of Putin’s regime and to banish it from the world stage. To this end, the following steps would be required. The US must abandon its half-hearted arms supply policy and provide Ukraine with all the necessary weapons as soon as possible. It must lift the ban on hitting military targets deep inside Russian territory and untie the hands of the Ukrainian military, given that the Russians do not restrict themselves in the same way. Finally, the US has to clearly state that it is Putin himself who is the enemy of Ukraine and the West and to offer a vision of future relations without Putin - a vision potentially acceptable for both Putin’s own elite and Russian pro-democratic forces. Engaging with the Russian opposition movement could be instrumental in fleshing out such a vision. The Big War seems almost inevitable. Only a swift and crushing response from the West to the Russian aggression at the very beginning could have prevented future wars. That chance was wasted. The line hesitantly toed by the West for over one and a half years has only made a future war more likely. China is gathering strength while helping Putin to distract Washington, so Beijing gets as much time as it requires to arrange a more promising campaign to take Taiwan once and for all.

Autocrats all over the world are getting the same message - if they prepare better than Putin they may very well succeed in conflict against the West, who simply lack the courage and desire to protect themselves and their allies. To avoid the worst-case scenario of an open war, one must act decisively and hard, showing your adversary no fear and great confidence in your strength. Putin and his ilk can only be impressed by a show of determination, not of constant hesitation. Today it is time to correct, as far as possible, this grave mistake by the West. Tomorrow may be too late.

The Moscow Times

We need to rethink attitudes to economic growth

FROM high-level policy debates and political manifestos to everyday news coverage, anxiety about economic growth is evident everywhere. In Germany, the government’s latest budget identifies stronger growth as a top priority. In India, national leaders are eager to reclaim their country’s title as the world’s fastest-growing economy. In China, where the prospect of deflation looms, the government is undoubtedly worried about hitting its 5 percent growth target for the year.

In the UK, Keir Starmer, the leader of the opposition Labour Party, has vowed to secure the highest sustained growth in the G7 if his party wins power at the next election. The ruling Conservatives expressed similar ambitions; you might recall former Prime Minister Liz Truss’s now-infamous mantra: “Growth, growth and growth.” But putting growth at the center of economic policymaking is a mistake. While important, growth in the abstract is not a coherent goal or mission. Before committing to particular targets - be it growth of gross domestic product, overall output, or so forth - governments should focus on the direction of the economy. After all, what good is a high growth rate if achieving it requires poor working conditions or an expanding fossil-fuel industry?

Moreover, governments have been most successful in catalyzing growth when they were pursuing other goals, not treating growth itself as the objective. For example, NASA’s original mission to land a man on the moon, and bring him back safely, yielded innovations in aerospace technologies, materials, electronics, nutrition and software that would later add significant economic and commercial value. But NASA did not set out to create these technologies only for that reason, and in fact it probably would not have developed them at all if its mission had been simply to boost output. Similarly, the internet emerged from the need for satellites to communicate with one another. But owing to its widespread adoption by the wider population, digital GDP has been growing 2.5 times faster than physical GDP for the past decade, and the digital economy is on track to be worth an estimated \$20.8 trillion by 2025. Again, these growth figures are the result of active

Mariana Mazzucato

engagement with the opportunities that digitalization presented; growth itself was not the initial goal.

Rather than focusing on accelerating digital GDP growth, therefore, governments should instead aim to close the digital divide and ensure that current and future growth is not based on Big Tech’s abuse of market power. Given the rapid pace at which artificial intelligence is advancing, we urgently need governments that can shape the next technological revolution in the public’s best interests. More broadly, pushing growth in a more inclusive direction means departing from the financialization of economic activity and recommitting to investment in the real economy. As matters stand, far too many nonfinancial companies, including manufacturers, are spending more on share buybacks and dividend payouts than on human capital, machinery and research and development. While such activities can boost firms’ stock prices in the short term, they reduce the resources available for reinvesting in workers, widening the divide between those who control capital and those who do not.

Financialization is more often than not about value extraction and short-term profit maximization, rather than value creation for the benefit of society as a whole. To achieve inclusive growth, we must recognize that workers are the real value creators, and their interests should feature prominently in discussions about income and wealth distribution. In this sense, the UK Labour Party’s latest stance on workers’ rights is worrying. In a knee-jerk attempt to appeal to corporate leaders, and counter claims that it is “anti-business,” Labour has softened its previously stated commitment to stronger protections for gig workers. Yet investment-led growth and workers’ rights should not be regarded as competing priorities. Balancing corporate engagement with a commitment to workers is not only essential to achieving inclusive growth, it has been proven to boost productivity and growth over the long term.

The economy will not grow in a socially desirable direction on its own. As I stressed 10 years ago, the state has an important entrepreneurial role to play. After the recent attempts by governments to kick-start their

economies following the COVID-19 pandemic, it is clear that we still need new ways of thinking about how to achieve growth that are not only “smart” but also green and inclusive. Governments need economic-policy road maps with clear goals, based on what matters most to people and the planet. Public support for businesses should be made conditional on new investments that will “build forward better” toward a greener, more inclusive real economy. Consider the 2022 US CHIPS and Science Act, which aims to boost the domestic semiconductor industry. This law prohibits funds from being used for share buybacks, and one could easily imagine additional provisions requiring that future profits be reinvested in workforce training.

But to help steer growth in the right direction, governments also must make goal-oriented investments in their own capabilities, tools and institutions. The outsourcing of core capacities has undermined their ability to respond to changing needs and demands, ultimately reducing their potential to create purposeful growth and public value over time. Worse, as the capabilities and expertise of the public sector have been hollowed out, it has become more susceptible to capture by vested interests. Only with the right capacities and competencies can governments successfully mobilize resources and coordinate efforts with businesses that are willing to work toward shared goals. A mission-oriented industrial strategy requires the public and private sectors to work together symbiotically. Done correctly, such an approach can maximize long-term public benefits and stakeholder value, so that innovation-led growth becomes synonymous with inclusive growth. The question we should be asking, then, is not how much growth we can achieve but what kind. To achieve greater economic output that is also inclusive and sustainable, governments will need to embrace their potential to be value creators and powerful forces shaping the economy. Reorienting public organizations around ambitious missions, instead of obsessing over narrow growth targets, will allow us to tackle the grand challenges of the 21st century and ensure that the economy grows in the right direction.

Arab News

Hate speech normalized during Malaysia elections

HATE speech is becoming the new norm in Malaysia, says a media organization that monitored online posts during state elections this month. Based in the capital, Kuala Lumpur, the Centre for Independent Journalism (CIJ) set up teams to monitor social media sites over four weeks.

Focusing on key areas of race, religion, royalty, gender, sexual orientation, and migration, the CIJ teams spent hours poring over activity from politicians, political parties, media outlets, government agencies and key opinion leaders. Their preliminary findings: Hate speech has become “normalized.” One aspect the researchers saw consistently was offensive or discriminatory language being used, said CIJ Executive Director Wathshlah Naidu. “That is very worrying because we are now normalizing it, and by normalizing it there is a huge potential for it to escalate,” Naidu told VOA.

The month-long monitoring project “Say No To Hate Speech” began on July 24 as six Malaysian states geared up for elections. The vote was seen as a referendum on newly elected Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim and the strength of Malaysia’s Islamic opposition. Anwar was appointed prime minister in November’s general elections and after a hung parliament formed a unity government. During that election and others, the CIJ had seen a surge in hate speech and disinformation. “We saw a pattern in the last few elections, where race and religion is often used as a tool,” Naidu said. “What we decided was to see how these different issues basically are used to influence voters to see to what extent does the narrative escalate to hate speech.” To do that, the center collaborated with the University of Nottingham Malaysia, Universiti Malaysia Sabah and Universiti Sains Malaysia, involving dozens

Tommy Walker

of monitors.

“We got people to come into the office, in shifts of two. All day, 12 hours of monitoring. And we had a team of 26 monitors over the weekdays and then another set of monitors over the weekend that was 20-plus monitors,” Naidu said. The teams measured the severity of hate speech on four levels through social media platforms including Facebook, Twitter, TikTok and YouTube.

The levels ranged from speech defined as disagreements and non-offensive language to language or content that could be deemed as incitement. The project used artificial intelligence developers to track hundreds of keywords and scrape data. But when it came to defining what constituted hate speech, it fell to the monitors. “The most important thing they do is they are the ones who take the severity level. That requires a lot of human touch,” Naidu explained.

And if the team detected anything of concern, their response would always depend on the level of the issue. “The purpose of the rapid response is actually not really focused on countering anything but making sure that you’re able to reduce the impact,” said Naidu. “For example, when we see a racist post coming up, and we see people online who are affected, we reach out to a couple of them to see how they’re doing, and then talk to them and try to understand their perspective.” The center established the rapid response system with its partners, including Architects of Diversity, Beyond Borders, Justice for Sisters, KRYSS Network, North South Initiative, Sisters in Islam, Pusat Komus and Persatuan Sabahat Wanita.

The monitors also flagged hate speech incidents with the social media platforms. With a population of more than 33 mil-

lion, Malaysia is predominantly Muslim. It also has a history of political divisiveness, says Niki Cheong, a lecturer in digital culture and society at Kings College in London who researches online disinformation. “Hate speech is fairly prominent in Malaysian politics ... of course, what qualifies as hate speech is often debated. That’s why projects like CIJ’s monitoring project is useful because they break down the different types and level of ‘severity,’” said Cheong, a former journalist.

“Political rhetoric in Malaysia has a history of being divisive, and this tends to be more pronounced in anticipation of elections, even before any dissolution parliament or state legislature,” he told VOA via email. Naidu said that the center’s findings point to a “normalization” of attacks and a lack of accountability. “People online find some level of anonymity and comfort and being able to say these things with impunity, because very often, they are not necessarily censured by the other followers. So that’s our biggest concern.” As the team works through the findings, Naidu also said CIJ plans to share the research with Malaysia’s government. “We’ve submitted position papers to how can they deal with a speech right away,” Naidu said. “There has to be more strategic change at a very practical policy level.”

But Cheong has called for more public access. “It is important that there is historical record of hate speech, especially in the context of democratic practice. And the report will be useful for various groups including the media, civil society and hopefully, politicians themselves,” he said. “It is one thing to get the public interested in why this sort of monitoring is important, it’s another to work with them on how they themselves can navigate and perhaps call out or take seriously such practices,” he said.

The Telegraph

It’s not racist to criticise the violence of Notting Hill Carnival

ANYONE who has braved the Notting Hill Carnival will know that it is an experience you’re unlikely to forget. The Mas Bands, Steel Bands, Sound Systems and food stalls are an incredible visual spectacle, albeit one counter-balanced by unsettlingly dense crowds, more police officers than you’ve likely ever seen in one place and an uneasy, unyielding, underlying tension.

Across Sunday and Monday there were 308 arrests; 71 of which were for possession of an offensive weapon, 57 for assaulting police officers with the remainder for offences as serious as GBH and sexual assault. Officers on the perimeter intercepted a firearm. Pictures emerged of men fighting with machetes amid the crowds. On Monday evening eight people were stabbed and one person received slash wounds. One victim is still in a serious condition. There were 198 arrests on Monday alone. To put that into context, that’s well

Ben Obese-Jecty

over a third of London’s entire custody suite capacity. When eight people are stabbed in one location you might expect it to be headline news with rolling updates and a reporter dispatched to spend the day as the spectre at the feast, giving timely updates stood against the chilling backdrop of a police cordon. Not after Notting Hill Carnival. The fear of being denounced as a racist has made TV news demur; discussing it is a political hospital pass.

Ahead of the Carnival, a group of ten Labour MPs alleged that Conservative Mayoral Candidate Susan Hall “seems convinced of the innate criminality of Black people”, and called on the party to publicly condemn her previous comments. The comments in question were made during a Police and Crime Committee session of the London Assembly. Hall had said that “problems with crime within the Black community is something

I have brought up constantly because we need to assist those communities; the problem is, the minute we do we are accused of being racist or as near as damn being racist.”

Oh the irony. But in the wake of the Carnival, those same MPs have been noticeably quiet. In fact, very few of those who were passionately defending the Carnival last week have condemned the violence on Monday night. Perhaps we shouldn’t be surprised. Notting Hill Carnival is already the largest regular single-event policing operation in the country, costing the taxpayer £8.6 million in 2019. The Metropolitan Police have said officers at the event this year were punched, spat on, bitten, head-butted and sexually assaulted. Understandably, the Metropolitan Police Federation says its members dread having to work on it, and it’s difficult to see how the Metropolitan Police could justify

or even facilitate committing greater resources.

One of the alternatives proposed was to move the Carnival to Hyde Park, an idea first mooted by Ken Livingstone but dropped after staunch criticism. Moreover, whilst relocating would move it away from a residential area it’s hard to see how that would necessarily reduce the cost of policing it, or the potential dangers. Even Hyde Park’s Winter Wonderland saw a stabbing last year. Santa’s Grotto isn’t traditionally a place for gangs to settle scores. Yes, the Carnival is a celebration of Caribbean culture, but that isn’t what is being criticised. Criticism of an event that is marred by serious violence every single year isn’t a contentious point. Suggesting that eight people being stabbed in one small area on a single day is unacceptable isn’t racist. If only there was a Mayoral candidate who had a strong view on tackling its issues. Perhaps people should hear her out.

The Telegraph



Minister calls for controlling CPI-WPI abnormal gaps to relief masses

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Planning Minister, Sami Saeed on Friday stressed the need for taking immediate measures to control abnormal gaps in the Consumer Price Index (CPI) and Wholesale Price Index (WPI) to provide relief to the masses.

The minister while chairing a meeting of the National Price Monitoring Committee (NPMC) emphasized zero-tolerance against hoarders and profiteers, directing the Provincial governments to engage their respective Commissions, Deputy Commissioners, and

Magistrates against hoarders. Sami Saeed directed the concerned stakeholders, particularly the provincial government, to closely monitor the price index, said a news release.

Chief Economist, Dr Nadeem Javaid moderated the meeting that was attended by the Chief Statistician from the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS), representatives from all provinces, the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR), Ministry of Food Security & Industries, and other relevant stakeholders.

Since the interim gov-

ernment came into power, the Prime Minister has focused on providing maximum relief to the common man. In this regard, several steps are being taken.

The meeting observed that the prices of a few commodities increased last week, leading to the decision to hold NPMC meetings on a weekly basis to monitor prices and provide relief to the masses.

During the meeting, PBS officials presented the price and inflation data, while representatives from Punjab, KP, Sindh, and Balochistan apprised the forum on the current production and sup-

ply of wheat, sugar, and other essential commodities, which remained satisfactory. The Committee also directed the Provincial government to establish Sasta Bazaars to provide maximum relief to the people. The meeting also highlighted the importance of minimizing the price difference between wholesale and retail items. Relevant stakeholders were directed to reduce this difference to maximize relief for the common man. The NPMC meetings will take place on a weekly basis, with PBS sharing its data analysis report in every meeting.

ICCI for privatising power companies to get rid from losses

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari on Friday urged the government to privatize the power companies to get rid of losses.

He also urged to focus on increasing the share of hydropower to provide cheap electricity to consumers across the country, said a press release.

ICCI head leading a delegation visited the Islamabad Chamber of Small Traders and Small Industries (ICST-SI) and addressing their members, said that Pakistan's total revenue last year was around Rs7,000 billion and the power sector's total revenue was around Rs.12,000 billion, but still the sector is in great loss.

He said that Pakistan has the potential to generate over 100,000 MW of hydropower and if exploited, it can make the country a rich economy of the region. He said that the government has further hiked the prices of petrol and diesel taking them to over Rs.300 mark for the first time in the history of Pakistan, which would have negative impact on the people and the businesses.

He said that the value of dollar had doubled in 10 years from 2009 to 2019, but the value of dollar has doubled within a period of just over two years as its value on 31 May 2021 was Rs.154, which has surged to Rs.305 on 31st August 2023. He said the total impact of high energy

prices and rising dollar rate would unleash a new wave of unbearable inflation for the people and cause closure of many SMEs.

He urged that the government to immediately engage the business community in consultation to devise a way forward for the revival of the economy, otherwise the businesses and the overall economy would plunge into deep troubles where things can go out of control. Sajjad Sarwar, President, Islamabad Chamber of Small Traders and Small Industries (ICST-SI) said that the imposition of many taxes on the electricity bill, including sales tax, advance income tax, electricity duty, fuel price adjustment, F.C. surcharge and TV fee is accounting for almost 40 percent of the total bill.

Gold prices reach record highs in Pakistan

RAWALPINDI (NNI): The prices of gold in Pakistan have reached record highs, following the trend of the international market.

One tola of pure gold of 24 karats has seen a price increase of Rs3,400 to Rs2,39,800, marking the highest price in the Pakistani gold market's history. The price of 10 grams of pure gold of 24 karats has also risen by Rs2,915 to Rs2,05,590 per 10 grams.

The price of 22 karats of gold, commonly used for jewelry making in Pakistan, has also increased and is now trading at Rs1,88,457 per 10 grams.

In the international market, the price of gold increased by US\$7 per ounce to US\$1,945 per ounce on Wednesday.

Meanwhile, the price of pure silver of 24 karats increased by Rs50 to Rs2,900 per tola while the price of 10 grams silver increased by Rs42.87 to Rs2486.28 per 10 grams.

LPG rates increased again after petrol

ISLAMABAD (NNI): The Oil & Gas Regulatory Authority (OGRA) on Friday increased the rates of liquefied petroleum gas by Rs39 per kg a day after the petrol rates crossed Rs300 for the first in Pakistan's history.

According to the notification issued by OGRA, the price of LPG was increased by Rs38.97 per kg by the OGRA after which the new price of LPG was fixed at Rs240 per kg. After the increase, the domestic cylinder of 11.8 kg has become expensive by Rs459.85 paise, after which the new price of LPG domestic cylinder has been fixed at Rs 2833. 49. OGRA has fixed the price of domestic LPG cylinder at Rs2373. 64 for August. Earlier, OGRA increased the price of LPG by Rs23 per kilogram for the month of August 2023.

Shipping Activity at Port Qasim

KARACHI (APP): Five ships namely, Frankfurt Express, Sea Hazel, New Liberty, N-Orhan and Lusail scheduled to load/offload Containers, Fuel oil, Corn, LPG and LNG, berthed at the Container Terminal, Grain Terminal, Oil Terminal, Gas Terminal and Elengy Terminal, respectively on Thursday. A total of 11 ships were engaged at PQA berths during the last 24 hours, out of two ships, Frankfurt Express and Southern Robin sailed out to sea on Friday, while three more ships, Hajj Mohammad, Besiktas-M and N-Orhan are expected to sail on same day afternoon.

The cargo throughput of 141,584 tonnes, comprising 84,508 tonnes of imports Cargo and 57,076 tonnes of export cargo, including containerized cargo carried in 2,293 Containers (690 TEUs Imports and 1,603 TEUs export) was handled at the Port during the last 24 hours. There are seven ships at Outer Anchorage of Port Qasim, out of them a bulk carrier Mari Blue and container ship SSL Mumbai carrying Coal and Containers are expected to take berths at Bulk Terminal and Container Terminal respectively on today Friday, while three more container ships, Anbien Bay, Maersk Phuket and CMA CGM Figaro are due to arrive at Port Qasim on Saturday & another containers ship, MSC Denise is due to arrive on Sunday.



LAHORE: People looking to buy second hand clothes from a cart on the roadside.

Weekly inflation up by 0.54 percent

ISLAMABAD (APP): The weekly inflation, measured by the Sensitive Price Indicator (SPI), witnessed an increase of 0.54 percent for the combined consumption group during the week ended on August 31st, Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) reported on Friday. The SPI for the week under review in the above-mentioned group was recorded at 277.21 points as compared to 275.71 points during the past week, according to the PBS data.

As compared to the corresponding week of last year, the SPI for the combined consumption group in the week under review witnessed an increase of 24.39 percent. The weekly SPI with the base year 2015-16 =100 is covering 17 urban centers and 51 essential items for all expenditure groups.

The SPI for the lowest consumption group up to Rs 17,732, increased by 0.68 percent and

went up to 283.10 points from last week's 281.19 points.

The SPI for consumption groups from Rs 17,732-22,888, Rs 22,889-29,517, Rs 29,518-44,175 and above Rs 44,175 increased by 0.65 percent, 0.60 percent, 0.57 and 0.49 percent respectively.

During the week, out of 51 items, prices of 20 (39.22%) items increased, 08 (15.68%) items decreased and 23 (45.10%) items remained stable.

The items, which recorded a decrease in their average prices on a week-on-week (WoW) included tomatoes (3.36%), bananas (2.49%), onions (2.01%), chicken (1.23%), garlic (0.58%), vegetable ghee 2.5 kg (0.31%), vegetable ghee 1 kg (0.19%) and mustard oil (0.04%).

The items that recorded an increase in their average prices on a week-on-week (wow) basis, included , sugar (7.17%), gur

(2.11%), pulse masoor (1.50%) and pulse mash (1.39%), non-food items, gents sandal (15.01%), lpg (3.92%), lawn printed (2.36%), long cloth (2.22%) and match box (1.07%).

the commodities that witnessed a decrease in price on a year-on-year (yoy) basis, included onions (57.06%), tomatoes (48.77%), electricity for q1 (21.96%) and pulse masoor (9.04%).

On a Year-on-Year (YoY) basis, the commodities which recorded an increase in their average prices wheat flour (126.26%), gas charges for q1 (108.38%), cigarettes (101.29%), sugar (94.06%), tea lipton (93.94%), rice basmati broken (89.04%), chilies powder (86.05%), rice irri-6/9 (81.82%), gur (67.02%), gents sponge chap-pal (58.05%), gent sandal (53.37%), salt powdered (49.09%), bread (45.42%) and powdered milk (43.44%).

MCB Islamic Bank achieves remarkable half-yearly profit of 4.013 billion

F.P. Report

KARACHI: MCB Islamic Bank's profit before tax has soared from Rs. 595 million in June 2022 to an impressive Rs. 4.013 billion for the half-year ended June 30, 2023. This achievement reflects the bank's commitment to low-cost deposit mobilization, prudent financing, and effective risk management.

The improvement in the bank's profitability also increased earnings per share after tax to Rs. 1.26 for the period under review, against Rs. 0.30 for the period in comparison.

Deposits have surged to Rs. 185 billion as compared to Rs. 154 billion as on Dec 31, 2022, reflecting a 20% growth. The bank's Current and Saving Account (CASA) mix

stands at a robust 79%, and non-remunerative Deposits constitute 39% of the total deposit mix, highlighting customer trust and strategic focus.

Total assets reached Rs. 231 billion, a 16% increase from December 31, 2022, while Net Financing closed at Rs. 93.13 billion and investments reached Rs. 85.60 billion. Despite economic

challenges, the bank achieved an operating income of Rs. 7.78 billion, maintaining a net spread of 7.37%. MCB Islamic Bank's remarkable performance is a testament to its commitment to innovation, growth, and prudent financial management. It continues to set a high standard for the industry while delivering value to its stakeholders.

Askari Bank inaugurates PAC Kamra Branch

F.P. Report

KAMRA: Askari Bank Limited (AKBL) is continuously moving towards enhancing its services for customers with the inauguration of its PAC Kamra Branch.

The ceremony was inaugurated by Air Vice Marshal Nadeem Akhtar Khan SI(M), Chairman PAC Kamra and Mr. Arif R. Bokhari, President & CEO, AKBL.

AKBL's PAC Kamra Branch offers a wide range of banking solutions. The branch is staffed with professionals who are equipped to provide high-quality services to its customers. Highlighting the occasion, Mr. Bokhari said, "Askari Bank has been consistently providing



quality experience to its clientele.

The expansion of our

branch network shows the bank's commitment

towards increasing its

footprint to cater to the diverse banking needs of residents of Kamra."

Revamp of PayPak – Pakistan's first domestic payment scheme

F.P. Report

KARACHI: ILINK management proudly announces the revamp of PayPak – Pakistan's first domestic payment scheme. Under this revamp, PayPak has been given a brand-new identity to give it a modern look and feel. This new identity aims to attract youth and give an association of Pakistani youth to all PayPak cardholders.

PayPak has achieved significant milestones since its launch in 2016 and it is expected to gear up for the unprecedented growth in taking Pakistan's digital payments ecosystem to the next level. PayPak's current active card base is over 10 Mln and with the new features it will be the first-choice card for issuers, acquirers, merchants and most importantly for the common Pakistanis.



PayPak offers a unique rewards program to cardholders which include discounts, special deals across merchant outlets and various insurance offerings. To facilitate international transactions, PayPak currently has co-badge arrangements with Union Pay International (UPI) and Japan Credit Bureau (JCB), and is working on a co-

badge launch with Mastercard in early 2024.

We would like to thank State Bank of Pakistan, ILINK Board of Directors, 33 banks and six affiliate issuers, and six acquirers for their patronage of the PayPak Scheme and look forward to their continued support to make PayPak the top card scheme of choice in Pakistan.

CDNS attains Rs210b targets in fresh bonds

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Central Directorate of National Savings (CDNS) has attained target of Rs210 billion in fresh bonds in the current fiscal year, from July 1st to August 31th, 2023-24.

The Central Directorate of National Savings (CDNS) surpassed the annual target and achieved the target of Rs 1.6 trillion in fresh bonds in the current fiscal year from July 1st to June 30th, 2022-23, the senior official of CDNS told APP here on Friday. This is Rs 200 billion additional annual target than the target of Rs1300 billion for the previous financial year 2021-22, he said. "The CDNS has set a reviewed saving target of Rs 1.4 trillion for the cur-

rent financial year (2021-22) which will "promote the savings culture in the country," he said. In view of the current market trend in the country, the ambitious target had been set to further improve the savings culture, he said. "He said that at present, work was being done on institutional reforms in CDNS and new reforms and innovations were being introduced." He said, "At this time Automated Teller Machine (ATM) has also been introduced in CDNS which will provide enough facilities to the users." Replying to a question, he said the CDNS has collected an investment of Rs16 billion in the month of July 2023-24 through Islamic investment bonds.



In brief

AB rates Babar as one of the best player

K A R A C H I (Monitoring Desk): Former South African cricketer, AB de Villiers, expressed his admiration for Babar Azam ahead of the all-important clash between India and Pakistan on Saturday in Asia Cup 2023. While speaking on his YouTube channel, South African legend, known for his own extraordinary cricketing prowess, didn't hold back his praise for Azam, dubbing him one of the best players the cricketing world has ever witnessed. "I love talking about Babar Azam because he is one of the best players we have ever seen play this game and not just now. He is a huge rock in the Pakistan batting order. If India wants to keep Pakistan quiet, this is the guy to dismiss early because he keeps the batting lineup together and acts as a glue in the Pakistan middle-order," he said. De Villiers further emphasized Babar's prowess as a versatile batsman who has consistently excelled in all formats of the game. He noted that Pakistan's success in Asia Cup and 2023 World Cup would largely depend on the 28-year-old's performance, further highlighting the immense expectations placed on the talented cricketer's shoulders. "I met him first when he [Babar] was very young but quickly realized that this guy is here to stay. He has hurt bowling attacks all around the world and in all formats. He is a fantastic player and Pakistan need him in form for the Asia Cup and most importantly, for the World Cup," he concluded.

POA to organize seminar

LAHORE (APP): Pakistan Olympic Association (POA) is organizing a "Seminar for the Athletes and Officials participating in the Asian Games Hangzhou" from tomorrow, Saturday at Mayo Gardens Club. Approximately 250-300 athletes and officials (male and female) will attend the two days useful activity virtually and physical, said Muhammad Khalid Mahmood, Secretary, POA on Friday. He said the objective of the Seminar is to impart information on the key topics having paramount importance related to conduct of the athletes and officials. "These topics include Doping Controls Nutrition, Competitions Manipulation, Protection from Harassment & Abuse in sports and individual conduct as all of them will be ambassadors of national prestige", said the POA official.

Latvia stun Spain

JAKARTA (APP): Latvia stunned defending champions Spain as the Basketball World Cup second round got under way on Friday, while the United States, Lithuania, Germany and Slovenia booked their places in the quarter-finals. Italy, Brazil and Puerto Rico shook things up with upset wins over previously unbeaten Serbia, Canada and the Dominican Republic. Tournament debutants Latvia pulled off an almighty shock when they beat Tokyo Olympic silver-medallists France in the group stage. They added world and European champions Spain to their giant-killing conquests after scrapping to a 74-69 win in Jakarta. Latvia head coach Luca Banchi said his team arrived at the tournament in the Philippines, Indonesia and Japan desperate to "prove that we belong at this level".



PALLEKELE: Naseem Shah looks distracted, but he still has to warm up, Asia Cup 2023.

Pakistan women beat South Africa by five wickets in first T20I

KARACHI (Monitoring Desk): Pakistan women team pulled off a thrilling five-wicket victory over South Africa in the first T20I of the three-match series in Karachi.

In pursuit of 151 runs, Pakistan managed to reach the target with five wickets in hand, marking their highest successful run chase in Women's T20Is. Aliya Riaz played a pivotal role in securing the win by scoring the decisive runs.

Former Pakistan captain Bismah Maroof led the scoring for the home team with a 30-ball 37, featuring four boundaries. Sidra Ameen, the opening batter, contributed 33 runs off 31 balls. The duo had a partnership of 30 runs for the

second wicket before Sidra was run out in the ninth over. Aliya Riaz's unbeaten 28 off 26 balls, including two boundaries, proved instrumental in securing the historic victory.

South Africa, batting first, posted a competitive total of 150/3 on the scoreboard, thanks to a solid foundation laid by their opening batsmen.

The opening pair of Brits and Wolvaardt provided a strong start, amassing an 85-run partnership. They batted sensibly and frustrated the hosts until Nashra Sandhu eventually dismissed Wolvaardt, providing a crucial breakthrough for Pakistan. Wolvaardt fell just six runs short of her half-century, scoring 44 off

38 deliveries with six boundaries.

After Wolvaardt's departure, Brits partnered with Marizanne Kapp, adding a valuable 58 runs to the total. Brits dominated the partnership, while Kapp played cautiously until Sadia Iqbal dismissed her in the penultimate over. Kapp scored 19 off 13 deliveries, including two boundaries.

Tazmin Brits, South Africa's main contributor, was finally dismissed in the last over by Fatima Sana. She finished as the top-scorer for South Africa with a remarkable 64-ball 78, featuring nine boundaries and a six. Nashra Sandhu, Fatima Sana, and Sadia Iqbal each took one wicket for Pakistan women.

Asia Cup 2023: Pakistan announce playing XI for India match

KARACHI (Monitoring Desk): As the world braces for the most anticipated cricket match, Pakistan versus India tomorrow (Saturday), the national side has announced the playing XI for the second Asia Cup 2023 clash, slated to begin at the Pakelle Cricket Stadium in Kandy, Sri Lanka.

Pakistan will enter the field against India with the same squad as the one that played against Nepal in the first Asia Cup match on Wednesday in Multan resulting in a thumping victory for the home side.

The national squad reached Kandy on Thursday after the first clash. Addressing a press conference there, Pakistan skipper Babar Azam on Friday said that the Men in Green have a home advantage against India in Sri Lanka as they have recently played a lot of cricket in

the country.

It may be noted that Pakistan have enough familiarity with the conditions in Sri Lanka as almost all the cricket they have played in the last more than two months has been in the island country. They played a Test series against the host team in Sri Lanka, then they played an ODI series against Afghanistan, while some players also participated in the Lanka Premier League (LPL) there.

"There is no pressure on us; instead, we have the [winning] momentum and we will try to maintain this momentum," Babar said.

He said that all the players in the squad are pumped up as everyone knows that the Pakistan-India match is a great match. "Everyone in the world waits for this match and we are hopeful that it will be a good match," he added.

The skipper further stated that they will try to keep the best playing XI and perform well in the matches of continental cricketing event. Babar also said that sometimes the performances vary but the team has been doing well for a while.

"We were in a bit of trouble regarding the middle order but the middle order has a good response now," he said. The world will be witnessing a guaranteed blockbuster clash between the arch-rivals Pakistan and India, with a huge number of spectators arriving in the host city Kandy to watch the match.

Lineup
Fakhar Zaman, Imam-ul-Haq, Babar Azam (c), Mohammad Rizwan, Salman Agha, Iftikhar Ahmed, Shadab Khan (vc), Mohammad Nawaz, Shaheen Shah Afridi, Haris Rauf, Naseem Shah.



MONZA: Max Verstappen (Red Bull Racing) during the 2nd free practice session on the Monza circuit in the run-up to the Italian Grand Prix.

UEFA Europa League group stage draw unveiled

LONDON (Agencies): The 2023-2024 UEFA Europa League Group Stage draw took place on Friday at the Grimaldi Forum in Monaco.

The top three clubs in each group will continue their European season as the group winners will advance to the round of 16.

The runners-up will move to the knockout round playoffs, where they will play against the third-place Champions League sides for a place in the round of 16. Third-place clubs will continue their journey in the Conference League knockout round playoffs, where they will play against the runners-up from the Conference League.

Group A: West Ham, Olympiacos, Freiburg, Backa Topola

Group B: Ajax, Olympique Marseille, Brighton Hove Albion, AEK

Group C: Rangers, Real Betis, Sparta Praha, Aris Limassol

Group D: Atalanta, Sporting CP, Sturm Graz, Rakow

Group E: Liverpool, LASK, Union Saint-Gilloise, Toulouse

Group F: Villarreal, Rennes, Maccabi Haifa, Panathinaikos

Group G: Roma, Slavia Praha, Sheriff, Servette

Group H: Bayer Leverkusen, Qarabag, Molde, Hacken.

Babar doesn't need to give any message: Gambhir

NEW DELHI (Agencies): Former Indian cricketer, Gautam Gambhir, expressed that Pakistan skipper Babar Azam, despite his recent century against Nepal, will face a challenge from India's fast bowlers. While talking to Star Sports, Gambhir was asked whether Babar's impressive innings against Nepal sent a message to the Indian team; Gambhir stated that Babar doesn't need to prove anything or send any message. "Babar Azam doesn't need to give any message. He has given a message in the 104 matches he has played. If you can score 19 centuries in 104 matches, I believe he will be in the top two or three players in all formats. So he doesn't need to give a message," Gambhir said.

Liverpool would have little time to react to Salah's potential departure, with the transfer window closing at 23:00 BST on Friday for incoming deals involving Premier League teams. However, Al-Ittihad will still be able to sign players

Rohit plays down hype around Pakistan blockbuster

COLOMBO (Agencies): India captain Rohit Sharma played down hype around Saturday's Asia Cup blockbuster against Pakistan, saying their focus is on using the tournament to fine-tune their preparations for the home World Cup later this year.

The next round of cricket's most emotionally charged rivalry will take place in Pallekele between the arch-rivals, who play each other only in multi-team events thanks to their soured political relations.

They could face each other up to three times in two weeks during the course of the tournament, including in the Sept. 17 final, and Rohit appeared determined not to get carried away by emotion.

"Rivalry is there for people to talk about. For us, we don't want to look

into all those things," the opener deadpanned in the pre-match press conference on Friday.

"What we, as Team India, want to focus on is we have an opposition to play tomorrow, how we can perform (well)... rather than looking at all sorts of other things, which eventually is not going to help you."

"What is going to help us is - keep doing the right things on the pitch and make the right decisions that take us forward as a team."

The six-team tournament assumes more importance for India as they chase their first global title in more than a decade at the home World Cup in October-November.

"We're here to tick a lot of boxes," said Rohit.

"When we finish the tournament, hopefully we

can achieve that and go into the next one and half months of the World Cup."

The match could prove a battle between India's formidable batting and Pakistan's fiery pace attack led by Shaheen Afridi.

"They are an excellent side, they have performed really well in the last few years - be it in the T20 World Cup or in the 50-overs format," Rohit said of Pakistan, currently the top-ranked one-day team in the world.

"You don't just become the number one side like that, it takes lot of hard work. They have been playing as a unit and it would be a great challenge for us facing them."

"We have prepared well, hopefully we can execute our plans well tomorrow."



KARACHI: Tazmin Brits scored a career-best 78, Pakistan vs South Africa Ist Women's T20I.

Mo Salah transfer news: Liverpool reject £150m Al-Ittihad bid

LONDON (Agencies): Liverpool have rejected a £150m offer for Mohamed Salah from Saudi Pro League club Al-Ittihad.

The bid for the 31-year-old forward was for in excess of £100m, with additions taking it up to £150m.

Liverpool remain insistent the Egypt international is not for sale, and that is final as far as the club are concerned.

Salah, who joined the Reds from Italian side Roma in 2017, signed a new three-year contract last summer.

Liverpool manager Jurgen Klopp said last week that Salah was "100% committed" to the Anfield cause, and on Friday he reiterated the club's stance that the player was not for sale. "The position remains the same. Absolutely no doubt about that. That's how it is. Nothing else to say," said Klopp.

Liverpool would have little time to react to Salah's potential departure, with the transfer window closing at 23:00 BST on Friday for incoming deals involving Premier League teams.

However, Al-Ittihad will still be able to sign players

as the Saudi Pro League transfer window is set to close on 7 September.

Salah's agent has previously dismissed talk of a move to Saudi Arabia but has not responded following the latest links with Al-Ittihad. "Mohamed remains committed to Liverpool," agent Ramy Abbas Issa wrote in a social media post on 7 August.

"If we considered leaving Liverpool this year, we wouldn't have renewed the contract last summer."

Salah has started all three of Liverpool's games this season, with Klopp's side having accumulated seven points following a draw with Chelsea and wins against Bournemouth and Newcastle United.

He set up Luis Diaz to score at Chelsea but showed frustration at being substituted in the draw before knocking in the rebound from his saved penalty in the win against Bournemouth.

Salah had the assist for Darwin Nunez's winner at Newcastle, with Liverpool getting the three points

despite being down to 10 men for most of the match.

A key player for the Merseysiders, Salah has 187 goals in 308 games for Liverpool and registered 76 assists. He has won the Champions League, Premier League, FA Cup, League Cup, FIFA Club World Cup and UEFA Super Cup during his time at Anfield.

He has also won or shared the Premier League Golden Boot three times and been named the PFA player of the year twice.

Liverpool have already had to deal with midfielders Fabinho and Jordan Henderson moving to Al-Ittihad and Al-Ettifaq respectively in the Saudi Pro League. Roberto Firmino left Liverpool on a free transfer when his contract expired and joined Al-Ahli.

The approach for Salah comes in a summer when clubs from the Middle East country have signed a number of superstars, including Karim Benzema and Neymar, while Al-Hilal made a world record £259m bid for Kylian Mbappe.

Hayden, Shastri sing praises of Pakistan's bowling arsenal ahead of India match

NEW DELHI (Agencies): As the Asia Cup 2023 reaches a fever pitch, former cricketing legends, Matthew Hayden and Ravi Shastri, have expressed their admiration for the Pakistan cricket team. Their remarks come ahead of the much-anticipated clash between arch-rivals Pakistan and India, set to unfold in Kandy.

Hayden, the former Australian opener, emphasised the significance of Pakistan's pace spearhead, Shaheen Afridi. Reminding

Afridi's game-changing ball that dismissed Indian skipper Rohit Sharma in the 2021 T20 World Cup, Hayden remarked to Star Sports, "You've got to be conservative against Shaheen Afridi. We'll never

forget that ball that he bowled to Rohit Sharma. If it's swinging, look to play out those first three overs."

Hayden also showered accolades on Pakistan's other pace assets, Naseem Shah and Haris Rauf. "India is playing against Pakistan's pace trio - one of the spiciest competitions on the planet. They are unique bowlers, which require unique plans from Team India," the Australian cricketer noted.

Ravi Shastri, the esteemed Indian commentator and former cricketer, further cemented Pakistan's standing. He acknowledged the narrowing gap between the two cricketing giants, stating, "Pakistan have narrowed the gap. Seven-eight years ago, there was a dif-

ference, but now they are a very good side."

Shastri also lauded Pakistan's captain Babar Azam, stressing on his consistency in converting starts into substantial scores. "Babar converts those 30s and 40s into hundreds. It's so crucial. If one of your top three gets a hundred, you're looking at 300-plus," Shastri asserted.

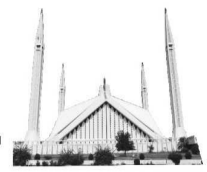
However, Shastri has named the Men in Blue as favourites against Pakistan.

Both Pakistan and India are warming up for their face-off, with Pakistan already showcasing their dominance through a 238-run victory over Nepal. As India prepares to commence their Asia Cup journey against Pakistan,

historical stats reveal a close contest, with India having a slight edge.

Yet, considering Pakistan's previous heroics, such as Shahid Afridi's unforgettable last-over sixes in Mirpur 2014, the forthcoming contest promises to be a thriller.

The Asia Cup 2023, split between Pakistan and Sri Lanka, is eagerly followed by fans globally. While political tensions have restricted India's matches to Sri Lanka, the spirit of the game remains undeterred. As cricket enthusiasts await the face-off in Kandy and potentially two more encounters if both teams progress, the appraisals from global cricketing stalwarts have only amplified the excitement.



In brief

Tourists throng to Murree to beat heat

ISLAMABAD (APP): A large number of tourists from twin cities Islamabad and Rawalpindi on Friday thronged to Murree and other hilly resorts to enjoy cold weather and beat the scorching heat that has gripped various parts of the country. Talking to APP, Anita Ahsan, a resident of G-11, said that the intense heat wave forced people of twin cities to visit hilly areas including Pathriyata, Nathia Gali, Ayubia and other places. Haroon Waheed, a resident of Rawalpindi, along with the family visited Murree and complained that owners of hotels, plazas and houses were overcharging from tourists. He further said that the authorities concerned should ensure cleanliness as international tourists were also visiting the spots. He said that substandard food is sold on eateries and other tourist sites, demanding strict actions against such response.

13 drug peddlers, bootleggers netted

RAWALPINDI (APP): Rawalpindi police in an action against suspected drug peddlers, bootleggers, and other law-breakers here on Friday arrested 13 accused besides recovering over six kg charras, 43 bottles & 63 liters liquor and other items from their possession. According to a police spokesperson, Wah Cantt police netted Adeel for having 1300 grams charras and Shabbir for possessing 1240 grams charras. Waris Khan police rounded up Yasin and recovered 1080 grams charras while Morgah police netted Atif with 1060 grams charras and Waqar for carrying five liters liquor. Pirwadhai police held an accused namely Asim and seized 43 bottles of liquor while Kahuta police arrested Waqas with 30 liters liquor and Adnan with seven liters liquor. Other accused were sent behind bars for having liquor and charras. Meanwhile, Kalar Syedan police conducted a raid and arrested a car lifter namely Arshad and recovered a stolen car from his possession. The accused is a record holder and remained a jailbird in car and bike-lifting cases.

PMD indicates chances of rain

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD) has forecast mainly hot and humid weather for most parts of the country during the next 24 hours. However, rain-thunderstorm is expected at isolated places in upper Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Pothohar region, Islamabad, Kashmir and Gilgit-Baltistan during evening or night. According to the synoptic situation, continental air was prevailing over most parts of the country. A shallow westerly wave was likely to approach upper parts of the country tonight.

FIA tightens noose around 20 officers

ISLAMABAD (NNI): The Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) has tightened the noose around 20 officers of the Capital Development Authority (CDA) found involved in corruption, money laundering and record tampering. According to the FIA, the accused have been involved in making fake payments to contractors by tampering with records. The FIA has asked the CDA to investigate and tell how much property is registered in the name of these officers. Officers to the rank of director, deputy director and additional director are among those 20 officers. Azmat Hayat, Nasir Khan, Ashiq Hussain, Imran Akhtar, Ghulam Sarwar, Muhammad Shakeel, Zulfiqar Ali Muhammad Yunus, Imran Haider, Nasir Qureshi and others were among these officers.



ISLAMABAD: Notables from Balochistan Mr. Jahanzeb Khan Nasar & Mr. Yahya Nasar call on caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar.

DG NAB Balochistan pledges to prosecute resource theft culprits

ISLAMABAD (APP): Director General of the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) in Balochistan Zafar Iqbal on Friday pledged to hold accountable and bring to justice those who have plundered the province's resources.

Speaking at an open forum, the head of NAB Balochistan affirmed that corruption would not be tolerated, emphasizing the protection of people's rights.

The Bureau is diligently carrying out its duties in compliance with the laws and the constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan.

Addressing a "Khuli Ketchery", the head of NAB Balochistan affirmed that corruption would not be tolerated,

emphasizing the protection of people's rights.

The Bureau is diligently carrying out its duties in compliance with the laws and the constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan.

The chief attentively listened to the people's concerns, assuring them that their issues were being addressed as per the directives of Chairman NAB Lt. Gen. (retd) Nazir Ahmed.

Zafar Iqbal Khan met the distressed individuals with a friendly demeanor and attentively heard their issues. During his speech, the Director General discussed NAB's jurisdiction and explained the process for filing complaints with the organization.

In his speech, he men-

tioned that the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) is vigorously combating corruption and will employ all available means to hold those involved in corruption accountable. Additionally, he emphasized the Bureau's dedication to eliminating corruption from the nation.

The Director General of NAB Balochistan assessed the progress of ongoing cases, issued prompt directives for required actions, and stressed the swift resolution of pending issues.

Additionally, NAB Balochistan intends to hold "Khuli Ketchery" sessions routinely on the last Thursday of each month, from 2:00 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Mayor Ilyas Raja calls on Minister Wasi Shah

ISLAMABAD (APP): Mayor of Working Borough Council, Surrey United Kingdom (UK) Muhammad Ilyas Raja along with a delegation called on Caretaker Minister of State for Tourism and Chairman PTDC Wasi Shah here on Friday. The delegation comprising businessman Sabir Hussain and Editor in Chief Daily Markaz Saifullah Saif, said a news release. The Mayor appreciated the efforts of Wasi Shah for the promotion of tourism in the country.

He said that the commitment of the Minister of State would take tourism to its peak and assured him of full cooperation in his capacity as Mayor of Woking Borough, Surrey UK. Wasi Shah lauded the services of Muhammad Ilyas Raja and termed him a pride of Pakistan. The minister thanked the delegation and expressed the hope that foreign investors would take advantage of the investment opportunities being extended by the Caretaker Federal Government in Pakistan.

NAVTTTC Board agree proposals

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Board of Management (BoM) of National Vocational and Technical Training Commission (NAVTTTC) gave mutual consent on several proposals pertaining to the efficient and result-oriented implementation of Prime Minister's Youth Skill Development Program "Skills for All" to equip youth with state of the art and emerging technologies to gain employability in the national and global job markets. The 26th BoM meeting was held at NAVTTTC HQs with the Chairman NAVTTTC, Shahid Khan in the chair, said a new release issued here on Friday.

On this occasion, the Chairman appreciated the participation of the members and urged for maximum participation of private sector to bring the TVET sector of Pakistan at par with international standards. Muhammad Aamir Jan, Executive Director NAVTTTC, briefed the Board members on the progress and development of the ongoing "Skills for All" Program.

would be made for the smooth and peaceful conduct of the Chehlum processions. He said that the District Administration, CDA, MCI, Sanitation, and other law enforcement agencies will be involved in maintaining law and order.

The meeting concluded with a consensus on the need to work together to ensure the peaceful and orderly conduct of Chehlum processions and majlis. The public is requested to cooperate with law enforcement agencies and help maintain peace and order during the Chehlum observance.

Security beefed up for Chehlum processions

ISLAMABAD (APP): A high-level meeting was held in Islamabad on Tuesday to ensure peaceful and peaceful conduct of Chehlum processions and majlis.

The meeting was attended by scholars of all Masaliks, members of the Peace Committee, additional deputy commissioners, assistant commissioners, magistrates, representatives of law enforcement organizations, traffic police, Islamabad police superintendents, directors of emergency and disaster management, revenue staff, local government,

and other stakeholders.

The meeting was chaired by the Deputy Commissioner Islamabad Irfan Nawaz Memon, in which all the concerns were raised by the participants.

The participants discussed the security and other arrangements for the processions and gatherings in Islamabad regarding the great sacrifice of Hazrat Imam Hussain (RA).

They also discussed the need to maintain peace and order during the Chehlum.

The Deputy Commissioner assured the participants that all necessary security arrangements

ANF recovers 45 kg drugs in six operations

RAWALPINDI (APP): Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) while conducting six operations managed to recover 45 kg of drugs and arrested five accused, said an ANF Headquarters spokesman here on Friday.

He informed that in an operation, 500 ecstasy tablets were recovered from the possession of an accused arrested near Abbasin University Peshawar. The accused, a resident of Nowshera confessed to supplying drugs to the university students. In another operation, 7 kg hashish and 5 kg crystal were recovered from the vehicle intercepted near Motorway Toll Plaza Peshawar. Two suspects who were trying to smuggle drugs from Peshawar to Punjab were arrested during the operation.

In the third operation conducted near Kohat Tunnel, 6 kg of hashish concealed for smuggling was recovered.

The spokesman further informed that 11 kg of hashish was recovered from the Zakh Khel area in Khyber.

In the fifth operation, a resident was arrested from the Faizpur Interchange Lahore area and ANF recovered 12.6 kg of opium and 600 grams of hashish from his possession. In the sixth operation, 1720 grams of Ice was recovered from a parcel recovered at a courier office in Sialkot. Ice concealed in 56 gloves was being smuggled to Australia. Separate cases were registered against all the accused while further investigations are under process, he added.

Minister assures all out support for developing higher education sector

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Federal Minister for Education and Professional Training, Mr. Madad Ali Sindhi Friday assured all possible support of the government for development of the higher education sector in the Sindh province.

The minister was speaking during a meeting of the Vice Chancellors of Sindh region hosted by Higher Education Commission (HEC) at its Regional Centre in Karachi, said a news release.

Speaking as a chief guest, the federal minister appreciated the efforts of HEC and the universities for promotion of quality higher education during the last two decades. The meeting aimed at fostering collaborative efforts towards advancing the quality of higher education in the higher learning institutions of Sindh region.

It provided an opportunity to collectively explore strategies and initiatives aimed at enhancing the quality of education across the higher education sector of the region. An overview of the funding allocations granted to Sindh universities was also shared.

Chairman HEC, Dr. Mukhtar Ahmed briefed the minister on how transparency is ensured by HEC to disburse funds

among Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) as well as provided a comprehensive overview of the financial support provided for various academic endeavours.

The meeting also reviewed the accomplishments of Sindh's public sector universities in relation to the targets set by HEC.

The participants also highlighted the challenges faced by public sector universities in Sindh.

Dr. Mukhtar Ahmed said that more than four thousand educational institutions are affiliated with the universities.

"The quality of education in these affiliated educational institutions needs to be improved. For this, the universities must make their monitoring system systematic and rational. In this regard, we all need to work together to bring the quality of education and research in line with international standards."

The Vice Chancellors of the Sindh region recommended the enhancement of research grants, providing opportunities for training and development for faculty, increasing manpower in educational institutes, opening up avenues for public-private partnerships, and ensuring industry-academia linkages.

Seminar held to pay tributes to Ali Geelani on his martyrdom anniversary

ISLAMABAD (APP): Speakers at a seminar on Friday paid tributes to iconic Kashmiri leader, late Syed Ali Shah Geelani on his second martyrdom anniversary.

The seminar was organized by the Institute for Dialogue, Development, and Diplomatic Studies (IDDDS) at Scholars School of Sciences and Information Technology Muzaffarabad, according to a press statement received here. The seminar was attended by Director of IDDDS, Dr. Waleed Rasool, Chairman of Scholars School, IftikharKazmi, management, students, scholars, dignitaries, and community members.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Waleed Rasool said, Syed Ali Shah Geelani, a towering political leader and unwavering champion of the Kashmiri cause, left an indelible mark on the socio-political landscape of Jammu and Kashmir.

He said, Geelani's commitment to self-determination earned him admiration locally and globally, adding his life embodied decades of unwavering dedication to Kashmiri rights.

Geelani was a passionate advocate for self-determination, tirelessly striving to bring the Kashmir issue to the world stage, believing in the people of Jammu and Kashmir determining their political destiny.

Throughout his journey, Geelani fervently championed justice, equality, and human rights, advocating for the peaceful resolution of the Kashmir conflict through dialogue and diplomacy. His legacy resonates with a call for unity among the people of Kashmir.

The seminar provided a platform for participants to explore Geelani's enduring legacy and profound influence on the Kashmiris' struggle. Speaking on the occasion

IDDDS Representatives, Parvaiz Ah Khan and Iftikhar Kazmi highlighted the importance of acknowledging the pivotal role played by Syed Ali Shah Geelani in shaping the political landscape of Kashmir.

CTP organizes seminar on traffic rules

RAWALPINDI (APP): City Traffic Police (CTP) here on Friday organized a seminar at Rawalpindi Medical College (RMC) to create awareness among the students about traffic rules.

Addressing the students, teachers and staff members, CTP Education Wing officers said that the students particularly of colleges and universities should follow the traffic rules and regulations and avoid indulging in rash driving and over-speeding. They said that the traffic rules were for the safety of the drivers and other road users and the CTP was making all-out efforts to control traffic rule violations. The traffic wardens had been directed to take strict action in accordance with the law against the violators, they said and called upon the motorists to wear helmets as it was for their own safety.

They also advised the motorists not to use mobile phones while driving.

"We must be aware of driving principles and drive the vehicles according to rules and regulations. We will be the best drivers only if we follow the traffic discipline,"

they said. According to a CTP spokesman, the seminar was organised following the directions of Chief Traffic Officer (CTO), Taimoor Khan. He said the students and the university staff were urged to observe traffic signs, signals and other traffic rules and regulations to avert road mishaps.

The spokesman added that the CTO had directed the education wing to arrange lectures, seminars, walks, and radio programs and use another medium to spread awareness among the commuters about traffic rules and road safety. The citizens should obey traffic rules and avoid parking vehicles and motorcycles in no-parking zones, he said. The CTP on the directives of the CTO had accelerated its ongoing traffic awareness campaign. Due to the heavy traffic load which was increasing day by day in the town, traffic problems were being faced, he said, adding that smooth flow of traffic on the roads has become a challenge for the CTP, who were making all-out efforts to regulate the traffic.

Two members of former jailbird criminal gang held

ISLAMABAD (NNI): Islamabad Capital Police Sumbal police team arrested two wanted members of a former jailbird criminal gang involved in numerous attempted murder, snatching and bike theft activities and recovered weapons with ammunition used in crime from their possession, a public relations officer said.

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

Following these directions, the Sumbal police team used technical and human resources and succeeded in apprehending two wanted members of a criminal gang involved in numerous attempted murder, snatching and bike theft activities in various areas of the twin city. The accused were identified as Zubair Khan and Sahil Khan. Police team also recovered weapons with ammunition used in crime from their possession.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for National Heritage and Culture Jamal Shah taking round of Islamabad Museum during inaugural ceremony of week-long cultural activities.

IEA rejects Amnesty’s claim

KABUL (Agencies): Interior Ministry has denied the claim of an Amnesty International official suggesting that the installation of 62,000 security cameras in Kabul and other areas would erode the rights to privacy. Matt Mahmoudi, Amnesty International’s Researcher and Advisor on Artificial Intelligence and Human Rights, said in a statement on Thursday this surveillance architecture would erode the rights to privacy and freedom of assembly and expression.

Turkish envoy’s mission concludes

KABUL (Agencies): The Turkish Ambassador to Afghanistan, Cihad Erginay, has concluded his mission in Afghanistan after serving for several years. Erginay has been involved in various diplomatic efforts and initiatives during his tenure to strengthen the bilateral ties between Turkey and Afghanistan. Abdul Salam Hanafi, the Administrative Deputy of the Prime Minister, met with Erginay in Kabul, and wished him success in his future missions.

‘Islamic Emirate open to interact with world’



KABUL (TOLOnews): Anas Haqqani, a prominent member of the Islamic Emirate, said that the Islamic Emirate is open for interaction with the world. Haqqani said that the Islamic Emirate even declared the end of the war with those who invaded Afghanistan, while speaking at an exhibition of remnants of war equipment from the UK, the Soviet Union, and the US that was held in the province of Khost. “We announced the end of the war and opened the arms of interaction to the entire world, even when those who attacked us did not respect the dignity of these people, and shed holy blood,” he said. Speaking at the exhibition, Haqqani emphasized the need to strengthen the forces of the Islamic Emirate. He also said it important to provide religious and contemporary education in the country. “Now is the time to build this country, it is the time to bring together hearts. After that, we should have the same conveniences as other developed nations. Our devoted army should have modern weaponry, we should have our own products, and the next generation should get both religious and modern education,” Haqqani said. This Islamic Emirate official highlighted the Islamic Emirate’s willingness to interact with the world, while earlier, Qatar’s Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al Thani said that disengagement with the “Taliban” will create a “bigger chaos.” Speaking at the International Institute for Strategic Studies, Al Thani said: “We strongly believe that disengaging with the Taliban will create a bigger chaos and will create a vacuum in the country ... we kept encouraging all the parties to continue engaging, but we believe that unfortunately after the withdrawal and Taliban assumed power over there, there was an absence of a clear roadmap for the way forward for Afghanistan,” he said.

Badakhshan sees tourist numbers spike

KABUL (Agencies): Thousands of tourists, including locals and foreigners, visit Badakhshan’s attractions monthly amid improved security in the remote northeastern Afghan province. Pleasant nature and presence of snow leopards and other rare wild animals continue to attract tourists especially in the Pamir mountains. Tourists are happy about their safety and say that they visit the border districts for recreation and sightseeing and enjoy the beautiful nature and pleasant weather. Wakhan district of Badakhshan is famous for its high altitude and is known as the “Roof of the World.” It has mild weather in summer, natural landscapes, wild animals and historical sites. It is the second national park of Afghanistan after Band-e-Amir in Bamyan province. Local officials in the border district of



Ishkashim say that security measures, necessary facilities, protecting wildlife and the existence of water springs in the border districts have attracted the attention of foreign tourists. According to officials, last month, 41 foreign tourists and thousands of domestic tourists visited Pamir by crossing Ishkashim district. Tourists also describe the security situation of the border districts as good following the establishment of the Islamic Emirate and say that the natural scenery and weather of the districts are exceptional in the world. Wakhan district shares nearly 500 km border with Tajikistan, Pakistan and China.

90 schools sans buildings in Khost, students exposed to harsh weather

KHOST CITY (Pajhwok): At least 90 schools in southeastern Khost province have no buildings and their students attend classes under the open skies. A girls and boys school in Terzayo area of Alisher district is one of the schools without a building. Salim, 13, a student of 6th grade, told Pajhwok Afghan News that their school had no building and they attended classes under the shadow of trees. He said in addition to no building, they also faced lack of stationary. “In summer and winter, we face a host of problems,” Mashita, 11, a student of 4th grade of this school, told Pajhwok that their school was without a building. She urged the government to provide a shelter for them. Officials of a middle school called Sin Khor say that a total of 857 students are studying in the school, including 388 girls. Zabab



Khan, a teacher of the school, told Pajhwok that in such situation, the students could not complete their studies as required. He added the school was established almost 15 years ago and had since no building. Khost Education Department official Khair Gul Khairkhawa told Pajhwok that there were a total of 371 government schools in the province including 81 schools for girls. He said out of the 371 schools, 90 schools were without buildings and some of them were operated in tents. He added: “Our demand is not only from foreign countries, but also from rich people. Those who say education is for all should cooperate with us more so that students who are exposed to wind, rain and sun are provided with a suitable place”.

Kandahar’s Shah Wali Kot district lacks adequate health services



KANDAHAR CITY (Pajhwok): The residents of upper and lower Shah Wali Kot district of southern Kandahar province complain they lack access to sufficient health services and urge the Public Health Department to address the issue. Mirza Mohammad, a resident of Kajor area in upper Shah Wali Kot district, told Pajhwok Afghan News there was only one health center in their area operating in a rented house. He said the lonely health center in their area could not cater to the needs of the population. Hazrat Mohammad, another resident of the area, said: “The clinic is almost two hours away from us and it lacks medicines and other equipment patients need, so a standard clinic or hospital should be built for us.” He added there should be a special clinic for mothers so that female patients could avoid going to the provincial center or other areas for treatment. Meanwhile, Syed Ghulam, a resident of Kharot area of Shah Wali Kot district, said: “The clinic in our area is far from us, there are very few health services for women, sometimes doctor is not available there, so we are forced to take our patients to the city.” Public Health Department officials confirmed the lack of clinics in remote areas of the district and said they were in contact with partner institutions to increase health facilities. Dr. Abdul Manan, spokesperson of the Public Health Department, said although 12 clinics existed in different areas of the district, most villages in Shah Wali Kot district were far from each other. According to him, a new health center has been built in Kajor area of the district which will be opened next week. He added: “The demand for clinics is high and there is a need in Shah Wali Kot district as well, we are in contact with partner organizations, they are conducting surveys, they appoint mobile health teams wherever there is need, so the survey has not been completed so far when it is completed, where is there need, mobile health teams are sent there.” The past long wars in the country have had a negative impact on the health sector besides other sectors and people in many areas do not have access to standard health services.

Amnesty intl reacts to installation of cameras by interim Afghan govt

KABUL (TOLOnews): Amnesty International reacted to news of the installation of more 62,000 cameras by the interim Afghan government in Kabul, saying that the action risks creating a total surveillance state. “Implementing such a vast architecture of mass surveillance under the guise of ‘national security’ sets a template for the Taliban to continue its draconian policies that violate fundamental rights of people in Afghanistan — especially women in public spaces,” said Matt Mahmoudi, Amnesty International’s Researcher and Advisor on Artificial Intelligence and Human Rights. However, the Ministry of Interior said that this was done to enhance safety for citizens and to arrest criminals. Although the installation of security cameras has



been regarded as a benefit by people, the cost of its implementation has drawn criticism from citizens. “It was installed under the direction of the government, but its enormous cost was gathered from people’s own money,” said Nisar Ahmad, a resident of Kabul. “This is really helpful. A while back thieves with guns in their hands took a young man’s phone, but with the help of these cameras, they were arrested by the police,” said Gul Hamid Hotak, another resident of Kabul. The Ministry of Interior has reiterated that installing security cameras does not violate people’s privacy; rather, it serves to detect criminals.

Six families in Uruzgan’s Chaharchino district reconciled



TIRINKOT (Pajhwok): Six rival families in the Chaharchino district of central Uruzgan province have ended their enmity and reconciled through the mediation of local officials, ulema and influential people, an official said on Friday. Ihsanullah Hammas, the governor spokesperson, said six families in the Saghr, Kasta Dawan and Ghochak areas held enmity for 14 years. In Dawan village, enmity between Rahmatullah and Mujahid families had been resettled. It was initiated after the Mujahid’s brother Mohammad Umar was killed. In Saghar village enmity between Syed Ali and Mahboob’s family which was lasted for 14 years ended, he added. Hammas said: “Syed Ali’s sister killed her husband which was Mahboobs son, Mahboob’s family pardoned the murderer of his son.” He said in another reconciliation effort the Faiz Mohammad and Abdul Wali families ended their enmity and reconciled. Faiz Mohammad’s sister which was involved in the murder of her husband Zalmi and Abdul Wali’s son was pardoned. Hammas said the process of reconciliation between rival families would continue with the support of local people, ulema influential persons, Naseer Ahmad, member of the Mujahid’s family from Kshata Dawan village said from now on they would have friendship with Rahmatullah’s family. He said local officials, ulema an influential person’s mediation help reconciliation between them. It is pertinent to mention that after the takeover of the ‘Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan’ (IEA) government efforts to resolve disputes and end enmities had been intensified.



ISLAMABAD: Air Chief Marshal Zaheer Ahmed Baber Sidhu, Chief of the Air Staff, Pakistan Air Force receiving warm welcome from Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan.

CJP: NAB law misused against business figures

ISLAMABAD (INP): Chief Justice Umar Ata Bandial on Friday hearing a plea challenging the amendments remarked that the National Accountability Beauur (NAB) law was misused against business figures.

A three-member bench headed by CJP Bandial comprising Justice Ejazul Ahsan and Justice Mansoor Ali Shah heard the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Supremo Imran Khan's petition challenging the NAB amendments during Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) led government.

At the outset of the hearing, the CJP interrupted Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chief counsel Khawaja Haris during his arguments to address the issue of the recent amendments to the NAB law. He highlighted that the amendments had abolished the status of evidence obtained under mutual legal cooperation, potentially making the process more costly for NAB.

The top judge noted that evidence obtained from abroad was now inadmissible under the law, which raised questions about who would benefit from these changes. A report was also

submitted during the hearing, detailing the return of references following the NAB amendments. Notably, the Park Lane reference against former President Asif Zardari and former Prime Minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi were among those returned by accountability courts.

The report also indicated that cases involving individuals such as Khurshid Anwar Jamali, Manzoor Qadir Kaka, Anwar Majeed, Hussain Lawai, and Abdul Ghani Majeed of the Omni Group had been transferred out of NAB's jurisdiction. Chief Justice Bandial questioned whether the rights of complainants were enshrined in Pakistan's Constitution. Lawyer Makhdoom Ali Khan responded that the Constitution primarily focused on the rights of the accused and fair trial, rather than the rights of complainants.

Justice Ejazul Hassan added that Swiss cases against individuals like Asif Zardari were overdue and not necessarily due to a lack of evidence. The proceedings also shed light on the challenges in seeking assistance from Swiss authorities. Furthermore, it was discussed that information obtained by the Federal

Board of Revenue (FBR) from abroad could not be presented as admissible evidence in court. Lawyer Makhdoom Ali Khan emphasized that it was NAB's responsibility to prove the evidence obtained from abroad.

In his concluding remarks, Chief Justice Bandial underscored the importance of delivering justice, particularly in criminal cases, where conviction rates were below 70%. He emphasized that providing justice was a fundamental function of the state. Chairman PTI's lawyer, Khawaja Haris, explained the process of obtaining evidence from abroad through mutual legal cooperation, highlighting the significance of the verification process.

The hearing shed light on the complexities surrounding NAB amendments and their potential impact on legal proceedings. The debate continues as the Supreme Court of Pakistan assesses the implications of these changes in the NAB law. This ongoing legal debate raises significant questions about the balance between the rights of the accused and the interests of justice in Pakistan's legal system.

Petroleum dealers threaten strike

KARACHI (INP): Petroleum dealers in Pakistan have issued a warning to close down filling stations across the country in protest of a non-increase in their profit margins.

The decision comes after the government failed to honour its commitment of increasing their profit margins, leaving them dissatisfied with the current situation. In a statement, Pakistan Petroleum Dealers Association (PPDA) Chairman Abdul Sami Khan expressed frustration over the government's inability to raise their profit margin, saying that a deadline of September 1 has ended.

Sami Khan pointed out that the government and other stakeholders had signed a written agreement with his association. However, he regretted, the government has not increased the profit margins. "We cannot run filling stations with the current dealer margin", he said, adding that expenditure ratio has witnessed a staggering increase. He warned of a complete shutter down strike if the government failed to increase profit margin.

Alvi okays reconstitution of NEC

F.P. Report

ISLAMABAD: President Dr. Arif Alvi on Friday approved the reconstitution of the National Economic Council (NEC). Headed by the Prime Minister as Chairman, the committee will comprise of 13 members.

NEC comprises the Prime Minister, chief ministers as well as representatives of the caretaker governments. S M Tanvir, Muhammad Younas Daaga, Ahmed Rasool Bangash, and Amjad Rashid are members from Punjab, Sindh, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, and Balochistan respectively.

Besides, Federal Ministers for Finance, Planning, Communication, and Energy will also be members of the council. It is pertinent to mention that NEC is responsible for reviewing the overall economic situation of the country as well as planning economic, commercial, and social policies.

Dollar soars to new high against rupee

ISLAMABAD (INP): The value of the US dollar against the Pakistani Rupee (PKR) has once again soared on the fifth day of the business week, causing concern among traders and the public alike. As the PKR continues to face downward pressure, in the interbank market today, the dollar witnessed a staggering Rs0.46 increase in its value, pushing it to a record high of 306 rupees.

The value of the United States dollar soared to a historic high, surging by a staggering 30 rupees in just 20 days. On Thursday, in the open currency market, the dollar rate surged by an additional Rs3, reaching an astonishing exchange rate of Rs 325. The US dollar continued to hit new heights against a weakening Pakistani rupee, and reached the 305 level during trading as the gap with the inter-bank rate widened further. The Pakistani rupee has found itself on a rollercoaster ride yet again against the mighty US dollar.

Qureshi bail plea rejected

ISLAMABAD (INP): A special court on Friday rejected the bail petition of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Vice Chairman Shah Mehmood Qureshi in cypher case. The decision was announced by Official Secrets Act court judge Abul Hasanat Zulqarnain following the reserved verdict.

The court's decision to dismiss Shah Mehmood Qureshi's bail plea was primarily attributed to his absence during the proceedings. Furthermore, the court also dismissed both petitions submitted by the PTI stalwart's lawyer Ali Bukhari.

Bukhari had filed applications on behalf of Qureshi seeking exemption from attending court proceedings and requesting the summoning of Shah Mehmood Qureshi for the case.

Pakistan reaffirms support to people of Kashmir

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan on Friday, while paying rich tribute to the life-long dedication of great Kashmiri leader Syed Ali Shah Geelani for justice and freedom, reaffirmed its support to the people of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu & Kashmir (IIOJK).

Foreign Office Spokesperson Mumtaz Zahra Baloch, in her weekly press briefing, told the media that Syed Ali Shah Geelani was a true voice and face of the Kashmiris' struggle for their rights and freedom. "Today is the second death anniversary of the iconic Kashmiri leader, Syed Ali Shah Geelani. He breathed his last in a long-drawn house arrest on 01 September 2021. In a horrific act, his dead body was snatched by the Indian occupation forces from his family, and hurriedly buried in a graveyard in the absence of his family and friends. His family and friends were not allowed to pay their final respects or bury him in a graveyard of his choice," the spokesperson recalled.

She said the late Geelani's unflinching commitment to the Kashmiris' right to self-determination, in the face of persistent persecution and tremendous personal hardship, had inspired generations of Kashmiris in resisting the occupation and tyranny. Geelani would be remembered for his matchless sacrifices and unconditional love for Kashmir and for

Pakistan, she added.

"Today, we pay rich tribute to his life-long dedication for justice and freedom, and reaffirm our support to the people of IIOJK. We also urge the Government of India to give unhindered access to his family and followers to his final resting place," the spokesperson remarked. To a question, she said Jammu and Kashmir was an internationally recognised disputed territory, whose final disposition was to be made in accordance with the United Nations resolutions and the wishes of the Kashmiri people.

"Any other process cannot serve as a substitute to the grant of the right to self-determination of the Kashmiri people. Any other developments in IIOJK will be observed and examined in Pakistan and we will give our reaction if there are any further developments. Pakistan's position is very consistent and clear that India must rescind its illegal acts of 5th August, 2019 and create an environment for peace and dialogue in the region."

To another question, she said, "India has, time and again, tried to project a false narrative of normalcy in IIOJK by organizing different events. We believe that such stunts cannot legitimize India's occupation or suppress the true sentiments of the Kashmiri people. India's facade of normalcy is challenged by the harsh reality that IIOJK remains one of the most

militarized zones in the world with extreme curbs on freedom of expression and assembly."

She said that Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar would visit Nairobi, Kenya to participate in the Africa Climate Summit to be held on September 4 to 6 and Foreign Minister Jalil Abbas Jilani would accompany him.

She said the visit would be taking place at the invitation of President William Samoei Ruto of Kenya. At the summit, the prime minister would articulate Pakistan's perspective on the global climate crisis and highlight national efforts to rebuild in a climate-resilient manner after the last year's devastating floods. The prime minister's key messages in Nairobi would include the need for enhanced climate cooperation at all levels to confront the common challenge of Climate Change in an effective manner.

In Nairobi, the prime minister was also expected to hold a series of bilateral meetings with his counterparts from Africa, including Kenya, and other high-level dignitaries, she added. The spokesperson said the Africa Climate Summit was the initiative of Kenya and the African Union. Pakistan's high-level participation in the summit was not only in keeping with its traditionally proactive climate diplomacy, but was also in line with the 'Look Africa' outlook for enhanced engagement with countries in Africa.

Parvez Elahi rearrested under 3-MPO

F.P. Report

LAHORE/ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf President and former Punjab chief minister Parvez Elahi was rearrested under 3-MPO (Maintenance of Public Order) by the Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) police shortly after being released by the National Accountability Bureau (NAB), according to sources.

The seasoned politician would be put under house arrest in Adiala jail for the next 15 days, the sources privy to the matter added.

Earlier on Friday, the Lahore High Court (LHC) ordered the anti-graft watchdog to release Elahi. The former provincial chief executive had filed a petition against NAB's move to arrest him in a corruption case. LHC Justice Amjad

Rafiq announced the verdict after Elahi was presented before the court.

During the hearing on Friday, Justice Rafiq warned NAB that the court would issue a warrant against the accountability body's director-general if Elahi is not produced today. Justice Rafiq said that a complete inquiry into his arrest will be conducted. "I am ordering to release Parvez Elahi on an immediate basis," remarked the judge.

Speaking to media persons after the hearing, Elahi said: "I thank God for the judge's order for my release and I thank everyone who prayed for me."

On August 29, the PTI leader moved the court to challenge his detention claiming that his arrest was in violation of the LHC's orders restricting the authorities from arresting

Elahi in any undisclosed FIR or pending inquiry.

NAB had accused Elahi of receiving over Rs1 billion as kickbacks through intermediaries in more than 200 development projects of Gujrat district, during his second term as chief minister of Punjab. Elahi was initially arrested on June 1 from outside his residence in a Rs70 million graft case related to the embezzlement of development funds allocated for the Gujrat district.

Since then, Imran Khan's aide has been behind bars on various charges. During a span of around two and half months, the PTI leader was released multiple times on the courts' orders but was rearrested immediately every time. He was taken into custody during a crackdown launched against the party's leadership following the May 9 riots.

PTI writ for quashment of FIR: PHC rejects plea

Humayun Khan

PESHAWAR: Peshawar High Court (PHC) rejected writ petition seeking quashment of First Information Report against 81 Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) activists including former Speaker National Assembly Asad Qaiser and Provincial Minister Shehran Khan Tarakai, on Friday.

PHC's divisional bench comprising of Justice SM Attique Shah and Justice Fazal Subhan heard PTI's workers named Asad Qaiser, Shehran Khan Tarakai, Member Provincial Assembly Rangeez Khan and Member National Assembly Aqib Ullah along with 77 other activists seeking quashment of FIR registered at Chota Lahore police station.

The counsel argued that petitioners were nominated for vandalism at Motorway on 9th May following arrest of PTI's chairman Imran Khan over corruption charges as well as for looting precious equipment from the possession. He added that cases are initiated for political victimization while requested for quashment of FIR against the petitioners.

However, Additional Advocate General Danyal Asad Chamkani argued that petitioners had burned motorway toll plaza and looted precious equipment from the installation while its video is available on record. Supreme Court had declared that FIR cant be quashed until failure in submission of evidences while in the current petition evidences are available against the applicants, Additional Advocate General argued.

Additional Advocate General further added that the petitioners had obtained bails in several cases while argued that the applicant cannot be entitled for quashment of FIR. PHC rejected PTI's 81 activists writ seeking quashment of FIR after conclusion of arguments.

Heat records topple across Asia

NEW DELHI (Agencies): Temperature records are being toppled across Asia, from India's summer to Australia's winter, authorities said on Friday, in fresh evidence of the impact of climate change. The sweltering temperatures match longstanding warnings from climate scientists and come as countries from Greece to Canada battle record heat and deadly wildfires.

In India, the world's most populous country, officials said this August was the hottest and driest since national records began more than a century ago. The month falls in the middle of India's annual monsoon, which usually brings up to 80 per cent of the country's yearly rainfall.

But despite heavy downpours that caused deadly floods in the country's north earlier this month, overall rainfall has been far below average. August saw an average of just 161.7 millimetres, 30.1 mm lower than the previous August record in 2005, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said.

That has left the country baking in unrelenting heat. "The large rainfall deficiency and weak monsoon condition is the main reason," the IMD said. Authorities in Japan also said on Friday that the country had experienced its hottest summer since records began in 1898. Temperatures from June to August were "considerably higher" than average across the north, east and west of the country, the weather agency said.

In many locations "not only maximum temperatures but also minimum temperatures" reached record highs, it added. In Australia, this winter was the warmest on record, with an average temperature of 16.75 degrees Celsius for the season running from June to August. That is a hair above a record set in 1996 and the highest average winter temperature since the country's records began in 1910, the Bureau of Meteorology said.

Climate change has fuelled searing temperatures across the globe already this year, with July being the hottest month ever recorded on Earth. Scientists have long warned that climate change produces heatwaves that are hotter, longer and more frequent.



KARACHI: A view of closed shops during traders shutter down strike against the inflated electricity bills.

KP educational institutions increases fee

F.P. Report

PESHAWAR: The educational institutions across Khyber Pakhtunkhwa have increased the fees to meet the expenses of universities, documents reveal here on Friday.

Looking at the documents of the several universities in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, they have increased their fees. The fees of Islamia College University Peshawar, Jamia Peshawar, KMu and Agricultural University have been increased. The Islamia College administration has also increased the hostel fees by Rs. 3000, the document revealed. The pre-medical fee has been increased from Rs. 45000 to Rs. 49465 on open merit in Islamia College.

Pre-medical fee has been increased by Rs. 13000 on

self-finance, the fee has been increased from Rs. 98000 to Rs. 1,11,000. After the increase of Rs. 5000 in pre-engineering, the fee has become Rs. 47000, the increase of Rs. 5000 per semester in the 4-year BS program also, says the document available to this agency. The fee for MPhil has been increased by Rs. 5000 and the fee for Ph.D. has been increased by Rs. 7,000 per semester. University of Peshawar has also increased the fees of BS, Masters, MPhil and PhD by 10 to 13 percent.

A 10% additional fee was also charged from the students admitted to the University of Agriculture and Khyber Medical University has also issued a declaration by increasing the examination fees as well. Increase in

fees has been made as per law, Provost Islamia College University Peshawar Mian Kamal said.

Fees have been increased to meet the expenses of the university, the hostel fee has also been increased from Rs. 33000 to Rs. 36000, Mian Kamal said when contacted. Increase in fees is not a new thing, it is a normal thing, Vice Chancellor University of Peshawar Jehan Bakht said. The decision to increase the fees of Agriculture University and Peshawar University is being made after the approval of the syndicate, VC Jehan Bakht said.

Meanwhile, a grant of Rs. 350 has been released to solve the financial problems of University of Peshawar, Higher Education Secretary Anila Durrani told media men.